



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 23 06.03.26

Our overall attendance level for the year is **96.1%**.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#). It was wonderful to welcome Rev Sarah back into school today for a belated Ash Wednesday worship to mark the start of Lent.

SSP Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament

On Thursday 5th March, team West Dean, (Maxwell, Reuben, Amelie, Rufus, Phoebe and Fynn), competed against eight other schools in the Quick Sticks Hockey Tournament at Chichester High School. The team showed amazing sportsmanship and confidence against some highly skilled teams. Everyone was super: the defence was like a rock at the back and up front the attackers were scoring lots of goals. We won our first 4 matches! It was a fantastic afternoon out in the sunshine and everyone had a great time.

Maxwell Austin Year 6



SSP Stinger Netball Event

On Monday, Owen, Martha, Max, Tilly, Indigo, Finlay, Henrietta A and Phoebe went to Chichester High School to represent team West Dean in a 'stinger' netball competition.

They played against 12 schools from our local area. The team was awesome and showed lots of perseverance on the pitch, whilst the players off the pitch offered the team support, encouragement and good tips. The team showed confidence against lots of highly skilled schools and we thought they were superb.

Martha—Yr 6



SCHOLASTIC

Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-82NM255V> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend on this month's Book Club, our school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards. A Scholastic book catalogue and World Book Day token have been sent home with your child. Please place your order online by March 13th, 2026.

WORLD BOOK DAY



The children (and grown-ups) had great fun yesterday, dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing their favourite stories with their book buddies. Thank you for all the huge effort that went into the amazing costumes.





Little Shop of Horrors

On Tuesday 3rd March, Chestnut Class set off, on the bus, to Bishop Luffa School to see the peculiar performance of Little Shop of Horrors performed by Bishop Luffa pupils.

The performance was funny, blood-thirsty but also intriguing. It was great to see their insight of the film and how much work the actors, orchestra, sound and scenery crew put in to achieve their goal. It left us a little bit stunned but was a great afternoon which everyone enjoyed.

Owen—Year 6



Maple Class Forest School

Maple Class enjoyed a fantastic tiger-themed Forest School session this week. It was lovely to have dry and sunny weather, making it a perfect day to be outdoors. Some of the children created their own tiger-faced wooden cookies, confidently using bow saws to cut the wood and brace drills to make the holes. They showed great focus and care as they worked on their designs.

Other children worked brilliantly as a team to build a tiger’s den, collecting every large stick they could find. Their teamwork, communication and creativity were a pleasure to see, and the finished den was very impressive.



To finish the session, everyone enjoyed a refreshing cup of tiger juice and a tasty tiger claw snack—the perfect ending to a busy afternoon in the woods. A special thank you from Maple Class to Ms Boxall, who leads our Forest School sessions. She dedicates so much time to planning fun and exciting activities, truly bringing the

News from West Dean 'Friends'



Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.

Quiz Night at school with host, Ken Jones.

7.00—9.00pm. £5 for a quiz ticket, booking is now open on Arbor.

See below for full details.

'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'. **Our sale on Wednesday 25th February raised £27, thank you for your support.**



Even though Christmas is over there are still some lovely West Dean gifts

available! These are available to purchase from school. They are a shop item on Arbor, Tea Towels £5 each and bags now at the reduced price of £4.00. These will make wonderful gifts for friends and family and also a lovely keepsake of your child's time at West Dean.

Look out for details of our Eggsciting Easter Event, coming soon!



Quiz Night News



Sadly we have been notified of the closure of the Selsey Arms pub.

We have therefore had to change the venue and plans for our Quiz Night on

Wednesday 18th March 7.00—9.00pm.

The evening will still go ahead, with Ken Jones as our Quiz Master, but **it will take place in school.**

The cost for a ticket will be £5 per person (available on Arbor) and you are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Please do organise your own teams, up to maximum 8 per table.

We are hoping to raise a small amount for our 'Friends' but the main aim of the evening is a social one, so please do come along, test your knowledge and have fun!

Some exciting news

In response to our 'Friends' plea for support from local businesses, we have been working with Matt Lindsay from Growing Revolution, who is going to help us with installing a 'Living Wall' in school.

Matt will be coming in to introduce this to the children during an assembly on Thursday 26th March.

Do have a look at their website:

<https://www.growingrevolution.com>

Matt has very kindly offered our school community a very generous 15% discount, see details below:

15% discount across our website for all West Dean Primary staff and parents. You will need to enter **WESTDEAN15** at checkout to redeem this.



Monday 16th

Please bring in an
egg to decorate
(in box)

- real chicken egg
- not cooked

Tuesday 17th

Pupil Parliament will
judge the eggs. A
winner from each year
will be chosen

Easter
Week
'Friends'
events

Thursday 19th

March
Bake Sale
Invited to bring in
a bake to sell
?use your
egg?

We are advertising the following teaching opportunity. If you know of any teachers looking for a new opportunity, please do circulate this advertisement. We welcome applications from ECTs (Early Career Teachers).

Vacancy: Full time class teacher role for two school terms of maternity cover from 1st September 2026.

Are you an enthusiastic, inspiring, caring teacher, looking for a job in a wonderful Church of England school, where children and adults learn together and everyone's ideas and contributions are valued?

West Dean CE Primary is a small, Church of England village school, with a charming Victorian building and beautiful grounds, set in the heart of the South Downs National Park. The school is an exciting and busy environment where Christian values and the needs of each individual child are at the heart of all we do. We recently converted to an academy school as a member of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. This partnership enables exciting and supportive collaborative work with pupils and colleagues across the six Trust schools in the Chichester area.

We also have excellent links with local organisations, particularly West Dean College of Arts and Conservation. We have a deep connection with the outdoors, making best use of our environment to support our curriculum, as well as unique opportunities for enrichment through exploring the West Dean Estate. Our families come from near and far, choosing our school because of its high standards, Christian ethos and the range of exciting learning opportunities we offer.

We focus on what is important in education and in life, and our teachers have the freedom to be creative, use their professional judgements and innovate. We are really proud of our team and are looking for an enthusiastic teacher to bring new things to our school.

Our children hope that, as our new teacher, you will be: *kind, fun, confident, intelligent, scientific, calm, energetic, understanding, honest, thoughtful, polite, happy and strict but fair.*'

Our adults are looking for someone who: *has a passion for teaching, thinks deeply, understands how we all learn, is creative, adaptable, reflective, positive, fun-loving, resilient, organised, forgiving and hard-working.*'

We need a teacher who will: *laugh with us, who will celebrate the individuality of every child and team member, who will be able to wear lots of different hats and have an open mind. We will give you support and respect, time and space to flourish, and we will value your contributions and happily share our expertise.*

We are looking for a temporary, full time maternity cover, class teacher. The ideal candidate will have the experience and willingness to work in any phase within the school. We would welcome applications from ECTs.

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

We strongly advise that you visit us to get a feel for all we value about our school and what a vibrant place it is in which to work and learn. We have set aside three dates for visits and would love to meet you if you are considering an application. Please telephone our school office (01243 811247) to arrange a visit on:

Monday 9th March, 1.00pm.

Tuesday 10th March, 10.30am

Friday 13th March, 10.30am

Closing Date for applications: Friday 20th March

Shortlisting of candidates: Wednesday 25th March

Interviews: Wednesday 15th April

We look forward to receiving your application and to meeting you! Previous applicants to other roles are welcome to apply.

For further information and an application pack, please contact Merrill Shears, Business Manager, via email on:

office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk.



Yr R Otilie - for your fantastic bug making in DT. Your finished bug looks exactly like your design! Well done!

Yr 1 - Olivia - for your brilliant story writing this week. You used some fantastic 'wow' words.

Yr 2 Dora - For a wonderful retelling of 'The Rainbow Bird' . You used some lovely descriptive language and thought very carefully about spellings and sentence structure.

