



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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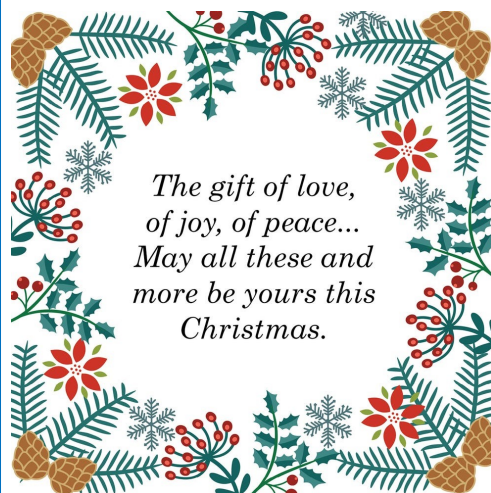


We do our best in all we do, with God's love.

'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.' John 13

Newsletter 15 19.12.25 We've battled through the winter bugs and our overall attendance has risen to **97%** this week.

Don't forget, Rev Sarah's 'Rector's Rambling' available by [CLICKING HERE](#) Always an interesting and inspiring read.



The final week of term is always busy and never fails to be really special too. We began the week by taking a walk to West Dean College in search of a special visitor. Initially, there was slight panic, as The Grinch made an unexpected appearance and tried to steal the presents. Thankfully, West Sussex Constabulary appeared, providing a lift for Santa and dispatching the Grinch to the Police station! Gathering inside West Dean College, by the crackling open fire and the most majestic Christmas tree is always a magical privilege. We are very lucky and so thankful to our friends at West Dean Estate. Worship together at the school Carol Service was also a joy and, despite a slightly depleted number of children, they all sang their hearts out and Year six children read and led us in prayer with clarity and confidence. We got the white Christmas we were all hoping for at the disco, another magical moment enjoyed by all, and thanks to the brilliant help of our governors and parent Friends, Wednesday's Christmas lunch ran like clockwork, with clean plates and full stomachs all round! Phew! Time for a break. From the whole staff team at West Dean CE Primary, we thank you for all your support and wish you all a wonderful Christmas. See you in 2026!





News from West Dean 'Friends'

Thank you for supporting our 'Friends' Christmas events, you have all been amazing and we have raised in the region of £3,000 after expenses. We will be able to let you know exact amounts once our accounts have all been collated. This is such a fantastic amount of money which will go towards our new Trim Trail. Still lots more to do so keep an eye out for details of our future events. A huge thank you to our volunteers who have worked so hard and to all of you for supporting our school.

'Pre-loved Uniform: westdeanuniform@gmail.com. If you have any specific requirements from our pre-loved uniform, don't wait for the next sale, you can email us to see if we have what you need!

Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help and support our 'Friends'.

Gifts Galore!

The children have worked hard and designed a range of bespoke bags and tea towels. These are available to purchase from school, don't delay in getting your orders in as they are selling quickly. They are a shop item on Arbor, Tea Towels £5 each and bags £6.50. These will make wonderful gifts for friends and family and also a lovely keepsake of your child's time at West Dean.



Well done to this term's Star Table!

One particularly well-mannered group of children got the 'Star Table' treatment at lunchtime today, with Christmas table decoration and treats.



Throughout this term, these children have demonstrated the most consistently good standard of behaviour and politeness during school lunchtimes. Well done everyone.



Fruit and Milk for the Spring Term.


If your child would like to have a drink of milk and a fruit snack at break time this can be booked on our Arbor payments system.



Milk for the Spring Term - £6.50

Fruit for the Spring Term - £6.50

If your child is in Apple or Maple Class fruit is provided free of charge under a Government funded scheme, there is no need to book this.



Thursday 15th January


School Lunch - Census Day

MAINS
Beef Burger
Veggie Nuggets

SIDES
Chips, Sweetcorn, Salad

DESSERT
Jam Sponge and Custard

Order on ParentPay.com by
Thursday 1st January
www.ParentPay.com



Attendance

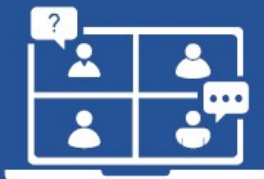
We have been monitoring attendance in school over the last few weeks, particularly punctuality. Classroom staff have been recording 'minutes late' to enable us to look more closely and accurately at our attendance data.

Further information will be shared in the new year and individual families will be contacted where there is a punctuality concern.

We have had a lot of absence due to illness this half of the Autumn term, which cannot be avoided unfortunately, but thank you for your continued efforts to ensure your children are in school and ready to start their learning at 8.30am.

