



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 15 22nd January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,



I hope that you are all enjoying the learning at home, as much as possible.

How many of you have made a log dog, I wonder?

To have videos, Zoom sessions, phone calls and all the learning on the class pages puts us in a strong position in offering quality learning and we have had some super work submitted.

The children in school are working well and benefiting from school support too.

The books in Chestnut and Beech Class have been a lot of fun and have offered a great insight into WW2 and the Roman times, respectively.

If you are struggling with the learning, we offer a couple of additional top tips below. Keep going everyone—this will not last forever and we have some lovely learning planned for when we are all back in school.



We are now **half way between Christmas and February half term**. We are very grateful for all the messages of support we are receiving and I know many of you at home are working really hard with learning and just keeping things afloat at home. I have been asked on numerous occasions if we have information about when we are likely to return: we do not. Looking at the **Covid data**, however, I see little improvement and would expect the government to need to see at least three weeks' of consistent improvement before giving us any messages about coming back, in addition to this, I am **hoping** for two weeks' notice of a return, so that we can make all the necessary changes to the building and to our planning. This may help us to predict the future, but is merely my thinking.

It reminds us all that the measures currently being taken may not be enough to defeat the virus, even with the vaccination programme, so please do **take additional measures**—be as safe as you possibly can be.

To that end, I must remind you that children are only in school when **absolutely necessary**: for **confidential** reasons, we classify some children as having a vulnerability and others are in school as all the adults in their homes are **critical workers actually working**. If your child is not in these categories and is therefore at home, please **do not see this as exclusion or favouritism**. Children are only here for the hours necessary—every child, every adult and every contact represents an **increased risk to us all**. Our hospitals are becoming overwhelmed with Covid patients which will have an impact on all our safety in many ways. Within our immediate community our measures appear to be working and we have been lucky so far. In the extended local community, however, there have been some very sad stories and loss of life.

We are restricting school numbers to **protect health and prevent deaths**. This is a hard message, but limiting numbers is literally a matter of life and death.

Please do not engage in 'hassling' other parents about why their children are in school—we are all making difficult decisions and choices and will need to support **one another** in the coming weeks. **Thank you.**

Top Tips for Home Learning: Focus on the things we **can do**, not what we are missing. Get to know **Google Classrooms** well so that you can access it and then avoid too much screen time. Do all you can to develop **independence and resilience, creativity and curiosity**. Have **high but realistic expectations** of your children and always start with what they know, to build their confidence. **Make a timetable** with your child and plan baking, walks, outdoors, stories as well as school stuff. Timetable in being a **parent** and being a **teacher**—try to make these two roles different—you may need a teacher hat, wand or spectacles!



A warm supportive message for us all

During this time of isolation, which we, as adults, are struggling to fully come to terms with, it can help lots of us to hear some messages from the church.

Rev Sarah Manouch is waiting to get to know us all! She has recorded this message to help us all with this period of waiting.

https://youtu.be/4raSb_OTIUE



If you would like to contact her for support, her number is: 07468 854864

I am pleased to confirm that Debbie Alban has agreed to continue our Yoga sessions on Tuesday evening, 5.30-6.30, for the next 6 weeks, up to and including half term.

Tuesday 12th January through to Tuesday 16th February.

If you would like to take advantage of this and join in, please do join in.

As previously stated, you may turn off your video and mute if you prefer to be private.

Zoom Link:

[https://us02web.](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2218643518?pwd=aGIwaFpnT3ZQSUZ4dmdPNIV1a0N1dz09)

[zoom.us/j/2218643518?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2218643518?pwd=aGIwaFpnT3ZQSUZ4dmdPNIV1a0N1dz09)

[pwd=aGIwaFpnT3ZQSUZ4dmdPNIV1a0N1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2218643518?pwd=aGIwaFpnT3ZQSUZ4dmdPNIV1a0N1dz09)



Help with access to the internet?

Schools, trusts and local authorities can help disadvantaged children get online using free mobile data increases or 4G wireless routers provided by the Department for Education.

If you think you need some support please do let us know and we may be able to help.

Chartwells Meal Arrangements:

If you are a parent of a KS2 child and you had ordered meals for the first half of the Spring term through Chartwells, you will receive a credit on your account for this.

Children of critical, keyworker families and vulnerable children in school will be provided with a Chartwells meal, if required.

Families in receipt of Pupil Premium will either, receive a school meal if the children are in school or, a food parcel or voucher will be available for collection if they are home learning.

Community Hub support for Families in Need

All children and families who need support during lockdown can contact the Council's Community Hub, which is there to provide help during the COVID pandemic. This gives practical support and information to anyone adversely affected by COVID-19, which could include the provision of food and essential household supplies.

Contact is totally confidential and is available seven days a week, between 8am and 8pm, when staff will be on hand to respond to enquiries.

You can find more information and request support online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub or to speak to someone call 03302227980.

HELPING OTHERS AT CHRISTMAS

Thank you for your generosity during our Christingle Service, your donations will be made to **The Children's Society**.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we always think of others who may be in need. We will donate to the Children's Society with the proceeds of our Christingle Service

Thank you for your donations any items which vulnerable families, homeless people, and the shelters for homeless people, might find useful. We are collecting these items in boxes which hold 24 items (tins of food, shampoo/shower gel bottles etc). The boxes will then be delivered where they are most needed and you can donate money too. Please take a look at these links for more information on how to help local vulnerable people: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/makeyourchangecount>

<https://www.chichester.co.uk/news/people/council-urges-chichester-residents-make-your-change-count-when-helping-homeless-3041682>

Thank you to those of you who have sent items into school. We now have one full box. We will continue with this in the New Year, so that we can all bring in any unwanted post-Christmas items: that way we can really have an impact for those in need.