



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 16 12.01.24 96% whole school attendance rate this week — well done everyone.**

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

During our collective worship this week, we have been thinking about role models and leading by example.

The children have been brilliant in identifying some well known people who have or continue to be recognised for their leadership in many different ways—leaders such as Martin Luther King and Greta Thunberg. However, they also learnt a brilliant role-model story about the inspiring journey of Mamadou Safaiou Barry, who cycled from his home nation of Guinea, across North Africa in order to seek a place at a top university in Cairo, Egypt. I will let your children tell you the rest of the story, but it was certainly an inspiration to us all, learning about Mamadou's incredible determination.

The key message for the children has been that we can all be leaders by inspiring others to do the right thing, no matter how young or small you think you are. Simple acts of kindness each day, or small examples of living well with each other, will almost certainly have a ripple effect on others to do the same.

Your children certainly took this message on board and told me some great examples of people who inspire them, including, I am very pleased to say, their teachers!

With best wishes,

Chris Williams



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website

**New gadgets in the house? Help to keep your children safe online**

Shortly before Christmas, we supplied a link to some useful information by Skips online safety, about how to help your child engage responsibly and safely online.

Now that gadgets received at Christmas will be well and truly up and running—with many of you potentially struggling to get your children off of them, here is a reminder of these guidelines.

Use your smartphone to access the full information on the SKIPS website, by scanning this QR code.



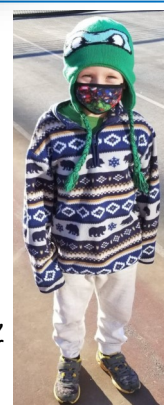
**It's been cold this week**

Well, I should not have doubted the forecasters, as they were spot on and we have indeed experienced a cold snap this week, which, in my opinion has been a refreshing change.

Despite the chill, a number of children have been a little ill prepared for the cold. Please ensure that your child at least has a warm coat with them and ideally gloves and a hat which covers their ears.

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 last 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**

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 at Westgate
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**    **Delilah** - for your fantastic reading and using your story voice! Well done!
- Yr 1**    **Theo W** - for fantastic ideas when designing like an engineer. Well done!
- Yr 2**    **Kash** - for being able to clearly explain a food chain and what happens to a food chain when you move an animal from its habitat. well done!
- Yr 3**    **Mia** - for making such an effort with your handwriting. We can see a huge improvement. Keep it up!
- Yr 4**    **Khloe** - for sharing your own experience of the Hindu celebration of Raksha Bandhan during our RE lesson this week.
- Yr 5**    **Seb** - for your hard work, determination and focus during the assessments this week—look what you can do when you believe in yourself!
- Yr 6**    **Ewan** - for your amazing manners and polite behaviour, you are a super Year 6 role model—thank you!

