



## 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 14 12.12.25 Despite a lot of illness, our overall attendance is still just above **96.1%** this week.

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



We are looking forward to our celebration of Christmas with the whole school community in Church next Tuesday evening. This is one of the high points of our school year and it will be wonderful to gather together in worship in what Rev Sarah always reminds us is our church.

The service starts at 6pm, please do not arrive too early (not before 5.45), as it is then difficult to keep the children appropriately settled in church. This is a church service, not a concert, so you will have an equally wonderful experience regardless of where you are sitting.

There will be very limited parking near the church. Please seek parking elsewhere in the village, or use the school car park, bring a torch, and take a nice walk to Church.

Children should wear their school uniform please.



### Father Christmas Visit to West Dean College

We will be walking to West Dean College on Tuesday morning in the hope of meeting Father Christmas. Who knows how he will arrive this year?

We ask that all children bring their wellies to wear for the walk. They will also need a coat, hat, scarf and gloves etc, depending on the weather.





**Hooray! We have got our outside area back.** Apple Class were able to enjoy playing in their outside area again this week now that the roofing works have been completed and the scaffolding has been removed. Thank you to everyone for their patience and understanding while we have been in the middle of building works.



### Chestnut Class Open Classroom

The Chestnut Class children were busy on Thursday as they shared all of their amazing *Dragons, Darwin and DNA* work from this term with their families. Thank you for coming!



### Dazzling Dance Club

As Dance Club comes to an end for this term, our dancers put on a brilliant show for their parents yesterday afternoon, impressing everyone with the skills and routines they have developed together, supported as ever by fantastic Ellie!



### A really special performance of 'It's a Baby!'

We are fairly sure that any family member who came to see the Apple & Maple Class nativity performance of 'It's a Baby!' this week, will have left with a big smile on their face and that feeling of Christmas magic in their heart.

The children have worked so hard (as have the adults—thank you!) and I think we forget sometimes what a huge deal it is for our youngest children, to climb up on stage and speak, sing and act in front of a large and scary audience, no matter how smiley the faces looking back at them are.

A huge well done to everyone involved, children and staff, and thank you to all who joined us for the two very special performances.







### News from West Dean 'Friends'

Thank you for supporting our 'Pop-up' shop in school yesterday. The KS1 performance of It's a Baby certainly drew in the crowds. We have made an amazing amount of money and will share the details with you soon. Our raffle was drawn at the end of the event and our winners have been notified.

**Pre-loved Uniform:** [westdeanuniform@gmail.com](mailto:westdeanuniform@gmail.com). If you have any specific requirements from our pre-loved uniform, don't wait for the next sale, you can email us to see if we have what you need!

Our **Christmas Jumper Day** will be on **Wednesday 17th December**. Children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers in exchange for a **£1 donation to school, available on Arbor**.

Our **Christmas Disco** will be **Wednesday 17th December, 5.00-7.00pm**. There will be a staggered time, 5.00-6.30 for KS1 and 5.30-7.00pm for KS2. Bookings can be made on Arbor, the cost of £6.25 includes a drink and a snack during the evening.

Thank you to everyone for all that you do to help and support our 'Friends'.

### Gifts Galore!

The children have worked hard and designed a range of bespoke bags and tea towels. These are available to purchase from school., don't delay in getting your orders in as they are selling quickly. They are a shop item on Arbor, Tea Towels £5 each and bags £6.50. These will make wonderful gifts for friends and family and also a lovely keepsake of your child's time at West Dean.



## One day changed the world

## One great day out



Visit The D-Day Story on Southsea seafront, the only UK museum dedicated to the momentous events of 6 June 1944.

Visit the museum between Saturday 27 December 2025 and Saturday 31 January 2026, show this voucher and receive 50% off a family ticket.

[thedaystory.com](http://thedaystory.com)

Walk up tickets only, not valid on 27 January 2026. Not to be used with any other offers or discounts.



### Booking for Activ8

If you need a space in Activ8 for your child/ren, please make sure that you book in advance.

**Booking is open on-line until 12 noon on the day**

We cannot guarantee places requested beyond this as staffing needs to be arranged in advance, so that appropriate and safe ratios are in place. Thank you for your understanding. If you need to cancel a booking on the day please email Jenny Munday:





[westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk](mailto:westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk)

Please be sure to read the information included in this newsletter regarding our club provision for the first half of the Spring Term 2026, including details of how to book and when booking will go live online.



We have listened to your feedback and so our after school club provision looks slightly different as we head into 2026. We are offering a range of after school clubs, which our teaching staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club in preparation for the Dance House event, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club).

