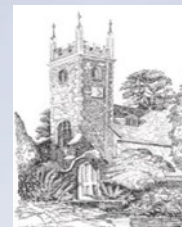




West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ
Telephone: 01243 811247
Headteacher Mr C Williams
Newsletter 1 3rd September 2021



Dear parents, carers and children,

It is with tremendous excitement that I write to you for the first time as Headteacher of West Dean CE Primary School. I feel so privileged to have been appointed to lead this thriving school and already know from the warm welcome that I have received that there is much to be excited about for the future as we journey and develop together as a community. I very much look forward to meeting and getting to know as many of you as possible over the coming weeks; I shall be out on the playground as often as I can at drop-off and pick-up times. Do please come and introduce yourself to me.

I hope that you have had a relaxing and rejuvenating summer break, enjoying some of the leisure activities that we have all missed so much during the pandemic, as the restrictions gradually ease. Weren't the Tokyo Olympics amazing, as are the Paralympics in which Team GB seem to be doing exceptionally well at the moment. I don't know about you, but I found myself absolutely gripped by the excitement and skill of all manner of sports that I wouldn't normally watch. What a great summer spectacle it was!

I also hope that you are eager and ready to come back to school. The teachers have been very busy over the holidays, and particularly this week, preparing classrooms and planning exciting learning for the autumn term. We are all looking forward to welcoming you back on Monday and at the beginning of the following week for our Reception children in Apple Class.



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

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

Face Coverings (**masks and visors**) are available to buy from our Reception if you have forgotten yours.

THANK YOU FOR PARKING CAREFULLY —
THIS SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING A LITTLE :)

Look at this lovely **rainbow!**
A sign of hope and God's promise!

COVID safe procedures and routines

Following an update to the government COVID-19 operational guidance for schools, it is with great relief that we are able to make some changes to the timings of the school day for the start of the autumn term. We no longer need to operate a staggered start at the beginning and end of the day, so ask children in all classes to arrive on the school playground from 8.20am for an 8.35 start from Monday 6th September 2021. From 8.30am, children in Apple Class should be brought around the outside of the school building to the Apple Class outside area gate, where a member of the class team will be waiting to greet you. The school day will end at 3.00pm for all children, and we ask parents to arrive no earlier than 2.50pm for pick-up.

Whilst we are pleased to return to increased normality in terms of timings, we do so with caution and an awareness that this may need to change at any point in the coming months, depending on the pandemic landscape both nationally and locally. The government guidance requires all schools to have a contingency plan in place, to enable a swift tightening of COVID safe procedures, were there to be a 'local outbreak'. In addition, schools are advised to exercise caution at the times of the day when there are greater numbers of adult visitors on site. For this reason, I ask for your understanding and support in continuing to wear a face mask, on our school site, at drop-off and pick-up times. Whilst the teaching staff are no longer required to wear a mask in class or anywhere else inside the school building, for everyone's safety, they will use a mask at the beginning and end of the day when greeting parents and carers. I will review this as the term progresses, but believe it is the best approach for the time being.

There is also no longer a requirement for the children to remain in bubble groups while in school. Again, with caution, we will begin to provide greater opportunities for social interaction between age groups from the beginning of term, including at lunch and playtimes, as well as assembly. As with all other aspects of COVID safe practice, this is subject to change, and we have clear plans for the reintegration of bubbles, should the need arise. In the meantime, it is wonderful to be able allow the children to mix to a greater extent, as we have all so missed this important part of school life.

Further details of the measures in place in schools and how outbreaks will be managed, as well as advice and guidance on mental health and wellbeing for young people can be found at www.westsussex.gov.uk/backtoschool

Parking

Parking permits issued last term will still be valid for the first week of this term. Parents and carers of children in Apple Class Year 1 are permitted to park in the school car park next week, but it will be necessary to change this when our Reception children start with us from Monday 13th September.

All other families with permits may still use the Selsey Arms pub carpark, but please limit your stay to the period required to pick-up your child, as the carpark is now increasingly busy with customers returning to the pub, which is a very positive sign for local business. As always, we are extremely grateful to the team at the Selsey Arms for the use of the carpark. Please therefore ensure that your driving and parking remains considerate to other users and customers, both in the pub carpark and on the school site.

The above arrangements will be in place for next week, during which time I will review school parking and be in touch again with a revised arrangements for this term.

Summer Works

The school has been a hive of activity throughout the summer break, as contractors have been on site installing a new boiler and heating system. There is talk of a heat wave next week, so I hope not to be testing the system yet, but it is good to know that we will all be kept comfortable as and when the colder winter months come. The contractors were on site until the middle of this week, so I am very grateful to the school staff team, who, in a very short space of time, have transformed the classrooms and prepared them for welcoming back the children.

Staffing for 2021-22

To support you in fully preparing your children for the return to school, I enclose a reminder of the teaching staff structure and class responsibility for this year:

Mrs Chilton & Mrs Plackett - Class Teachers - Apple Year R/1, supported by Mrs Muggeridge & Ms Boxall

Miss Ashton - Class Teacher - Maple Year 2

Mrs Johnson & Mrs Plackett (Mondays) - Class Teachers - Beech Year 3 /4, supported by Mrs Wakefield & Mrs Tonks

Mrs Prudence - Class Teacher - Chestnut Year 5/6, supported by Mrs Goacher, Mrs Pearmaine & Miss Clements

Mrs Shears and Mrs Bailey - our office team

Miss Clements and Mrs Tonks join the staff team as teaching assistants. I am sure you will join me in extending a warm West Dean welcome to them.

Have a wonderful weekend, hopefully enjoying some September sunshine. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday.

With best wishes,

Chris Williams

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

Term Dates

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 - Friday 22nd July

Half Term: Monday 30th May—Friday 3rd June



**Schools re-opens for Year 1 to 6 on Monday 6th September
(Reception Monday 13th September)**



Monday 6th September—Back to School Year 1—Year 6

Monday 13th September—School Starts for Year R (PTA tea and tissues, 9.00-10.00)

Thursday 16th September - Ben Van Driel Drum Lessons begin (selected pupils)

Wednesday 22nd September, 1.00-4.00 - Year 5 Maths Challenge, Christ's Hospital

Thursday 23rd September - Music begins for Beech and Chestnut Class (1 Term 2 Learn)

Thursday 23rd September, 5.30 - Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 5th October - Bookfest Workshop—Chestnut Class

Wednesday 6th October - Chestnut Class visit to Southampton City Museum (details to follow)

Thursday 7th October - Bookfest Workshop - Maple and Beech Class

Monday 8th November - Drama for All Workshop—Apple and Maple Class

Thursday 11th November, 8.45 Remembrance Assembly

Tuesday 7th December - Flu Vaccination

*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards—Friday 3rd September 2021*

Mr Williams - Our new Headteacher, welcome to the West Dean Team

All the children - We are looking forward to welcoming you back to school

All the classroom staff—for working hard to make sure everything is ready in the classrooms and for planning an exciting term ahead

Mrs. Shears and Mrs. Bailey - for being ready to welcome you back and being on hand to help with any questions or queries you may have



Current Useful Information and Reminders:



September 2021

Governing Body News:

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

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.

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)

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.