



# West Dean Church of England Primary School



*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 35 26.06.26

Our whole school attendance figure 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](#).**



### Y6 Leavers' Service at Chichester Cathedral

Joining the hundreds of children from across the Chichester Diocese, for a joyful and uplifting service of thanks and celebration for their time at primary school, is always full of mixed emotion each year.

It is first and foremost a positive and happy look back at all they have achieved and at the brilliant, confident people they have become. At the same times it is tinged with sadness as it dawns on us all that it is nearly time to say goodbye to these brilliant young people.

We are small but we are mighty! Some school brought over 60 Year 6 children, but fewer in numbers though we are, our children participated with enthusiasm, leading prayers at the front of the cathedral with confidence and clarity and some even being brave enough to demonstrate the actions to the final song 'My Lighthouse' in front of their parents.

This Monday's service was one of fourteen services happening this month across the Diocese of Chichester, to ensure that every Y6 child moving on from a Church of England school this year has an opportunity to attend.

I think I recall correctly that the Director of education said that is well over 3000 children—how wonderful!



Thank you so much to all involved in our brilliant Summer Sizzler event last Friday. We were so lucky with the weather, not too hot and not a wash out either!

It was lovely to see our community coming together to enjoy an afternoon of singing with our choir, dancing with our Dancehouse troop and music from West Dean alumni, the brilliant DJ James Loy!

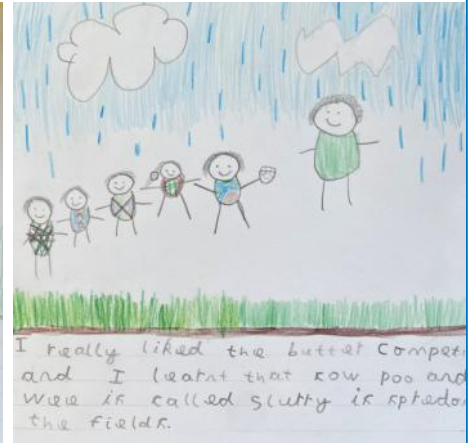
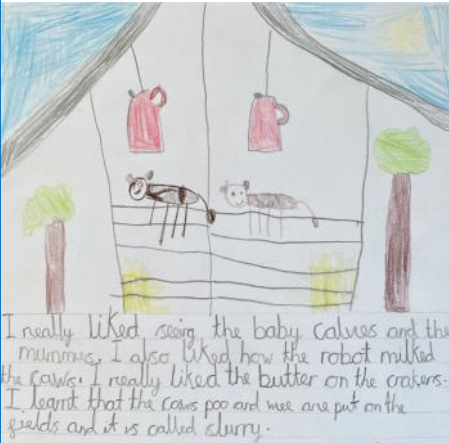
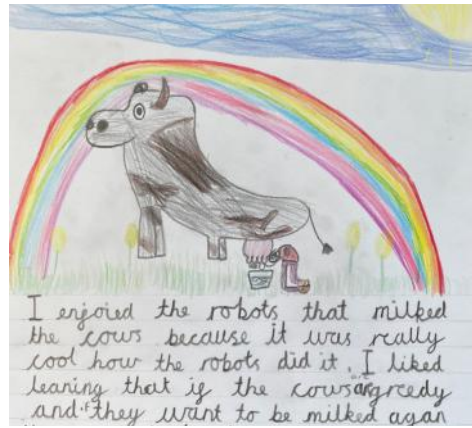
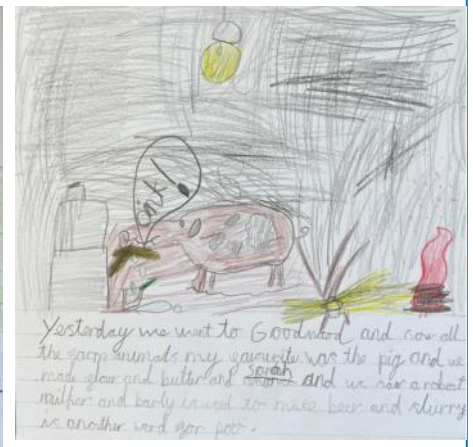
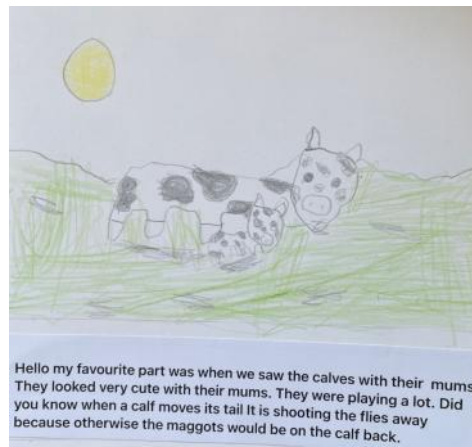
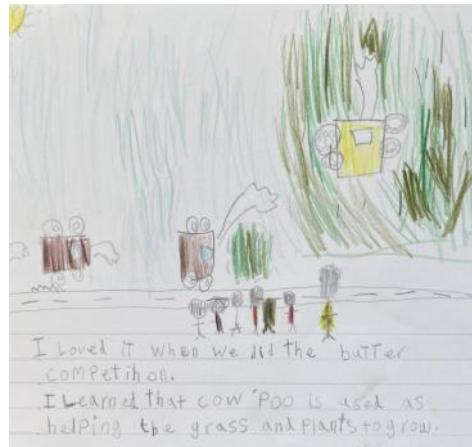
We have yet to finalise our accounts but we have almost certainly cleared £3,000 which is a fantastic contribution towards the replacement of our existing trim trail to give our children adventurous, imaginative and exciting play opportunities.

