



# 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 27 04.04.25 Our overall attendance is at **96.2%** this week.

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



## Well done to our Lunch Time Star Table



Eight children got the 'Star' treatment at lunchtime today. They were rewarded for their impeccable manners and good behaviour throughout this half term during lunch times. Being the final lunch before the holidays, the children all enjoyed some Easter themed treats.



## Fantastic collaboration

Apples and Maples joined up yesterday morning to get prepared for our Easter service in church, which takes place after the holiday. They worked brilliantly together, creating some artwork symbolising new life. You'll have to join us in church to see the finished pieces, but here's a sneak peek of the work in progress!



## WWII Coffee and Cake

To support their current learning journey, Chestnut Class enjoyed a fascinating morning on Thursday, hearing about war stories and memories from some local West Dean residents. Everyone enjoyed tea and cake as the children listened to incredible tales and shared their learning. It was a wonderful, heart-warming way to bring all ages in our community together to learn from each other. The children were astonished by some of the stories they heard, of a V2 bomb landing close to West Dean, of a fighter plane crash just up the hill from the school, as well as memories of hurrying to the Anderson Shelter and putting wellies on the wrong feet in the rush! The children are using some of the memories they heard to inform their own creative writing. This work will be on display at the village VE commemoration flower festival in West Dean Church over the May Bank Holiday weekend 3rd to 5th May.





**Maple Class Forest School** - Maples had fun on our beautiful pond this week with 100% success rate in floating rafts and boats they had each made with natural resources from the orchard. Each of their chicks were able to have a sail and Maples spotted a newt and a tadpole too!

The pond area is gradually bursting into life, with plants that have been dormant all winter now sprouting and bringing a lovely green haze to the area. Mrs Duck, who as you know normally looks for a nest site at this time of year, is taking a keen interest in the pond too!



## Mystery Object

Apple Class found a mystery object when they were out along Centurion Way. Harry took it along to Amberley Museum and this was the response that they received:

*Dear Apple Class at West Dean C.E Primary School*

*Thank you for your letter which was handed to me on Mother's Day.*

*I took the letter and your drawings up to our very knowledgeable Rail Volunteers here at Amberley Museum. They said your mystery object is a clamp, and it would have attached something to a pole. This could have been on a railway signal pole as shown in the old black and white picture of Petersfield Station I have attached. The railway signals are the structures shown in the middle of the photo; they told the train driver if they could move or not using the semaphore system.*

*I have also attached a modern photo of Castleton East where you might just be able to see similar clamps to yours attaching equipment to the black and white signal pole.*

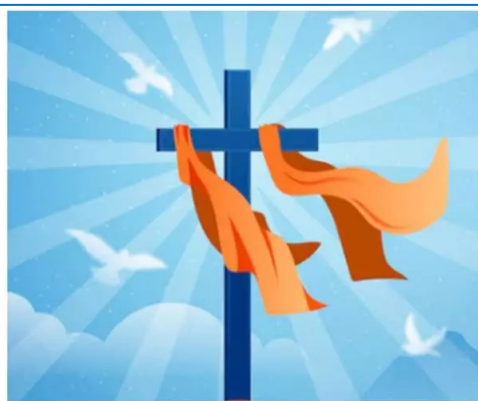
*The volunteers tell me it could also be a clamp that once held something to a wooden telegraph or electricity pole. I have attached a photo of one of Amberley Museum's old letterboxes which is attached to a telegraph pole with u-clamps.*

*Amberley Museum Rail volunteers have put your letter and fantastic drawings up in their office.*

