



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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Headteacher: Mrs G. Moss

Newsletter 14 6th January 2017



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to everyone and thank you all for your Christmas cards and gifts for staff, which are all warmly appreciated. We hope that you have enjoyed the precious time with your children over Christmas and New Year and that all the children are back in school healthy and ready to learn again! We enjoyed all our Christmas celebrations & activities, and are already in the midst of plans for numerous events for 2017!

We will keep you up to date as much as possible via email, newsletters, texts and the website. Please keep an eye on the calendar and the website for more information as it is another busy term!

I am delighted that we can welcome Mr Wilcox into school and to celebrate a really great first week for him in Beech Class.

Information about our Governors

We are about to embark on a round of new governor elections and will be sending paperwork out very soon. Our Parent Governor role has a four year term of office and Zoe Mann, Reuben and Hepzibar's mummy, and Julia Hugason-Briem, Katrin's mummy, have come to the end of their times with us. We would like to offer them our thanks as they have both been very involved and effective members of our team, supporting us with SEN (Special Educational Needs) and Finance, as well as numerous other curricular and leadership roles.

The role of a school governor is a vital one to the successful running of the school, and is a privileged position in that you have access and enhanced input into school strategic life. Our team is already strong, but there are areas where we have identified some additional expertise would be valuable, and you may be just the person to help us! Please look out for the information about nominations and voting, which will be sent home shortly.

I-pads and mobile phones for Christmas?

So many of our children in primary and secondary schools now have access to phones, tablets etc, and use the internet independently. This is great in terms of developing the children's skills, but worrying in terms of the dangers of accessing social media and the internet in general. Most parents and many school grown-ups are largely unaware of the potential dangers for our children and also for those moving onto secondary school. I would like to alert you to a really important date: there is a parent information session on internet safety at Chichester High School on **Tuesday 7th February at 6.30**. Please do put this date in your diaries and attend if you possible can - it is well worth the cost of a babysitter/ the disruption to your day to attend.

We will send more information home about this over the next couple of weeks, so please look out for this. It IS relevant to you, no matter how old your child is.

In school, we do teach children how to be safe, and our Y5/6 children will be taking part in more in depth work on the subject later this term, and teaching the school their top tips. A useful website to visit for your information is:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=kgCNGvL0g1g>

It may be worth sharing this with KS2 children, before National On-line Safety Day, 7th February.

Current Useful Information and Reminders	
Parent & Carer Drop-in Sessions	Teachers will be available every Wednesday for informal chats - do pop in to see your child's work, to chat to teachers and to ask about Learning Journals, at these drop-in sessions. Every Wednesday 3.00-3.15
School Uniform 	If you have ordered and received uniform, please could you make payment to the school office as soon as possible. We still have a number of outstanding payments. Our School Council will be working on taking some photographs of our sample uniform and this will be available shortly along with the pricing structure. In the meantime, if you require school uniform, our current stock (limited in certain sizes) of uniform will be available to purchase at a discounted price, come in and have a look. At this present time, Game, Set and Match are not able to take orders, but hopefully our uniform will be available from them soon. We will of course let you know when you can purchase uniform from Game, Set & Match.
Valley Voices	Please do come and join our 'Valley Voices' adult choir which will be led by Emily Barden in the school hall, 6.00-7.00, every Wednesday evening. (term time only)
Spring Term Clubs and Care Bears 	Care Bears After School Provision - this will run every day from 3.00-4.00. This is not a default club for anyone who forgets to collect their children! If you have booked a place and your child is not attending please let us know. Please email: sandra.muggeridge@btinternet.com 07852 255628 (Please note new telephone number) Thank you for your support in this matter. You will have received information about our Spring term programme of clubs. The timetable for spring term 1 clubs is attached for your information. Booking for Care Bears places can be made on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk
	You will have received information about our new on-line payments system in school to enable 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. Current events available to book are Westgate swimming, the French residential, United Voices-Festival of Singing, and our prestigious Valentine Ball.
IS YOUR CHILD WORTH LESS? This important county-wide campaign for better funding for West Sussex schools continues, as you may have seen on national news and in our letters. Pupils and staff visited 10 Downing Street with our letters. You can support our schools in our campaign for fair funding on Facebook and there is a petition which can be found at the following link; https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/167761	

United Voices - Festival of Singing 	Don't forget our exciting Locality project where children in Chestnut class will be working with other local schools and performing at Chichester Festival Theatre. Tickets are available to buy on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk . We only have a limited number of tickets available at school, 2 per family, if you would like to purchase more, please let us know and we will keep any spares to one side, or they are available from the Theatre Box Office.
West Dean Valentine Dinner 	You will have received information this week about our exciting 'Valentine Dinner' event which will be taking place on Saturday 11 th February. Tickets are available to book on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk . Tickets are limited and available on a 'first come, first served' basis so don't miss out, they are selling quickly. Please see invitation attached to our newsletter and look out for flyers around school with information.

Dates for 2017

Spring Term Tuesday 3rd January - Friday 7th April 2017

Half Term - Monday 20th - Friday 24th February 2017

Inset Day - Friday 17th February 2017

Wednesday 11th January, 9.15-11.30 - Chestnut Class - Festival of Singing rehearsal at Chichester High School

Thursday 12th January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 12th January, 5.30 - Governing Body meeting

Sunday 15th January - Closing date for Reception Sept 2017 Admissions Application

Tuesday 17th January - Beech Class visit to CFT Children's Concert

Thursday 19th January, - Festival of Singing - Y5/6 at Chichester Festival Theatre - rehearsal in the day and performance in the evening for Chestnut Class - info to follow

Thursday 26th January - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 2nd February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Friday 3rd February, 9.30-11.30 - GAS On-line Safety Meeting, Yr 6 children

Monday 6th February - History Treasure Hunters at Chichester Cathedral (x6 Yr 5/6)

Tuesday 7th February - National On-line Safety Day

Tuesday 7th February, 6.30 - E-Safety for parents at Chichester High School

Thursday 9th February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 9th February - Governor Visits to school

Friday 10th February - Governor Visits to school

Friday 10th February - GAS Esafety Morning at The March - Yr 6

Saturday 11th February, 7.00-11.00 - Valentine Ball at West Dean College

W/C 13th February - No after school clubs this week, Westbourne House & Care Bears as normal.

Wednesday 15th February - Beech Class visit to CFT - Running Wild, Michael Morpurgo

Thursday 16th February - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 16th February, 2.30 - Community Cafe

Friday 17th February - School Closed - Inset Day

HOLIDAY

Thursday 2nd March - Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut

Thursday 2nd March, 1.00-4.00 - Maths Challenge event at Christ's Hospital (selected yr 4)

Monday 6th - Friday 10th March - Chestnut Class French Residential Visit

Wednesday 8th March, 12.00-3.30 - SSP Arun Swim Gala, Yr 3/4

Monday 13th March, 9.30-2.30 - Maths Challenge at Chichester Cathedral (selected yr 3)

Tuesday 14th March - Governor Visits to school

Wednesday 15th March - Collective Worship Enrichment day at Singleton (selected yr 4)

Acorn Awards - Friday 6th January 2017

Finley - for always having beautiful manners with grown-ups and his friends

Darcy - for a safe dismount from the apparatus

James - for amazing effort and perseverance in handwriting this week

Max - for working so hard in both literacy and maths all week

Esther - for listening well, being a great example and writing a super story in the style of Michael Morpurgo

Ka'ci - for writing a super book review. She showed that she understood the author's message and really enjoyed reading it

Madeleine - for showing super 'thinking skills' when examining historical evidence from WWII. She has learned to question what she sees