



# West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

Telephone: 01243 811247



*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 17 16.01.26 Thankfully there was less illness this week, so attendance has risen again slightly to **96.3%**.



Please keep Rev Sarah in your thoughts and prayers.

**She is not writing her weekly 'Rambling' at the moment, having taken a tumble and broken her arm last week. Sending you our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery, Rev Sarah.**



Well done Chestnut Class; on the second attempt the weather was (just about) on your side for your attempt at the Three Peaks Challenge on The Trundle this week.

Given the complex logistics of taking 30 children to Snowdon (now Yr Wyddfa), Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis, after a bit of number crunching, Mrs Huxham determined that the Chestnut Class children could collectively and cumulatively climb the total altitude of all three peaks by walking up and down our nearest 'mountain', The Trundle.

The children were split into groups, each of which climbed in the region of 1080 metres between them, achieving a total of 3240 metres and smashing the Three Peaks total altitude.



'What is the purpose of all this?' I hear you ask. Well, firstly, it is a really healthy and fun thing to do together and I must say, an energising way to start the week. The main purpose, however, was to raise money through sponsorship, so that the children could buy the special event T-Shirts for the Young Voices 2026 concert in which they will be taking part at the O2 Arena next Tuesday.

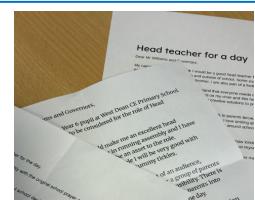
For those who do not already know, Young Voices is a fantastic mass-participation choir event. Over 6000 children take part in each of the series of concerts each year, accompanied by a professional band. We take part with Chestnut Class every two years concert and after weeks of practising the songs (and the dance moves), the exciting day is almost upon us. Look out for the full report on how the children got on in next week's newsletter, but for this week, a hearty pat on the back to all of our Chestnut Trundle climbers—well done!

## Headteachers of the future!

After Khloe's very successful day in role as Headteacher last term, there was no shortage of eager applicants for the next 'Headteacher for the Day' opportunity this term.

Of such high quality were the letters of application choosing the successful candidate was a challenging task this week.

As we ran out of time for a second Headteacher for the Day just before Christmas, I had promised the Chestnut children that there would be two opportunities this half term. Congratulations to Martha, who will be headteacher next Friday (23rd Jan) and to Amelie, whose turn it will be on Friday 13th February. Both of the girls wrote compelling, well-considered applications.



## Welcome to West Dean Mrs Chesshire



You may have noticed a new friendly face at the Maple Class door recently. I was delighted to inform Maple parents this week that Mrs Chesshire has joined our team and will be Maple Class teacher Monday to Thursday for the remainder of this school year.

Mrs Chesshire is a very experienced teacher, well-known to us and to the children, having provided supply cover for us on a number of occasions.

Along with Miss Scott, who has done a fantastic job teaching and supporting Maple Class during the first few weeks of term, Mrs Chesshire is really excited to get started with our marvellous Maples.

## BFG Spotted!

Last seen peering through a high window in Beech Class.

We're not sure what he wants yet, but he seems to be friendly.

Maybe he was just looking for somewhere dry to shelter during this wet weather.



## Super Sporty Start

This term's swimming sessions got started for Years 3, 4 and 5 this week and we were really impressed by the children's attention and enthusiasm in the pool, as well as their conduct and behaviour in and around the Westgate Centre changing rooms. The children were all great ambassadors for our school—very well done, keep it up!

In an equally positive start, there was some super-impressive stamina on show in the first running club of term. This bodes well for the cross country and corporate challenge races coming up later this term!

## Fruit & Milk for the Spring Term.

If your child would like to have a drink of milk and a fruit snack at break time this can be booked on our Arbor payments system.



**Milk for the Spring Term - £6.50**

**Fruit for the Spring Term - £6.50**

If your child is in Apple or Maple Class fruit is provided free of charge under a Government funded scheme, there is no need to book.



### News from West Dean 'Friends'

#### Spring Term Events: Save the Dates!

**Thursday 29th January, 8.30, 'Friends' Meeting for Year Group Reps**

**Thursday 12th February—Film Night, 3.00-5.00. (details to follow)**

**Wednesday 18th March—Save the Date.**

**Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms with host, Ken Jones.**

**'Pre-loved Uniform:** [westdeanuniform@gmail.com](mailto:westdeanuniform@gmail.com). If you have any specific requirements from our pre-loved uniform, don't wait for the next sale, you can email us to see if we have what you need!

Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help and support our 'Friends'.

**Even though Christmas is over there are still lovely West Dean gifts available!**

These are available to purchase from school. They are a shop item on Arbor, Tea Towels £5 each and bags now at the reduced price of £4.00. These will make wonderful gifts for friends and family and also a lovely keepsake of your child's time at West Dean.



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# CHAT & CHILL

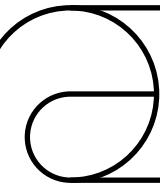
Do you have a child with SEND? Come along to chat with other parent carers. Take a break and share your experiences and enjoy a hot drink - the first one is on us!



JOIN US:  
Tuesday 13th January  
9.00am - 11am

NO NEED TO BOOK - JOIN US AT:  
Arun West Family Hub  
Laburnum Grove  
Bersted, PO22 9HT





Yr R **Hettie** - for being an all round superstar! Keep it up!

Yr 1 **Darcey** - for your continued hard work and care with your writing. Well done!

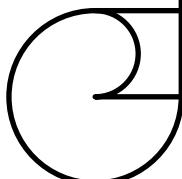
Yr 2 **William** - for your great enthusiasm in class discussions and for writing some amazing sentences this week. Well done.

Yr 3 **Charlie** - for being an inquisitive member of Beech class, wanting to discover more and asking thoughtful questions.

Yr 4 **Sophia** - for your awesome swimming this week. You represented our school brilliantly. Well done!

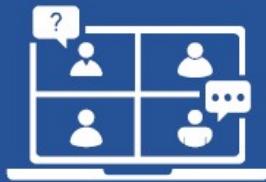
Yr 5 **Alfie** - for your beaming smile every morning and for your hard work to understand and apply division strategies.

Yr 6 **Henrietta A** - for your passion and enthusiasm for singing and learning but also for being a team player in our classroom!



# TRAINING

## SPRING TERM 2026



### WORKSHOPS

Making Sense of Masking

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Understanding Demand Avoidance

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

10.30 am -  
12.30 pm

Making Sense of Wellbeing: Self-care  
skills for parents and carers

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

7.30 - 9.00 pm

Understanding Sensory Processing  
Differences

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January

10.30am -  
12.30pm

Making Sense of Anxiety in  
Adolescence

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Personal  
Independence Payment (PIP)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February

7.30 - 9.30 pm

Making Sense of Annual Reviews

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 am -  
12.30 pm

Understanding Attention Deficit  
Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February

10.30 am -  
12.30 pm

**All of the above training will be delivered on Zoom**

For further information visit our website or email: [outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk](mailto:outreach-training@reachingfamilies.org.uk)



SCAN ME

All our workshops are free of charge. For more  
information or to book a place, please visit our  
Eventbrite page or scan the QR code.

[reachingfamilies.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reachingfamilies-training-spring-term-2026-tickets)



**Reaching  
Families**

[www.reachingfamilies.org.uk](http://www.reachingfamilies.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1150906  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8261096

## 2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



## Spring Term 2026

**Tuesday 6th January—Friday 27th March**

**Half term break—Monday 16th to Friday 20th February**

Tuesday 20th January	Young Voices, O2—Chestnut Class (no running club with Mr W)
Tuesday 20th January	Drama for All, Apple and Maple Class (in school)
Wednesday 21st January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5 (drop off at Westgate Leisure)
Wednesday 21st January	SSP Quicksticks Hockey (details sent to those attending)
Thursday 22nd January	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Tuesday 27th January	8.45 Poetry at Bishop Luffa (Chestnut Class)
Wednesday 28th January	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 28th January	SSP Cross Country Event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Thursday 29th January	8.30, 'Friends' Year Group Reps Meeting
Wednesday 4th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Stinger Netball Event (selected Chestnut tbc)
Friday 6th February	Foodbank Friday
Week beg. 9th February	2 x Year 10 Bishop Luffa Students in school on work experience
Tuesday 10th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 11th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 11th February	'Friends' Film Night (details to follow)
Thursday 12th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
	No Dance Club on this day.
Friday 13th February	Final day of half term
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day (no children in school)
Tuesday 24th February	First day back to school for all children
Wednesday 25th February	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 25th February	2.45—3.30, Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Wednesday 4th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Wednesday 11th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Thursday 12th March	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Wednesday 18th March	8.30, Westgate Swimming, Yr 3,4,5
Wednesday 18th March	2.30, Apple Class Exhibition in Hall
Wednesday 18th March	2.30, Maple Class Exhibition in classroom
Wednesday 18th March	'Friends' Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms (details to follow)