*I hope this helps answer your question!*

*Kind regards,  
Zoe*





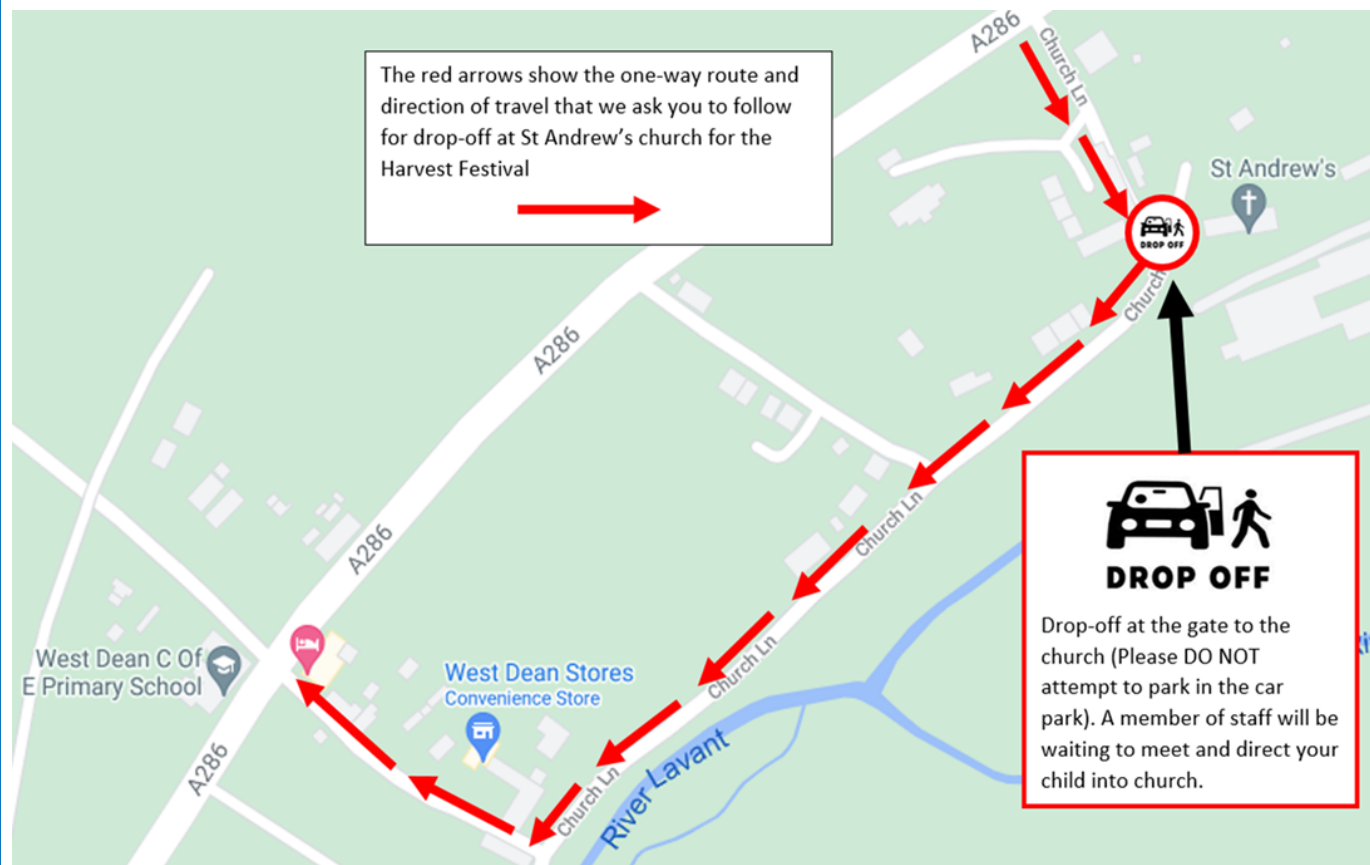
### EASTER SERVICE IN CHURCH

Due to Easter being just about as late in the year as it can be this year, it was a little early to be holding an Easter service in church before we broke up for the holidays this week. Rev Sarah did visit us to lead worship with us in school on Friday morning, but we are going to hold our main Easter Service in St Andrew's Church, West Dean on the Friday at the end of the week that we return to school, which will be **Friday 25th April at 8.45am**.

We ask parents and carers to bring children **directly to the church** for the service **by 8.35am**, ready for an 8.45 start, rather than coming to school first.

Staff will be on hand to welcome the children between 8.25 and 8.35 and we ask that you access Church Lane from the A285, operating a **one-way system**, dropping off at the Church and exiting through the village.

Parents, carers and relatives are welcome to join us for the service, which will last for approximately half an hour. If you intend to do so, please drop your child off first, as described above, before finding parking elsewhere in the village.



**Well done to , this week's top scoring house, Buzzard.**

The children were also told the winning house for the term and the current leader for the year, both of which is Kestrel with 2589 points so far this year!



### After School Provision for Summer Term:

With more clubs to be confirmed and added to the list soon, we are offering the following after school clubs next half term:

**Westbourne House Swim**—for selected children in preparation for the Chichester Cormorants Gala, 17.05.25. 4 weeks: 29th April, 6th, 13th & 20th May, 6-6.30pm.

**Dance Club**—for the children who took part this half term, in preparation for the Dance House performance in Worthing on Wednesday 30th April. X 5 weeks.

**SCS Sports Club**—for children in Yr 1—Yr 6. A multisport club with the opportunity to try a variety of different sports activities. Available every week, bookable through SCS <https://southcoastports.ipalbookings.com>

**Activ8 will be offering wraparound care** between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8.

Our **Breakfast Bears Club** is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4 per child (including breakfast) Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance.