Yr 3 Jack - for the enthusiasm you bring to the classroom every single day. What a star you are!

Yr 4 Viva - for your quiet determination this week. You take on board ideas to improve your writing and do so with a big smile on your face.

Yr 5 Emji - for settling in so well, for trying so hard and being so kind to everyone.

Yr 6 Maxwell - for stepping up at the last minute and being such a valuable team player—not just in hockey but in so much of school life. What a superstar!



2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Spring Term 2026

Tuesday 6th January—Friday 27th March

Half term break—Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Clarification and a polite plea — We have had some question from parents about the drop-off routine in the morning, which we are more than happy to clarify. **All children** should be on the playground ready to line up by **8.30am**. Reception children should be at their classroom door by this time. If you arrive after this time and the children have left the playground, **even if there are still parents standing on the playground**, please enter school through the front door. We need to close our gates at this time and often, as we try to close one gate, some families are rushing in via another gate and then we accidentally trap people! **By 8.30am—playground please. After 8.30am or no children on playground—enter via the front door.** Thank you.

Monday 9th March	Open the Book Assembly in School
Wednesday 11th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 11th March	ESSA Swimming Gala, Horsham (details to follow for selected children)
Wednesday 11th March	2.00-3.00, Choir visit to Marriott House for Spring Singing
Wednesday 11th March	6.30, Chichester Runners, Corporate Challenge
Thursday 12th March	Maple Class visit to The Living Rainforest
Thursday 12th March	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Monday 16th March	Easter Egg Decorating, bring eggs and egg boxes in to school
Wednesday 18th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 18th March	2.30, Apple Class Exhibition in Hall
Wednesday 18th March	2.30, Maple Class Exhibition in classroom
Wednesday 18th March	‘7.00-9.00, Friends’ Quiz Night in School
Thursday 19th March	2.30-3.00, Beech Class Science Fair in the hall
Thursday 19th March	3.00, ‘Friends’ Bake and Book Sale (Please bring in donations on Thursday morning)
Friday 20th March	Comic Relief
Tuesday 24th March	8.30, ‘Friends’ Meeting in pavilion, all welcome—Summer Sizzler planning
Tuesday 24th March	Beech Class visit to CFT for BFT
Wednesday 25th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 (Last Session)
Wednesday 25th March	SSP Arun Swim Gala (details to follow for selected children)
Wednesday 25th March	6.30, Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Thursday 26th March	Matt Lindsay, Growing Revolution Assembly, to introduce our Living Wall
Thursday 26th March	Beech Class, CFT Poetry Workshop in school
Friday 27th March	Palm Sunday Procession to West Dean Church from school. Final Day of Spring Term.
	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	First day of the Summer Term
Monday 20th April	Open the Book Assembly in school
Thursday 23rd April	SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected children)

WEST DEAN C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

WAC NEWSLETTER



January - February 2026

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The past two months at the club have been full of fun and creativity! K'NEX has been a big favourite, with children designing and racing their own cars and motorbikes while experimenting with weight, stability, and design. Arts and crafts have also been popular, including making braided bracelets and colourful wristbands to take home. The children have enjoyed Dominoes too, with some playing classic games and others creating and knocking over domino runs. Alongside this, Maddy and a group of children began their Dungeons and Dragons adventure, designing heroes and starting a fairytale journey called The Bureau of Temporal Investigation, which now takes place every Wednesday.

In January, we enjoyed 'Bookmark Bingo', which we now run every couple of weeks. The prize is a choice of bookmarks and the children absolutely love the excitement and tension as the numbers are called out.



AFTER SCHOOL TEA TIME

We have recently refreshed our menu, introducing lighter, healthier options that the children have been really enjoying. Each day includes fresh, tasty bites with a choice of fruit or crunchy vegetable sticks always available.

We've also expanded our vegetarian range, now offering cheese-filled ravioli, a richer vegetable soup, more fresh salad options and less bread to create a more balanced meal. Tea time is going really well, and we're always happy to welcome more children to stay and enjoy it with us.

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