



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone/Fax: 01243 811247
Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss
Newsletter 30 15th May 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another lovely week of learning in school and some fabulous learning at home too!

There have been lounges and kitchens, hallways and gardens used as settings for Rube Goldberg machines! If you haven't yet done this, do take a look at the website, Home learning tab and have a go - it is one of the many things which makes learning fun, and we don't even realise how much we are learning! Just use as much vocabulary as possible, encourage trial and error, explore ideas which seem unworkable and have fun. Did you know Mrs Johnson and her children made one in their house and their clever cat set it all in motion! Perhaps you have a pet who you can train to do this too!

We have another great week of learning planned for next week, (18 - 22 May) and I want to say a huge thank you to our teachers for their hours of research, planning and thinking about what might be effective learning at home. We want to say a huge thank you for all the support we have from everyone at home too. Never has there been a time when it was more important for us all to work together and I am immensely proud of the whole school community.

We will then have a half term holiday, (25 - 29 May) when our staff will have a break and I will be instructing them to 'switch off' and not to look at the website or any emails. We will provide some ideas on our Home Learning tab for the holiday week, and we are also trialling a 'sharepoint' which will enable us to share photos and videos more easily - so watch this space. We hope to do story times, and short lesson clips etc, and provide space for us to share some of your home learning securely, which is easily accessible to our school community.

We would also like you to help us prepare our reports for the year. They are already full of information about your child's learning for the Autumn and Spring terms, and we would like to finish them off with our Teacher and Headteacher comments. So, for those of you home educating, now is the time for you to be the teacher! We would like to capture the highlights of the learning so that we can value this in the reports. Please see the page about reports further on in this newsletter. We are asking for some photos and simple comments please, hopefully before the 1st June.

See below for details.....

And now for the information you are all waiting for: **Wider School Reopening**

Please read on, and be ready to respond to the brief questionnaire which will come out shortly.

We would like you to confirm:

- That you have read and understood the information about wider school opening
- That you have read and understood the information about school reports

And we would like to give you the opportunity to send any comments or queries regarding either of these areas.

*Our school is closed
apart from children of key
workers*

Our wonderful office team will still respond to email queries between 9am and 12 noon, and there is someone in school from 8:30 until 3pm, but we are often busy and may not always be able to answer the phone immediately.

If you have any suggestions or requests about how we can support you, please do get in touch.

GROUNDS AND DECORATING

A huge thank you to our army of volunteers for all your offers of help with our grounds maintenance preparation, cleaning and decorating .

We have had lots of fence painting and gardening already and we have plans in place for internal decorating during half term.

Your hard work has really helped us to keep on top of the maintenance of our grounds.

Professional internal decoration is planned for the next couple of weeks in school. it is great to be doing

positive steps towards 'normality'!

And now for the information you are all waiting for: **Wider School Reopening**

You will be aware of the plethora of information and guidance out there about schools reopening. The government have even suggested a date and some possible priority year groups: 1st June and YR, Y1 and Y6.

I want to make it clear that this is by no means certain, nationally, locally or for our school. The government have some criteria to adhere to before they deem this appropriate and safe, although it remains their 'ambition'. It is also their 'ambition' to have all pupils back at some point before the end of July: again, this is by no means certain.

I am keeping abreast of global, national and local developments, and keeping in touch with our parental and governor views too. Thank you to our parents of YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils who replied to our questionnaire. I will endeavour to keep our plans similar to other local schools but am not promising that - we will do whatever is right for our own school community.

