



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ
Telephone: 01243 811247



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 31 15.05.26

Our overall attendance level for the year has remained at **96%** this week.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).



HELPERS, STAND DOWN!

We have been watching the weather and, as it is so changeable at the moment and still really quite windy at times, we have decided to postpone putting up the school gazebos until after the half term break. This reduces the risk of the gazebo getting damaged in bad weather while we are away during the half term break. Those of you who were ready to help next Monday 18th May, please stand down. We will be in touch with a new date as and when the weather settles and warms up again!



SSP Quad Kids Event

Eight keen athletes from Y3 & 4 competed in the School Sports Partnership Quad kids event on Tuesday at Ormiston Six Villages School in Westergate. Going up against teams from many other local primary school, the children tested their skills in four separate running, throwing and jumping events and were fantastic ambassadors for West Dean school.

It has been a busy week. In fact the busyness started on Saturday night, before last week was even over! Our fabulous swim team absolutely surpassed themselves with a stunning display of power in the Cormorants Swimming Gala on Saturday evening. After a nail-biting sequence of races, some won by West Dean, some by other schools, our superheroes narrowly missed out on the win to Oakwood School, but should be incredibly proud of their 2nd place. Thank you so, so much to Mrs Johnson and Mrs Goacher who give so willingly of their time to coach and encourage our swimmers. We are equally proud of you two too! Our Year 6 children have had a challenging week as they took their end of primary school National Curriculum Assessments (SATs). Again, we are so proud of the calm, mature and upbeat approach that they have applied throughout the week. It is fair to say that there is a spectrum of opinion about SATs amongst the general public, but regardless, our children struck a very good balance of stepping up to the challenge and taking each assessment very seriously, without losing sight of the fact that it is not SATs that defines each of them as the brilliant young people they are. A huge well done to you all, Year Six. Regardless of the outcome (and I'm sure it will be brilliant!), we know you gave it your all and are proud of all you have achieved. Some of our Y6 Pupil Parliament members still had energy left after swimming gala-ing and SATs sitting, to present an annual report on behalf of the school to the West Dean Parish Council on Wednesday evening. Each year, we are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to give a summary of highlights from across the previous school year. Our MPPs gave a fantastic speech, which impressed the council enormously, and gave the children an insight to how people engage in public service in a variety of ways. Well done Pupil Parliament—another example of being great ambassadors, and a busy week indeed!



Apple Class show the way

As part of learning about mapping this week, the children in Apple Class made these superb maps in forest school using natural resources.



Maple class visit Waitrose

Waitrose welcomed the children for an exciting behind-the-scenes visit to their store. The children were given a tour around the shop where they learnt about the wide variety of products sold each day. They stopped to look closely at the different fruits and vegetables, the bakery and the cheese and fish counters. They then went upstairs to explore the large fridges and freezers, discovering how food is stored before it reaches the shelves. Everyone was fascinated to see the large lift used to bring up the daily deliveries and stock. The children also learnt that Waitrose has its own farm, helping to supply fresh produce to stores. After the tour, the children visited the staff dining room for a tasting session. They enjoyed trying hummus with carrot and cucumber, as well as a selection of fruits including banana, blueberries, strawberries, melon and orange. They also sampled pain au chocolat and were adventurous enough to taste dragon fruit and sweet granadilla — a tropical fruit closely related to the passion fruit. The children had a fantastic day and were amazed by how much happens behind the scenes in a supermarket. The staff at Waitrose were incredibly welcoming, knowledgeable and kind, making the visit both enjoyable and memorable for everyone.





Headphones - We are in desperate need of some headphones that we can use for the children in class. If you have any that you are able to donate please do drop them in. We are looking for just ordinary headphones, **of the kind that are worn outside the ear**, with a standard audio jack plug. Thank you.



Gardening Plea:

We would really like some washed egg shells please to protect our young plants from slugs and snails. If you have any please could you bring them into the office.

If any of our keen gardeners are out and about shopping this weekend and would like to pick up an extra bag of compost we would be very grateful for any donations. We are beginning to plant our veggies and their beds need a little bit of a top up. Thank you.

Vacancy for Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join us on our Governing Body. This is an important, key role in supporting the management and leadership of our school. If you think you have the knowledge, skills, enthusiasm and time to join us, please contact the office for an application form. We would welcome your applications before the closing date of Monday 1st June.

If you would like further information regarding the role please do speak to Edward Youngusband our Chair of Governors.

SAVE THE DATE

**Wednesday 15th July
(late afternoon /
early evening,
timings TBC)**



**Whole School Exhibition & Showcase of our summer learning journey
'There's a Power in the Music'**

Following the success of our Olympic themed combined learning journey two summers ago, this year all of the children in the school will be working on a music inspired cross-curricular learning journey. The culmination of this half term of work will be celebrated at an exhibition event on 15th July, in school. We would love to see every family joining us to celebrate their child's achievements, so please save the date and further details of precise timings will be coming soon.

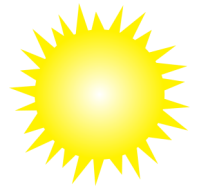
A shiny new home for our fish

Thank you to Maidenhead Aquatics in Chichester for coming to our rescue this week, for your excellent customer service and for our shiny new fish tank following a water leak.



Swimming Pool

We have made really good progress with our swimming pool preparations this year and we are almost ready to open for after school use. **We are pleased to be able to offer a poolside first aid training session with Mrs Goacher on Monday 18th May, 1.00-3.00pm. If you feel that you would like to join in so that you can help with supervising our after school sessions, please do let me know.**



In order to run the after school swim sessions we need a First Aider and a Supervisor so please sign up if you can to help us share the duties. A rota is available, please see Abbie Williamson or Maeva Colchester to sign up.

