



West Dean CE Primary School

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 2 11.09.26

Keep up the good work everyone - our whole school attendance is **97%** again this week.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

*This week's winning
House Team is
Buzzard with 114
points
Well done everyone
Great effort!*



...to our amazing new Reception children who bounced into school for their first day yesterday with confidence and enthusiasm. It has been lovely getting to know them this week and we are really impressed by the brilliant start they have made. We're equally impressed by the responsible attitude of the Year One children, who seem to grow-up almost overnight ready to welcome their new classmates and show them how everything works. It is wonderful to see the pride they demonstrate about and the care they show to our newcomers.

Apologies; I cannot believe I am mentioning the festive season already when September has barely begun, but please keep **Friday 27th & Saturday 28th November** free in your diary. Due to the huge success of our stall last year, we aim to take part in the West Dean Christmas Market again on these dates and we are going to need a lot of parent support to make the logistics and running of the stall run smoothly. OK, enough about Christmas - back to September, with best wishes for an autumn sunshine filled weekend, Chris Williams



In case you missed it last week, don't forget that the film of our school

production of The Lion King can be downloaded until **18th September**. Details of how to do this have been sent to all school families. The video is for **viewing by your family only** - please do not re-share the link or repost any of the video online or on social media. Thank you. Enjoy the film!

PLEASE NOTE: The first West Dean Wellbeing Walk of the year is **next Thursday morning (17th Sept)**. Please ensure your child has sturdy, comfortable footwear and a waterproof coat.





MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY OPEN MORNING



**SUNDAY
13TH
SEPTEMBER**



**10 AM -
12 NOON**



**MIDHURST RFC
COWDRAY RUINS**

FREE
RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS

**BOYS & GIRLS
AGED 5-16**

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED



- BOUNCY CASTLE
- BBQ & BAR
- ICE CREAM VAN
- MEET THE TEAMS
- FAMILY FUN

**YOUNGER CHILDREN
WELCOME TO STAY & PLAY!**

**NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
AT ANY SUNDAY TRAINING SESSION
YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT
FOR THE OPEN DAY.**

**EVERYONE WELCOME - NO NEED
TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP.**

teamwork | respect | enjoyment

discipline | sportsmanship



FAO: School Head

Ref: Local Club Rugby Taster Introduction

Midhurst Rugby Football Club are holding a taster rugby introduction morning for our Mini and Junior sections on Sunday 13th September 2026 from 10-12noon, with BBQ and inflatable games after. This is designed for kids from Under 6 to Under 14s to come along and learn more about the sport and see what we do as a club at the different age groups. There will be no pressure to join in, kids can simply watch as our trained coaches lead a demonstration training session for each of the age groups. The coaches will start with a short introduction about what happens at that particular age group as rugby rules differ as you move through the age grades, then give a demonstration of typical training session followed by short game.

Coaches and members of the club will be available to field any questions from parents and guardians; we know this to be particularly important for any children who may be new to the sport.

It should be noted that U6-U8 Age groups are tag (touch rugby), at U9s tackling is introduced, but this is phased in gradually and no first-time child players will be expected to take part in tackle training or games at any age grade until the coaches are satisfied that they are ready to do so.

After the short introduction the BBQ and fun inflatable games will take place from 11am with free hot dogs to all children and the club house will be open serving drinks and snacks.

Midhurst RFC is a small club serving the local community with a fantastic youth programme where we have hundreds of kids turn up on Sundays throughout the season. The club is supported by a fantastic bunch of volunteers and trained coaches who give up their time to support. The coaches are all passionate about the sport and the safety of the children under their care is paramount. We are a fully inclusive club and welcome new players and supporters alike.

We look forward to seeing you at the club and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Dunn – Club Chairman

www.midhurstrugby.co.uk
midhurstrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com

Midhurst RFC
The Pavilion
Cowdray Ruins
Midhurst GU29 9AL



Please be advised that our Autumn club is now open for booking, by clicking on the following link:

<https://southcoastsport.s.ipalbookings.com/>

Football Club

Our football club has been really popular and filled up straight away. Apologies if you didn't secure a place, there is a waiting list. The two dates after half term will be for selected children to form a West Dean team.

Dates as follows:

17th & 24th Sep, 1st,
15th & 22nd October
5th and 12th Nov for
selected team.





*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 11th September 2026*



- Year 1 - Raffy - for being a superstar this week. You have shared kindness and love to others and have been a super role model to Year Rs.*
- Year 2 - Poppy - for your kindness and thoughtfulness. You cleared away all the paints and brushes without being asked. What a role model!*
- Year 3 - William - for being an extremely helpful member of the class making sure your job as 'Cloakroom Monitor' is always completed. This keeps us safe from tripping over and keeps us happy! Thank you William.*
- Year 4 - Ivy S - for bringing joy to Beech Class with your wonderful Stone Age art as well as bringing in some beautiful flowers for us to enjoy!*
- Year 5 - Harry - for an all round, positive, polite, happy, organised and responsible start in Chestnut Class.*
- Year 6 - Finlay - for a super start to Year 6. You have thought carefully, dug deep, and worked hard - well done.*



September 2026

Dear parents and carers of Year 6 pupils,

We hope that you will consider sending your child to Bishop Luffa School in September 2026. We pride ourselves on the family feel of our school, which is based on our Christian values and our belief that children should experience 'life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding an **Open Evening** on **Thursday 8th October**. Classrooms will be open from 5.30pm until 7.45pm. This event is open to all parents, carers and children and you do not need to book to look around the school.