These are the only things we are certain about:

- ◆ From 1st June, we will be open for the **children of key workers** as we currently are.
- ◆ **When it is safe to open more widely we will do so**, with all staff in school to ensure the small group sizes and additional restrictions and hygiene measures are in place.
- ◆ Any additional adult or child in school with us **increases the risk** to everyone in school, and the wider community (our families and friends, and others we come into contact with), even if this increase in risk is small.
- ◆ For any pupils in school **we will continue to do our utmost** to keep them, our staff and the wider community safe:
 - ◆ We will support children in school in washing their hands as they come in and before they go home, and at transitions in school (before and after lunch, before and after playtime) as well as after visiting the loo or sneezing etc.
 - ◆ We will keep groups of children and individuals apart when working and eating as much as possible, eg: one to a table at lunch times.
 - ◆ We will educate children as well as possible.
 - ◆ We will cater for their emotional wellbeing as well as possible.
 - ◆ We will clean resources, surfaces, etc frequently during the day and rotate resources used to minimise infection spread (some toys/equipment may be used on a Monday morning and then put away until the following week, for example). Other resources will be kept specific to each child, if possible, eg: KS2 pupils' pens and pencils.
 - ◆ We cannot guarantee social distancing.
 - ◆ We cannot guarantee absolute hygiene.
 - ◆ Staff and pupils will not wear masks etc: PPE will only be worn by staff when dealing with pupils who develop symptoms of Covid-19 whilst in school. In these cases, we are advised to send the child home, wear a mask and gloves when we communicate with the child, and then clean the area once they have gone home.
 - ◆ Children will not always be with their usual classroom staff.
- ◆ **Not everyone will be in agreement** with our decision.
- ◆ **Parents will not be judged by us or fined by the government for not sending children into school.**
- ◆ We have families in our school community where parents report they are sure they have had the virus several weeks ago, and families who report that they are recovering from it at the moment, despite only venturing out very very occasionally (to the shop or Drs surgery). At least two families suspect their children have experienced symptoms of the related inflammatory disease - see link below.
- ◆ **Testing** is only available to us as staff if we, or someone in our families, have developed symptoms: in this case we have to take the test and then await results whilst isolating at home.
- ◆ The United Kingdom is more 'in the grip' of the virus than on 20th March when we closed our doors to pupils:

UK new Covid cases daily:	20 th March = 714	14 th May = 3446
UK daily Covid deaths daily:	20 th March = 36	14 th May = 428

(see link below for data source)

There are many things which remain uncertain:

- ⇒ We do not know **which children will return** to school and **when** this will be - we will wait for up to date guidance and data nearer the time before a decision is reached.
- ⇒ We do not know how the virus (or the related rare inflammatory disease linked to coronavirus) **affects** children, although children appear to be less likely to experience serious symptoms.
- ⇒ We do not know **how** children transmit the virus.
- ⇒ We do not know how the current **easing of 'lockdown'** will impact on national data and the health of the nation and our area.
- ⇒ We do not know **how long** some form of restriction may last - as a country or as a school
- ⇒ We do not know **when a vaccine** will be available, although this is likely to be several months away.
- ⇒ We do not know what the **final guidance** for schools will be about when to open, who to open for and how to open: unions, Headteachers and national and local government representatives are meeting on Monday, and regularly, to discuss this.
- ⇒ We must **plan to, and begin to, move** towards a less restricted way of life and get our economy back on its feet. In order to do this and for many other reasons, including the effective education of our children, we must return to a more 'normal' education system, with safety a huge priority.

My messages for you all as parents, as of today, are to:

- ◆ **Remain positive**
- ◆ Stay as **safe** as possible:
 - ◆ Be very vigilant in shops, for example, where some people are 'letting their guard down'.
 - ◆ Avoid any crowded spaces.
 - ◆ Maintain the hygiene advice in your homes.
 - ◆ Eat and drink healthily.
 - ◆ Get plenty of exercise, outdoors if you can do this safely.
 - ◆ When you send your children back to school, we want all the children to be as low a threat to one another as possible - we are currently all being so careful and are concerned about relaxing this.
- ◆ **Avoid giving your children any hard and fast information** at this time, as things may change.
- ◆ Stay abreast of news and data (without alarming your children or becoming overly worried yourselves).
- ◆ **Encourage others** around you not to flout the guidance in their lives outside of the family home and inside their family groups.

