



West Dean CE Primary School

We do our best in all we do, with God's love.

'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.' John 13



Newsletter 5 02.10.26

Our whole school attendance this week has remained at **96.8%**.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

It was an extraordinary week of effort from each of our House Teams, with even the fourth placed team scoring 185 points! This week's winning House is Kestrel with 220 points.



West Dean Bonfire and Firework Night

The annual West Dean College Bonfire and Fireworks Night will take place on



Friday 6 November, from 6:00pm, with the fireworks display beginning at **7:15 pm**.
If you would like to attend, West Dean Primary will receive a reduced price of £4 until the 5th October for school families using the [link](#) and code BONSCH.
Children under 16 attend free of charge but please purchase a ticket.
Additional tickets can be purchased for **£6 each** via the West Dean website from the 5th October.

Pupil Parliament elections - We were meant to have our Pupil Parliament elections this week, but after what can only be described as slight political apathy, we had to postpone until next week as there were too few election candidates. Well done to the Y6 children who were prepared to stand this week. We are confident that, after a pep talk this week, a few more children will feel inspired to take on this challenge and the polling card will present a greater choice when we try again next week. Politics is never simple!

Uniform - Please do check the lost property bin, on the pavilion deck, for items of misplaced uniform. Also, please could we ask that you check your child's clothing for name tags, just in case jumpers have got muddled and they have the wrong one! Thank you.



Friends Meeting

Wednesday 23rd September, 2.30pm

West Dean Christmas Market. This proved to be an extremely valuable fundraising event for our school last year, but to run a stall over two full days again this year, we will need significant help from parents and families.

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year's **Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.** Please do sign up for this now if you are interested. There are 25 spaces available, to us at the moment, but it will be advertised to our wider community and on social media.

Friends Film Night - Wednesday 4th November

Friends Christmas Disco - Thursday 17th December

Dear parents and carers,

Bishop Luffa School, part of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership, are currently seeking to appoint a Personal Assistant to the Head Teacher, due to my PA, Mrs Christopher, taking early retirement.

If you know anyone who would be interested in becoming the Head's PA for our school, please forward it on to them and encourage them to come in for a visit. More detailed information can be found on the school website: <https://www.bishopluffa.org.uk/home/vacancies/> The closing date for applications is Thursday 8th October and completed application forms should be sent to Nicky Christopher, Head Teacher's PA, at HeadsPA@bishopluffa.org.uk

Yours faithfully,
Austen Hindman
Head Teacher
Bishop Luffa School
Email: HeadsPA@bishopluffa.org.uk
Telephone: 01243 787741



Bishop Luffa School
A Church of England School

Create a beautiful Wreath to take home

Enjoy Festive drinks

Mince pies and Biscuits

A wonderful Christmas atmosphere

Booking open on Arbor to our West Dean Families

£4.50 per person

CHRISTMAS
Wreath Making Workshops
MONDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER

11am & 7pm

Brought to you by
West Dean School PTA & Friends

Book here



11am Session

FARBRIDGE
BINDERTON
CHICHESTER
PO18 0JT



7pm Session



*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 2nd October 2026*



- Year R William - you have blown us away this week, always positive, kind and helpful. You have been fantastic in our phonics sessions, showing how much you have practiced at home.*
- Year 1 Maria - you have shown real independence this week and a love for learning, especially with phonics and science.*
- Year 2 Lettie - for the thoughtfulness and kindness you show to others in Maple Class.*
- Year 3 Eva - for super acting skills during our English lesson this week. You played a Stone Age character and were able accurately answer all of our questions. Your confidence was wonderful to see.*
- Year 4 Barney - for excellent motivation in Beech Class this week. Not only have you moved up a reading level you have also made amazing progress in your maths work. You are always doing your best.*
- Year 5 Sophia - for adoption a super "can do" approach to your learning, it has been a joy to see you work so hard.*
- Year 6 Ned - for such a strong and positive start to Year 6.
You are a true role model and have stepped up in all aspects of school life.*





Let's Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech

This session, Let's Talk About Our Kids & Their Tech, offers parents and carers clear, research-backed insights and practical strategies for managing children's mental health and tech use. It covers the impact of smartphones and social media, helping families set healthy boundaries and make informed choices. The session is non-judgmental, open for honest discussion, and for adults only.

**ONLINE workshop on
Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm**

Link to be circulated closer to the time!

Papaya have already been to Fishbourne to lead both a children's and parent workshop – this workshop is appropriate for parents of children of all ages.

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



Main Scale Teacher
Permanent Full Time Class Teacher

Start Date: January 2027



*'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place.'*

We have an exciting opportunity for a teacher to join our fun, creative and innovative learning community. At Fishbourne Church of England Primary School every member of the school family is valued for the unique gifts and talents they bring to the school and championed to be the best they can be. We strive to make learning irresistible and for children to be nurtured to become determined, courageous, positive, collaborative and reflective learners.

We are looking for someone who is:

- *Passionate about **every** child's learning and progress
- *Positive about growing as a teacher and a learner
- *Able to work closely within a strong, collaborative team

In return, we can offer you:

- *A skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated staff team
- *A positive and supportive school family – children, parents, staff and governors
- *A fun, creative and innovative learning community

We are committed to safeguarding and all applicants must be willing to undergo screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure Barring Service.

We would warmly welcome you to visit the school prior to application to meet a member of the leadership team and see our school in action. Our website has a wealth of information about our vision, values and pedagogical approach - please do explore it!

Closing date: Wednesday 14th October 2026

Interview date: Friday 23rd October 2026

'There's work and there's your life's work. The kind of work that has your finger prints all over it. The kind of work that you'd never compromise on. People don't come here to play it safe. They come here to swim in the deep end. They want their work to add up to something. Something big. Something that couldn't happen anywhere else.'

Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day

It was National Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day recently, celebrating the incredible work these amazing people do. Thank you to our amazing team of Teaching Assistants, we couldn't do it without you.



Caterlink Pirate Day for Census

Viv played the part of a Pirate for the themed lunch day this week. The children enjoyed a Pirate lunch together.

Look out for details, coming soon, to book for Christmas Dinner, Thursday 17th December.





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...make it a better place.'*



Learning Support Assistant

Temporary Contract (for one academic year)

Hours: 22.5 hours (Mornings only 8.30am – 1.00pm daily)

Grade: 3.3 (£24,796 pro rata; £12,700 actual salary)

Starting date: As soon as possible

We have an exciting opportunity to join our fun, creative and innovative learning community where all children are championed to be the best they can be! At Fishbourne CE School we strive to make learning irresistible and for children to be nurtured to become effective learners.

We are looking for a flexible, reliable and enthusiastic person to support all children with their learning. This support will be within the classroom, over break times, and at lunch break. We would be particularly keen to hear from a candidate who has the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) qualification.

We are looking for someone who is:

*Passionate about **every** child's learning and progress

*Able to work closely with a strong, collaborative team, including external agencies

*Open to becoming part of our Fishbourne 'crew' where we work together in partnership with children, families and other members of staff

In return, we can offer you:

*A skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated staff team

*A positive and supportive school family – children, parents, staff and governors

*A fun, creative and innovative learning community

We are committed to safeguarding and all applicants must be willing to undergo screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure Barring Service.

We warmly encourage a school visit prior to application. Please do phone to book a visit. Our website has a wealth of information about our vision and values, please do explore !!! If you would like to phone to discuss any elements of school life, we would be delighted to answer any questions!

Closing date: Wednesday 14th October 2026

Interview date: Tuesday 20th October 2026

'There's work and there's your life's work. The kind of work that has your finger prints all over it. The kind of work that you'd never compromise on. People don't come here to play it safe. They come here to swim in the deep end. They want their work to add up to something. Something big. Something that couldn't happen anywhere else.'

Bookfest visiting authors

We have been lucky enough to secure dates with visiting authors, as part of Bookfest 2026. Wednesday 7th October for Apple and Maple: Gareth P Jones with the book 'Chicken Vs Egg' and Thursday 8th October for Beech and Chestnut: Kieran Larwood with the book 'Jed Greenleaf'. In addition to an exciting author visit each child will receive a copy of the book.

In the past we have been able to fund this through school but this year, as finances are so squeezed, we would like to request a donation from parents towards the cost of this. **A payment will be set up on Arbor to enable parents to make a suggested contribution of £4.20 per child.**

Thank you for your support with this, we know that this will be a valuable experience for our children.



CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST

Mrs Anstee's Lunch Time Choir

In preparation for a performance at West Dean Christmas Market Mrs Anstee will be running a lunch time choir club. Dates will be every Thursday lunch time between 1st October and 26th November. If your child would like to take part, come along and join in. The children will be learning Christmas songs and Carols.

Christmas Markets Choir slots:

Friday 27th November: 3.30-4.00.

Saturday 28th November:
2.00-2.30.



After School 'Stay & Play' - please help us to help you.

Over the past few years, it has been really lovely to see an increasing number of families opting to stay for a little while at the end of the day to enable their children to play together and enjoy our lovely school grounds. We are truly blessed with a spacious school field and natural surroundings and are entirely supportive of 'stay & play' remaining in place.

As a school, we have a number of measures in place to ensure that your children are safe each day, throughout their time in school, including whenever they are outside, there being appropriate adult supervision and dare I say it, intervention, where play becomes a little too rough or unsafe.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this supervision at the end of the school day, as staff will have either reached the end of their working hours or will be engaged in meetings, training, running clubs or the important job of preparing for your child's return the next day.

For stay & play to continue, this supervision responsibility falls to you as parents. Please keep the following in mind if you are remaining on site to play with your child:

- All use of the trim trail must be supervised by an adult close by who is actually watching the activity.
- The top field can be used for ball games only and again must be supervised by an adult who is actually on the top field with the children, rather than half observing from a distance.
- Children should not be allowed to climb gates, fences or trees - this is not permitted during the school day and the children know this!
- Unless part of an organised and supervised club activity, bicycles should not be ridden on site - it is too busy and there are too many little bodies around for this to be completely safe.
- Any play equipment used should be tidied away by the family who has used it, not discarded on the floor.
- Dogs must be on a lead and under adult control at ALL times and any mess is hygienically cleared immediately and taken off-site.
- Please leave promptly when the bell is rung at 3.20pm. We have a safeguarding responsibility to lock and secure the site for children staying for clubs and after-school care.

We really want everyone to feel welcome to enjoy play in their school and for families to enjoy the opportunity to connect, but ask that you respect our professional role in keeping everyone safe whilst on the school site. Thank you.



INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

Spring: Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Monday 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Tuesday 6th October	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Wednesday 7th October	Bookfest Author visit, Apple and Maple. Gareth P Jones, 'Chicken Vs Egg'
Thursday 8th October	Bookfest Author visit, Beech and Chestnut. Kieran Larwood 'Jed Greenleaf'
Thursday 8th October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Holder Lunchtime Choir
Monday 12th October	Flu Vaccination Sessions in school for all children (Closing date for consent 08.10.26)
Thursday 15th October	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 15th October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Holder Lunchtime Choir
Friday 16th October	Foodbank Friday (please bring in donations for Chichester Foodbank)
Monday 19th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 20th October	Perform Drama Workshop, Apple and Maple in school

Tuesday 20th October	3.00 - 5.30, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Wednesday 21st October	3.00 - 6.00, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Thursday 22nd October	Chestnut Class visit to The Royal Courts of Justice in London
Thursday 22nd October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Holder Lunchtime Choir
Friday 23rd October	3.00 - 3.30, Maple Class 'Friends' Bake Sale (please bring in your nut free donations)



Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Tuesday 3rd November	Hugo Van Driel - whole school assembly
Wednesday 4th November	3.00 - 5.00, Friends Film Night - Details tbc
Thursday 5th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only) Lunchtime Choir
Thursday 5th November	'Raise your Voice' - Beech Class Music Project, details to follow
Thursday 5th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Friday 6th November	West Dean Bonfire (6.00) and Fireworks (7.15)
Monday 9th November	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 10th November	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly in school
Thursday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individual and Sibling)
Thursday 12th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only)
Thursday 19th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 19th November	1.00-3.30, Football Tournament at Chichester University, Year 5 (details to follow)
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow) - Whole School Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Gardens
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir) Details to follow
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm. (See poster for details)
Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Thursday 3rd December	Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Friday 4th December	Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 8th December	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks