



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ

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 16 10.01.25 Our overall attendance is at **96.6%** this week.

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



Welcome back to school for the new term and the start of 2025. We hope you enjoyed time with your families over the Christmas season and found time for both fun and relaxation too.

Once again, on behalf of all of the school staff team, a big thank you for your lovely Christmas wishes and most generous gifts. We really were overwhelmed by your loveliness—this is very much appreciated.

As always, we have a busy term ahead and we are straight into all manner of special events and activities, beginning next week with Chestnut Class' participation in the United Voices Locality Schools Choir event at Chichester

Festival Theatre, which should be a fabulous evening for the children and their families. Class letters will be sent to you early next week, detailing the class learning journey for the weeks ahead, together with any other class specific information.

Dear Chichester Schools,

The friends of Lavant Primary School would like to invite you to a 'get together' on **Thursday 23rd January** in Lavant School Hall for a chance to meet up and discuss fundraising ideas.

It would be great to benefit from each others experience and hopefully help each other make fundraising for our school's a bit easier... Wine and nibbles will be provided and we will kick things off at **7pm**. Please feel free to stay for as long as you wish, even half an hour of your time would be great.

Please RSVP to chair@friends.lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

We look forward to meeting you all

Kate, Siri and the Lavant PTA

On behalf of Chichester District Foodbank, we extend our deepest gratitude for your recent donation of food which weighed an amazing 71.3 kilos, that's the equivalent of 178 meals.

Your support means we can continue providing vital help to families and individuals in crisis across the Chichester District.

This includes not just food but also practical and compassionate support when it's needed most. As a charity that relies totally on donations your contribution is hugely appreciated, thank you for your support.

Over the last year alone, from April 2023 to March 2024, we provided 9,091 food parcels to local residents who couldn't afford basic essentials, and 5,158 of these went to children in need. These figures highlight just how crucial our services are in meeting the needs of those most vulnerable in our community.

Thank you once again for your dedication and generosity, wishing you a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year & hoping we can work together again in 2025.



PTA Treasurer Needed

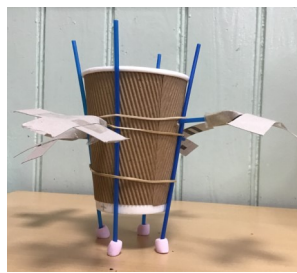
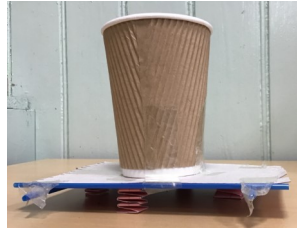
The PTA is in need of a new treasurer following the 'retirement' of the current post holder. While some basic bookkeeping skills would be helpful, this is not an onerous job and would suit someone with a bit of time who can maintain the fundraising spreadsheets and contribute to the general workings of the PTA. It is a great way to get involved with the school and influence how the PTA operates for the betterment of our children.

If you feel this could be for you and would like more details, please speak with Pasha - pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk or call in at the school office.

One small step for Chestnut Class, one giant leap in learning!

The spring term kicked off with a great STEM challenge (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) for Chestnut Class on Tuesday, as they worked in teams to try to create a model lunar landing module that is capable of being dropped from a height and landing softly, remaining upright.

There were some ingenious attempts to create suspension mechanisms to cushion the module's fall and some excellent problem solving skills on show. Definitely some budding aerospace engineers of the future!



Final rehearsals for United Voices 2025

Our Year 5 and 6 children will be joining choirs from schools across the locality, including our neighbours Lavant and Singleton, to perform at Chichester Festival Theatre next week. United Voices 2025 is a mass school choir performance, led by the very talented, Emily Barden, with whom we have worked many times before. It will be a fabulous opportunity for children from across Chichester to come together in joyful song, made all the more special by performing on the big stage. Having hiked their way down the valley on Wednesday afternoon, our children joined our friends at Lavant Primary, and our other friends Singleton Primary for an afternoon rehearsal, as we will be performing several elements of the concert together. Next week, it will be show time and we can't wait!



Lessons from a Boat—Atlantic Challenge—UPDATE

Jon Wilburn and his 'Lessons from a Boat' team have been making great progress across the Atlantic.

They have now passed the half way mark and are fast approaching the final 1000 miles of their row - still a huge challenge ahead but an amazing achievement so far.

You can track the team's progress across the Atlantic at <https://www.worldstoughestrow.com/> and find out more about the team at <https://lessonsfromaboat.com/> If their technology works mid-Atlantic, the team are planning to livestream some actual 'lessons from a boat' and we hope to be able to tune in from school.



Activ8 for Kids.

We are very pleased to be able to share with you that Activ8 for kids has started at West Dean this week.

Booking is now live for January 2025 onwards. This system will be for wraparound care bookings only. This will replace our current Care Bears after school provision.

We will still be running our Breakfast Bears club in the morning, 8.00—8.20am. This can still be booked on schoolmoney.co.uk, £4 per session per child to include breakfast. Our variety of after school clubs will continue, the timetable is attached. **We still have some spaced available.** Our clubs will also be bookable on schoolmoney.co.uk, with the exception of SCS (South Coast Sports), which is bookable through their own system.

Milk and Fruit for the Spring Term

We are pleased to be able to offer milk to drink for all children who would like this, £6 per child per term.

Children in Apple and Maple Class are able to receive a fruit snack mid morning, this option is available to children in Beech and Chestnut Class at a cost of £7 for the term.

Both items are available on schoolmoney.co.uk.





- Yr R** *Darcey* - for being an all round superstar, showing all the West Dean values.
- Yr 1** *Bodhi* - for working well in a team in forest school. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Ava* - for the quiet determination you have shown in class this week. You've worked incredibly hard, well done!
- Yr 3** *Monty* - for your thoughtful contributions to our class discussions on 'What is Success'.
- Yr 4** *Lucas* - for your calm and gentle nature and the kindness you show your friends. You take time to help those who need it.
- Yr 5** *Rufus* - for your excellent questioning and the curiosity you demonstrated during the first few days of learning about Space & The Solar System.
- Yr 6** *Imogen* - for the fantastic engineering skills you demonstrated during the STEM challenge on Tuesday, together with the care you showed in enabling the best possible learning outcome for other children.



2024/25 INSET Days

Tuesday 22nd April

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025



Spring Term 2025 - Monday 6th January (INSET) - Friday 4th April

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2025 - Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 18th July

Half Term - Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday) - Friday 30th May

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 14th January	Drama for All visit—Apple and Maple Class
Tuesday 14th January	Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre—Children’s Concert
Wednesday 15th January	Westgate Swim Programme starts, Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 15th January	Chestnut Class, United Voices rehearsal at Chichester Festival Theatre
Wednesday 15th January	Chestnut Class United Voices performance at CFT
Thursday 16th January	Bishop Luffa Worship
Tuesday 21st January	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 22nd January	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 23rd January	Chestnut Class SSP Sportshall Athletics Event at Bishop Luffa
Tuesday 28th January	Beech Class visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace (details to follow)
Wednesday 29th January	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 29th January	SSP Cross Country event at Bishop Luffa (selected Chestnut)
Thursday 30th January	Maple Class visit to Marwell (details to follow)
Thursday 30th January	SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Yr 5 & 6)
Friday 31st January	Foodbank Friday
Wednesday 5th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Tuesday 11th February	Bishop Luffa Worship
Wednesday 12th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 12th February	SSP Netball event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)



Don't forget, we love to share special events and learning highlights wherever possible on Instagram. Follow us [@westdeanceprimary](https://www.instagram.com/westdeanceprimary)

