



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
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Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 28 24th April 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you all enjoyed your Easter holidays, despite the restrictions. What amazing weather and what a lot to be thankful for! 

At the end of the first week of our Summer Term, we have had a lot of positive feedback from families at home and we have seen some super learning in school too. The sixteen children of our key workers are following lessons from the class website pages, in a similar way to those of you at home. They have enjoyed sharing some of the learning you have sent in, as have we.

Do keep communicating with the teachers and we will support everyone as much as we can, each week.

We have been so impressed by your work so far, that we think you are ready to move onto the next level of teaching, so read on for your next steps and top tips! (overleaf)

We hope very much that you all continue to stay safe and well: we thank you for all doing your bit to minimise the impact of this virus on everyone's health and to support the NHS.

New for this week: Sussex School Games -

Every week throughout the summer term, a different sport will take place, made up of four personal sporting challenges which can be completed from home; in the living room, kitchen or garden, or at school. All the information can be found on the website below:

www.sussexschoolgames.co.uk

Simply sign up to the mailing list this weekend (BEFORE MONDAY) and then each week they will email you the 4 different sporting challenges to practise. Participants have until midday on Friday to submit their scores, and leaderboards will be published later that day.

It's not just about leaderboards though as there are rewards and recognition for taking part, practising and improving!

There's even an opening ceremony to watch on Monday morning!

Come on Team West Dean - let's do this!!

Things to be Thankful for

We are extremely grateful for a huge amount of support from parents and the community out there. Please see our Thought for the Week page on the Home Learning section to find out more. We will let you know how you can help us prepare for the return to full opening, as soon as we can—I know some of you are keen to help us with painting fences etc, and we will find a way to do this. :)

Our wonderful office team will still respond to email queries between 9am and 12 noon, and there is someone in school from 8:30 until 3pm, but we are often busy and may not always be able to answer the phone immediately.

If you have any suggestions or requests about how we can support you, please do get in touch.

Amazon wish list link

We have set up an Amazon 'wish list' with details of some resources that parents/carers/grandparents might like to purchase for our school. Staff are currently thinking about items that would like and the list will be updated regularly.

<http://amzn.eu/6F5zEM2>

THINKING OF DOING AN INTERNET SHOP?

Just a reminder that we are a member of The Giving Machine, so please, if you can, do remember to use this website when shopping online.

The Giving Machine is a fundraising charity setup to help other charitable causes raise money online. By signing up and shopping online via The Giving Machine you will generate a free cash donation for West Dean Primary School. With over 2,200 of your favourite retailers, including Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tui, Sainsbury, John Lewis & Partners and Waitrose & Partners, you are bound to find what you need and generate a donation. Retailers pay commission to websites that send shoppers to them. The Giving Machine turns this commission into a charitable donation for our school. It's free and easy to use.

Simply visit www.thegivingmachine.co.uk, click join and search for West Dean CE Primary School or use our quick sign in code 266078, complete the registration form and you will be ready to go shopping!

This may be particularly appropriate whilst we isolate!



Staying Healthy at West Dean

Wherever you are you are part of the West Dean family and we hope that you are keeping well or recovering quickly.

Thank you all for your support in helping us to delay/prevent the spread of any germs in our population.

Important reminder to parents and carers:

Please could you let us know if you have need to collect any inhalers or equipment from school.



If any contact details change, anything please let us know, and we will keep in touch as well as we possibly can.



Home Learning News

There is some lovely work going on out there. From all your feedback, and having chatted to some of you over the last few weeks, I think you are now ready to extend your teaching skills even further!

Here is a quick skills booster for all you budding teachers out there:

- Some of the key aspects to good teaching are about **talking to and questioning** the children. **Get them to explain things** and you will all understand what is going on in their heads better, and you will know how to help.
- Using **vocabulary** which is specific to the subject enables the children to think things through and explain their thinking. Imagine trying to think about the concept of halving something if you don't have the word 'half' in your head, for example!
- Encourage them to **stretch their brains** and learn from making **mistakes**. For this, it will really help for you all to become good at looking **closely, listening carefully, giving constructive and precise feedback**, and being able to improve things by **'editing' or redrafting** work. It is very rare that our first attempt at something is our best attempt!
- **Metacognition** is a big word and it means something big - it means how we learn, how we think, how we understand our own learning. Helping your children to take their next steps independently will really help them become good learners.

To take **your next steps as a teacher**, I have provided a link to one of the most effective videos I have seen. It is worth watching it on your own, as grown ups, and thinking and chatting about it, so that you can understand the possibilities. The video shows a teacher helping children to understand how a pupil improved a piece of art work by having friends who gave him good advice, and by following this good advice with perseverance and self belief.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqh1MRWZjms&safe=true>

The concept of improving our work can be applied to lots of other subjects, such as writing and designing. The ability to give honest, precise feedback is really important for us and for children too.