However, in order to reduce overcrowding in our main Hall, we will be asking parents and carers to book to attend one of the Head Teacher's talks (taking place at 6.00pm, 7.00pm and 8.00pm). Booking for the talks will be through Eventbrite and the **booking system will open at 8.00am on Thursday 10th September**. Please click on this link to book. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/head-teachers-talk-at-bishop-luffa-school-open-evening-2026-tickets-2000149996482?aff=oddtcreator> Talks will be given by the Head Teacher, our School Captains and some of our new Year 7s, before you are taken on a tour around the school by our Sixth Formers.

We will also be holding Open Mornings for Year 6 pupils and their families from Monday 12th October – Friday 16th October. The Open Mornings are from 9.30am until 11.00am. Booking is required as there are limited spaces available for each morning. Attendees will need to arrive by 9.30am when the Head will give a talk before you are shown around the school by some of our students. Booking for the Year 6 Open Mornings are through Eventbrite and **the booking system will open at 8.00am on Thursday 10th September**. Please click on this link to book

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishop-luffa-school-open-mornings-2026-tickets-2000151178016?aff=oddtcreator>

Please do not hesitate to contact us:

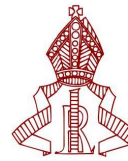
- If you have questions about the Admissions process, please email Mrs Gill Cooper admissions@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have questions about Year 7 specifically, please email Mr Neil Topley topleyn@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have questions about additional needs for your child, or if your child is on the SEND register and you would like further information, please email Mrs Olivia Basurto SENDCO@bishopluffa.org.uk
- If you have general questions about the school, please email me head@bishopluffa.org.uk

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours faithfully,



Austen Hindman.
Head Teacher



Bishop Luffa School

Part of the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership

Westgate Chichester West Sussex PO19 3HP
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
Telephone: 01243 787741

Head: Mr Austen Hindman
www.bishopluffa.org.uk



**To the children and families
of West Dean and Singleton schools,**

The Valley Parish welcomes all pupils back to school after what we hope was a FUN-FILLED summer! We particularly welcome all new families, whether joining in Year R or later in the school.

As pupils of Singleton and West Dean Schools, you are a part of the Valley Parish Church Family and we would LOVE to see you at one of our Sunday services.

The pattern of services is:

First Sunday (6th September)

10AM, East Dean, Worship + Communion

Second Sunday (13th September)

10AM, Singleton, Worship + Communion

Third Sunday (20th September)

10AM, West Dean, Worship + Communion

Fourth Sunday (27th September)

11AM, West Dean, Children's Church

Every Fourth Sunday, we host Children's Church at West Dean which is 30 minutes of worship, games, stories and songs.

There is also cake and coffee before the service to chat and get to know the Valley Parish community.

In September, we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival at Children's Church and thanking God for all we have. We hope you can join us and would LOVE to see you there.

Rev. Sarah Manouch
priestvalley.parish@gmail.com

Bookfest visiting authors

We have been lucky enough to secure dates with visiting authors, as part of Bookfest 2026.

Wednesday 7th October

for Apple and Maple: Gareth P Jones with the book 'Chicken Vs Egg' and Thursday 8th

October for Beech and Chestnut: Kieran Larwood with the book 'Jed Greenleaf'. In addition to an exciting author visit each child will receive a copy of the book.

In the past we have been able to fund this through school but this year, as finances are so squeezed, we would like to request a donation from parents towards the cost of this. A payment will be set up on Arbor to enable parents to make a suggested contribution of £4.20 per child.

Thank you for your support with this, we know that this will be a valuable experience for our children.



CHILDREN'S BOOKFEST

INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

Spring: Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Monday 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 14th September	Open The Book Assembly in School
Monday 14th September	2.30, Apple Class Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 15th September	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Wednesday 16th September	Cathy Odfield, West Sussex Rivers Trust, whole school assembly.
Thursday 17th September	Whole School Wellbeing Walk, West Dean Gardens and Arboretum
Thursday 17th September	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Thursday 17th September	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 22nd September	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Tuesday 22nd September	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Thursday 24th September	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Friday 25th September	8.45, Harvest Service in West Dean Church (details to follow)
Sunday 27th September	11.00, Harvest Service in West Dean Church.

Monday 28th September	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 29th September	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Thursday 1st October	Bishop Luffa whole school worship
Thursday 1st October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Tuesday 6th October	6.30-7.15, Westbourne House Swim (selected children)
Wednesday 7th October	Bookfest Author visit, Apple and Maple. Gareth P Jones, 'Chicken Vs Egg'
Thursday 8th October	Bookfest Author visit, Beech and Chestnut. Kieran Larwood 'Jed Greenleaf'
Thursday 8th October	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Wells (no football club)
Monday 12th October	Flu Vaccination Sessions in school for all children
Thursday 15th October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells
Friday 16th October	Foodbank Friday (please bring in donations for Chichester Foodbank)
Monday 19th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 20th October	Perform Drama Workshop, Apple and Maple in school
Tuesday 20th October	3.00 - 5.30, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Wednesday 21st October	3.00 - 6.00, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Thursday 22nd October	Chestnut Class visit to The Royal Courts of Justice in London (details to follow shortly)
Thursday 22nd October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Wells

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Tuesday 3rd November	Hugo Van Driel - whole school assembly
Wednesday 4th November	Friends Film Night - Details tbc
Thursday 5th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only)
Thursday 5th November	'Raise your Voice' - Beech Class Music Project, details to follow
Monday 9th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly in school
Thursday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individual and Sibling)
Thursday 12th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only)
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow)
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir) Details to follow
Monday 30th November	Open the Book, whole school assembly

