



West Dean CE Primary School

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 16.10.26

Well done everyone. Our whole school attendance for the year is gradually rising again and is now **96.9%**.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

After two weeks at the top for Kestrel, the highest scoring house team this week is Kite with 204 points.



The children in Year 3 had a fantastic time yesterday afternoon inside their 'caves' creating this magnificent and remarkably authentic stone age artwork.



Activ8 After School Provision.

Please Note: **Activ8 now require 24 hours notice for bookings.** This has changed from the previous notice period of booking open until 12 noon on the day.

Our new Autumn Term Club timetable is now available, bookings will be live on Arbor on Monday 26th October at 9.00am.

Missing Jacket! Poppy Mahon in Maple Class has lost her purple ski coat. It is aged 4-5 and has her name in it. We have searched high and low at home and at school with no luck. Please could you check that your child hasn't taken it home by mistake. Thank you

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs L Plackett	Art & Craft	2 & 3 Max 10	Children can use their imagination in our art and craft club. They will use a mix of materials to draw, paint and create each week.
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs J Anstee	Lunch Choir	Yr. 2,3,4,5,6	Learning Christmas songs and carols ready to perform at West Dean College Christmas Market. Children can come along and join in.
	Mrs E Holder 	Dance (Hall)	Yr. 2,3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles.
	Mr M Horstead 	Football 3 weeks only	Yr. 3,4,5,6 Selected	Football club to practice skills and have fun, preparing for team and matches (selected) 5 th at WD, 12 th , match at Chichester City, 19 th SSP at Chichester University
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

For our after school provision this half term we are offering a range of after school clubs, which our staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

The cost of our Dance club will be £5 per child, per session. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above). Other clubs will be free of charge to join and all of our clubs run between 3.00 – 4.00.

After School Club Dates: W/C 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December, x6 weeks.

Football Club: (3 weeks) 5th November for selected children to form a team at West Dean. 12th November, Match against Bosham at Chichester City Football Club, 3.00-4.00pm.

19th November – SSP event at Chichester University, 1.00 – 3.30pm.

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 wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8, <https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com>. Bookings must be made in advance, up to 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Josh at westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk.

Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4.50 per child (including breakfast). Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance. 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.

Important - Parent consultation meeting bookings

Our autumn term parent consultation meetings (Parents' Evening) will take place on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October. Most appointments are for in-person meetings with your child's class teacher in school. There are also a small number of video-call appointments towards the end of the second evening on Wednesday 21st. If your child is on our current SEND register, you will also have the option to meet with Mrs Bowman on Tuesday 20th.

Bookings live on Arbor until **Monday 19th October at 3.00pm** - under **Guardian Consultations**

West Dean Christmas Market. This proved to be an extremely valuable fundraising event for our school last year, but to run a stall over two full days again this year, we will need significant help from parents and families. **There is a sign up sheet available in the office/outside on the playground, please do let us know if you are able to help either on Friday 27th or Saturday 28th November. We need lots of volunteers to sign up to man the stall and also helping to set up and take down, there are still lots of spaces, please help!**

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year's **Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November**. Please do sign up for this now if you are interested. There are 25 spaces available, to us at the moment, but it will be advertised to our wider community and on social media.

Apologies, we were having some technical issues with the previous QR codes but this is now resolved and the codes on the right are working. Alternatively, you can book via the following links: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QUUY8UXV> (11.00am)

<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QFYWNW9W> (7.00pm)

Booking is also available on Arbor as a school shop item.

Friends Film Night - Wednesday 4th November, 3.00 - 5.00pm:
GOAT KS2 and Hoppers KS1. £5 per child to include a drink and snack.
Booking is now available on Arbor as a school shop item.

Friends Christmas Disco - Thursday 17th December - Booking available soon.



Create a beautiful Wreath to take home

Enjoy Festive drinks

Mince pies and Biscuits

A wonderful Christmas atmosphere

£45 per person

Booking open on Arbor to our West Dean Families

CHRISTMAS

Wreath Making Workshops

MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

11am & 7pm

Brought to you by West Dean School PTA & Friends

Book here

11am Session

Book here

**FARBRIDGE
BINDERTON
CHICHESTER
PO18 0JT**

7pm Session



*West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 16th October 2026*



- Year R Conrad - for growing in confidence this week and showing us some fantastic number knowledge. You haven't given up when things got tricky, well done!*
- Year 1 Winnie - for showing such pride with your writing this week. You have really shown us what you can do when you focus. Well done.*
- Year 2 Beatrix - for your love of learning and the joy you bring to Maple Class.*
- Year 3 Bodhi - for working extremely hard across our place value topic and making a huge improvement in your understanding compared to the start of term. Well done Bodhi.*
- Year 4 Alice - for showing enthusiasm in science this week. You created a beautiful poster all about the layers of the Earth including lots of details and illustrations.*
- Year 5 Sophia - for your responsibility and mature attitude towards your role as class helper to ensure Chestnut class runs smoothly.*
- Year 6 Nella - for showing kindness, support and patience when helping other members of Chestnut class.*



