



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

Dear Beech Class parents,

Our Learning

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and that the children are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead. It is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to Beech Class, and we look forward to working together to make this year both enjoyable and successful for your child.

Our topic this term is **"Illuminating the Past"**, which will link together our learning across several subjects. In our **History** learning, we will be exploring the fascinating world of **Ancient Egypt**, asking questions such as: Who were the pharaohs? Why was the River Nile so important? What did the Ancient Egyptians believe about life and death? Alongside this, the children will study artefacts, hieroglyphics, myths, and daily life in order to understand how we can use evidence to build a picture of the past.

In **English**, the children will develop stamina and confidence in writing, focusing first on sentence building. Once this is secure, they will be building towards creating their own diary entries from the perspective of an Egyptian child. We will also read a range of texts, rehearse ideas orally, and learn how to edit and publish our writing for display. We will follow the White Rose scheme of work for **Maths**, beginning with **place value** before moving on to **addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division**, alongside regular times tables practice.

Our **Science** lessons will focus on **light**. We will explore how we see things, investigate how shadows are formed, learn about reflection, and consider how to stay safe in the sun. In **RE**, the children will reflect on the Christian Creation story and explore the concept of the Trinity. In **PSHE**, we will focus on families, friendships, respect, and online safety. Creative subjects are also an important part of our curriculum. In **Art and DT**, the children will research and design their own clay canopic jars, using authentic decoration and colour schemes. In **PE**, we will develop skills in competitive games, dance, and gymnastics. Music, French and Computing will also feature throughout the term.

This promises to be a busy and exciting start to the school year, and we are really looking forward to seeing the children's curiosity and enthusiasm shine through their learning. Mrs Perrion will teach Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Anstee will teach Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The children will be supported in class each day by Mrs Pearmaine.

Please feel free to talk to us on the playground if you have any questions or queries: your support and comments are greatly appreciated. The classroom will be open for a short time after school on a **Wednesday**, should you wish to come and look at your child's work.

Our email addresses are: janstee@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk and kpierron@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

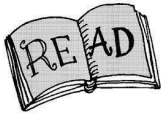
Our Beech Class 'Meet the teacher' session will be on Wednesday 17th September at 2.40pm, during which we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about life in Beech Class.

We are all looking forward to another great term together in Beech Class.

Best wishes, Kim Pierron, Jenny Anstee and Sally Pearmaine

How you can help at home

All logins for apps will be written in the front of the **purple homework diaries**.



Reading is still really important, so we would like the children to read at home a minimum of 3 times a week. Children will receive house points for recording this reading in their **purple homework diaries**.



Spellings will be set using an app called Emile. We encourage all children to use Emile at home both to practice their weekly spellings and also to play the wide range of games available on the platform. We will also provide a list of the weekly spellings in the front of the children's **purple homework diaries**.



TT Rockstars:

Times table practice is hugely important when it comes to success in maths. We have found Time Table Rockstars to be an excellent app to encourage the children to practice. Each child will have a login so they can practice their times tables at home. We will also allow time for them to practice these at school on a weekly basis.

Cracking Times tables:

To support the children's recall of their times tables, the children will be taking part in Cracking Times tables this year. This is a short, weekly 3 minute tables challenge. If the children get all the answers correct on their current level, they will move on to the next level. There are a total of 23 levels, each level becoming progressively more challenging. For each level, the questions remain the same each week. The children will bring their completed tables challenge home each week to enable them to practice any tables they need to work on or to celebrate them moving up another level if they correctly answered all the questions.



In order to support the children with their learning and to prepare them for Chestnut class, we will be setting a small amount of maths or English homework each week.



This will be set on a Tuesday and will be due in the following Tuesday. Our aim is to set this work using Emile. Children will receive housepoints for completing their homework on time.

Kit and equipment

- PE kit is expected to be in school EVERYDAY! PE lessons will be on WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS.
- Children are expected to have a book they are reading in class every day.
- **Purple homework diaries for Spellings, Reading, logins and passwords – in school EVERYDAY!**
- Water bottles are essential and can be refilled from the tap in the classroom.