



West Dean Church of England Primary School
 West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
 Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
 Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
 Newsletter 12 4th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a varied week we have had in school—our whole school visit to the arboretum in the grounds of West Dean College was a huge success and we were lucky to have help from Ian Odin and Sharon-Michi Kusunoki, who met us there and answered lots of our questions about Edward James and about trees. Mrs Boxall made shortbread tree biscuits for our snack and our team made hot chocolate for everyone too. We are looking forward to returning in the Spring and Summer to see how the seasons change.

We have had sunshine and rain, quiet learning times and exciting outdoors investigations. I am delighted that everyone is working so hard and helping us to keep everyone safe. Please do keep an eye on emails and alerts as we move towards one of our busiest weeks.

We have two learning galleries to share with those of you who have not seen them: Please click on this link to take you to our Art Gallery from last half term.

https://westdean-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/head_westdean_w-sussex_sch_uk/EfpUV-wRnpNlrZLMmFIZsd4Bd8uuCYLk1wxAqUOI33nEAQ

Our other gallery for this half term shows pictures of the learning and the children, as well as information about the learning and our plans. Please use the Microsoft Form notification, so that you can give your assurances that you will not share or copy this material. We hope that you enjoy these presentations!



Christmas is Coming! our Christmas information is available for you in the calendar below. Please also see our previous letter, attached below.



Maths Word of the Week

SQUARE

× × × ×
 × × × ×
 × × × ×
 × × × ×

16 IS A SQUARE NUMBER.

← If you look carefully at this array of 4 rows of 4 Xs, you can see that they make a square shape.

Four lots of four equal sixteen.

Four multiplied by four is sixteen.

Four plus four plus four plus four equals sixteen.

Can you think of any other square numbers?

Yoga at West Dean

Debbie Alban has very kindly been running Yoga Classes for our staff, on Zoom, during the lockdown period. We would like to continue to offer this valuable activity and would like to open it up to our school community. We would like to suggest a cost per session of £5 to help to cover Debbie's cost, this is available to pay on schoolmoney.co.uk (you will need to book using your child's name) Once you have booked, I will send you the Zoom link.

The sessions take place on Tuesday evenings, 5.30-6.30pm. You can turn off your camera and microphone on Zoom if you prefer to be private in your practice. **Namaste**

Please ask at the office if you would like further information.



Apple Class Appeal Apple Class would really like some large Lego bases. If anyone is having a tidy up ready for Christmas and has any bases that they would like to donate, please do let us know.

ALSO: We are always on the lookout for Pritt GLUE sticks, for those parents who would like to support us :)



PTA Christmas Hamper Raffle



The lucky winners of our Christmas Hampers were Frank McGough, Finlay Turner and Blaise Cole and Sonny Chambers.

The winner of the Fortnum and Mason Silent Hamper was Heidi Hayburn, Casper's mummy.

We raised an amazing £900—thank you to everyone who supported us.

Coming soon to West Dean CE Primary School

Had a sort out and got 'stuff' to hand on? Charity shops closed?

Beech Class will soon be announcing our on line

School market place, where you will be able to sell items.

50% or more of the income will come to school,

so everyone is a winner!

Looking for Christmas Gifts without going shopping?

Beech Class and a couple of willing and able parents will lead this for us. It will become beech Class's Business Enterprise work, which will help them to understand the concepts of buying and selling, profit and marketing. Please do support

Already overdone the Amazon ordering?

this as much

as you can.

Keen to support school without spending lots of

WARM CLOTHES

We are ventilating the school well, which means the classrooms will be much colder than usual. Please do make sure children have extra layers to wear inside. This is a Covid-19 precaution.

Diary Dates 2020

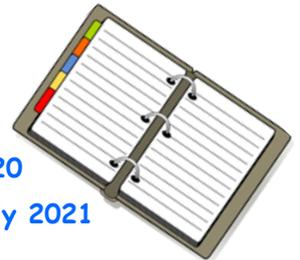
Autumn Term 2020 : Monday 7th Sept—Friday 18th December

Half term holiday: October 26th—30th

Spring Term 2020: Monday 4th January

2020/21 INSET days

Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2020
Monday 22nd February, Monday 7th June, Wednesday 7th July 2021



Monday 7th December - KS1 Drama Workshop—Fairytale and Fables tbc

Friday 11th December, 3.00-4.00 - AAA Sports Club for Yr 1 & 2 (Care Bears for siblings)

Monday 14th December - Zoom Christingle Assembly 1:15pm (details tbc—Tuesday 15th if wet)

Tuesday 15th December - Whole School visit to West Dean College (Thurs if wet)

Wednesday 16th December - Chartwells Christmas Lunch and Christmas Party

(own outdoor suitable clothes needed)

Thursday 17th December, 9.45-10.00 - Assembly with Hugo Van Driel

Thursday 17th December—PTA Panto Afternoon—in classroom bubbles

Friday 18th December - End of term Assembly

Monday 4th January 2021 - Return to School



CHESTNUT CLASS — RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

This visit is a key part of our Y5/6 learning and we very much hope to go ahead with it despite the current and recent restrictions. Our original date was in March, but we have been lucky enough to postpone this until after SATs, in June, with no price increase. This is wonderful news, although we remain at the mercy of the Covid restrictions and the uncertain future. I will send out detailed information in January, and we will have plenty of time to answer questions and consider our options—my vision is still that we will all experience this fabulous learning opportunity and that we will do it safely and affordably.