Bookings for our Breakfast Bears, Westbourne House Swim Club and Dance Club can be made on [schoolmoney.co.uk](http://schoolmoney.co.uk).



### Chestnut Class Open Classroom

On Tuesday afternoon Chestnut Class opened their classroom and welcomed their parents in to share all the amazing learning that has been going on this term. There was a real buzz as the children shared their STEM projects, which involved parents having a go at testing their wind turbines, gliders and lunar landing modules. Some parents even fell for our April Fools Maths test!

**Great running** A huge well done to our fantastic Y5 and 6 runners who competed in the last of this year's three Chichester Corporate Challenge races on Wednesday evening. Our girls team came fourth overall (third place beat us by just 3 seconds overall) and Imogen Younghusband was a fantastic 3rd placed Y6 girl overall.



# ECO Easter

5 – 21 APRIL

Join us this Easter Holidays to take part in traditional Easter activities with a contemporary twist.

Follow our Easter trail and have a go at hands on Eco-Easter activities.

Weald & Downland Living Museum  
Singleton | Chichester | PO18 0EU



Find out more at [wealddown.co.uk](http://wealddown.co.uk)  
01243 811363

### Lifesaving at Westgate

It was the final Westgate Swim session of the year for Beech and Chestnut Classes on Wednesday, so it was time for some lessons designed to hone vital lifesaving skills.

I'm pleased to say, should you or a member of your family accidentally enter the water and experience distress, your children know exactly what to do to return you to safety.

Hopefully they won't be wearing their pyjamas if this ever happens, but for the purpose of the lesson, soggy pyjamas were preferable to soggy school uniforms!





## A Prayer for Easter

Risen Lord,  
fill us with new life  
through your resurrection power  
that we may share your love  
with those who live in darkness;  
that we may share your peace  
with those who live in fear;  
that we may share your joy  
With those who live in sorrow.  
Risen Lord, live in us  
that we may shine  
with the light of Christ.

Amen



West Dean CE Primary School  
Acorn Awards  
Friday 4th April 2025



- Yr R** *Darcey* - for your wonderful attitude towards your learning.
- Yr 1** *Finley* - for being so kind and thoughtful to everyone.
- Yr 2** *Barney* - for the enthusiasm you showed in maths this week! You worked collaboratively to accurately measure litres, well done!
- Yr 3** *Barney* - for calculating the ingredients for Mrs Anstee's shopping list. You worked quickly and accurately.
- Yr 4** *Lucas* - for being such a responsible member of Beech Class. You can be counted on and show great maturity.
- Yr 5** *Phoebe* - for always having a super attitude to your learning. Even when things get tricky, you ask questions and then try hard to give it a good go!
- Yr 6** *Blaise* - for being yourself and forging your own path; working hard and quietly achieving great things.



## 2024/25 INSET Days



Tuesday 22nd April

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025

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

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

### Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	INSET Day —school closed
Wednesday 23rd April	9.00-12.00, Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa—TED Talks
Friday 25th April	8.45, Easter Service in West Dean Church
Wednesday 30th April	Music Festival at St Paul's Church (details tbc) Beech and Yr 5
Wednesday 30th April	Dance House, rehearsal and performance
Thursday 1st May	West Dean Academy Conversion Day
Thursday 1st May	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut, date change)
Friday 2nd May	Deadline for Parent Governor Applications (information sent previously)
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
Thursday 8th May	VE Day Celebration (details to follow)
Wednesday 14th May	Apple Class visit to Arundel Castle—details to follow
Wednesday 14th May	7.00, Pupil Parliament to attend Parish Council Meeting (details to follow)
Saturday 17th May	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala at Westgate (selected)
Thursday 22nd May	2.30-3.30, Maple Class 'Come Dine with Me' (details to follow)
Monday 2nd June	Hugo Van Driel assembly in school
Monday 9th June	9.00, Yellow School Photos, Classes & Year 6 Leavers.
Tuesday 17th June	Apple and Maple Drama for All, Jungle Rumble (in school)
Friday 20th June	Foodbank Friday
Friday 20th June	NHS Healthy Child Programme—Year R (in school)
Monday 23rd June	1.00, Year 6 Leavers' Service—Chichester Cathedral. (details to follow)
Monday 24th June	Hugo Van Driel assembly in school
Thursday 3rd July	5.30, Governing Body Meeting
Monday 14th July	West Dean School Production (Evening) — Save the Date
Tuesday 15th July	Hugo Van Driel assembly in school
Tuesday 15th –17th July	Year 6 Bikeability (details to follow)
Friday 18th July	Last day of summer term.
Monday 21st July	School Closed—Inset Day
Tuesday 22nd July	School Closed—Inset Day



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