TRAINING

SPRING TERM 2026



WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Masking	Tuesday 13 th January	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Understanding Demand Avoidance	Thursday 15 th January	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Making Sense of Wellbeing: Self-care skills for parents and carers	Tuesday 20 th January	7.30 - 9.00 pm
Understanding Sensory Processing Differences	Wednesday 28 th January	10.30am - 12.30pm
Making Sense of Anxiety in Adolescence	Tuesday 3 rd February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Personal Independence Payment (PIP)	Wednesday 4 th February	7.30 - 9.30 pm
Making Sense of Annual Reviews	Thursday 5 th February	10.30 am - 12.30 pm
Understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Thursday 12 th February	10.30 am - 12.30 pm

All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom

For further information visit our website or email: outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more information or to book a place, please visit our Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com



Reaching Families





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SCHOOL CLUBS

We have listened to your feedback and so our after school club provision looks slightly different as we head into 2026. We are offering a range of after school clubs, which our teaching staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club in preparation for the Dance House event, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

There will be **no charge for our staff led after school clubs**. Where we are already aware of events that clash with a club, the club will not run on that date. The table below details our club offer for the first half term of Spring 2026. All clubs run from 3 to 4pm, except lunchtime choir. **Club bookings will go live at 6pm on Tuesday January 6th, 2026.**

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday	Mrs J Reynolds	IT	Yr 3, 4, 5, 6	Come and have some fun developing your skills in using the Chromebook, iPads and other tech to solve a range of challenges.
Tuesday	Mr C Williams 	Running	Yr 3,4,5,6	In preparation for Cross Country and Corporate Challenge events. Please make sure that your child has suitable clothing and footwear. Max 15
	Mrs A Chilton 	Art & Craft	Yr R, 1, 2	A creative club of art, craft and colouring using a selection of different materials. An opportunity for children to be independently creative. Max 10
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs E Holder 	Dance (Hall)	Yr 3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles. Children will be practising for the Dancehouse performance and must be available for this date: Tuesday 19 th May 2026 X14 sessions @ £6 per child per session (to include contribution towards costumes) 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th January 5 th & 26 th February, 5 th , 12 th , 26 th March 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th April and 7 th , 14 th , 21 st May. No Dance Club Thurs 12th Feb or Thurs 19th March Please see attached letter for details.
	Mrs Anstee	Choir	Yr 2,3,4,5, 6	Mrs Anstee will be running a lunch time choir club, general jolly singing to feel good. We will, hopefully, be able to reschedule our visit to Marriot House this term. Max 20
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

The cost of our Dance club will be £6 per child, per session, to include a donation towards costumes. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above).

After School Club Dates: W/C 12th, 19th and 26th January and 2nd and 9th February (**There will be no Running Club on Tuesday 20th January**, Mr Williams will be at Young Voices with Chestnut Class).

Dance Club Dates: 15th, 22nd, 29th January 5th & 26th February, 5th, 12th, 26th March, 16th, 23rd, 30th April and 7th, 14th, 21st May. **No Dance Club Thurs 12th Feb or Thurs 19th March.**

SCS Please check their website for details: <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/>

In addition to our after school club programme, Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for are should be made directly with Activ8 <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com> in advance, by 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Jenny Munday at westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk.

Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4 per child (including breakfast). Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance. For After School Clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Dance Club and Dance House 2026. Dance Club 2026 will be open to all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and booking will be on a 'first come first serve' basis. Booking will be available on Arbor on Tuesday 6th January at 6pm to make it fair for everyone to have a chance to access this. If there are spaces available this will then be open to children in Year 2.

Children will sign up for the whole 14 weeks leading up to participation in the Dance House event which will take place in the evening of Tuesday 19th May 2026, with an afternoon rehearsal. Further details of this will be communicated to you nearer the time. The cost for the 14 sessions will be £84 per child in total, £6 per session to include a contribution towards the Dance House costumes. There will be an option to pay this in instalments if you so wish.

Dance Club will be open again for everyone after May half term and will revert back to the £5 cost per session. Numbers for the Dance House event is capped by the organiser at 19 and we therefore cannot exceed this in our Dance Club and are sorry if some are disappointed on this occasion.



2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January—Friday 27th March

Monday 5th January	INSET Day—No children in school
Tuesday 6th January	First day of Spring Term for all children
Monday 12th January	Chestnut Class 3 Peaks Challenge
Tuesday 13th January	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 14th January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Tuesday 20th January	Young Voices, O2—Chestnut Class
Tuesday 20th January	Drama for All, Apple and Maple Class (in school)
Wednesday 21st January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 21st January	SSP Quicksticks Hockey (details to follow)
Thursday 22nd January	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Wednesday 28th January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 28th January	SSP Cross Country Event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Wednesday 4th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Stinger Netball Event (selected Chestnut tbc)
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 11th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 11th February	'Friends' Film Night (details to follow)
Thursday 12th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)





- Yr R **Wilfr** - for your enthusiasm in all your learning
- Yr 1 **Poppy** - for your care and attention with your writing.
Well done!
- Yr 2 **Finley** - for your enthusiasm towards your learning. Well done.
- Yr 3 **Mila** - for showing respect to others and being kind.
- Yr 4 **Matilda** - for being a shining star of a role model in Beech Class.
- Yr 5 **Hettie H** - for your quiet determination and hard work -
Keep it up!
- Yr 6 **Phoebe** - for your smiling and positive 'can-do' attitude. You
have had a super term, well done.

