



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ  
Telephone: 01243 811247 Headteacher: Mr C Williams



*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



**Chestnut Class Parent Information Letter: Autumn 2025**



Dear Parents / Carers,

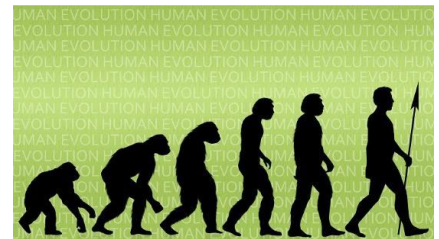
Welcome back and/or welcome to Chestnut Class! We hope that you all had a really lovely summer holiday and that everyone is feeling refreshed and ready for the busy term ahead.

Our Chestnut Class 'Meet the teacher' session will be on Thursday 18th September at 2.40pm, during which we will share more information about the year ahead and also give you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Mrs Huxham will continue to work on Mondays; Mrs Johnson Tuesday to Friday and Mrs Goacher and/or Mrs Sessions will be our teaching assistant(s) every day.

**"Dragons, Darwin and DNA"**

To help us learn, we will read a range of fiction and non-fiction including the book 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin. This will provide us with many writing opportunities as well as a wealth of science-based learning and research. We want to continue to develop the children's stamina and confidence in writing and we will achieve this by rehearsing ideas orally, as well as improving our editing skills so that we are ready to publish and celebrate our writing.



The main focus of our Maths lesson for the first term will be place value and the 4 operations (addition, subtraction, division and multiplication) and ensuring that all children have a secure (more formal) method of recording their solutions. Finally, in the last few weeks of term we will start to look at fractions.

In science, we will look further into Evolution & Inheritance, where we will learn about how living things have evolved over time, the significance of fossils, and how offspring can vary from their parents. We will also look at how adaptations can lead to evolution, incorporating the pivotal discoveries of Charles Darwin.

Our PSHCE lessons will focus on friendship skills, respect, and family life. In RE, we'll explore themes in Understanding Christianity and Humanism, particularly looking at the concepts of happiness and moral decisions through the lens of "What would Jesus do?"

READING: Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home. Pupils should record details of their reading in their **Homework Diary**.

HOMEWORK: Spelling/Grammar and Maths homework will be set each **Monday** and should be **completed and handed in on Friday (of that same week)**.

EVERYDAY: Please ensure your child has a reading book, water bottle, homework diary and PE kit.

Our email addresses are: [sjohnson@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:sjohnson@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk) and [shuxham@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:shuxham@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Many thanks in anticipation of your help and support in what is going to be a fantastic year in Chestnut Class!

The Chestnut Class team  
Sarah Johnson, Sophie Huxham, Sue Goacher and Siobhan Sessions