You could have a go at using these techniques with your child. You could watch the video with your children and then discuss it, and use the strategies shown. Think about how the children are encouraged to 'look with the eyes of a scientist'. Listen out for the words and phrases:

- ⇒ **Yet**
- ⇒ **Good start**
- ⇒ **Second and third draft**
- ⇒ **Shape/pattern**
- ⇒ **Make it better**
- ⇒ **Eyes of a scientist**

I hope that this is helpful and that you enjoy it! Please do let the teachers know how you are getting on.

HOME LEARNING USING THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

New for this week:

West Sussex Sumdog Competition—your teachers will tell you more on the class pages.

On the class pages there are streamlined teaching notes, resources and activities for **English and maths**. We suggest that you do this in the mornings, following your own learning timetable. We aim to provide support and extension so that you can find learning at the correct 'level' for your own children.

We encourage you to **post images** and information about your home learning, securely on the class pages, so that we can have a window into everyone's achievement. You can do this by logging onto the website and using the 'new message' tab. You will find your teachers' names in the recipients' box, then you can give your message a name (or 'subject') and type a message. You can then 'attach' pictures, in the same way you might add images to a text or email. **The discussion tabs will be restored soon - this will be a great way of communicating with friends in the class.**

Your **teachers** will liaise with you via the class pages, about learning—they will also let you know when to expect them to be 'on-line'. Please don't worry or be frustrated if you don't get an immediate response, as our staff are teaching in the classroom, working on planning etc behind the scenes and managing their own health & well-being too.

We suggest that the afternoons should be focused on more practical, outdoors, collaborative 'topic' work, and we have selected a mini topic for each week, to help us to cover all curriculum areas. This learning can be found **on the main website homepage**, away from the secure class pages. Clicking on the **HOME LEARNING tab** will take you directly to this new area, which is being added to over the coming weeks. You will also see the recipes section, where you can try making some lovely dishes, and email pictures of your successes to Mrs Muggeridge:

SMuggeridge@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk . Mrs Muggeridge will then make a gallery of your lovely meals for the website.

There is a huge and potentially **overwhelming array of resources** 'out there' on the internet at the moment. We are being bombarded in school by this sort of thing and are endeavouring to 'cherry pick' the best learning resources for you—so please don't feel that your children are missing out if you restrict yourselves to the school website—there is more than enough learning available here, without you spending hours trawling through online resources. We will try to give you ideas to 'stretch/extend' your children if they progress well and to support them if they find some aspects trickier. This is easier to do if we are with them, but we will do our best! We have an area for 'links to a variety of teacher resources' and we will put other things on there for anyone who does want to trawl for other ideas. **This week there is a new page of links here.... So many resources!**

There are also some lovely **community ideas**, activities and suggestions, such as sending rainbow pictures to the new Nightingale hospitals—A4 only for laminating, putting rainbow pictures and teddy bears in windows to make us all smile when we are out walking..... Please share these on the class pages and in your class WhatsApp parent groups. If you have not tried **Zoom** to communicate with groups of family and friends, please give it a go: this has already been very successful for home pupil-teacher video links, Book Club sessions etc and is password protected and planned in advance.

Acorn Awards

During our partial school closure, we would like to continue with our Acorn Awards.

We have children working hard in school and at home.

Please send us pictures of the work you have done, and maybe pictures of **you** doing the work. This can be any sort of home learning which you are proud of.

The teachers will then select someone from each year group for our acorn award and we will publish these in the newsletter each Friday and in the entrance area.

Friday 24th April 2020

Mason - for making sure he is challenging himself and ensuring that his work in both English and Maths is his best effort; a great role model for others in school

Tallulah - for conscientiously and independently proof reading and editing her written work., making very successful and effective improvements.

Robert - for coming in each morning with a smile, settling down and really trying hard with his learning

Harry - for a fantastic artistic interpretation of our artist David Hockney

Emie - for her super tally and bar chart of the plants in her garden, great work!

Sebastian - for his amazing Hungry Caterpillar chalk illustrations in his garden.

Hettie J - for her beautiful symmetrical butterfly picture



Diary Dates 2020 tbc

Summer Term 2020: Monday 20th April–Friday 17th July

Half Term: Monday 25th May–Friday 29th May

2020 INSET days

Monday 1st June, Wednesday 1st July, Monday 20th July

Friday 8th May - 75th VE Day Anniversary Bank Holiday—school closed

Saturday 16th May—Lions Swimathon tbc

Monday 1st June - INSET Day, School Closed

Thursday 4th June 8.45—Apple Class Assembly

Monday 15th June—Yellow School Photo's—classes/Y6

Leavers

Tuesday 16th June - Chestnut Class Assembly

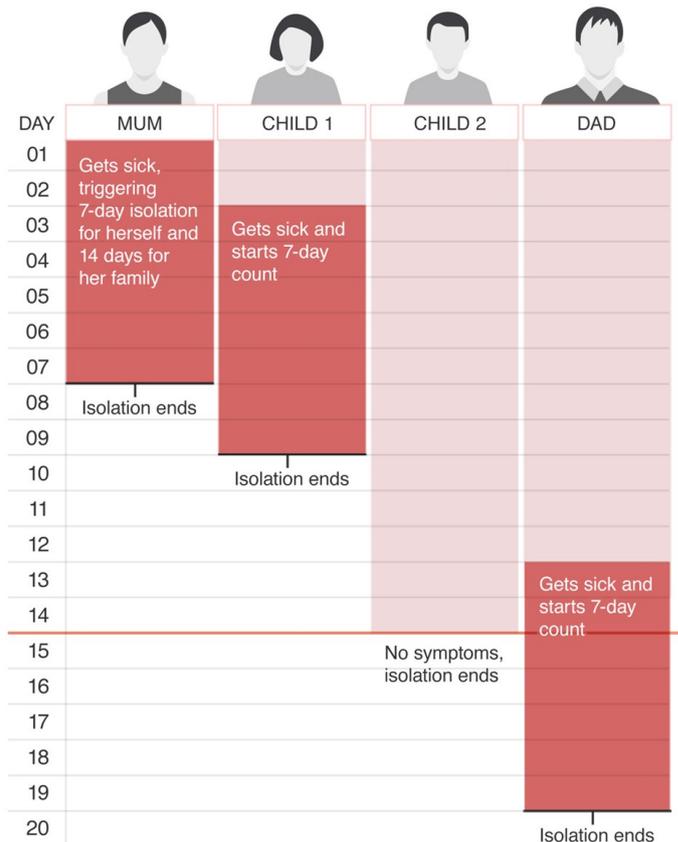
Thursday 18th & Friday 19th June—Beech Class Big Camp

Thursday 25th June 8.45—Maple Class Assembly

Thursday 2nd July 10.30—Year 6 Leavers Service at
Chichester Cathedral



What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



Summer Term Class Assembly Dates: tbc

Please do come along and join us at 8.45

Apple Thursday 4th June

Maple Thursday 25th June

Beech Wednesday 20th May

Chestnut Tuesday 16th June

Source: Public Health England advice

BBC

	Coronavirus	Cold	Flu
Fever	Common	Rare	Common
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
Sneezing	No	Common	No
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Source: World Health Organisation, Center for Disease control and Prevention

Current Useful Information and Reminders:

Thank you to everyone who supported us with donations to the **Chichester District Foodbank**; we are going to continue to have a box in the Reception area to collect any items that you would like to donate and Mrs Jen Rogers has very kindly agreed to make regular deliveries of our goods.

Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15 - Pop in and see your child's classroom and have a look at their work. Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in. We would love to have the opportunity to share your child with you.

School Money on-line donations.

We have been asked to set up the facility for people to make donations to the school if they would like to. This is available on Schoolmoney.co.uk and will show on your account as 'School Donation' with the amount of £1. There is absolutely no obligation to make this donation and if you wish, you can alter the figure to select the amount that you would like to pay.

Any donations to the school are very much appreciated and we thank you for your support.

Schoolmoney.co.uk on-line payments enables you to book for trips and clubs etc. and make payments on-line.

Please do log in regularly and check for 'live' visits and events.

Please log-in to your account to make sure any outstanding balances are settled.

Payment for spring term clubs and care bears has been credited to your school money account. For the children in year 6, this credit has been applied to a sibling account, where possible.



PTA News:

If you would like to get involved in the PTA in any way please to contact westdeanpta@outlook.com or contact the school office (office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Governing Body News:

Our team of governors continue to work together to help steer the school and support staff and the community. We are meeting every couple of weeks or so via Zoom video sessions.

For information about our Governing Body, to find out who we are and what we do or how to contact us please email Mrs Pasha Delahunty, Clerk to Governors - pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk.

Lost Property

Don't forget to check the lost property 'bin', on the pavilion decking, for any items that you might be missing.

Please make sure that school uniform is clearly named to enable us to return clothing that has been found.