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 9 06.11.26

Well done - Our whole school attendance for the year increased to **96.9%** this week.

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

Well done to Buzzard, our top scoring house this week with 139 points.

Buzzard

Act of Remembrance

Mr Williams will be laying a school wreath in West Dean Church, at the service this Sunday and we will have our own Act of remembrance in school on Wednesday 11th. Poppies are on sale in Reception.

Please Note: **Activ8 After School Provision now require 24 hours notice for bookings.** This has changed from the previous notice period of booking open until 12 noon on the day. Our new Autumn Term Club timetable is now available, bookings will be live on Arbor on Monday 26th October at 9.00am.

Learning Event Dates for the Diary:



Chestnut Class Assembly followed by Open Classroom, Thursday 26th November, 8.45am.

Apple Class Open Classroom Wednesday 2nd December, 2.30pm

Beech Class Open Classroom Wednesday 9th December, 2.30pm

Raise Your Voice!

Beech Class had a musical adventure on Thursday joining children from local schools in Chichester Cathedral for a singing festival called '*Raise Your Voice*'. The range of songs chosen for this year's festival of singing were all linked to the colourful Piper tapestry, which sits behind the high altar in the cathedral. This tapestry is 60 years old this year, having been designed by John Piper in 1966. The children spent the day practising songs, learning about the tapestry, hearing a rousing rendition of 'Star Wars' on the cathedral organ and finishing with a joyful performance to an audience of family members. Well done Beech Class, great singing!





Congratulations to Eadie Holder who was part of a dance group that performed in the shows and parades at Disneyland Paris over half term.

SCHOLASTIC

Book Clubs

Scholastic Book Club

Your child will have brought home a Scholastic Book Club leaflet.

Our new **Scholastic Book Club is up and running!** Go to https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-QVMZXZS1 to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.Please place your **order online by November 30th, 2026**.

Children in Need Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Arboretum



Our half-termly wellbeing walk to West Dean Arboretum will be on **Friday 20th November**. This will coincide with **Children in Need**. We would like to ask that children wear their own clothes for this and invite them to wear something spotty or colourful in return for a donation to the charity.

Mr Williams has said that if Pudsey is to appear from the trees in West Dean Arboretum, then there will need to be a certain level of sponsorship - let's say an overall target of £250 towards Children in Need. I wonder what Monty the dog will be wearing for his walk?

Donations to Children in Need can be made on Arbor, this is available as a shop item at £2 but you can purchase as many as you wish by placing multiples in your basket.

Caterlink Parent and Pupil Survey - As part of our commitment to continually improving our catering service, we would be grateful for your support in sharing our Parent & Pupil Survey with your school community. The survey can be completed by parents alongside their child at home, it takes approximately 9 minutes to complete and will provide us with valuable feedback on what we are doing well and, importantly, where we can improve our service.

To make participation as easy as possible, we have also provided a **QR code**. The survey will remain **open until 20 December**, and we encourage as many families and pupils as possible to take part. Once all responses have been reviewed in the New Year, we will share a summary of the feedback and key findings with the schools that have participated.

Thank you for your support in helping us gather this important feedback. The insights provided by your pupils and parents will help shape our service moving forward.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCYZD5L

West Dean Christmas Market - Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November 2026

Early next half term, the children will be busy crafting and making lots of lovely Christmas decorations for us to sell on our Friends stall at the Christmas Market.
In order to help us maximise profit we are trying hard to reuse and recycle but we need your help. If you have anything that we could use we would be very grateful if you could bring this in for us: We really need:

- Wool - brown dark and light, red, green, white, multicoloured Christmas colours.
- Pipe Cleaners - brown
- Knitters and crocheters who can make festive small and long hats for snowman wooden spoons
- Small pom poms - red and orange
- Felt sheets - red, green
- Christmas string and ribbon (pattern or plain - width 10mm)
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Green and brown lolly sticks
- Pine Cones, good quality and dried please
- Adhesive gems - silver, gold, black, multicoloured
- Wooden craft beads
- Crafting corks (not the wine bottle type)
- Scrabble craft letters
- Googly eyes
- Kraft paper brown card

We also still have some slots to fill on our rota so please do sign up if you are able to help with running the stall, to help us raise important funding for your children.

We are grateful for any donations that you may think would be useful for our Christmas Decorations. Thank you for your kindness in supporting our children and our Friends.
These are some examples of what we will be making, if you have other ideas or would like to make Something, please do let us know.









Healthy Eating in school
We try to encourage healthy eating in school and regularly receive feedback and enquiries from parents about how we could promote this further.
We would like to see all of our families supporting this with the food that is included in children's lunchboxes. We discourage chocolate bars and crisps in favour of more healthy options. Check out the NHS website for some great ideas:
https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/
Family meal times would also be a good opportunity to practise using a knife and fork with your child, these are valuable skills for the children to learn.

Apple Class Open Classroom.

We would like to invite Apple Class families in to view the learning that we have been doing this term.

Our classroom will be open from **2.30pm on Wednesday 2nd** December, please do come along and join us.

The children in Apple Class have been learning all about pumpkins and the beauty of autumn. They have been busy sweeping up the colourful autumn leaves and creating beautiful pumpkin pictures using wax crayons. They have also been exploring number and making predictions about how many seeds they think they might find inside their pumpkins.







'There is only one you in this great big world...
...make it a better place.'



Learning Support Assistant

Temporary Contract - Full Time (8.30am – 3.30pm) for the remainder of the academic year with the possibility of extension.

Grade: 3.3 (£24,796 pro rata; £12,700 actual salary)

Starting date: January 2027

We have an exciting opportunity to join our fun, creative and innovative learning community where all children are championed to be the best they can be! At Fishbourne CE School we strive to make learning irresistible and for children to be nurtured to become effective learners.

We are looking for a flexible, reliable and enthusiastic person to support all children with their learning. This support will be within the classroom, over break times, and at lunch break. We would be particularly keen to hear from a candidate who has the Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) qualification.

We are looking for someone who is:

*Passionate about **every** child's learning and progress
*Able to work closely with a strong, collaborative team, including external agencies
*Open to becoming part of our Fishbourne 'crew' where we work together in partnership with children, families and other members of staff

In return, we can offer you:

*A skilled, enthusiastic and dedicated staff team
*A positive and supportive school family – children, parents, staff and governors
*A fun, creative and innovative learning community

We are committed to safeguarding and all applicants must be willing to undergo screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure Barring Service.

We would warmly encourage a school visit prior to application. Please do phone to book a visit. Our website has a wealth of information about our vision and values, please do explore it! If you would like to phone to discuss any elements of school life, we would be delighted to answer any questions!

Closing date: Tuesday 17th November 2026
Interview date: Friday 20th November 2026

'There's work and there's your life's work. The kind of work that has your finger prints all over it. The kind of work that you'd never compromise on. People don't come here to play it safe. They come here to swim in the deep end. They want their work to add up to something. Something big. Something that couldn't happen anywhere else.'

Chichester District
Foodbank
Together with Trussell



Thank you!

West Dean Primary School

Thank you for collecting food donations for Chichester District Foodbank this Harvest. Your support will make a huge difference to people struggling to afford the essentials.

68kg (weight) = 170 meals!

Registered charity number 1155197. Registered in England and Wales.

Jess Brown-Fuller MP
Christmas card competition

I'm inviting primary school aged children (4-11 years) to enter my Christmas card competition. The winning design will be used for my official Christmas card for 2026.

How to enter

Design your card using all the space below the black line (A5 sized). Feel free to be as creative as you like! The deadline for entries is Sunday 8 November.

Submit your design(s) by either scanning a copy and emailing it to jess.brownfuller.mp@parliament.uk or post your design to: Jess Brown-Fuller MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Please fill in the information below:

Child's name:
Child's age:
Child's school:
Name of parent/carer/teacher:
Email address:



♡Love Chichester this Christmas

Brought to you by: Chichester District Council

Christmas Festivities















27 and 28 November: Sounds of Home live performance trail

8, 9, 16 and 17 December: Festive storytelling sessions for under-fives

9 December: Festive Soundbath

12 December – 22 December: Priory Park Panto Experience

12 December: 'Deck the Guildhall' festive cracker!

16 December: The Festive Jazz Café

17 December: Silent Disco

For details and to book: www.thenovium.org/christmasevents

Find out more: www.chichester.gov.uk/countdowntochristmas

www.facebook.com/ChichesterDistrictEventsAndMarkets

@chidisevents

Twitten Productions presents



THE PRIORY PARK PANTO EXPERIENCE

A JOLLY HOLLY CHRISTMAS

12 - 13 & 19 - 22 December 2026

Ticket Price: £11 per adult / £8 per child

The Guildhall in Priory Park, Chichester

www.thenovium.org/christmasevents

Prebook tickets online or in person at The Novium Museum

Funded by Chichester District Council

Autumn Term 2 - After School Clubs 2026

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs L Placket	Art & Craft	2 & 3 Max 10	Children can use their imagination in our art and craft club. They will use a mix of materials to draw, paint and create each week.
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs J Anstee	Lunch Choir	Yr 2,3,4,5,6,	Learning Christmas songs and carols ready to perform at West Dean College Christmas Market. Children can come along and join in.
	Mrs E Holder 	Dance (Hall)	Yr 2,3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles.
	Mr M Horstead 	Football 3 weeks only	Yr 3,4,5,6 Selected	Football club to practice skills and have fun, preparing for team and matches (selected) 5th at WD, 12th, match at Chichester City, 19th SSP at Chichester University
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

Dance Club - additional information:

Children signing up for Dance Club this half term are committing to 16 weeks, until Thursday 15th March 27. This is in preparation for the Dancehouse Event on Monday 19th March 27. The cost per session has been increased slightly to £6 per session to cover the cost of costumes for the performance. 16 spaces are available and booking will be open on Monday 26th October at 9.00am.