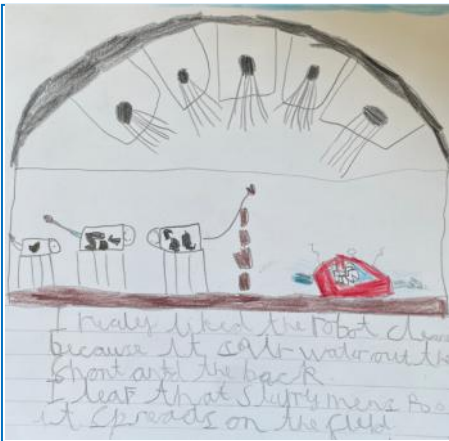
A huge thank you to our Friends and everyone who helped in any way, gave so generously of their time and came along to support our event.



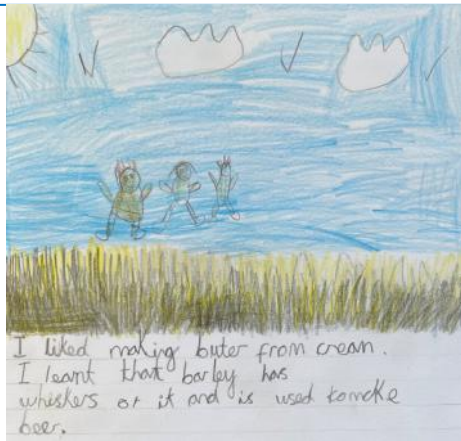
## A Farm-tastic Adventure: Maple Class visits Goodwood!

Maple Class had a wonderful time at Goodwood Home Farm on Tuesday 16th June, exploring the world of dairy farming and food production. Highlights of the trip included a tour of the robotic dairy, learning about the lifecycle of cows, and even trying their hand at making butter! Here are some of the children's work, sharing their favourite moments from the day.

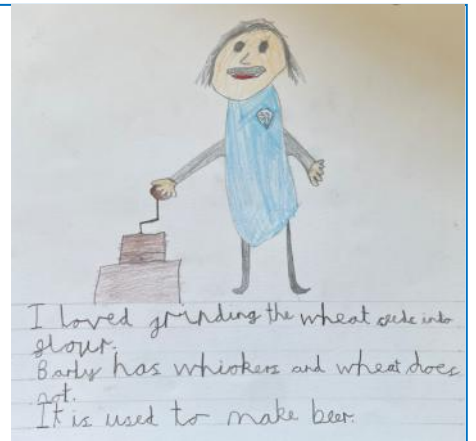




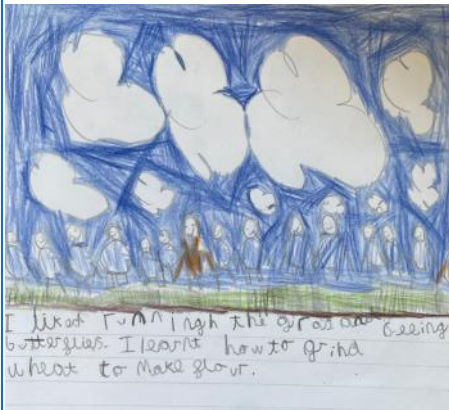
I really liked the robot dance because it got water out the front and the back. I learnt that sluffiness has it spreads on the field.



