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 11 20.11.26

Unfortunately there has been a lot of illness lately and our whole school attendance for the year has dropped to **96.8%** this week.

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

Road Safety - Thank you to those people who park off-site, eliminating the congestion in the school car park. If you do park in the pub or in the village, please make sure that you walk your children safely across the road with you. All children, particularly the younger ones, should be accompanied by an adult at all times. Thank you for your co-operation during the road closure this week and apologies for the amount of emails whilst communicating updates with you. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the person involved in the accident. Astonishingly, this incident has had no effect on some inconsiderate drivers who have continued to speed through our village this week. Please take care when crossing, everyone, and stay safe.

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

Maple Class Open Classroom
Thursday 10th December, 2.30pm

Pudding Lane is taking shape in Maple Class, with some very desirable Tudor residences making their way into school this week. We are all worried that history might repeat itself… don't leave the oven on!





We sometimes feel a little bit like The Grinch, but unfortunately some things that are a bit of fun at home, cause a little too much fuss in the classroom when brought into school. Please ask your child to either **only have one keyring** on their bag, or, if it is really special to them, **leave it off of the bag altogether**, safely at home.



Well done to our Year 5 & 6 footballers for their very respectable performance in the local schools SSP tournament this week. Player of the tournament was Ned, for stirling work in defence!



Thank you for your support of Children in Need

We're leaving the link open on Arbor so donations can still be made if you have not got round to it yet. The donation shop item is £2 but you can purchase as many as you wish by placing multiples in your basket. So far, we have raised a brilliant **£218**, but all that running around in the woods for Pusey has got to be worth a bit more right?

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**.

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

We are grateful for any donations that you have made or given for our Christmas Decorations. Thank you for your kindness in supporting our children and our Friends. We are very much looking forward to seeing you there, please follow the link below to book your ticket: https://www.westdean.ac.uk/gardens/events/christmas-market



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



Year 1 - Books & Hot Chocolate

Thank you to everyone who joined us and supported our Year 1 children's book sale and hot chocolates!
We have raised a staggering amount of just over £371.

Friends Christmas Disco - **Thursday 17th December** - Booking available now on Arbor - £6.50 to include a drink and a snack.



Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.
You can book via the following link:
https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QNUY8UXV (11.00am) **7pm now full**

Why do we need these funds and support?

Our Friends work really hard to raise funds to provide things for your children in school that ever shrinking school budgets will not stretch to. We cannot run fundraising events without the practical support of our families. Donations are very much appreciated, but they don't run a stall or collect the money from customers. To run this stall at the West Dean Christmas Market we need more help, as we have had a disappointing response so far, unfortunately. To put the value of Friends financial support in context, annually they fund some of the cost of transport to Y3, 4 & 5 swimming lessons in Chichester AND pay a contribution to running our school pool. As it stands currently, we will struggle to justify the expense of our pool next summer and therefore it may not open. Friends work really is so important and you can help and make a difference.

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

Chris Williams - Headteacher.

West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Monday 16th November 2026 (from last week)



Year R	**Immi** - for your brilliant role play and acting out stories. Such a joy to watch.
Year 1	**Athena** - for consistently putting in 100% in all your learning and with such joy and enthusiasm.
Year 2	**Harry** - for your enthusiasm in all our learning and your super contributions to our science work. You have some great ideas!
Year 3	**George** - for your enthusiasm in our science topic 'Sound'. You have made great observations and had lovely ideas as we experimented with our string telephones!
Year 4	**Ivy O** - for showing a huge level of resilience during our Pudsey walk last week. You had really hurt your foot on Thursday but still managed the walk with a smile on your face!
Year 5	**Keanu** - for showing team spirit, a great learning attitude and always arriving with a smile.
Year 6	**Lucas** - for kindness and care to others, particularly on our well being walk, but your approach to others is always thoughtful.



West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 20th November 2026



Year R	**Bea** - for such a fab week showing real focus, independence and readiness to learn. Keep it up!
Year 1	**Ottilie** - for taking your time to complete every piece of work with such care. Well done Ottilie, a pleasure to have you in the class and such a role model to others.
Year 2	**Barnaby** - for the enthusiasm you bring to Maple Class. You have so many inspirational ideas to share with us all.
Year 3	**Finley** - for working amazingly hard in our subtraction lesson. You are a super subtractor!
Year 4	**Eadie** - for always doing the right thing and being ready to learn always. You are great!
Year 5	**Ettie** - for working super hard and showing resilience and perseverance in your fraction work and always with a smile!
Year 6	**Indigo** - for embracing and persevering with Barvember! You are really stretching and pushing your learning. A true role model!



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

Thursday 26th November	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly and open classroom, 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 Performance: 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.
Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Wednesday 2nd December	2.30, Apple Class Open Classroom

Congratulations to **Kestrel**, who were top of the house points table last week with 156 points, and to **Buzzard** who claimed first place this week with 139 points.





Thursday 3rd December	9.00, Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 3rd December	2.00, Choir visit to Marriott House with Mrs Anstee and Mrs Huxham.
Thursday 3rd December	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 3rd December	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 4th December	8.45, 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 Classroom
Thursday 10th December	2.30, Maple Class Open Classroom
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
Tuesday 12th January	Chestnut Class United Voices - rehearsal at Chichester Free School (details to follow)
Wednesday 13th January	Chestnut Class United Voices event (details to follow)