PAPAYA

THE TECH Talk



This is on the same evening as our Parent consultation meetings, but slightly later and online, so you will still be able to attend if you wish

For Fishbourne CE Primary School with Nick Taylor.

Also open to West Dean families

ZOOM LINK:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960813710?
pwd=6wI6dOFwbBloSjOfg8nv5gn5YtsSbf.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85960813710?pwd=6wI6dOFwbBloSjOfg8nv5gn5YtsSbf.1)

DATE AND TIME:

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 2026. 07:30PM - 09:00PM.

Helping Families Make Better Choices.

This empowering talk provides the information, inspiration and practical tools needed to help your family develop a healthy balance with technology.

Led by experts and grounded in the latest research, this evidence-based session explores the reasons behind the social media ban, offers strategies for delaying a child's first smartphone, and provides practical guidance for families already navigating smart devices and social media.

papayatalks.com

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Hard hitting but non-judgemental, Nick unpacks the complex issues surrounding addictive technology and helps you find solutions that work for your family.

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it."

— Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.



Nick Taylor

Nick is an ex-children and youth worker, currently serving as a chaplain in a junior school. He lives in Chichester, is married to Dani, and has two teenage children.

Nick is passionate about fostering a culture where children's phone usage is limited, safe, and well-managed, encouraging both parents and children to take an active role in this process.





Clerk to Governors of West Dean CE Primary School

The Governing Body of our welcoming and inclusive Church of England Primary School is seeking to appoint a highly organised and professional Clerk to Governors to support the effective governance of our school.

This is a key role, providing administrative and procedural support to the Governing Body, ensuring meetings are well organised and governance is carried out in line with statutory and regulatory requirements.

We are a caring and nurturing CE primary school with a strong Christian ethos, committed to enabling every child to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. Our Governors work strategically to support and challenge school leaders, ensuring the very best outcomes for our pupils.

The role:

- The Clerk will prepare and distribute agendas in consultation with the Chair of Governors and Headteacher.
- Attend Governing Body and committee meetings (typically evenings)
- Take accurate minutes and maintain official records
- Provide procedural advice in line with current legislations and guidance
- Manage governor membership records, terms of office and statutory information
- Ensure compliance with relevant governance regulations and policies.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Excellent organisational and administrative skills
- Strong written communication and minute-taking ability
- Knowledge of school governance (desirable, not essential as training can be given)
- Discretion and confidentiality
- Good IT skills
- The ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Experience of working in an educational setting would be an advantage but not essential for the right candidate.

We offer:

- A supportive and collaborative governing body
- Training and on going professional development
- Flexible working arrangements
- The opportunity to contribute to the life of the school

This role would require circa 2 hours per week, with some flexibility to be agreed with candidate, term time only, to include some evening meetings. Salary: GO3, Point 4 - £25,185 pro-rata (£13.05 per hour)

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

To apply:

Please request an application form from the school please contact office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Closing Date: 31st October 2026

Interviews: Wednesday 4th November 2026

Chichester Light Experience | Illuminating Art

Chichester Cathedral, Cathedral Cloisters, PO19 1PX
Friday 23rd October 2026 - Saturday 31st October 2026
Chichester's Annual Light Experience returns this autumn, transforming the Cathedral into a new breathtaking canvas of light, sound and digital art.

Running from 23 - 31 October 2026, this year's Light Experience presents Illuminating Art, the spectacular immersive installation by internationally acclaimed artistic collaboration Luxmuralis – artist Peter Walker and composer David Harper.

Making its Sussex debut, Illuminating Art will take visitors of all ages on a mesmerising journey through four centuries of artistic imagination.

Using monumental projections, immersive soundscapes and an original score by composer David Harper, the Cathedral's ancient architecture is reimagined in extraordinary new ways.

From the drama of the Baroque and the vibrant colour of the Impressionists to early photography, the age of steam and the dawn of animation, Illuminating Art brings familiar creative movements to life through bold contemporary projections - creating an unforgettable experience whether you're an art lover or simply looking for a magical evening out.

The experience unfolds through a series of atmospheric immersive scenes, building towards a striking finale in the nave.



