



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ

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 15 20.12.24 Our overall attendance is at **96.5%** this week.

Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble' which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>



The week before the Christmas holiday is always chaotically glorious in school. It is the most special time of year and we are truly blessed at West Dean with the privilege of enjoying some particularly special festive events.

It has been a fun-filled week of visiting Father Christmas and spending time with him singing carols in the magical atmosphere of West Dean College, our school Christmas lunch, Christmas disco, and of course, finishing the term in worship together at our most wonderful Carol Service. We cannot thank everyone enough, who works so hard to make all of this possible, but I will try, with the words I spoke at the end of the Carol Service:

Thank you to the children, not just for your brilliant singing, reading and acting at the Carol Service, but for all the enthusiasm you have brought to your learning throughout this term – it has been a long one and you have all been amazing!

To our incredible staff – teachers and support staff – for all you do every day, striving for the best for the children in our care. Thank you. To our governors and volunteers who give so much, so calmly and quietly in the background. There really is so much that goes on behind the scenes to make a school run effectively and we are all so grateful for your support, your challenge and your care for us.

To our PTA, for all the amazing things you do to raise much-needed funds and to enrich the children's school experience (not least at Christmas time). For the big things that everyone sees, and also again, for the things that happen behind the scenes, that really do make a difference.

To Rev Sarah, our church community, and to all at West Dean College & Estate, for always keeping our small village school with a big heart, in the centre of your hearts and supporting us in so many ways. And to you all, our school families, for all you do to support us in supporting your children in their learning. Thank you.

On behalf of everyone at West Dean Primary School, I wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas. Enjoy this precious time with your families and we look forward to seeing you in 2025.



PTA Treasurer Needed

The PTA is in need of a new treasurer following the 'retirement' of the current post holder. While some basic bookkeeping skills would be helpful, this is not an onerous job and would suit someone with a bit of time who can maintain the fundraising spreadsheets and contribute to the general workings of the PTA. It is a great way to get involved with the school and influence how the PTA operates for the betterment of our children.

If you feel this could be for you and would like more details, please speak with Pasha - pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk or call in at the school office.



Well done to our Lunch Time Star Table

Six children got the 'Star' treatment at

lunchtime today. They were rewarded for their impeccable manners and good behaviour throughout this half term during lunch times.

Being the final lunch before Christmas, the children all enjoyed some extra festive treats.



Reindeer Fun at Forest School

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise!

No, not the Teddy Bear's Picnic, even more exciting - a herd of Forest School Reindeer with red noses and the most magnificent antlers!

Thanks, as always to Ms Boxall, for the creativity and energy that she puts into planning and running exciting Forest School sessions for our children.

When you talk to the children about their learning, it is consistently one of the highlights of their week at school.



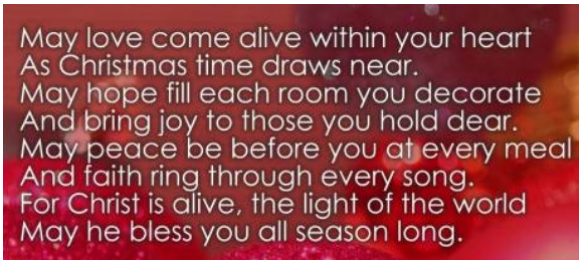
Carol Service Collection

Over £70 was collected at our Carol Service on Tuesday evening, which will be divided to support the work of the church and The Children's Society. Thank you for your generosity.

Staff Gifts and Christmas Wishes

On behalf of all the staff, thank you so, so much for the very generous gifts and Christmas wishes that we have all received this week. These are never expected, but always very much appreciated.

Happy Christmas Everyone!





Chartwells: CENSUS Day Menu

Thursday 16th January is the Chartwells "American Allstars" Lunch.

Burger & Chips, Mac & Cheese, and our New Celebration Cake.

Meals must be booked no later than Thursday 2nd January, don't delay, you can book today.



Activ8 for Kids.

We are very pleased to be able to share with you that Activ8 for kids is coming to West Dean in the Spring Term.

Booking is now live for January 2025 onwards. This system will be for wraparound care bookings only. This will replace our current Care Bears after school provision.

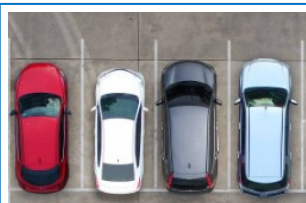
We will still be running our Breakfast Bears club in the morning, 8.00—8.20am. This can still be booked on schoolmoney.co.uk, £4 per session per child to include breakfast. Our variety of after school clubs will continue, the timetable will be ready to share with you next week. Our clubs will also be bookable on schoolmoney.co.uk, with the exception of SCS (South Coast Sports), which is bookable through their own system.

Milk and Fruit for the Spring Term

We are pleased to be able to offer milk to drink for all children who would like this, £6 per child per term.

Children in Apple and Maple Class are able to receive a fruit snack mid morning, this option is available to children in Beech and Chestnut Class at a cost of £7 for the term.

Both items are available on schoolmoney.co.uk.



Car parking at The Selsey Arms Pub We have received reports of some inconsiderate parking in the pub car park at drop-off and pick-up times. One recent incident involved a parent's car being left completely blocking a pub fire exit.

Please do take care to park considerately, otherwise we are in danger of use of the pub car park being withdrawn. Thank you.



