



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



Maple Class - Spring 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share with you an overview of the learning planned for Maple Class during the Spring Term. Our whole-class topic, *"Our Lasting Legacy,"* will allow the children to explore the natural world, understand the importance of protecting endangered animals, and reflect on how humans can care for the planet. This topic will be taught through a cross-curricular approach, linking learning across a wide range of subjects and providing meaningful and engaging experiences for the children.

In English, the children will develop their reading, writing and spoken language skills through a range of fiction, poetry and non-fiction texts. Using books such as *Don't Let Them Disappear* and *My best book of extinct animals* children will explore and discuss rich vocabulary and powerful language, write descriptive animal narratives inspired by videos, and compose poetry linked to nature and animals. They will learn how to identify and use the features of non-fiction texts, research endangered animals and produce fact files, and write persuasive letters encouraging action to protect animals. The children will also plan, write, rehearse and perform environmental news reports. Alongside this, they will focus on grammar skills, including verb tenses and persuasive language, and will proofread and edit their work before producing neat final versions, some of which will be typed using Chromebooks.

In Mathematics, children will continue to build confidence and fluency through practical activities and problem-solving. They will learn to recognise and describe 2D and 3D shapes, including identifying sides, vertices, faces and lines of symmetry. The children will develop their understanding of money by recognising coins and notes, making amounts, comparing values and finding change. They will also focus on multiplication and division through equal groups, arrays and the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, as well as developing their understanding of measurement, including length, height, mass, capacity and temperature using standard units.

In Science, the children will study *Living Things and Their Habitats*. They will learn the difference between living, dead and never-alive things, explore a variety of habitats linked to the endangered animals, understand simple food chains and how animals depend on each other, and carry out simple observations and investigations to support their learning.

In Geography, children will compare our local area of West Dean with the Lacandon Rainforest in Mexico, developing their understanding of human and physical geography and learning about similarities and differences between contrasting locations. In History, children will explore how the natural world has changed over the last 100 years, including the impact of humans and the influence of significant figures such as Sir David Attenborough.

Creativity will play an important role throughout the term. In Art and Music, children will explore animal skin patterns using a range of materials, create close-up animal eye drawings inspired by the artist Martin Aveling, listen to and respond to *Carnival of the Animals*, and compose music inspired by birdsong. In Design and Technology, children will design, make and evaluate endangered animal message T-shirts, learning how to turn ideas into finished products.

In Computing, children will learn about algorithms and create simple programs using floor robots. They will collect and present data using pictograms and develop an understanding of how to use technology safely and responsibly.

Through PSHE and Citizenship, children will learn about personal safety, trusted adults, road safety and the emergency services. They will explore the importance of respecting personal boundaries, understanding rules, developing a sense of belonging, and recognising roles within the community.

In Religious Education, children will explore Christian beliefs, including Creation and Easter. In Physical Education, children will take part in multi-skills activities designed to develop coordination, teamwork, balance and confidence.

This topic encourages curiosity, creativity and compassion, while helping children understand their role in caring for the world around them. We look forward to sharing the children's learning with you throughout the term, including performances and displays.

We will have an open afternoon from 2.30pm on Wednesday 18th March for the children to share their work. All families are welcome.

Remember forest school will be every Tuesday afternoon.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Maple Class Teachers