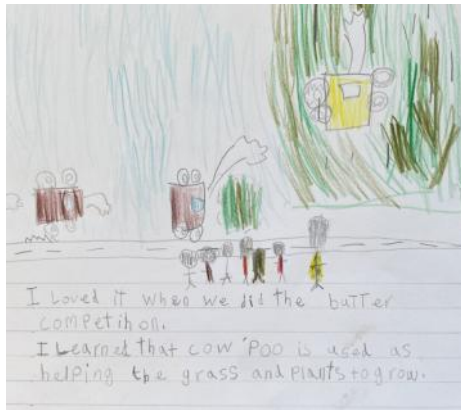
I liked making butter from cream. I learnt that barley has whiskers at it and is used to make beer.



I loved grinding the wheat seeds into flour. Barley has whiskers and wheat does not. It is used to make beer.



I liked turning the grass into butter. I learnt how to grind wheat to make flour.



I loved it when we did the butter competition. I learned that cow 'poo' is used as helping the grass and plants to grow.



### Too hot for tents!

Unfortunately, Year 4 Big Camp had to be postponed this week. The children we due to be camping on the school field on Thursday night, but with the extreme heat, all agreed that it would have been a very uncomfortable night under canvas.

Don't despair, children! We are hoping to run the camp in a few week's time, most likely on Thursday 9th July — **to be confirmed.**

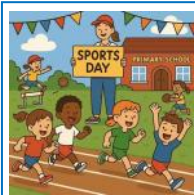
### Marvellous Medway!

The Chestnut Class children enjoyed a fantastic residential trip to Kent a few weeks ago. Staying at the YHA Medway hostel, they spent a day of alpine fun on the local dry ski-slope and a day exploring naval history in Chatham Docks, as well as trips to Rochester Cathedral and Capstone Farm Country park.

Highlights included going inside a Cold War submarine and speeding down a toboggan run, but ask the children and I imagine they will say that nothing beats the fun of getting to spend a few night in a dormitory with your classmates.

Room inspections were an experience. Some of your children would have surprised you I imagine, with their impressive level of tidiness (yes, really—you can remind them of this in their bedrooms at home). Others, well, let's not talk about that—always room for improvement I guess!

The children were fantastic company throughout. They threw themselves enthusiastically at every activity, even during a VERY wet day at the dockyard (good job we had a submarine). Well done Chestnut Class and huge thanks to the teaching team and our governors, who gave their time so generously to support the trip.



Thank you for your support of **Sports Day** at the beginning of last week. Again, we were blessed with perfect weather and managed to run the event on the first attempt!

It was wonderful to see the children not only trying their very best in their own events, but so enthusiastically supporting their friends too.

Thank you for you kind feedback about the event, we are glad you enjoyed it, and thank Mrs Johnson for another year of slick planning and organisation!



## Staffing for the 2026/27 school year

Next Wednesday is Transition Day, when many of our current Y6 children will have the opportunity to spend the day at their new secondary schools. As in previous years, we will also run our own 'moving up' afternoon on the same day, so the year groups that will be moving to a new class in September, namely Years 1, 2, and 4, will move to their new class to work with their new teacher.

In preparation for this, I am pleased to provide details of the staff team that will be working in each class from the beginning of next term, for the next school year.

### Apple Class

Teacher - Mrs Plackett (full time)

Support Staff - Mrs Boxall (fulltime), Miss Scott (mornings), Mrs Walker (afternoons)

### Maple Class

Teachers - Mrs Anstee & Mrs Chesshire (job share)

Due to the smaller class size, there is not an assigned member of support staff in this class, but support will be available for specific activities.

### Beech Class

Teacher(s) - Miss Gale (full time) - one day a week release for ECT support, which will be covered by Mrs Huxham.

Support Staff - Mrs Muggerridge (fulltime), Miss Scott (afternoons), Mrs Walker (mornings).

### Chestnut Class

Teachers - Mrs Johnson (four days) & Mr Williams / Mrs Pierron (one day)

Support Staff - Mrs Goacher (4.5 days)

Please note: the allocation of support staff time in each class is subject to change during the course of the school year, as specific need changes and emerges.

