



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
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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 7 - 21.10.22

Dear Parents and Carers,

We rounded off a successful first term of the school year yesterday with a wonderful walk in the gardens at West Dean College. After days of lovely autumn sunshine, the awful early morning weather made it look unlikely that we would all be able to get out, but I have to say, I was given a lesson in resilience and positivity by our very youngest children and their teachers. Apple Class were the first to be ready, all in full waterproof gear with beaming smiles and full of encouragement saying "Come on Mr Williams, let's do it!"

...and they were right to be positive. Off we all went, enduring no more than 20 minutes of rain before the clouds parted and the warm sunshine returned, so much so that all the waterproofs were being peeled off within minutes as we all started to overheat. Not knowing quite what the weather would do next, we modified our plans slightly, with just Chestnut Class venturing up towards the arboretum and the three other classes remaining on lower ground, exploring the beauty and variety within the gardens around the main house. Despite adapted plans, all of the children were no less excited and all enjoyed a fantastic morning of discovery. I reminded the children during our Friday collective worship this morning of just how lucky we are to have access to such beautiful gardens on our doorstep and such a supportive relationship with West Dean College. As the children get used to increasingly frequent trips to the estate, it would be easy to start to take it for granted, but we must remember what a special privilege it is, even in the pouring rain!

Well, that is one sixth of our school year ticked off already, but as we look back on the past seven weeks, which have sped by in the blink of an eye, so much great learning has happened and a lot has been achieved. There has been a real learning 'buzz' around school, with the children enjoying a wonderful cross curricular approach to learning, from the Apple children's amazing shop and fundraising, Maple Class space exploration, Beech Class channelling their inner stone age selves during Forest School, to some incredible and very poignant writing from the perspective of someone who experienced *The Blitz* in Chestnut Class.

After next week's holiday, the second half term will begin with one of the more sombre occasions of the year, as we mark Remembrance Day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November. However, by way of balance and enabling the children to appreciate the positive community spirit that flourished during wartime, following our act of remembrance on the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon, the 'evacuees' of Chestnut Class will be hosting a special wartime *Revival Community Café*, so look out for details of this, accompanying this newsletter.

Many of you will know that October is Black History Month, a period marked in a variety of ways in different parts of the world, all with the ultimate aim of (and I quote this from the BHM website) '*encouraging African and Caribbean heritage peoples, to learn together about their shared history and to share this with each other and the wider population*'.

At various points this year, several parents have asked me if and how we approach this subject with the children at school. This aspect of education is vitally important if we are to enable our children to grow into respectful, tolerant and inclusive global citizens. It is also an example of actively living the passage from John 13 that we hold in such importance as a school 'to love one another, as I have loved you'. This October we opted not to apply a Black History Month theme to our assemblies and collective worship, but instead have looked at the themes of **courage** and **inclusivity**, and have positive discussions about the courageous action of people from past and present, including Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Barack Obama. We feel it is important that your children hear these positive messages, which reflect diversity in our world all the time, not just during this month. Consequently, whilst BHM is most certainly something that we have incorporated into the plan for Collective Worship and Assemblies in October, more importantly, we are constantly developing ways to include increasingly diverse examples and stories within the wider curriculum throughout the year. Do come and talk to me if you have any questions about this – I always like to hear your feedback and ideas. Ask your children about it too, they have listened really carefully during assemblies and have had a lot of interesting things to say on the subject.

I thank all of the teachers and staff for the thought and care they put into making learning fun and engaging every single day and congratulate the children on their consistent enthusiasm and thirst for learning this half term. I hope that all of you, our school families and staff, have a relaxing and refreshing half term holiday week and return with renewed energy for the second half of the autumn term.

With very best wishes,

Chris Williams



### PTA News:

We are so excited to be able to hold fundraising and social events once again. They've always been such an important part of life at West Dean. Following a very well attended PTA meeting a few weeks ago, we have been busy planning some brilliant events for the rest of the term.

Dates for your diary are as follows:

Thursday 17th November: **Film Night** 3pm-5pm

Thursday 24th November: **Pub Quiz** at The Selsey Arms 7pm onwards

Monday 5th December: **Christmas Wreath Making Evening** 7pm-9pm

Monday 12th December: **Reindeer Run and Christmas Bake Off** - more details to follow.....

Thursday 15th December: **Christmas Disco** - more details to follow.....



### Friday 18th November Children in Need.

We would like to invite children to wear their own clothes with the theme of 'Spots and Stripes' to support this year's Children in Need appeal.

£1 donations can be made as a shop purchase on [schoolmoney.co.uk](http://schoolmoney.co.uk), you add as many donations as you wish to your basket.

Thank you for your support.



### Rotary Chichester Priory Shoebox Project 2022

We are delighted to confirm that the Rotary club of Chichester Priory is participating in the well-established Wessex Shoebox scheme and your School has volunteered to participate.. This year we are planning to send Shoeboxes to underprivileged children in Ukraine as well as Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania in time for Christmas. Distribution of Shoeboxes is handled by Rotarians in the recipient countries direct to the children.