There will be **no charge for our staff led after school clubs**. Where we are already aware of events that clash with a club, the club will not run on that date. The table below details our club offer for the first half term of Spring 2026. All clubs run from 3 to 4pm, except lunchtime choir. **Club bookings will go live at 6pm on Tuesday January 6th, 2026.**

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday	Mrs J Reynolds	IT	Yr 3, 4, 5, 6	Come and have some fun developing your skills in using the Chromebook, iPads and other tech to solve a range of challenges.
Tuesday	Mr C Williams 	Running	Yr 3,4,5,6	In preparation for Cross Country and Corporate Challenge events. Please make sure that your child has suitable clothing and footwear. Max 15
	Mrs A Chilton 	Art & Craft	Yr R, 1, 2	A creative club of art, craft and colouring using a selection of different materials. An opportunity for children to be independently creative. Max 10
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs E Holder 	Dance (Hall)	Yr 3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles. Children will be practising for the Dancehouse performance and must be available for this date: Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 X14 sessions @ £6 per child per session (to include contribution towards costumes) 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> January 5 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> February, 5 <sup>th</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> April and 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> May. <b>No Dance Club Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb or Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Please see attached letter for details.</b>
	Mrs Anstee	Choir	Yr 2,3,4,5, 6	Mrs Anstee will be running a lunch time choir club, general jolly singing to feel good. We will, hopefully, be able to reschedule our visit to Marriot House this term. Max 20
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: <a href="https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/">https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/</a>

The cost of our Dance club will be £6 per child, per session, to include a donation towards costumes. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above).

After School Club Dates: W/C 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February (**There will be no Running Club on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**, Mr Williams will be at Young Voices with Chestnut Class).

Dance Club Dates: 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January 5<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> February, 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> May.  
**No Dance Club Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Feb or Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> March.**

SCS Please check their website for details: <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/>

In addition to our after school club programme, Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for are should be made directly with Activ8 <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com> in advance, by 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Jenny Munday at [westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk](mailto:westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk).

Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4 per child (including breakfast). Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance. For After School Clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

**Dance Club and Dance House 2026.** Dance Club 2026 will be open to all children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and booking will be on a 'first come first serve' basis. Booking will be available on Arbor on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 9pm to make it fair for everyone to have a chance to access this. If there are spaces available this will then be open to children in Year 2.

Children will sign up for the whole 14 weeks leading up to participation in the Dance House event which will take place in the evening of Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, with an afternoon rehearsal. Further details of this will be communicated to you nearer the time. The cost for the 14 sessions will be £84 per child in total, £6 per session to include a contribution towards the Dance House costumes. There will be an option to pay this in instalments if you so wish.

Dance Club will be open again for everyone after May half term and will revert back to the £5 cost per session. Numbers for the Dance House event is capped by the organiser at 19 and we therefore cannot exceed this in our Dance Club and are sorry if some are disappointed on this occasion.



# Chichester Christmas Charity Tractor Run

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**KSSX**  
AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY  
KENT SURREY SUSSEX  
Saving lives when every  
second counts

Come and join us in fundraising  
for the Air Ambulance Charity  
Kent Surrey Sussex



JustGiving link for donations

Please visit Chichester Christmas Charity Tractor Run

or chichestercharitytractorrund for more information.

Starting at 5pm heading towards Funtington then travelling through Westbourne, Emsworth, Southbourne, Nutbourne, Fishbourne, Chichester, Mid Lavant, East & West Ashling.



Photo by Dave Dobrijevic





### 2025/26 INSET Days

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026



### Autumn Term 2025

**Wednesday 3rd September—Friday 19th December**

Monday 15th December	9.30, Christian Youth Enterprise (CYE) Christmas Assembly
Monday 15th December	2.15, Whole school West Sussex Music performance
Tuesday 16th December	Visit to West Dean College to see Father Christmas
Tuesday 16th December	6.00-7.00pm, Carol Service in Church
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day, £1 donation on Arbor
Wednesday 17th December	12.00, Chartwells Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17th December	5-7, Friends Christmas Disco ( book on Arbor) KS1 5-6.30    KS2 5.30-7
Wednesday 17th December	6pm, Rev Sarah Carol Singing, meet Singleton Village Green.
Thursday 18th December	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 19th December	Final Day of Autumn Term
Monday 5th January	INSET Day—No children in school
Tuesday 6th January	First day of Spring Term for all children





- Yr R** *Sam*—for your amazing contributions to class with your knowledge about the world! Well done!
- Yr 1** *Zephyryn*—for your enthusiasm in all of your learning and always putting in 100%. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Hugo Y*—for the determination and focus you have shown towards all your learning! It has been wonderful to see your confidence grow!
- Yr 3** *Freddie*—for the awesome progress you've made with your times tables. We are very impressed!
- Yr 4** *Monty*—for the thoughtful contributions you make to our class discussions in Beech Class.
- Yr 5** *Conran*—for the care, time and attention you've taken with your artwork this term, we've especially loved your bright and bold colour choices.
- Yr 6** *Tilly*—for a super term as a Year 6, for taking responsibility for your learning and being organised and ready! Well done!