Acorn Awards

Friday 4th December 2020

Miles - for always doing your best and the enthusiasm you have for learning and always smiling

Solomon - for sharing your amazing scientific knowledge about the world with such enthusiasm

Poppy Rimmer - for working so hard to create your map of our journey to the Arboretum and for supporting those around you, a super role model

Benny - for working collaboratively as well as independently during guided reading this week, you really shone!

James Loy - for making insightful and thoughtful inferences in guided reading. Your love and passion for reading is such an inspiring example for others to follow

Elliot - for your super critical thinking—you ask questions which show you are making connections in your learning and which help you to be an independent learner in class, well done!



Josh - for your interest in our learning about Edward James. I am looking forward to reading your biography of his life. Your motivation and enthusiasm are a super example to others

Current Useful Information and Reminders:

September 2020

Thank you to everyone who supported us with donations to the **Chichester District Foodbank**; we 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.

This is currently unavailable but we will be available in the playground each afternoon—Wednesdays remain a good day to 'catch us'.

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.



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 currently recruiting for two new parent governors—see above for details—we would love to have you on board!

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.

Information for our Christmas events (sent 25th November)

I am delighted to be emailing you to confirm our Christmas arrangements for this year. We all love the Christmas traditions at West Dean as they are so special to our school. With the current restrictions, we have adapted them to keep everyone safe, but we are ensuring that as much as possible still goes ahead.

We do need your support in this, however, in making sure your children have the right clothes on the appropriate days, and that you adhere strictly to our rules/protocols for joining our events on Zoom. We will continue to use Zoom to share assemblies and events until Easter, when we hope that restrictions will lift. We will not be able to do this, however, if we have issues around people filming, taking screenshots or allowing access to anyone outside school. Thank you in advance for your support.

Warm and waterproof outer clothes are essential each day this term and into the New Year please.

Date	Event
Monday 14 th December	Christingle Service (making am and outdoor Zoom celebration 1.15pm)
Tuesday 15 th December	Father Christmas and Carols at West Dean College
Wednesday 16 th December	Chartwells' Christmas Lunch and Christmas Party afternoon (party clothes all day - suitable for outdoors)
Thursday 17 th December	9.45am Hugo Van Driel Christmas Assembly - pupils only PTA Panto afternoon
Friday 18 th December	8.45 - End of Term Assembly - pupils only 3.00 - School Ends for Christmas Holidays

On **Monday 14th December**, we will be **making our Christingles** in the morning. Each child will make and keep their own Christingle ready for the service in the afternoon.

The **Christingle Service** itself will be on **Monday 14th December, 1.15pm** at West Dean

School, with Tuesday 15th as our wet weather alternative. We would like to invite parents and carers to join via Zoom in the same way that we held our Remembrance Service, please see attached Zoom protocol information.

In previous years we have 'sold' tickets for this event in order to manage numbers in Church but as this year is very different, we are asking that you make a donation to The Children's Society via our on-line payment platform www.schoolmoney.co.uk. We suggest a minimum of £2.50, for those who can afford it, as this supports children who would have a bleak Christmas without our support.

On **Tuesday 15th**, when we visit the College to **meet Father Christmas** and sing carols, it is even more important than ever that children have waterproof coats and footwear (wellies or walking boots) for the walk to the College, please. This is a school only event and not for parents, apart from parent governors, thank you. It will be a lovely way to end the year and a Christmas treat for us all. Again, things are very different this year and we will not have access to the College, we will meet Father Christmas outside and sing some of our favourite Carols before heading back to school.

For the **party day, Wednesday 17th December**, children should come to school wearing party clothes for the whole day: these clothes must be suitable for outdoor activities too, please. This will be an exciting day with a very 'Christmassy' feel: the morning will be spent on Christmas crafts and the afternoon will be our party afternoon. Our **Chartwells' Christmas Lunch, will be on this day, too - please make sure you have ordered your child's meal so that they do not miss out!** This year, we will keep the children and adults within their bubbles and they will all have their lunch and party games/quiz etc in their classrooms or outside. Our lovely PTA helpers are in the midst of preparing for this day, as are we, and we hope that we can make it extra special.

On **Thursday 17th December**, Hugo Van Driel will be joining us for a Christmas celebration assembly in the morning, this will be for school adults and children only. In the afternoon, our PTA have arranged for a Panto treat: this will be in our own classrooms and in school time.

Friday 18th December is the date for the end of year assembly, this will be for school adults and children only, and will mark the end of 2020 for the school.

Information for our Christmas events continued (sent 25th November)

Christmas Cards

This is a popular tradition for our children and we would like to enable it to continue - please help us in managing this very small but real risk of viral spread.

Christmas cards should be brought into school

from Monday 7th December to Friday 11th December only.

They should be kept in children's bags until they enter the classroom, where teachers will arrange for them to be put into the class box. If your child would like to send a card to a child in another class, there will be a box in their classroom for this.

We will then leave the boxes untouched until Tuesday 15th December, when they will be sorted and distributed. This is to allow time for 'quarantining'.

*Any cards brought in before or after 7-11 December will **not be distributed**.* Please refrain from distributing cards in the car park or playground, as we are responsible for keeping everyone safe on the school grounds.

Throughout this Advent period, the vast majority of our timetable remains the same and we have the same expectations for work in classes and at home. Please support us in ensuring quality learning is taking place by making sure the children get plenty of sleep and continue to read at home and work on their targets.

We will ensure that Covid guidelines are strictly followed, whatever this may look like in the period leading up to Christmas.

Thank you for your support in all of this. We hope you enjoy this special festive period at West Dean School!

Mrs G Moss
Headteacher