### Welcome to the team, Miss Gale!

We welcome Miss Ellie Gale to our teaching team. Miss Gale is an Early Career Teacher, having completed her degree and initial teacher training at the University of Chichester a year ago. Miss Gale has been working as an HLTA at White Meadows Primary Academy in Littlehampton, gaining valuable experience working across the primary phase, teaching and supporting children with a range of needs. We know she cannot wait to get started at West Dean and we are really excited about her joining the team and having the opportunity to support and encourage a teacher in their early career. Miss Gale will be joining Beech Class for moving up afternoon next week.

We are really pleased that **Mrs Pierron** will be returning to school in November following the end of her maternity leave and will be joining the Chestnut Class team, job-sharing with Mrs Johnson on a one day per week basis. Until Mrs Pierron's return in November, teaching on Fridays will mainly be covered by Mr Williams.

We are delighted that **Mrs Chesshire** has accepted the offer to become a permanent member of our teaching team. Mrs Chesshire is an excellent teacher, who has had significant, positive impact on teaching and learning this year. The children (and staff) adore her and it is really positive that her temporary role has become permanent. Mrs Chesshire and Mrs Anstee are excited to be working together to bring learning alive for the children in Maple Class next year.

I am sure that next Wednesday will be a lovely opportunity for the children to begin to bond with their new classmates, teachers and support staff.



It is fair to say that Mrs Shears gets all kinds of visitors appearing at her window in the school foyer... and most are welcome!

Today was no exception, as the hot weather encouraged a friendly local lizard inside. After a quick and careful tour of the school, so the children could have a look, the lizard was rehomed in a safe and comfortable place in one of our wild areas.

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

Wednesday 1st July	1.45-2.45, New Entrants, third visit
Wednesday 1st July	BLLP Cricket Sessions in school for all classes
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 8th July	BLLP Cricket Sessions in school for all classes
Thursday 9th July	Potential reserve date for Year 4 Big Camp—to be confirmed
Wednesday 15th July	BLLP Cricket Sessions in school for all classes
Wednesday 15th July	(afternoon / evening) Whole School Exhibition Event 'There's a Power in the Music'
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)



Apple Class would like to put out a plea for any kind of tape for their art creations please. They use copious amounts of sellotape, masking tape and brown packing tape. If you have anything at home that you would be able to donate then we would be very grateful.

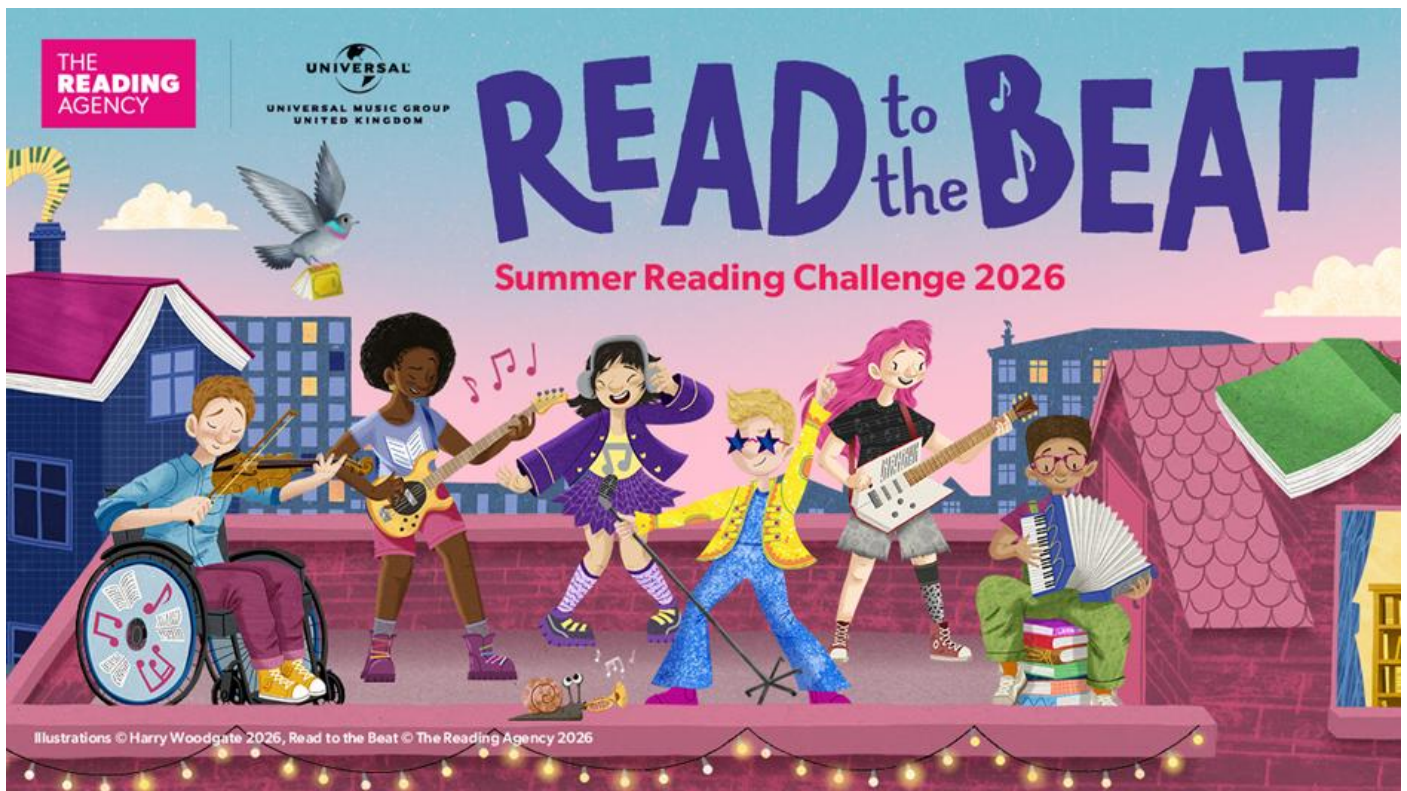
Thank you.