For our after school provision this half term we are offering a range of after school clubs, which our staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

The cost of our Dance club will be £5 per child, per session. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above. Other clubs will be free of charge to join and all of our clubs run between 3.00 – 4.00.

After School Club Dates: W/C 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December, x6 weeks.
Football Club: (3 weeks) 5th November for selected children to form a team at West Dean. 12th November, Match against Bosham at Chichester City Football Club, 3.00-4.00pm.
19th November – SSP event at Chichester University, 1.00 – 3.30pm.
SCS Please check their website for details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

In addition to our after school club programme, Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8.https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com. Bookings must be made in advance, up to 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Josh at westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk.
Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4.50 per child (including breakfast) Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance.
After School Clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Friends Film Night

Thank you for supporting our fun film night, we hope the children all enjoyed the movies. We raised £275.



Save the date- Monday 16th November, 3.00:



Year 1 children's book sales and hot chocolates!

Join us on the playground after school to support the year 1's.

Preloved books- please bring any preloved children's books (in good condition)tonie characters and yoto cards. (For audio books) to the pavilion next week to support the sale.



West Dean Christmas Market. This proved to be an extremely valuable fundraising event for our school last year, but to run a stall over two full days again this year, we will need significant help from parents and families. **There is a sign up sheet available in the office/outside on the playground, please do let us know if you are able to help either on Friday 27th or Saturday 28th November. We need lots of volunteers to sign up to man the stall and also helping to set up and take down, there are still lots of spaces, please help!**

Our Choir will be performing over the 2 days as follows:
Friday 27th, 3.30 - 4.00
Saturday 28th, 2.00 - 2.30.

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year's **Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.** Please do sign up for this now if you are interested. There are 25 spaces available. **The 7pm session is now full.**

you can book via the following links: https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QNUY8UXV (11.00am) **or by using the QR code. Booking is also available on Arbor as a school shop item.**

Friends Christmas Disco - Thursday 17th December - Booking available soon.



hark

FESTIVE

Bauble Painting Workshops



15% OFF
WITH CODE
WDN26

£45

Scan to book

SAT 14TH NOV | 7-9PM
SUN 22ND NOV | 10-NOON

PLACE

HOSTED AT THE VALE
WEST STOKE CHICHESTER
PO18 9HJ

West Sussex mind

Mental Elf

festive fun run







SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

WORTHING PROMENADE

SIGN UP TODAY!

West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 6th November 2026



Year R	**Esme** - for being a superstar this week with your learning in phonics and maths. You are always happy to share your ideas with others and you are growing in confidence everyday.
Year 1	**Lily** - for showing real independence and a love for learning this week. Fantastic writing and phonics and being really creative with our pumpkin themed activities.
Year 2	**Bertie M** - for your cheerful attitude and 'can do' positive approach to everything we do in Maple Class
Year 3	**Dora** - for showing excellent enthusiasm during 'Raise Your Voice', you represented our school amazingly! Well done Dora.
Year 4	**Theo** - for always showing respect, kindness and resilience in class and engaging beautifully at 'Raise Your Voice'
Year 5	**Kash** - for your improved resilience when things are tricky or go wrong - great to see!
Year 6	**Teddy** - for being ready and switched on to learn, well done!



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 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Monday 9th November	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 10th November	~~Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks. Meet by the netball courts at 9am, return public bus.~~ Postponed due to unforeseen circumstances with the professional speakers - Come to school as normal.
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 (Match with Bosham at Chichester City Football Club) Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 19th November	1.00-3.30, Football Tournament at Chichester University, Year ⅝ (selected team) Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow) - Whole School Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Gardens



Thursday 26th November	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly, Parents invited to join us.
Thursday 26th November	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Friday 27th November	NHS Year 6 NHS Healthy Child Programme
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir)
	Choir Permormance: Friday, 3.30 - 4.00 and Saturday, 2.00 - 2.30.
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm sold out. (See poster for details)
Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Tuesday 1st December	Chestnut Class TED Talks at Lavant Primary School - walking from school, collect from Lavant at 2.30
Thursday 3rd December	Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 3rd December	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 3rd December	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 4th December	Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 8th December	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks. Meet by the netball courts at 9am, return public bus.
Tuesday 8th December	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Wednesday 9th December	2.30, Beech Class Open Afternoon
Thursday 10th December	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Monday 14th December	Visit to West Dean College
Tuesday 15th December	6.00, Whole School Carol Service in West Dean Church, everyone welcome
Wednesday 16th December	2.00, Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre for Peter Pan
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Caterlink Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 17th December	5.00-7.00, 'Friends' Christmas Disco
Friday 18th December	11.00, Christian Youth Enterprise Assembly in School
	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Inset Day - School Closed
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Spring Term 2027