



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are noticing the change of seasons in school, and enjoying studying the trees and leaves in our grounds—this will be the stimulus for our whole school art work this term. As Autumn is now well upon us, please do send your children with a warm/**waterproof** coat and suitable **wellies/trainers** EVERY DAY. Playtimes are vital for our wellbeing and we aim to play outside whenever possible, and to allow us to sanitise the classrooms throughout the day. One of our many actions to keep us as safe as possible is that we are we are keeping some of our doors and windows open whenever possible: this means it can be chilly inside too, so please make sure children have warmer, winter uniforms now.

We are delighted with the progress children are making. Supporting them with homework is more important than ever, as we identify gaps in our learning and support children with the key building blocks of reading, writing, spelling and number work.

This week, I had the pleasure of meeting The Reverend Sarah Jane Manouch, who is our 'new Incumbent': she will be the face of the church for our school, following the departure of 'Rev. Kev'. On Wednesday, at Singleton church, I attended the Eucharist with the Institution and Induction of Sarah. Sarah and I will work together to find ways of bringing her into school, either in person, or via Zoom or similar, and we will find out how she would like us to address her! We are delighted to have her supporting us, and we welcome her to our school.

You will have received information regarding the new NHS **Track and Trace** app.

Please do keep up to date with news and advice, and act accordingly, to keep us all safe.

<https://www.covid19.nhs.uk>

Reminders:

- Please make sure your child has a **water bottle** in school every day.
- If your child is absent, please contact the school office, either by telephone or e-mail, to let us know each day.

Parent Consultation Evenings.

We will be holding our Parent Consultation Evenings on 'Zoom' this term, this will avoid unnecessary 'traffic' in the school building and ensure that we can all be distant and safe.

Appointments will be available on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October for all classes; Beech and Chestnut will be offering Thursday 15th in addition, to ensure that everyone can book a 10 minute slot.

Bookings will be on our website (<https://west-dean.eschools.co.uk>) and will open on Wednesday 7th October at 9.00am. Bookings will close at 9pm on Sunday 11th October.

Please contact the school office if you experience any difficulties with the booking procedure or if you need your log-in details.

Please see attached letter for further information.

Please could we ask that **one parent or carer only** comes onto the playground at drop-off and pick-up times. This will help us to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Parking Please could you all remember that the school car park is reserved for parents and carers of Apple Class pupils only, and for those transporting very young pre school children.

This will help us to keep the area safe for all our families.



Diary Dates 2020

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

Half term holiday: October 26th—30th

2020/21 INSET days

Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September 2020

28th September - 2nd October - British Nutrition Foundation Healthy Eating week -
Bike to School Week - Sunstrans.org.uk

Thursday 8th October, 9.45-10.00 - Hugo Van Driel outdoor Zoom Assembly

Tuesday 13th October, 3.15—6.00 - Whole School Parent Evening

Wednesday 14th October, 3.15—6.00 - Whole School Parent Evening

Wednesday 14th October - Flu Vaccination for all year groups

Thursday 15th October—3.15—6.00 - Whole School Parent Evening (Chestnut and Beech)

Wednesday 11th November—Remembrance Assembly—time tbc

Friday 13th November—Children in Need

Monday 16th November, 8.30 - Yellow School Photographs - Individuals and Siblings

Coronavirus Information for Parents

Please see the leaflet which will be sent out with this newsletter.

Regardless of the method of measuring the risk of this virus for us and how skewed this data is by the increased amount of testing etc., (number of reported cases, number of hospital admissions, number of deaths) our local area remains a **relatively** low risk area—but not as low as other areas, as you will see on the BBC website. This remains a real threat to us as individuals, families, the school and our wider community, in many ways. We will keep the school open for everyone if at all possible, and this follows current national and local government guidelines.

These DfE and WSCC guidelines are constantly changing and we are aware that there may be the need to close a 'bubble' or the school at some point if the situation worsens.

We ask for your support in being vigilant but pragmatic— please do look out for symptoms in your family and stay at home/ request a test if appropriate. If you are not sure, consult the attached guidance and see the NHS link below, where advice is constantly updated.

NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

It is likely that we will have a small number of pupils each week who are awaiting test results for C-19 and are therefore at home. We will also have children who are at home with a cold, feeling sick etc. Please do not panic about this -we will keep you informed and we will act immediately if there are any confirmed cases. It remains difficult to access tests currently but we are assured that this is to be improved.

We are continuing with our measures in school: **hands, face, space**. We continue to enforce regular, frequent and thorough handwashing, as well as avoiding touching our faces. We keep apart by working in our 'bubbles' and by maintaining distance whenever feasible. This minimises the risk of viral spread and load, but does not remove it entirely. Please continue to support us in this and in the playground, & socially outside school. Help us to remain Covid free.

There is a plethora of information about the situation—the following may be of interest/value.

BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51768274>

PHE info <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

A study on symptoms in children <https://covid.joinzoe.com/post/back-to-school?fbclid=IwAR342bPhVEDPv4bSdX3SGnheUyIIVF3bMoEhmub4onZQY2RR-40kXyOzgs>



Acorn Awards

Friday 2nd October 2020

Lucas - for being such a brilliant partner in forest schools. You have such a kind nature and always look after others

Eloise - for your brilliant attitude towards your learning in writing and using all the tools to write super sentences

Henry - for your determination in all areas of your learning in school as well as at home. Keep up the good work!

Bertie - for showing great understanding of your reading book, you were able to answer question in great depth with attention to detail

Rupert - for an amazing mature start to year 4. You are a super role model, a caring friend and a hard worker—well done Rupert

Daniel - for showing your learning in your homework. You confidently spotted modal verbs after learning about them on Monday

Ryan - for your enthusiasm for reading, You are really enjoying your reading and have lots to say about the stories you have read



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.