



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher Mr C Williams
Newsletter 7- 15th October 2021



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

Dear parents, carers and children,

What a great week it has been, with more sunny weather and the absolute pleasure of getting out and enjoying the natural beauty of our local area with all of the children and staff for our Mindfulness and Wellbeing Day on Tuesday; more about that later.

Last Friday our Harvest Service at the church of St Andrew in West Dean was, as anticipated, a wonderful celebration on a number of levels. Not only was it good and appropriate for us to give thanks for the rich variety of food and provision that we receive in our lives, but it was also a wonderfully joyful occasion to be able to be back in church together, joined by Rev Sarah. My thanks to her for her warm welcome and leading of the service. Thank you also to you, our school families for navigating the one-way drop-off system at the church on Friday morning. There are always learning points and tweaks to make for the future, but on the whole it worked well, so I thank you for your support and cooperation. Your very generous harvest gifts were delivered to the Chichester District Foodbank on Wednesday morning and I have been asked to pass on sincere and heartfelt thanks from the volunteers who run this incredible, and sadly vital, source of support in our community. Your donations really will make a big difference.

Next week, I will be using our collective worship and assembly time to talk about politics, in preparation for the re-launch of our School Parliament. This may well be a new idea to those of you who are new to the school, or who joined during the COVID pandemic, as unfortunately, due to the limitations of working in 'bubbles', the parliament has not been able to function in its full form for around two years. Pupil Voice and valuing the ideas of the children about the way they want to develop their school life is extremely important to us. Plus, this kind of activity develops the children's understanding of the function of democracy in society.

I shall be introducing the children to the basics of how government and parliament work, and then launching a school election campaign to appoint members of School Parliament to the following departments or 'Ministries':

Learning for Life, Health & Wellbeing, Sustainability, Digital Technology and Community.

We will appoint a member to each department from Beech and Chestnut Class and two additional members from Chestnut Class, who will work with Apple and Maple Class children and represent their views at Parliament meetings. I encourage Beech and Chestnut children to consider nominating themselves for these roles and if they wish to do so, budding politicians will need to prepare a short campaign speech over the half term holiday to present to the rest of their class during the first week back, which will be 'Election week'. I'm sure it will be lots of fun, as well as being an important first step in developing this valuable aspect of school life.

It was fantastic to join the PTA for their first meeting of the year last Wednesday evening. I am so grateful for the willingness and enthusiasm of this group, in organising exciting school events and much-needed fundraising to enrich and support the children's learning. There are some great events on the horizon, including a film night for the children, a family grounds day to help prepare our site for winter, and, if it isn't too early to mention Christmas, a disco for the children towards the end of term. Whilst we welcome your support in all of these events, we have decided that we will wait until the spring before we look to organise any indoor events for adults, by which time we hope that the COVID pandemic landscape will look a little clearer.

Thank you for your incredible response to the recent Parent Survey. At the time of writing, we have received an impressive 44 responses from a school community of just 67 families, which is very pleasing indeed. Your responses make for very interesting and useful reading and will be invaluable in helping to inform our ongoing school development.

Finally, I will round off this week by adding my thanks to our school staff and to West Dean College, for enabling such a memorable and uplifting Mindfulness and Wellbeing Day last Tuesday. We are so blessed to have West Dean Gardens and the South Downs on our doorstep and Tuesday proved to be such an energising and rejuvenating experience for children and adults alike, following the limitations of the past few years. We hope it will have given the children the opportunity to refocus and reorientate themselves, rediscovering that love for learning with which to move forward. We have gathered our memories of the day in a video, which we will share with you. I hope you enjoy it and that it conveys the sense of calmness and rejuvenation that we all experienced.

With my very best wishes,

Chris Williams

Please continue to stay safe and
PLEASE MAINTAIN COVID SAFE BEHAVIOURS!

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FACE COVERINGS THROUGHOUT OUR
SCHOOL CAR PARK AND PLAYGROUND.**



West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 15th October 2021



Sophia - for your careful and thoughtful attitude in making your worry doll. Well done!

Nella - for your accurate counting and addition in maths. Keep up the good work!

Fynn - for your amazing counting in 2s, 5s and 10s this week. You have worked incredibly hard in maths this week as well as supporting your class mates!

Sebastian - for taking on new maths challenges this week. You really switched on your brilliant maths brain and proved you can take on some tricky calculations

Aven - for your amazing literacy work this week. You really got into the role of one of Shackleton's explorers and wrote a very convincing letter applying for his crew. All this, on top of well thought guided reading answers too!

Bonnie - for being a kind and fair Chestnut Citizen! You always follow instructions, take turns and listen. You have super learning behaviours

Mabel - for your positive learning behaviours and enthusiasm in class. Your focused approach and involvement in lessons are super



COVID safe procedures and routines



Further details of the measures in place in schools and how outbreaks will be managed, can be found at:

www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool

The Museum of the Moon at Chichester Cathedral

- will be on display from 25th October - 14th November 2021. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the *Museum of the Moon* features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally-lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. The artwork will be accompanied by a programme of events, concerts and late-night openings, delivered by a variety of organisations, including the South Downs Planetarium, Chichester's Novium Museum and the West Sussex Library Service, encouraging people far and wide to celebrate the night skies of Sussex. Read on below to find out more. General day entry will not be ticketed or pre-booked, however a variety of events and evening viewings will need pre-booking.