Lessons from a Boat—Atlantic Challenge

Good Luck to Jon, Steve and the team!

Earlier this term, we were excited to be visited by ex West Dean Dad, Jon Wilburn, along with retired headteacher of Westbourne Primary, Steve Potter, to talk to us about their incredible Atlantic Rowing Challenge.

After years of preparation, the race finally began on Wednesday 11th December and the 'Lessons from a Boat' team, along with around 30 other rowing teams, set off on their epic journey from La Gomera in the Canary Islands.

We wish Jon and the team fair weather, calm seas and the very best of luck on this most extraordinary of challenges. They will be rowing shifts of two hours on, two hours off, non-stop until at least the middle of January—just remember that for a moment as you cosy up and tuck into your Christmas lunch!

You can track the team's progress across the Atlantic at <https://www.worldstoughestrow.com/> and find out more about the team at <https://lessonsfromaboat.com/> If their technology works mid-Atlantic, the team are planning to livestream some actual 'lessons from a boat' and we hope to be able to tune in from school.





- Yr R** *Leo* - for your brilliant curiosity and love for learning. Keep up the enthusiasm.
- Yr 1** *India* - for your brilliant manners and always making the right choices. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Freddie* - for always being an amazing role model. You represented the school brilliantly in all our Christmas activities this week especially at the Church where you sang beautifully.
- Yr 3** *Ettie* - for your quiet determination and hard work in Beech Class this term.
- Yr 4** *Florence* - for the kindness you show others across the school. You are a wonderful friend to so many children.
- Yr 5** *Jack* - for rising to the challenges of Chestnut Class, we've been so impressed with your attitude to learning and giving everything a go!
- Yr 6** *Matilda* - for showing particular determination to understand fractions, we're loving the positive maths attitude!



2024/25 INSET Days

Monday 6th January 2025

Tuesday 22nd April

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025



Half Term - Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November 2024

Spring Term 2025 - Monday 6th January (INSET) - Friday 4th April

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2025 - Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 18th July

Half Term - Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday) - Friday 30th May

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6th January	INSET—School Closed
Tuesday 7th January	Start of the Spring Term
Friday 10th January	Chestnut Class United Voices rehearsal at Chichester Free School
Tuesday 14th January	Drama for All visit—Apple and Maple Class
Tuesday 14th January	Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre—Children’s Concert
Wednesday 15th January	Westgate Swim Programme starts, Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 15th January	Chestnut Class, United Voices rehearsal at Chichester Festival Theatre
Wednesday 15th January	Chestnut Class United Voices performance at CFT
Thursday 16th January	Chestnut Class SSP Sportshall Athletics Event at Bishop Luffa
Tuesday 21st January	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 22nd January	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Tuesday 28th January	Beech Class visit to Fishbourne Roman Palace (details to follow)
Wednesday 29th January	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 30th January	SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Yr 5 & 6)
Friday 31st January	Foodbank Friday
Wednesday 5th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 12th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 12th February	SSP Netball event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)









Don't forget, we love to share special events and learning highlights wherever possible on Instagram. Follow us [@westdeanceprimary](https://www.instagram.com/westdeanceprimary)



After School Clubs
Spring Term 2025

Spring 1
First half of Spring term

X5 weeks

Day	Adult Lead	Max	Club	Cost	Year Group	Description
Monday	Mrs Reynolds 	10	Netball (Playground)	£25.00	Yr 5,6	Netball - a game played by two teams of seven players, where teams try to score goals by throwing a ball through a net on the top of a pole at each end of the court. Come and have a go! Preparing for SSP Netball event.
Tuesday	Mr Williams 	16	Running (Field and off site)	£25.00	Yr 4,5,6	Join our new Cross country running club and race on open-air courses over natural terrain such as dirt or grass. Please note, this is an all weather club and appropriate clothing should be worn. Could also lead to taking part in the SSP Cross Country event at Bishop Luffa in January. Whilst every effort will be made to positively encourage the children, it is an expectation of this club that members are able and willing to go running from the start.
	Mrs Chilton 	12	Art & Craft (Apple Class)	£25.00	Yr 1,2,3	An opportunity for the children to experiment with different art materials, primarily junk modelling, age appropriate.
Wednesday	MB Medical Solutions Miss K Pennicott 	16	First Aid (Hall)	£25.00	Yr 5,6	Come and learn practical first aid skills including what to do in an emergency, how to help someone, basic care and a look inside an Ambulance!
Thursday	Mrs E Holder 	16	Dance (Hall)	£25.00	Yr 2,3,4,5,6	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: Wednesday 30 th April.
Friday	South Coast Sports 	20	Multi-sports	Details on website	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.org.uk/find-book-sessions OR: https://southcoastsports.jpibookings.com/ (SCS new booking system)

We are delighted to be able to offer a varied programme of after school clubs for our children again this half term. We are also pleased to be able to offer this provision with no increase to the cost. The cost of our clubs will remain at £5 per child, per session. All of our clubs run between 3.00 - 4.00.

Dates: W/C 13th, 20th, 27th January, 3rd, 10th February.

In addition to our after school club programme, Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Further details attached. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8.

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 all clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Schoolmoney.co.uk. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details. Places for clubs are limited and will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. If there are insufficient numbers to make the club viable, we reserve the right to cancel this provision and make a full refund of any monies paid. Clubs will go 'live' on schoolmoney.co.uk on Monday 6th January at approximately 9.00am.