 SCHOLASTIC



Scholastic Book Club

Your child will have brought home a Scholastic Book Club leaflet.

Our new **Scholastic Book Club** is up and running! Go to

<https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-QVMZXZS1> to browse the

latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on

this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in

Scholastic Rewards. Please place your **order online by**

November 30th, 2026.

 Chichester District
Foodbank Foodbank Friday
Together with Trussell

Thank you to everyone who supported our Foodbank Friday today, we have a lovely lot of donations to take along to the Foodbank, supporting people in need of help.

Be a chorister for the day!

Saturday 7 November 2026 | 1.30-4.30pm | Chichester Cathedral

Spend an afternoon finding out what it is like to be a cathedral chorister. Join us for a singing workshop, open-forum Q&A, a short service and tea.

We welcome children who enjoy music and are curious about the choir, as well as those who might want to explore the opportunity to join our choir school and become a chorister.

Who is this event for?

The open day is suitable for boys and girls in years 2, 3, and 4, accompanied by a parent or guardian. No musical experience is expected: we welcome children who are enthusiastic about singing and music.

Booking

To book a space or ask any questions about the event, please contact Chris George:

E: Chris.George@chichestercathedral.org.uk T: 01243 812488

For more information about the chorister life please contact Charles Harrison:

E: organist@chichestercathedral.org.uk T: 01243 812486



Join us for one of our special

Half term boat trips in Chichester Harbour

Kids tickets starting from just £5!

Bird's Ahoy! Thurs 29 Oct 11.30am, Fri 30 Oct 13.30pm, Sat 31 Oct 11.45am

Harbour Discovery Sat 24 Oct 2.30pm, Tues 27 Oct & Fri 30 Oct, 2pm, Thurs 29 Oct 1pm

Roman History Family Trip Mon 26 Oct, 10.15am

Sunset Sailing Sat 24th Oct, 4.30pm

All aboard "Solar Heritage" our solar-powered, eco-friendly tour boat departing Itchenor



 **CHICHESTER HARBOUR CONSERVANCY**

www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk

Gift vouchers and private hire available

 **Chichester Harbour National Landscape**

West Dean Bonfire



& Firework Night

The annual West Dean College Bonfire and Fireworks Night will take place on **Friday 6 November, from 6:00pm**, with the fireworks display beginning at **7:15 pm**. If you would like to attend, West Dean Primary will receive a reduced price of £4 until the 5th October for school families using the [link](#) and code **BONSCH**. Children under 16 attend free of charge but please purchase a ticket. Additional tickets can be purchased for **£6 each** via the West Dean website from the 5th October.

INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

Spring: Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Monday 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 19th October	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 20th October	Perform Drama Workshop, Apple and Maple in school
Tuesday 20th October	3.00 - 5.30, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Wednesday 21st October	3.00 - 6.00, Parent Consultation Evening - whole school
Thursday 22nd October	Chestnut Class visit to The Royal Courts of Justice in London
Thursday 22nd October	3.00-4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club, Dance Club with Ellie Holder Lunchtime Choir
Friday 23rd October	3.00 - 3.30, Maple Class 'Friends' Bake Sale (please bring in your nut free donations)

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Tuesday 3rd November	Hugo Van Driel - whole school assembly
Wednesday 4th November	3.00 - 5.00, Friends Film Night - GOAT (PG) KS2 and Hoppers (U) KS1 Booking available on Arbor.

Thursday 5th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only) Lunchtime Choir
Thursday 5th November	'Raise your Voice' - Beech Class Music Project, details to follow
Thursday 5th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Friday 6th November	West Dean Bonfire (6.00) and Fireworks (7.15)
Monday 9th November	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 10th November	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly in school
Thursday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individual and Sibling)
Thursday 12th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Match with Bosham at Chichester City Football Club)
Thursday 19th November	1.00-3.30, Football Tournament at Chichester University, Year 5 (details to follow)
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow) - Whole School Wellbeing Walk to West Dean Gardens
Friday 27th November	NHS Year 6 Healthy Child Programme
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir)
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm. (See poster for details)
Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Thursday 3rd December	Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 3rd December	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 4th December	Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 8th December	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks
Tuesday 8th December	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Monday 14th December	Visit to West Dean College
Tuesday 15th December	6.00, Whole School Carol Service in West Dean Church
Wednesday 16th December	2.00, Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre for Peter Pan
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Caterlink Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	5.00-7.00, 'Friends' Christmas Disco
Friday 18th December	11.00, Christian Youth Enterprise Assembly in School