The pool is ready for use, in school, depending on the weather and water temperature, so if we get the opportunity, the children will be swimming. Please ensure that your child has their swimming kit in school, everyday, in a named bag. Thank you for your support and fingers crossed for some lovely sunny weather. The pool will be open straight after the half term holiday for after school use.

Booking will go live for after school swims next week. Hopefully, if we have enough volunteers, we will be able to open every day after school, £4 per child per session, available on Arbor.

News from West Dean 'Friends' Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

'Friends are busy planning for our Summer Sizzler event, Friday 19th June - Save the Date.'

Please do let us know if you are able to help in any way, run a stall, donate your expertise, organise etc, we would love to hear from you. Look out for **raffle tickets** coming soon. Each family will be allocated x2 books to sell, these will be sent home within the next week or so.



Plea for raffle prizes please, if you have anything that you would like to donate or you have a contact that might be happy to donate a prize, please do let us know. We would like to start collecting things for the event and would like to invite you to bring in items for our Tombolas, during the **week commencing 1st June**. Bottles of any kind, size, variety for the adult tombola, and Teddies/soft toys for the children's tombola. Please bring any items either to the office or to the pavilion.

Final 2025/26 INSET Day: Wednesday 22nd July 2026

All 2026/27 INSET Days:

Autumn: Tues 1st September 2026 (school closure), Weds 2nd September

Spring: Mon 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Mon 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Summer Term 2026: Monday 13th April — Tuesday 21st July.

Half term break — Monday 25th to Friday 29th May

Monday 18th May	1.00-3.00, Poolside First Aid session with Mrs Goacher for after school swim sessions
Tuesday 19th May	Dancehouse—rehearsal and performance for Dance Club
Tuesday 19th May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 20th May	Open The Book Worship in School
Wednesday 20th May	2.30, Chestnut Class Residential Visit meeting for parents/carers
Thursday 21st May	School Nurse in school—Year R screening
Thursday 21st May	Netball Coaching in school (Chestnut Class)
Friday 22nd May	Last day of the first half term
Half term break	
Tuesday 2nd June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Thursday 4th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 5th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 8th June	Yellow School Photos, Year 6 Leavers' and Classes
Tuesday 9th—Fri 12th June	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to YHA Medway
Monday 15th June	Sports Afternoon (all welcome)
Wednesday 17th June	Open The Book Worship in School
Wednesday 17th June	2.00-2.45, New Entrants, first visit
Thursday 18th June	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 19th June	3.00-6.00pm, 'Friends' Summer Sizzler Event
Monday 22nd June	Open The Book Worship in School
Monday 22nd June	1.30, Year 6 Leavers' Service—Chichester Cathedral
Wednesday 24th June	1.45-2.45, New Entrants, second visit
Thursday 25th June	Beech Class Big Camp (Year 4 camping)
Friday 26th June	Beech Class Activity Day (Year 3 & 4)
Monday 29th June	Sports Afternoon (Reserve date in case of bad weather on the 15th June)
Wednesday 1st July	1.45-2.45, New Entrants, third visit
Thursday 2nd July	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Thursday 2nd July	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 7th July	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Wednesday 15th July	Whole School Music Event—Save the Date (details to follow)
Thursday 16th July	End of Term Disco (details to follow)
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Bikeability at West Dean
Monday 20th July	Year 6 Bikeability at Singleton
Tuesday 21st July	2.45, Mrs Chilton's Afternoon Tea (all welcome)



- Yr R Raffy** - for your determination in PE. You are a real team player and a great role model.
- Yr 1 Harrison** - for your enthusiasm in your learning and your positive mind-set. We are very proud of you.
- Yr 2 Theo** - for working hard on your writing this week and listening and asking some very good questions on our trip to Waitrose. Well done.
- Yr 3 Alice** - for a super positive attitude to your learning in Beech class. You are a terrific role model.
- Yr 4 Keanu** - for demonstrating awesome cricket skills, both batting and fielding.
- Yr 5 Finlay** - for super writing about the grass snake and showing great resilience overcoming the 'blank page'.
- Yr 6** for your hard work in the weeks leading up to SATs and for being absolute superstars this week. We are all very proud of you all!



Working in partnership with our BLLP Trust schools, we are offering parents and families an opportunity to engage in an information and training session designed to support you in navigating the increasingly complex digital world safely and positively. We are grateful to Fishbourne School for hosting this event—full detail below. This is really critical aspect of your child’s development and we therefore wholeheartedly encourage you to engage in this opportunity if you are able.



**You are invited to Fishbourne CE Primary School on
Wednesday 3rd June at 7pm for a 90-minute workshop called:**

Let’s Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech

This session, Let’s Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech, offers parents and carers clear, research-backed insights and practical strategies for managing children’s mental health and tech use. It covers the impact of smartphones and social media, helping families set healthy boundaries and make informed choices. The session is non-judgmental, open for honest discussion, and for adults only.

<https://www.papayatalks.com/about>

Papaya have already been to Fishbourne Primary to lead workshops for children in Year 4, 5 and 6 which were excellent – this workshop is appropriate for parents of children of all ages.

Please register your interest with office@fishbourneprimary.co.uk so we can make sure we have enough tea and biscuits!

“The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it.”

Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

Once Upon a Storytime...



Step back in time this half term for some spellbinding stories and a charming craft activity



Tuesday 26 May 2026

10.00 - 11.00am

Suitable for children aged 4+

Booking essential – please speak with staff to reserve a place
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity