



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
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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 15 05.01.24 **96.1% whole school attendance** rate this week — keep up the good work everyone!

Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble' which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>



Wraparound Care and After School Clubs

Bookings for our **clubs** have been really busy this half term but there are still some spaces available. Log-in to schoolmoney.co.uk to secure your place for clubs starting next week.

Breakfast Bears is available everyday, 8.10-8.35, £4 per child per day, which includes breakfast.

Care Bears is available everyday, 3.00-4.00, £5 per day per child, to include a drink a snack.

Bookings for all of our care and clubs can be made via schoolmoney.co.uk.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the new spring term. We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas holiday and are feeling rejuvenated and ready for 2024!

On behalf of all the staff in school, thank you so much for your Christmas wishes and kind and generous gifts, which are very much appreciated and enjoyed. I was particularly impressed by the family who were clearly paying attention during Rev Sarah's talk at our Carol Service this year and gave me a Double Decker chocolate bar for Christmas. Again, much appreciated and 10 out of 10 for observation, spotting me enthusiastically voting for it being the best of chocolate bars!

Talking of enthusiasm, it has been so lovely to watch the children return to school full of excitement for the new year. During our first collective worship of the new year on Wednesday, many children were surprised to see our school Christmas tree still sparkling in the corner of the hall. They learned that as we have returned to school so early this year, in terms of the Christian festival, it is still very much Christmas, with the arrival of the Magi (or Wise Men) to visit the new born king, Jesus, being celebrated at Epiphany, this coming weekend. Consequently, our worship theme this week has been 'Gifts', with the children having time to reflect on their own inner gifts, in the form of special talents or simply the things that make them uniquely who they are. The children also thought about how they can use these gifts to serve others, which is, in turn, their gift back to God.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year and health and success in 2024.

Chris Williams

Wrap up—a cold spell is coming!

Looking out across the school site this week, as the rain has continued to pour, it has not exactly resembled a typical winter scene. Well done to our Year Three Forest Schoolers, who braved stair-rod rain on Thursday to continue their learning and fun in the woods.

However, if the weather forecasters are to be believed, the weather is about to turn colder, so please ensure that your child comes to school fully prepared to be outside, with a coat, gloves, hat and ideally waterproof trousers.

For PE, there are still too many children needing to use their West Dean School jumper or cardigan as a warm over-layer. This is not hygienic, as the whole point of wearing PE kit is to have dry clean clothing to put back on after busy physical activity. The focus for many classes this term is tag rugby, so uniforms are also likely to get very dirty if used for PE.

There is no obligation to wear a West Dean branded hoody for PE, but these are available from Game, Set and Match—all children should at least have a warm non-uniform hoody or sweatshirt to wear for PE over their T-Shirt on colder days. Thank you for your support.



Academy Trusts & Conversion — If you have not already read it, please check your inbox for the letter that you were sent on Thursday this week from our Chair of Governors, Edward Younghusband. The letter explains that we are at the early stages of giving consideration to West Dean joining a multi-academy trust.

Please be assured that there will be much more information coming to you about this in due course, with opportunity to ask questions about what being part of a trust would look like and mean for our school.

Nothing is yet decided, and as Mr Younghusband outlined in his letter, it is critical that we identify the right type of trust for our school, in which we would retain all that is uniquely and strongly West Dean, whilst offering operational benefit and support.

Diary Dates 2023/24



2023/24 INSET Days

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Spring Term 2024 - Wednesday 3rd January - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024 - Monday 15th April - Friday 19th July 2024

Wednesday 10th January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Tuesday 16th January	9.55, Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 17th January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 17th January	1.00—4.00, SSP Indoor Cricket, Year 5/6 (details to follow)
Wednesday 24th January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 24th January	SSP Cross Country, Bishop Luffa, Year 5/6
Thursday 25th January	1.00-3.00 SSP Future Flyers (selected children)
Monday 29th January	Young Voices at O2, Chestnut Class
Wednesday 31st January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 31st January	1.30—3.30 SP High 5 Netball at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Thursday 1st February	Maple Class visit to Marwell (Details to follow)
Tuesday 6th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 7th February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 7th February	1.30-3.30, AAP Tag Rugby at Bishop Luffa, Year 3/4
Friday 9th February	Foodbank Friday
Wednesday 21st February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 22nd February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (Selected Yr 5/6)
Wednesday 28th February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 28th February	1.00-3.30, SSP Bronze Ambassadors at Westgate (Selected Yr 5&6)
Thursday 29th February	2.00-4.30, Beech and Chestnut visit to Chichester Festival Theatre
Wednesday 6th March	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day (Dress Up—details to follow)
Wednesday 13th March	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut (Last Session)
Friday 15th March	Comic Relief—Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20th March	Apple Class visit to Tuppeny Barn (details to follow)



- Yr R** **Bhodi** - for being a great designer and engineer.
- Yr 1** **Freddie** - for amazing listening in PE.
- Yr 2** **Barney** - for your brilliant work plotting endangered animals on their continents, well done!
- Yr 3** **Ned** - for coming back to school this week with a fantastic 'can do' attitude. You have given everything 100% this week, keep it up!
- Yr 4** **Hetty J** - for the brilliant diary entry you wrote yesterday. You described how it would have felt to start at a new school so thoughtfully, including similes and metaphors in your writing.
- Yr 5** **Imogen** - for super mental maths skills, especially using a whiteboard to draw pictures to help you solve fraction questions.
- Yr 6** **Felix** - for excellent role play, you really got into character and was able to 'show' Ahmet's thoughts and feelings through your body language. Well done!

