



# 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 28 25.04.25** Our overall attendance is at **96.1%** this week.

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



Despite it being the start of a new term, with the Easter holiday behind us, in the Christian Church it is still very much Easter. It was lovely to celebrate this in church with Rev Sarah and the whole school this morning. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us; it is always very special to fill the church with our extended school community of children and families. All of the children who presented aspects of their learning, read from the Bible, or led us in prayer, spoke with clarity and confidence, and I know that Rev Sarah was very impressed by the depth with which our children had considered the meaning and symbolism of Easter, as a season of rebirth, renewal and new beginnings. Well done children for your enthusiastic participation in our worship this morning. Well done also for not being too distracted by the little bat, who decided to attend church with us, darting about high up in the rafters shortly before the service started!

## Big News!

There was huge excitement in school yesterday morning, as we revealed to the children that we will be preparing and performing a production of *The Lion King* this summer. Please save the date of **Monday 14th July**, as this will be performance night. We have once again very kindly been given use of the fantastic, large marquee at West Dean College for the production. More details to follow about what promises to be an epic learning experience and performance.



You do not need an expert knowledge of *The Lion King* musical to know that a huge number of animals feature in the story. We hope to bring this to life for the children through a mixture of costume and puppetry. To launch this idea (and let's be honest, to create a bit of a buzz around the whole subject), we invited Liam, a professional puppeteer into school yesterday, along with the most incredible, enormous 'Beast' puppet, which featured in a past production of *Beauty and The Beast* at Chichester Festival Theatre—you may have been lucky enough to see it.

It was a certainly a memorable experience; not only did it well and truly create the desired excitement in the children, but also a lot of laughs too—it's not every day your head teacher is cuddled, yes cuddled, by 10ft tall beast during your school assembly! Liam taught the children all about the importance of assuming the character of the puppet as the human operator, even though the focus of the audience is on the puppet itself. For the second half of this term, after the break at the end of May, our learning across the school will focus on the many aspects of production preparation, not just rehearsals, but animal research, puppet making and all manner of other things too.

We are all VERY excited, so save that date!





arena.westsussex.gov.uk



# Food, Glorious Food!

Join us for some scrumptious stories to tantalise your tastebuds, plus some soup-er craft activities!



**Wednesday 28 May**  
**10.00-11.00am**

**Suitable for children aged 4+ years**

Booking essential - please speak with staff to reserve a place.  
Parents and carers must remain with their child during this activity.



**Midhurst Library**

The Grange, Bepton Road, GU29 9HD

01730 716671

midhurst.library@westsussex.gov.uk

## Tremendous TED Talks

Chestnut Class kicked off the new term with a morning at Bishop Luffa School on Wednesday at the finale event of their TED Talk Project.

Children representing each of the schools in the project, braved the big stage in The Bartlett Hall at Bishop Luffa to present their talks.

We could not be more proud of the inspired, courageous and competent performances that each of our children delivered. Most adults would agree that it is no easy task to stand in front of a large audience and speak, but all of the children smashed it!

A huge round of applause please for Phoebe, Amelie, Finley and Martha. Awesome job people—you rock!



**Bishop Luffa**  
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

**Academy Update**

The day is finally upon us. After an extra, unexpected month of waiting, we received notification from the Department for Education (DfE) this week, giving the all clear for us to officially join the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership as an academy school on Thursday next week—1st May. The Bishop Luffa Worship Leaders will be with us for a celebration assembly on Thursday.



**27<sup>th</sup> April**

**3.30 – 5.30**

**East Dean Village Hall**

*Crafts, activities, food, songs, and worship.*

**Make a bracelet of JOY**

Create a Dove of Peace

Design a Cross of Faith

Make your own Fruit Salad

*Registration and start @ 3.30*

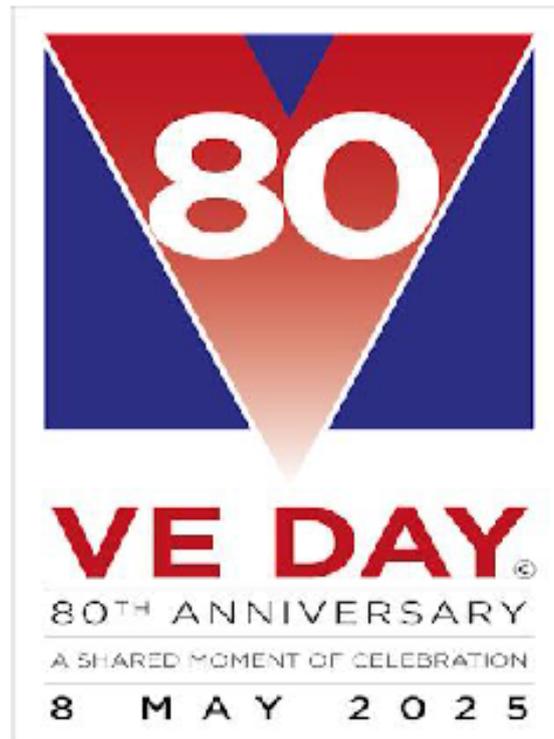
**Please bring an adult with you**



Check us out on Facebook -

[www.facebook.com/ValleyParish](http://www.facebook.com/ValleyParish) and

book your place.



Join us in Commemorating 80 Years of VE Day

To honour this day we are inviting our residents of West Dean, Binderton, Chilgrove and families of West Dean Primary School to come together for an evening of remembrance, reflection and celebration

at West Dean College Gardens

(green in front of the College)

**FREE ENTRY**

- 5.00 pm – St Andrew’s Church bells to be rung to mark the start of the celebrations
- 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm - Fish and Chips available (free of charge/pre-orders only)
- Bar available to purchase drinks together with tea and coffee
- Tombola and games – please drop off your tombola donations to West Dean Stores by 5 May
- Singing from the children of West Dean Primary School
- Lighting of the beacon and time for reflection and remembrance

Kindly supported by West Dean Parish Council and  
special thanks to West Dean Estate

to assist with catering it is imperative that you please **RSVP no later than 5 May 2025**  
by completing the attached slip with your menu choice for your family  
and returning to West Dean Stores or by emailing [clerk@westdeanparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@westdeanparishcouncil.gov.uk)

please bring your own chairs/picnic blankets and park in the gardens car park

# **Local History and Flower Display**

## **To Commemorate VE DAY 80**

In conjunction with West Dean School, come and find out the story of the Valley Parish during WWII.

Find out what life was like for children as bombs dropped and bullets flew, and learn the stories behind the names on our three WWII War Memorials.

**The Church of St Andrew**

**West Dean**

**Bank Holiday Weekend**

**Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May**

**10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Free Entry – Donations Appreciated**

**Refreshments Available**

***To raise essential funds for***

**Valley Parish Buildings Appeal**

**Standing the Test of Time**

## 2024/25 INSET Days

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

Wednesday 30th April	1.30-2.30, Music Festival at St Paul's Church 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 attached)
Wednesday 14th May	Apple Class visit to Arundel Castle
Wednesday 14th May	7.00, Pupil Parliament to attend Parish Council Meeting (details to follow)
Thursday 15th May	1.00—3.00, Chestnut Class Chichester Falcons Session in School
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)
Wednesday 18th June	2.00-2.45, New Entrants Visits Reception 2025
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
Wednesday 25th June	1.30-2.30, New Entrants Visits Reception 2025
Wednesday 2nd July	1.30-2.30, New Entrants Visits Reception 2025
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)