These messages are easier to hear and follow for some than for others. I am acutely aware that many of you are desperately trying to work from home. Some of you need to, and are expected to, return to work soon. Some of you are very afraid of sending your children back to school and engaging with the wider community. Many of you are waiting for definitive advice and feel as though you are 'sitting on the fence'.

Please stay 'on the fence' until you are absolutely sure about what is right for your child and your family. There will be no judgement about your decision. If we open school for your child's year group and you are still unsure, we will continue with the home learning support to the best of our ability. If you choose for your child to return, we are really proud of the great learning taking place, but please remember that we are juggling staffing in order to cater for all pupils (at home and school) and keep everyone as safe as possible.

I will keep everyone informed as much as possible so that you can make sound decisions. In the meantime, there is a lot of information available: here are links to information I have referred to, regarding the virus in children and global statistics over time.

Thank you all for your support. Our staff team really really appreciate it!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-52648557>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.endcoronavirus.org/countries>

Pupil Comment
During Home Learning.....

This format has more support, more prompts:

Pupil Comment
During Home Learning, I have enjoyed.....
I have learnt
I have persevered with
Next year, I am looking forward to

Once you have completed your comments, please just take a photo of them and attach them to an email. (This is the easiest way for us to format them for the reports)

Email addresses for submitting comments and photos:

appleclass1@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk (Be careful to add the 1 please or your email will go astray!)

mapleclass@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

beechclass@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

chestnutclass@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Thank you very much for your support in this. It will be an important record of this very 'different' and memorable year for our children. We want them to remember the positives and the achievements.

Later this term, we will be doing some time capsule work, linked to the Chichester Records Office and a local museum, as well as finding lots more memorable and positive ways to capture our learning and our lives for 2020.

HOME LEARNING USING THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

New for this week: watch this space for our new Sharepoint—where we will be able to safely share more photos and videos

Reminders:

On the class pages there are streamlined teaching notes, resources and activities for English and maths. We suggest that you do this in the mornings, following your own learning timetable. We aim to provide support and extension so that you can find learning at the correct 'level' for your own children.

We encourage you to post images and information about your home learning, securely on the class pages, so that we can have a window into everyone's achievement. You can do this by logging onto the website and using the 'new message' tab. You will find your teachers' names in the recipients' box, then you can give your message a name (or 'subject') and type a message. You can then 'attach' pictures, in the same way you might add images to a text or email. The discussion tabs will be restored soon - this will be a great way of communicating with friends in the class.

Your teachers will liaise with you via the class pages, about learning—they will also let you know when to expect them to be 'on-line'. Please don't worry or be frustrated if you don't get an immediate response, as our staff are teaching in the classroom, working on planning etc behind the scenes and managing their own health & well-being too.

We suggest that the afternoons should be focused on more practical, outdoors, collaborative 'topic' work, and we have selected a mini topic for each week, to help us to cover all curriculum areas. This learning can be found on the main website homepage, away from the secure class pages. Clicking on the HOME LEARNING tab will take you directly to this new area, which is being added to over the coming weeks. You will also see the recipes section, where you can try making some lovely dishes, and email pictures of your successes to Mrs Muggerridge: SMuggerridge@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk. Mrs Muggerridge will then make a gallery of your lovely meals for the website.

There is a huge and potentially overwhelming array of resources 'out there' on the internet at the moment. We are being bombarded in school by this sort of thing and are endeavouring to 'cherry pick' the best learning resources for you—so please don't feel that your children are missing out if you restrict yourselves to the school website—there is more than enough learning available here, without you spending hours trawling through online resources. We will try to give you ideas to 'stretch/extend' your children if they progress well and to support them if they find some aspects trickier. This is easier to do if we are with them, but we will do our best! We have an area for 'links to a variety of teacher resources' and we will put other things on there for anyone who does want to trawl for other ideas. This week there is a new page of links here.... So many resources!

There are also some lovely community ideas, activities and suggestions, such as sending rainbow pictures to the new Nightingale hospitals—A4 only for laminating, putting rainbow pictures and teddy bears in windows to make us all smile when we are out walking..... Please share these on the class pages and in your class WhatsApp parent groups. If you have not tried Zoom to communicate with groups of family and friends, please give it a go: this has already been very successful for home pupil-teacher video links, Book Club sessions etc and is password protected and planned in advance.

