



West Dean Church of England Primary School
 West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
 Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
 Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
 Newsletter 13 11th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Despite the restrictions, we have had some super learning and the children are looking forward to the Christmas activities next week.

Much of what we will do together will be **weather dependent** and the forecast is 'changeable!' This means your children will need **warm waterproof clothes**, and you will need to **be patient with us if our plans change!** We hope to still do our **Christingle Service outside** and will send Zoom invitations as soon as we are certain of the timings – it will be on either Thursday or Friday. We will record it if we are able to.

Please do **keep an eye on emails** for updates so that your children have the **right equipment and clothes** each day. Thank you!



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



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As part of our Christmas celebrations, we always think of others who may be in need. We will donate to the Children's Society with the proceeds of our Christingle Service (NB change of proposed date).

Please donate any items which vulnerable families, homeless people, and the shelters for homeless people, might find useful. We are collecting these items in boxes which hold 24 items (tins of food, shampoo/shower gel bottles etc). The boxes will then be delivered where they are most needed and you can donate money too.

Please take a look at these links for more information on how to help local vulnerable people: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/makeyourchangeaccount>

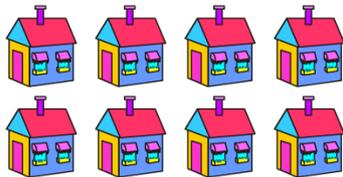
<https://www.chichester.co.uk/news/people/council-urges-chichester-residents-make-your-change-count-when-helping-homeless-3041682>

Maths Word of the Week

Array

Definition: a set of objects or numbers arranged in order, often in rows and columns. Arrays can make counting and calculating easier.

arrays



$$4 + 4 = 8 \quad 2 \times 4 = 8 \quad 4 \times 2 = 8$$

$$8 - 4 = 4 \quad 8 \div 4 = 2 \quad 8 \div 2 = 4$$

Items arranged in rows and columns to make counting and calculating easier.

$$8 + 4 = 12$$

$$12 - 4 = 8$$

West Sussex Admissions Consultation

Please see below, the link to The West Sussex Admissions Consultation, this is now live. And your response would be valuable.
www.westsussex.gov.uk/schooladmissions2022-2023

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.



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

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, 1.15 Christingle (tbc)

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 11th December 2020

Conran - for your super maths, working with numbers 1-10. Brilliant Work!

Bronte - for working really hard in literacy and writing the Nativity Story with your partner. Well done!

Ollie - for using all your mathematical knowledge to help you solve money problems. Well done!

George - for writing full detailed answers in maths this week, you wrote full sentences to explain—well done!

Florence - for being a super role model in Beech Class, you listen carefully to instructions and get started quickly as well as supporting your friends

Teale - for a wonderful poem inspired by your visit to the grave of Edward James. You described the setting beautifully and movingly. Well done!

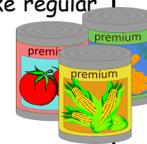
James W - for making sure that you read at home as well as in school and record it in your reading diary. Well done!



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.

Updated Information for our Christmas events

We have a few amendments to our Christmas arrangements for this year - please see below - amendments are in green and red 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. Please note that we all stand outside for assemblies, even when it is cold and even if it is a bit drizzly - your children need appropriate coats, hats, scarves and gloves please!

Date	Event
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	Christingle Service (making am and outdoor Zoom celebration 10.15am)
Thursday 17 th December	PTA Panto afternoon
Friday 18 th December	8.45 - End of Term Assembly - pupils only 3.00 - School Ends for Christmas Holidays

With all our timings, we will need to be flexible as many of our plans are weather dependent. We will let you know as soon as possible of changes to the timing of the Christingle Service. We are hoping to record it and put it on the google Classroom class pages, so that you will be able to view it at your leisure - but we have not yet mastered this, so please do join us live if you are able to - 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.

We also ask that you support our **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR**—please see the front page for details.

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 16th 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.**

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, in the afternoon, our PTA have arranged for a **Pantomime** 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.

Please note - **we will remain open** on this Friday, despite press coverage about some schools closing. We have been advised that we **could** take Friday 18th as an INSET day, but would then have to lose one of our planned training days later in the year. Some schools locally and nationally are doing this.

The government rationale behind this is to prevent schools closing early and putting learning on-line - this is not legal, but some schools have planned to do it: if we can continue face to face teaching, we are obliged to do so.

The other reason cited for some schools closing early, is so that school leaders will be spared the inconvenience and stress of being responsible for contact tracing during the Christmas period. If a child or member of staff tests positive for Covid, in the six days after our final day, and if their symptoms began within 48 hours of school closing, then we are responsible for contact tracing and you should email school immediately. (Public health England have agreed this six day period of school responsibility as they believe that cases are likely to be evident within a couple of days of school finishing).

Mrs Shears and I will guarantee to check emails between 16:00 and 17:00 hours each day. We will then let any 'contacts' know, so that people can isolate if required to do so.

There is no benefit to us closing early and disrupting families' childcare and working arrangements, or disrupting our Christmas week plans. Our INSET days are precious to us and will remain in February, June and July as planned. We are operating safely in school and will continue to rely on everyone at home doing the same.

Christmas Cards

Thank you for your support with this. The boxes in school are filling up. **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 not be brought into school next week as we cannot process them safely before the end of term. We will now leave the boxes of cards which have been brought into school 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.

GIFTS

We have had an enquiry from a parent about bringing gifts for staff into school safely. I must make it clear that our team do not expect gifts! We are, however, grateful to know that you appreciate us! If you **do** want to send a gift in for a member of staff, then our office team will receive them in the entrance area, where they will be 'quarantined' for two days, and safely distributed in the staff room.

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. *One aspect we have noticed is lacking in many of our children, is the ability to 'infer and deduce' - this is what we do when we ask children searching questions about stories or films - and it would be super if you can practise this at home. What might happen next? Why has a character done this? Why has the author chosen this word? Why has the author chosen this weather for this part of the story? What does xxxxxx tell us about a character? etc etc* You could do this whilst watching some of the Christmas films, perhaps!

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!