This will be the third year we have participated in this project and the photos here show the Shoeboxes being received last Christmas.



*This year we will be supplying preprinted shoeboxes of the correct size provided as a 'flatpack' although the option to provide your 'own' shoeboxes will still be there provided they are of reasonable size (not trainer or boot boxes Please)*

Shoeboxes are available for collection from the School Office and should be returned to school no later than **Friday 4th November**. Chichester Rotary are collecting the shoeboxes from school on **Monday 7th November**.

All families from our school community are invited to attend the fireworks event at West Dean College on Friday 4th November. This is a really special event and a privilege for the school to be included. Please see details below.



# fireworks

**Join us at West Dean on Friday 4th November for a fantastic free firework display!**

This private event for staff, students and West Dean tenants opens at 6pm in readiness for the firework display at 7.15pm. We are pleased to welcome Sussex and Hampshire Hog Roast who will be serving food on the night. Booking is not required and parking is available in the Gardens Car Park.

After the great success of our cycling club this half term, we're keen to promote cycling related opportunities.

Please see attached information from All Ride Now, A cycle shop based in Midhurst.

They are offering 10% off any orders made on the day and all orders will be placed into their raffle – the winner gets their bike for free! Here is a link to their kids bike section on their website <https://www.allridenow.co.uk/collections/kids-bikes>



### West Sussex Music—Woodwind

Please see attached letter from Vincent Godfrey regarding the offer of woodwind instrument lessons .



### Sickness Absence

Just a reminder that it is school policy that a child is absent from school for a full 48 hours following any form of sickness and diarrhoea. This is a health & safety measure for both staff and children in a bid to keep us all safe and well. Thank you for your adherence.



Remember to follow our new Instagram feed **@westdeanceprimary**



West Dean CE Primary School  
Acorn Awards  
Friday 21st October 2022



**Eadie Year R** - for fantastic cutting and sticking skills in making your owl. Well done! :)

**Luna Year 1** - for being ready to learn, having a positive attitude in class and supporting others. Brilliant! :)

**Ned Year 2** - for your enthusiasm towards your learning this week. You have worked hard at every opportunity and shown a positive attitude. Well done!

**Bronte Year 3** - for fantastic gymnastic skills; you expertly demonstrated how to perform a variety of rolls to a very high standard for others to learn from. Well done!

**Seb Year 4** - for writing a superb version of the Stone Age Boy, using inspiration from the author as well as improving your choice of verbs when editing. Well done.

**Zebby Year 5** - You show patience, tolerance and kindness towards your classmates as well as being conscientious and hard-working. Well done.

**Henry Year 6** - for showing resilience and the ability to persevere in class. You work hard to use strategies to help yourself. Well done.



# Diary Dates 2022/23



## 2022/23 INSET Days

Thursday 1st & Friday 2nd September 2022

Monday 20th February 2023

Friday 31st March 2023

One final INSET day on a Monday/Friday in June or July — date TBC in early 2023

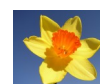
**Autumn Term 2022 - Monday 5th September—Friday 16th December**

Half Term—Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October

**Spring Term 2023 - Tuesday 3rd January—Thursday 30th March**

Easter Holiday—Monday 3rd April—Friday 14th April

**Summer Term 2023 - Monday 17th April - Friday 21st July**



### Autumn Term 2022

Friday 21st October	3.00—PTA Pop-Up Shop selling Diwali sweets
Monday 31st October	Closing Date for Secondary School Applications
Wednesday 2nd November	1.30-3.00 SSP Fundamentals, Bishop Luffa—Maple Class
Thursday 3rd November	Chestnut Class visit to Portsmouth DD Museum (details tbc)
Friday 4th November	Rotary Shoeboxes returned to school please
Wednesday 9th November	1.00-3.00 SSP Dodgeball at Westgate, Chestnut Class
Thursday 10th November	West Sussex Fire & Rescue visit to Maple Class
Friday 11th November	10.45, Remembrance Assembly
Friday 11th November	2.30-4.00 Revival Community Cafe
Monday 14th November	World Kindness Day
Tuesday 15th November	Parent Consultation Evening—whole school
Wednesday 16th November	Parent Consultation Evening—whole school
Thursday 17th November	8.45, Beech Class Assembly
Thursday 17th November	PTA Film Night (tbc)
Friday 18th November	Children in Need—Spots and Stripes, own clothes, £1 donation
Thursday 24th November	8.45, Maple Class Assembly
Thursday 24th November	PTA Quiz Night at The Selsey Arms (details tbc)
Monday 28th November	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Thursday 1st December	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly
Thursday 1st December	5.30pm Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 5th December	7.00-9.00pm PTA Christmas Wreath Evening
Wednesday 7th December	1.30-4.00 SSP Yr 3/4 Football event
Thursday 8th December	8.45, Apple Class Assembly
Monday 12th December	PTA Reindeer Run and Christmas Bake Off (details tbc)
Tuesday 13th December	1.00-3.00 SSP Small School Football event Yr 5/6