Acorn Awards

During our partial school closure, we would like to continue with our Acorn Awards.

We have children working hard in school and at home.

Please send us pictures of the work you have done, and maybe pictures of you doing the work. This can be any sort of home learning which you are proud of.

The teachers will then select someone from each year group for our acorn award and we will publish these in the newsletter each Friday and in the entrance area.

Friday 15th May 2020

Phoebe - for participating with the Joe Wicks workouts at school with such enthusiasm and effort

Kaitlyn - for having managed so well at school with her plaster cast on and for winning a race last week during Mr Johnson's activities

Bertie - for his hard work in our book club every week and for sharing lots of facts he already knew about animals in the sea!

Milton - for his imaginative, creative DT project and Stop Motion video! Wow Milton - great work!

Ben - for working so hard on his reading! His fluency and understanding is improving so much all the time- keep it up!

Kitty - for working hard and being successful in 'getting to grips' with BODMAS.; showing independence and enthusiasm for her mathematics

Ava A.V. - for always being well-prepared for her book club and I loved the photographs of your VE Day baking. Keep going with the home learning



Diary Dates 2020 tbc

Summer Term 2020: Monday 20th April–Friday 17th July

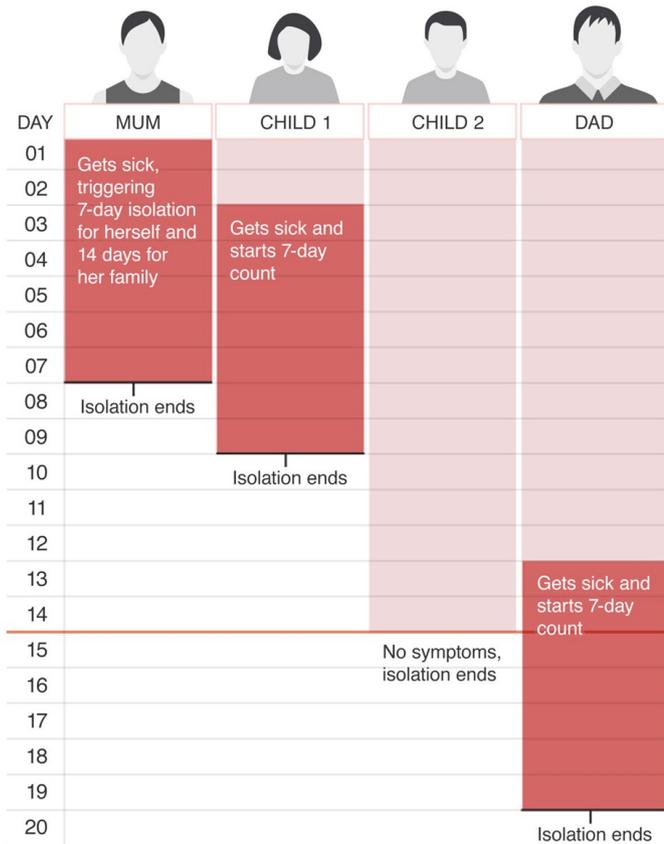
Half Term: Monday 25th May–Friday 29th May

2020 INSET days

Wednesday 1st July, Monday 20th July



What happens if someone in your family gets sick?



	Coronavirus	Cold	Flu
Fever	Common	Rare	Common
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
Cough	Common (usually dry)	Mild	Common (usually dry)
Sneezing	No	Common	No
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common
Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhoea	Rare	No	Sometimes for children
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common
Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No

Source: World Health Organisation, Center for Disease control and Prevention

Current Useful Information and Reminders:

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

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.

Payment for spring term clubs and care bears has been credited to your school money account. For the children in year 6, this credit has been applied to a sibling account, where possible.



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 meeting every couple of weeks or so via Zoom video sessions.

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.