



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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 11 21.11.25 Our overall attendance has slightly dropped to **97%** this week.

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



Children in Need—Challenge 25

Thank you for your donations supporting Children in Need on Friday 14th November. We made a donation on behalf of the school of **£165.00**.

Extraordinary Etching!

Inspired by their current 'Fire, Fire' topic, Maple Class children produced some fantastic 'Phoenix from the Flames' art work this week using a clever etching technique.

I am sure you will have a chance to view your own child's work very soon, but in the meantime, here is one stunning example by Bodhi. Great etching!



Attendance & Punctuality

It has been excellent to see a consistently high level of attendance across the school throughout this autumn term so far. This has such a positive impact on your children's learning. Thank you for your support—keep up the good work.

Alongside this positive news, we need give a reminder that our school day begins at 8.30am, when the children come in and settle ready for their learning. We have increasing numbers of children arriving at the school office after the classes have been taken in from the playground. This is not only unsettling for them but disruptive for the other children and staff in the class, who are ready to start the day and has a negative impact both on school and child's attendance data.

We do not wish to appear unwelcoming, but there is a safeguarding need to shut our school gates, as soon as the children have gone in, and the parents have dispersed. Please make a concerted effort to ensure your children are on the playground and ready to start school at 8.30am.

LET IT GLOW

Cathedral Green
5pm – 7pm weekdays
4.30pm – 7.30pm weekends
FREE!

CHICHESTER'S MAGICAL WINTER ILLUMINATION

8 - 21 December

Presented by:

Alzheimer's & Dementia Awareness

We've been thinking a lot about respect and tolerance during collective worship lately, particularly related to how difference should be celebrated and how others in our communities may have different needs and a different life experience to our own.

This week, I shared an example with the children that is particularly close to my own heart and hopefully helped the children understand a little about living with Dementia and Alzheimer's.

My father lives with Dementia and has resided in a local care home for a number of years. The children were very respectful of all that I had to share and asked some great questions to aid their understanding of how to support and show respect to somebody in that particular life circumstance, should they encounter that in the future, which sadly is a very real possibility for many. I am always overwhelmed by the kindness and compassion of your children. Let's finish on a real positive—I really do think the future is in safe hands in their care! Best wishes for the weekend, Chris Williams



Car Parking in The Selsey Arms Car Park and on-site

I am disappointed to see that, despite repeated polite requests, a small minority of car park users continue to park outside of parking bays in a manner that restricts movement and is unsafe for others.

I was even more shocked to hear that our very own Mrs Bowman, our SENCO, was quite abruptly challenged by a parent this week, about who she is and whether she had a right to park here.

I do not expect to need to police our car park. In the main, users are polite and respectful of our guidelines. For the few who are not, I will have no choice but to appeal to you personally, if our requests, designed to keep your children safe, continue to be ignored. **Chris Williams**

The Selsey Arms Pub

We are **only permitted** to use this facility for drop off and pick up **before and after school, 8.30 and 3pm**. It is **not an expectation** that we can use the car park at other times.



Booking for Activ8

If you need a space in Activ8 for your child/ren, please make sure that you book in advance.

Booking is open on-line until 12 noon on the day, we cannot guarantee places requested beyond this as staffing needs to be arranged in advance, so that appropriate and safe ratios are in place. Thank you for your understanding. If you need to cancel a booking on the day please email Jenny Munday: westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk

in partnership with
westsussexwest
School Sport Partnership

ARENA
SPORTS CENTRE

Ring reception to book: 01243 870000

Christmas holiday camps

Sessions run by experienced & qualified teachers, coaches & School Games Organisers. Activities include:

Football, Tag rugby, Golf, Athletics, Striking & Fielding, Arts & Crafts and much more!

Please note activities may vary daily

Bookings open **Monday 10th November** (limited places available)

Arena Sports Centre 09:00-15:00

School years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Academic year 24-25)

Dates **Monday 22nd, Tuesday 23rd, Wednesday 24th December & Monday 5th January**

(individual day bookings available)

£19.75 or £74 for all 4 days! - Includes a hot meal!

All children accessing benefits related free school meals can access for free via HAF, check with West Sussex County Council for more information.

HAF places please book via the WSCC website:
www.westsussex.gov.uk/haf

Booking deadline for all dates above:
Friday 12th December

Please contact us for booking:
Tel 01243 870000 www.arenasportscentre.com
Email bookings@arenasportscentre.com
Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5JD

Christmas Lunch

Serving on Wednesday 17th December

MAINS
Roast Turkey
or
Quorn Roast

SIDES
Roast Potatoes, Stuffing,
Mini Sausage, Gravy,
Broccoli & Carrots

DESSERTS
Festive Chocolate Brownie

Order on ParentPay.com no later than
Thursday 4th December.
Book in advance to avoid disappointment

www.ParentPay.com

Chartwells
<https://www.chartwells.co.uk/west-sussex/>

Early Help Service

SEND Event

Chichester Family Hub
St James Road, Chichester, PO19 7AB

Join us for lots of winter themed fun including sensory and messy play

Monday 22nd December
10.00 – 11.30am
1.30 – 3.00pm

Open to all families with a child with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) up to age 11, and their siblings

BOOKING ADVISABLE
PLEASE CALL 01243 642950
Chichesterfamilyhub@westsussex.gov.uk

westsussexcounty council
Children first



News from West Dean 'Friends'

You will have received separate notifications with details of our Christmas Market event. Save the Date - Saturday 29th November.

Thank you to everyone for all the super donations for our Christmas Hampers.

If anyone has any suitable baskets that we could use to present our hampers that would be really helpful too, thank you. We have had some really lovely donations for our stall, thank you. Any further donations of gifts, decorations and things to sell can be brought into school next week please. We are also in need of some lovely toiletries or Christmas food to include, if you have anything you could donate please.

We already have bookings for our Wreath Making events and would like to ask for some help with foraging. Ideally, this will be over the weekend of 29th and 30th

November, all foraged materials can be brought into school on Monday morning, 1st December, and left on the pavilion decking for our organisers to collect and sort, thank you. We need as much as possible, greenery, moss, cones etc, thank you.

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!

The date of our next 'Friends' meeting is Thursday 20th November, 8.30am—this will be for Year Group Reps only please, information will then be communicated out through their 'Whatsapp' groups.

Our **Christmas Jumper Day** will be on **Wednesday 17th December**. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers in exchange for a £1 donation to school, available on Arbor.

Our **Christmas Disco** will be **Wednesday 17th December, 5.00-7.00pm**. There will be a staggered time, 5.00-6.30 for KS1 and 5.30-7.00pm for KS2. Bookings can be made on Arbor, the cost of £6.25 includes a drink and a snack during the evening.

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 will be available at our Christmas Market but are also available to purchase from school. 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.



Apple Class children have been enjoying their new light table and resources, purchased with money raised at our Harvest Bake Sale. A huge thank you for your support.



'BRAKE - Road Safety Week' (16th-22nd November)

"Safe vehicles (by this, we mean all motorised vehicles) are designed to prevent road crashes and protect people inside and outside the vehicle if a crash does happen".

BRAKE (The Road Safety Charity) is launching Road Safety Week from 16th-22nd November. The theme this year is 'Safe Vehicles Save Lives' and will focus on the role of vehicle safety technology, such as automated driver assistance systems and seat belts, in reducing road deaths and injuries. The campaign highlights the importance of mandatory safety technology for all new vehicles and how to ensure vehicles are roadworthy. Here is more of an insight into the key aspects of the "Safe Vehicles Save Lives" theme: -

Vehicle Safety Technology:

The campaign will raise awareness of how modern safety features (such as 'Automated Driver Assistance' systems) save lives by helping drivers maintain speed, brake in emergencies, and protect occupants.

Roadworthiness:

There is an emphasis on raising awareness about the importance of ensuring vehicles are maintained to the highest standards, and always in a roadworthy condition before every journey. 'FLOWER' is a simple, yet effective reminder when checking your car: -

F = FUEL – do you have enough for your journey?

L = LIGHTS – check headlights, brake lights, indicators are in working order

O = OIL – check oil levels when engine is cold

W = WATER – check lubricants, coolants, washer fluid

E = ELECTRICS – ensure battery is present and secure

R = RUBBER – check tyre pressure, uneven wear, side wall damage, tread

Preventing Crashes & Reducing Harm by:

Educating the public on how vehicles themselves can be designed to prevent crashes and minimize injuries when collisions do occur.

Automated driver assistance systems keep vehicles in the right lane and below speed limits, detect hazards and brake in an emergency.

Protect people inside and outside the vehicle - Seatbelts, airbags and 'forgiving' vehicle parts protect people inside and outside the vehicle in a crash. Vehicles must pass stringent crash tests.

Manage driver safety - Vehicle technology detects unsafe driving behaviour (e.g. due to tiredness) and informs authorities.

Support for Victims:

The campaign will also share the stories of road crash victims, demonstrating the devastating impact of collisions and how safe vehicles can help prevent them.

In 2024, there were 19 fatalities and 504 serious injuries in West Sussex, resulting from a Road Traffic Crash (RTC). By sharing this campaign with our residents, it helps to support our Road Safety Strategy and aspiration to make a difference. For further information: - <https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week>

County Road Safety Team,
West Sussex County Council



- Yr R** *Lily* - for your brilliant independence and positive attitude to your learning!
- Yr 1** *Bertie H* - for consistently being a great role model! Kind, hard working and reliable.
- Yr 2** *Leo* - for your amazing phoenix etching art. Your eye for detail was brilliant, well done.
- Yr 3** *Ivy S* - for the enthusiasm you show in your learning in Beech Class
- Yr 4** *Keanu* - for the determination and conscientious attitude you bring to your learning
- Yr 5** *Teddy* - for your super attitude to learning this week, your focus and hard work has impressed us. Well done!
- Yr 6** *Fynn* - for your fantastic writing and all your hard work both in and outside of school. What a rock legend!



2025/26 INSET Days

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Wednesday 3rd September—Friday 19th December

Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025

Monday 24th November

Monday 24th November

Wednesday 26th November

Saturday 29th November

Saturday 29th November

Sunday 30th November

Monday 1st December

Tuesday 2nd December

Thursday 4th December

Friday 5th December

Monday 8th December

Tuesday 9th December

Wednesday 10th December

Thursday 11th December

Monday 15th December

Tuesday 16th December

Tuesday 16th December

Wednesday 17th December

Wednesday 17th December

Wednesday 17th December

Wednesday 17th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

Flu Vaccinations in School

Open Book Assembly in school

Beech Class Egyptian Day and Exhibition (2.30-3.15pm)

10.30-7.00, West Dean Christmas Market Event

<https://www.westdean.ac.uk/gardens/events/christmas-market>

Choir slots 10:45-11.00 and 11:45-12.00.

‘Friends’ Foraging Weekend for Wreath Making Events

Collections to school on Monday morning please

11.00am & 7.00pm ‘Friends’ Wreath Making at Farbridge

Music Assembly, children invited to play (contact Janstee@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk or office@)

Chartwells Christmas Lunch—cut-off for ordering

8.45, Christingle Service in School

Chestnut 3 Peaks sponsored challenge

Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School

9.15 & 1.30, KS1 Nativity (details to follow shortly)

3.00, Last Dance Club (parents invited to watch, 3.40-4.00)

9.30, CYE Assembly in school

Visit to West Dean College

6.00-7.00pm, Carol Service in Church

Christmas Jumper Day, £1 donation on Arbor

12.00, Chartwell’s Christmas Lunch

5-7, Friends Christmas Disco (book on Arbor)

6pm, Rev Sarah Carol Singing, meet Singleton Village Green.

Bishop Luffa Worship in school

Final Day of Autumn Term