**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.



## Pick up the tempo and *Read to the Beat* at a library near you

West Sussex Library Service's popular Summer Reading Challenge is back! This year's theme is ***Read to the Beat***, a celebration of reading and music.

Pre-registration is open from **Monday 15 June** and the Summer Reading Challenge starts in your local West Sussex library on **Saturday 4 July**, running until **Saturday 12 September**. It's free for families to take part and a great way to encourage reading for pleasure during the long summer holiday.

Once registered online for the Challenge at [libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src](https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src), children reveal a special code word to staff at their local library to get a *Read to the Beat* sticker booklet. The main Challenge is aimed at children aged 4-11 years, whilst under-4s can take part in the Mini Challenge.

Children will have access to a wide range of books – both physical and downloadable! They will have all summer to enjoy books and achieve personalised reading goals, returning to the library several times to discuss the books they have been reading with Summer Reading Challenge Volunteers, collecting stickers and other exciting rewards along the way.

[For anyone interested in volunteering in this role, full details and the application form are available at [libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src](https://libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/src), with a closing date of **Friday 3 July.**] – *optional depending on space; won't be relevant past start of July*

Sing from the rooftops – it's nearly Summer Reading Challenge time!



in partnership with  
**westsussexwest**  
School Sport Partnership



# Summer holiday camps

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

**Football, Tennis, Golf, Athletics, Striking &  
Fielding, Arts & Crafts and much more!**

*Please note activities may vary daily*



Bookings open **Monday 1st June**. (limited places available)

**Arena Sports Centre 09:00-15:00**

**School years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7** (Academic year 25-26)



Dates **Tuesday 21st July - Friday 24th July** (check your school  
inset days!)

**& Monday 17th - Thursday 20th August**

(individual day bookings available)

**£19.75 or £74 for all 4 days! - Includes Lunch!**

All Free school meal pupils can access this provision for FREE, via HAF,  
check with West Sussex County Council for more information.

**HAF places please book via the WSCC website:**

**[www.westsussexwestssp.co.uk/summer-camp](http://www.westsussexwestssp.co.uk/summer-camp)**



**HAF bookings via WSCC**

**Paid Places bookings**



Booking deadline week 1: **Sunday 19th June**

Booking deadline week 2: **Wednesday 12th August**

Email **[info@phoenixcentre.uk](mailto:info@phoenixcentre.uk)** (we can assist with HAF bookings directly and paid places)

Tel **01243 872112** **[www.westsussexwestssp.co.uk/summer-camp](http://www.westsussexwestssp.co.uk/summer-camp)**



