



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 1 05.09.25 Our overall attendance for the year (2 days) is **98.5%** Long may it last!

Don't forget, Rev Sarah's 'Rector's Rambling' available by [CLICKING HERE](#) Always an interesting and inspiring read.

Welcome back for the start of a new term and new school year. I hope you all were able to enjoy some family fun (and relaxation too?) during the summer break, whether at home or away. I was fortunate to spend some time abroad, but was reliably informed by my friends that the West Sussex weather was exceptional and hot while I was away... I appear to have brought the rain back with me—sorry!

As always, we were overwhelmed by your generous gifts and messages of thanks at the end of the summer term. I know I say it every year, but I also know I speak on behalf of all the staff when I say again, these gifts are never expected but always very much appreciated, and even more appreciated are your special words of kindness. Thank you!

The new school year always brings a period of mixed emotion. There is apprehension and excitement in equal measure; there is anticipation of what a new class and a new teacher will be like, a tinge of sadness that the holidays are over mixed with the delight of seeing friends again and getting stuck in to playtime games and fun new learning. Throughout that whirlwind of emotion your children have been brilliant over the past few days. They have walked back into school with smiles on their faces, a keenness to get started and an incredible air of calm. Although I am secretly hoping that this honeymoon period lasts for the next ten months, joking aside, they have been fabulous and a credit to you all — well done everyone!

In the coming days you will receive a letter from your child's class teacher(s), outlining specific class routines and providing an overview of learning for this term. The letter will also have details of the class 'Meet the teacher' session, each of which will be run towards the end of a school day during the week beginning 15th September. These meetings will be a chance for parents to ask questions and clarify any elements of class routines or learning, as well as, in some cases, a chance to meet your child's new teacher.

Effective communication is really important to us. If you ever have questions or concerns please do come and talk to us as soon as you can. Most matters can be easily resolved with a conversation. Your child's class teacher should almost always be your first point of contact. In the class curriculum letter you will also be provided with the class teacher's email address and please do feel free to communicate with the class teacher in this way if that works for you. School staff will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 Hours. We politely request that parents and families send emails only between the hours of 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of these hours, if you choose to compose an email because it suits your own work pattern, please use the delay send function. There is no expectation that school staff should respond to emails outside of these hours.

It has been lovely chatting to your children this week and hearing all of their exciting tales of holiday adventures. I look forward to meeting and chatting with you too in the coming days, and indeed to another exciting and fun term ahead at West Dean. With very best wishes, Chris Williams.



Meet the Makers Day Saturday 6th September

Come and join us from 9-7pm for our annual Meet the Makers Day at Makers Barn in Petworth

There will be over 20 talented craftspeople here demonstrating their crafts from Pottery, Basketry and Weaving to Metalwork, Paper flower making and Copper smelting. There will be many activities on offer so that you can try these different crafts for yourselves so come and roll your sleeves up and have a go! Executive Chef of Farbridge, Simon Dixon (Dad of Nella and Mila) will be serving delicious food from midday.

We have live music from 2-4 pm and 5-6pm and local radio station V2 Radio will be broadcasting a show live from Makers Barn between 11 and 3pm

It's a great day with something for everyone so hope to see you there!

<https://www.makersbarn.co.uk/>



MAKERS BARN

Census Day

Thursday 2nd October 2025

The number of children who eat a school meal on Census Day helps decide how much funding your school receives from the government.

More school meals = more funding for your school!



Don't miss out on the delicious waffle dessert!

Special diet? We have a gluten free shortbread or your child's usual menu.



DEADLINE

Book by Wednesday 18th September

BOOK NOW



Using your parent pay login

Let's make this meal count and order today!





West Dean CE Primary School Friends

Since we launched our new West Dean Friends this term, we have raised approximately £1,000 from our plant sale, pre-loved uniform and the Lion King Bar. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Clubs

Dance Club begins on Thursday 11th September and will run for 6 weeks until Thursday 23rd October (excluding Thursday 9th October). Booking is open on Arbor.

Activ8 will run every day and is open to all children. Booking can be made at <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com>

South Coast Sports (SCS) after school club will begin next Friday 12th September. Please see information below regarding booking.

Breakfast Bears is available to book in Arbor and we hope to extend our offer of after school clubs further. Keep a look out for more details soon.



Piano Lessons



Spaces available at West Dean Primary

with Donna Morley

To register your child, or to find out more, visit:

<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/music-lessons/>

Help with costs is available to some families, including 100% bursaries:

<https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/make-music/help-with-costs/>

01403 286330 or 08452 082182

music@westsussexmusic.co.uk



Trusted services,
quality coaching

**WEST DEAN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**



**MULTI SPORTS | Y2 - Y6
FRIDAYS 3PM - 4PM**

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk OR via iPAL



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RACEDAY**



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fontwellpark.co.uk

2025/26 INSET Days



Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Autumn Term 2025 - Wednesday 3rd September—Friday 19th December

INSET - Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025



Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 4th September	First Day of Autumn Term for Children Yr 1—Yr 6
Wednesday 10th September	First Day of School for Year R (Tea & Tissues in the pavilion for parents)
Thursday 11th September	Dance Club starts for Years 2—6
Friday 12th September	SCS After School Sports Club starts
Monday 15th September	'Open Book' Assembly by visitors from Chichester church communities
Wednesday 17th September	8.30, 'Friends' Meeting in the Pavilion
Thursday 18th September	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 26th September	8.45-9.45, Harvest Service in WD Church (details to follow)
Friday 26th September	3.00, 'Friends' Harvest Bake Sale
Monday 29th September	'Open Book' Assembly
Tuesday 30th September	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in school
Wednesday 8th October	Bookfest Author Visit—Beech & Chestnut
Thursday 9th October	Bookfest Author Visit—Beech & Chestnut