



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ
Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 2 18th September 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

How lovely to be writing at the end of such a super second week in school. Our staff are thrilled with how everyone is throwing themselves into the learning and we have had some super work in lots of subject areas, with numerous 'light bulb moments' as children remember their previous learning and make links to new learning. Our new entrants have joined us with happy faces and have already picked up routines and expectations, made new friends and enjoyed the indoor and outdoor work. Mrs Rogers, who has joined us on a permanent basis in Beech Class on Mondays, is already a strong team member, as she knows the children well and supports us in other classes at other times too, with French and other subjects. We are delighted to have her with us.

We are enjoying our whole school book and working towards our harvest assembly (in school), some whole school art work, and also a local/global history project in the coming weeks and months. Ms Boxall continues to lead us in our outdoor learning and we have been making good use of the grounds. Each year group will have a Forest School half term this year, and Apple Class will be out there each week! This is certainly a time for us all to be thankful.

School Funding and Fundraising This year has been a strange one in so many ways. As a school, we have spent less in some areas and more in others, similar to many households and families. Our income has dropped due to the lack of clubs, fund-raising opportunities and donations. I am pleased to say that we have successfully sold the wooden horse which has not been used for years—for £103, with a little help from Mr Harrison and eBay. There may be other such opportunities and we hope to involve the children and perhaps a couple of internet savvy parents—do let us know if you are interested in supporting this and we can develop our ideas.

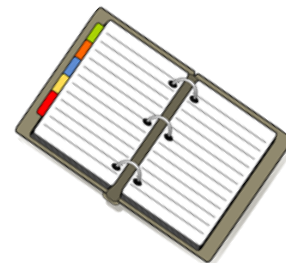


LOGISTICS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Thank you to everyone for being so supportive as we navigate the logistics of keeping everyone safe before and after school. Everyone seems to have different expectations and tolerance levels regarding social distancing, so we hope that we now have a very clear approach for our school grounds—see last week's newsletter if for further information.

*We hope that we can maintain this safe approach in the village and in The Selsey Arms car park. Nikki has been so generous in helping us throughout lockdown, and in allowing us to use their car park. It is vital that we support her in maintaining the safe access to the pub, adequate parking for her staff and paying clients/residents, so please do be considerate. This has been a little better this week, thank you—I would encourage you all to be friendly to the pub staff as they try to accommodate us and their customers too. **IN PARTICULAR, PLEASE DO NOT PARK AT THE PUB AND THEN GO FOR COFFEE IN THE SHOP!!!! This is totally unacceptable.** There is parking in the village, and, although it may take a few minutes to walk to school from the bottom of the village, we would prefer this to hazardous parking and dangers when crossing the road. Please note—all children **MUST** be accompanied when crossing the road and into the school grounds. Thank you all.*



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

Thursday 24th September, 5.30 - Full Governing Body Meeting

Tuesday 13th October, 3.10—5.00 - Whole School Parent Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 14th October, 3.10—6.00 - Whole School Parent Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 14th October - Flu Vaccination for all year groups

Wednesday 11th November—Remembrance Assembly—time tbc

Friday 13th November—Children in Need

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

Thursday 26th November, 5.30 - Full Governing Body Meeting

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=IwAR342bPhVEDPv4bSdX3S6nheUyIIVF3bMoEhmub4onZQY2RR-40kXyOzgs>



Acorn Awards

Friday 18th September 2020

Indigo - for having a brilliant start in Apple Class and being happy and confident

Amelie - for being so kind to all the new children in Apple Class

Jake - for your determination in maths; you worked independently to count in two's. Well done for always giving 100%

Eloise - for staying focussed to complete the task, you made the most of every minute - well done!

Fraser - for showing determination and perseverance in maths and answering the guided reading questions independently

Ben - for making thoughtful and careful proof reading corrections and edits to improve your writing, you showed super focus and concentration

Bay - for your enthusiasm and excitement for your learning. You loved learning about place value and read a 30 digit number to us. Impressive work!



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.

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.