Westloats Lane, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 5JD





# PETWORTH FESTIVAL FAMILY FUN

SUNDAY 26 JULY, 2.30PM  
PETWORTH HOUSE STABLE YARD

With Family Theatre Magic from  
**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**  
& Foot-tapping Musical Theatre from the Fabulous  
**Bowjangles!**



Music



Family  
Fun



Balloon  
Modelling



Face  
Painting



Ice  
Creams



Pizza



Bar &  
Street Food



Family  
Theatre

PETWORTH  
FESTIVAL



Tickets at  
[petworthfestival.org.uk](http://petworthfestival.org.uk)



# WEST DEAN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## WAC NEWSLETTER



April - May 2026

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome back! Last term, the children enjoyed a wide range of fun indoor and outdoor activities.

Boggle was a popular choice, with children racing the timer to form words from letter grids, supporting spelling, vocabulary and quick thinking.

Football was a big hit outdoors, with mini-games, passing drills and goalkeeping activities that encouraged teamwork and energy.

On wetter days, Snakes and Ladders provided a calm, social option, full of laughter and turn-taking.

We also enjoyed making and flying paper planes, designing different styles and testing whose flew the furthest.



Other creative and active experiences have included dinosaur hand drawings, where the children carefully sketched and decorated their own prehistoric designs, and turbo javelin throwing, which gave them a chance to practise aim, coordination and safe throwing techniques outdoors.

To celebrate springtime and May Day, the children made beautiful May flower crowns, carefully selecting and arranging flowers to create colourful headpieces.

We have also enjoyed crochet sessions with Maddy, where the children began learning basic stitches and practising patience and fine motor skills while creating simple handmade pieces.

# WEST DEAN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

## WAC NEWSLETTER



April - May 2026



Joshua  
Manager



Maddy

### OUR WAC CLUB TEAM

Joshua is manager, ensuring the club runs smoothly each day. Maddy supports by bringing creative ideas and helping organise fun, engaging activities. Together they provide a safe, friendly environment where children feel happy, included, and confident.

### HOCKEY

The children enjoyed hockey pots, taking turns to test their accuracy and power by aiming balls into cones. It was energetic and engaging, with everyone keen to improve their aim. All children received stickers for their effort and participation.



An outdoor scavenger hunt was another highlight, with children working in teams to locate specific items from a scavenger list, encouraging teamwork, observation skills and lots of excitement as items were found.

The now infamous one bounce tennis game has also been a firm favourite, challenging the children's reaction times and coordination while keeping the game fast-paced and fun.

We also held a skipping competition, where children showed impressive stamina, rhythm and enthusiasm, cheering each other on throughout.



### OUR WAC CLUB DETAILS

Full After School Care:  
(15:15 pm - 18:00 pm) : £11.75

Early After School Care:  
(15:15 pm - 16:30 pm) : £6.25

Late After School Care:  
(16:15 pm - 18:00 pm) : £6.25



Summer Holiday Clubs will be available to book soon!



Keep an eye out for an email and on our socials.



## West Dean CE Primary Acorn Awards



Friday 19th June 2026

**Year 6** Jack - for being a supportive friend on Sports Day

**Year 5** Hettie H. - for being such a resilient super-trooper on residential with your broken foot!

**Year 4** Elsie - for your beautiful mixed media portrait of Nina Simone.

**Year 3** Ava - for your super exploration of how art and music can inspire change through your protest artwork.

**Year 2** India - you are always helpful and thoughtful to others. You asked some super questions on our Goodwood trip.

**Year 1** Barnaby - for your determination in making musical instruments in Forest School.

**Reception** Toby - for your hard work in everything you do. Keep it up!

Friday 26th June 2026

**Year 6** Henrietta A - for your curiosity and top quality questioning when exploring a new book and topic.

**Year 5** Alfie - for the thoughtful way you approached our first Aid training and your CPR skills

**Year 4** Holly - for picking up the bass line of 'Let it be' so easily on your cello. It is sounding terrific!

**Year 3** Ivy O. - for your positive attitude to learning and the enthusiasm you bring to everything you do.

**Year 2** Margot - for a good biography of Ella Fitzgerald. Well done Margot. Great singing of 'A Tisket, A Tasket!'

**Year 1** Lettie - for your beautiful manners and kind attitude towards others, well done!

**Reception** Jonah - for your quiet determination in your learning all week. Keep it up!

