



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

Apple Class - Autumn 2023



Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back! A very warm welcome to our new children and parents.



For the first half term our focus will be on ensuring the children are happy and settled as well as our first learning journey which will be, 'What on Earth?' This will link to the world around us today and in the past. After half term we will be linking our learning to the Autumn season and what grows on and in the earth. Leading up to Christmas we will be preparing for our production of 'The Landlord's Cat.' Please see the curriculum grid for further details.



We will learn and play outside as often as possible, so please make sure that your child has a named pair of trainers and wellies for playtimes.



We provide fruit and vegetables for **snack** but please feel free to provide a named snack pot containing your own fruit or vegetables if you wish.



For the first half term, **P.E.** will be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday** for **Year 1** children and on a **Thursday** and **Friday** for **Reception** children. Children should have their full P.E. kit in school all week. Please ensure that all items are named as they often seem to get muddled up! Long hair should always be tied back, please. **Small, plain stud** earrings may be worn, but please ensure they are removed for P.E. days, sports days etc.

'**Show and Tell**' will take place each **Wednesday**: please send in small and special items for showing please. Animal groups will take it in turns, starting with **Hedgehogs on 13th September**. See below.

Apple Class Show and Tell timetable Autumn 2023

Children are invited to bring in small items of personal interest or talk about events/news with the class. We encourage children to use loud clear voices to address the class. In turn, the rest of the class are encouraged to listen and ask relevant questions

The groups rotate each week starting with:

Hedgehogs -13th September

Foxes-1st November

Owls-20th September

Squirrels-8th November

Foxes-27th September

Hedgehogs-15th November

Squirrels-4th October

Owls-22nd November

Hedgehogs-11th October

Foxes-29th November

Owls-18th October

Squirrels-6th December

HALF TERM

NO SHOW AND TELL-13th December



We are excited to remind you that Apple Class will continue to take part in weekly Forest School sessions in our school grounds: **Year 1** children on a **Thursday** afternoon and **Reception** children on a **Friday** afternoon. See information below

regarding clothing requirements. Please ensure **children come to school in their Forest School clothes on their day**. We will start these sessions on 14th and 15th September.

Forest School Kit list: Autumn term 2023

We often get wet and muddy at Forest School. Some children worry about getting their clothes dirty so sending them in in old clothes will mean they won't worry about spoiling their good clothes (no sequins please!) As our weather is very unpredictable, your child needs to be prepared for all weathers. Layers are good as your child can remove or add clothing to suit the weather conditions.

- **Waterproof trousers:** it is important that children have these for **all** Forest School sessions. Separate waterproof clothing is preferable as all-in-ones can be difficult to put on and take off independently.
- **Waterproof coat**
- **Long trousers:** jogging bottoms are ideal and will help to keep your child warm and protect from scratches, stings and sunburn.
- **Long sleeved top:** arms need to be covered to give protection.
- **Fleece or tracksuit top.**
- **School shoes** to be worn to school: we will change into school trainers or wellies.
- Please name all clothes, especially waterproofs, as these all look very similar.



Your child will bring their **book bag** home every day- please check it for any letters or comments we have made in their home/school diary. **Reception** children will initially bring home a book of their own choice from the book corner to share with you. Please enjoy talking about the pictures and asking your child questions. There are some helpful hints inside your child 's home school diary. When we feel they are ready and they have begun to learn their sounds, we will start to give out books from our Read Write Inc scheme. Year 1 children should read their Read Write Inc reading book **three** times and please remember to tick on the list at the back of the diary each time you hear them read. Each child will also have a phonics pack containing the sounds they are learning and a maths pack. Please practise these 'little and often.'

Every **Monday** for **Reception** children and every **Tuesday** for **Year 1** will be library day. Your child will be given the opportunity to choose a book from our school library. This is intended to be a book for you to **share** with your child and not one they should be expected to read independently. These books may be kept at home and returned on their library day. We will send out a gentle reminder on Google Classroom the night before.



We have set up our new **Google Classroom** for this year. Please look out for your invitation to join. Please come and ask if you have any difficulty joining and support each other: Year 1 grown-ups are Google Classroom experts!



We will shortly send you details of our 'meet the teacher' sessions which we will run for each year group separately. These will be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you have about life in Apple Class.



Every Wednesday at 3pm the classroom will be open for ten minutes. This is a lovely opportunity for you to pop into the classroom with your child and look at what they have been doing.

Please feel free to come and see us if you wish to discuss anything: your comments and support are greatly appreciated.

We're sure this term will be both an exciting and enjoyable one for all of us.

Best wishes,

Laura Plackett and Alison Chilton