Rotary Chichester Priory—Shoebbox Appeal



We are participating in the Wessex Shoebbox Scheme this year. You are asked to fill a shoebox with new or very good second hand items for either a boy or girl in different age categories.

Items such as soft toys, picture books, games, jigsaws, crayons etc. These will then be delivered as Christmas presents to under privileged children in Countries such as Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania.

This is an optional activity for over the half term holiday and, if you do decide to join in, we would ask that shoeboxes are returned to us, first thing, on Monday 1st November ready for collection by the Chichester Rotary. (Further details attached)

Schoolmoney.co.uk

This on-line platform 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.

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.

Grounds Morning — Save the date

We are truly blessed to have such wonderful and expansive school grounds, but this does result in the need for quite a lot of maintenance.

As our school prayer says, *many hands make a house, so many hearts make a school*. Many hands also make light work of tidying up the garden and grounds for winter!

So, if you are able, please join us for a healthy and active morning of trimming, sweeping, digging and general tidying of our school grounds on **Saturday 13th November 9.30 to 12.30**.



You will be welcome to stay for as much or as little time as you can — any time you can offer will be very helpful and much appreciated, and will be rewarded with plenty of hot drinks and a bacon butty!

More details to follow soon, with a more specific job list for the morning and any tools we might need. Thank you.

Day	Adult Lead	Max		Club	Cost	Year Group
Monday	Mrs Pearmaine	12		Lego	£25.00	Yr 4,5,6
Tuesday	Mrs Goacher/Mrs Johnson 6.30-7.00pm	20		Swim WBH	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
	Mr Williams	20		Cross Country Running	£25.00	Yr 3,4,5,6,
Wednesday	Mrs Muggeridge/Miss Boxall	8		Cookery	£30.00	Yr3, 4,
Thursday	Mrs E Holder	12		Dance	£20.00	Yr 2,3,4,5, 6
Friday	AAA Coaching	14		Multi-sports	£25.00	1,2,3,4,5 ,6

Dates: W/C 1st, 8th, 22nd & 29th November, 6th December - x 5 weeks

Please Note: No clubs during W/C 15th November - Parent Evenings

Dance Club is 4 weeks only - no Dance on Thursday 9th December

Our dancers will be working towards Dance House 2022 in the Autumn term 2 and Spring term 1 dance club. Rehearsal and performance will be at The Alexandra Theatre in Bognor Regis on Thursday 17th February, further details to follow nearer the time.

It has become necessary to slightly increase the cost of cookery club in line with the rising costs of ingredients. The children do, however, have their tea to bring home with them so we hope that you will agree, that this is still good value.

In addition to our after school club programme our **Care Bear** provision is available everyday, Mon-Fri, 3.00-4.00pm. Please make sure that you book in.

Our 'Bears' are cared for by one a member of staff and will have a drink and a snack and access to a range of activities and play.

All clubs run from 3.00-4.00, with the exception of Cookery Club which finishes at 4.15 and our swimming club which will be held at Westbourne House school, 6.30-7.15pm.

For all clubs and care bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk.

Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Places for clubs are limited and will be allocated on 'first come, first served' basis.

Clubs will go 'live' on Friday 22nd October at 4.00pm.

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.

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)

Diary Dates 2021/22



2021/22 INSET Days

Thursday 2nd September & Friday 3rd September 2021
Monday 28th February 2022, Monday 6th June & Wednesday 6th July



Autumn Term 2021

Monday 6th September - Friday 17th December
Half Term: Monday 25th—Friday 29th October



Spring Term 2022

Tuesday 4th January - Friday 8th April
Half Term: Monday 21st—Friday 25th February



Summer Term 2022

Monday 25th April - Thursday 21st July
Half Term: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June

Tuesday 19th October	Beech Class visit to Portsmouth Dockyard
Tuesday 2nd November	10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Thursday 4th November	Year 6 Height & Weight Programme
Thursday 4th November	PTA Film Night (details tbc)
Monday 8th November	Drama for All Workshop—Apple and Maple Class
Thursday 11th November	8.45 Remembrance Assembly
Saturday 13th November	School Grounds Morning (details tbc)
Tuesday 16th November	Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 17th November	Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 19th November	Children in Need
Thursday 2nd December	Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 6th December	2.00pm KS1 Production—The Raggedy King
Tuesday 7th December	9.15 KS1 Production—The Raggedy King
Tuesday 7th December	Flu Vaccination

Christmas Week

Monday 13th December	10.00 Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Tuesday 14th December	10.00 Visit to West Dean College (tbc)
Wednesday 15th December	Chartwells Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 15th December	2.00pm—Christmas Party
Thursday 16th December	8.45, Christingle Making in school
Thursday 16th December	4.45, Christingle Service at WD Church (tbc)
Friday 17th December	8.45, End of Term Assembly

