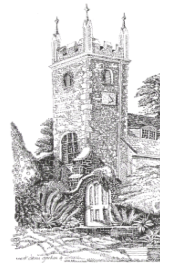




West Dean Church of England Primary School

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



Maple Class - Autumn 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Maple Class! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. I am excited to get to know you and your child this year and to share all the exciting learning we have planned.

Our curriculum is full of exciting opportunities and this term, our first topic is 'Sea the Light,' where the children will discover the story of Grace Darling, learn about lighthouses, and explore how life in the Victorian Era compares to today. In the second half of the Autumn Term, we will focus on 'Sparks Fly,' learning about the Great Fire of London and fire safety. We will finish the term in the run up to Christmas, taking part in our Nativity performance.

In English, children will develop their writing skills through stories and activities, including creating their own version of 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch.' Science lessons will explore materials and their properties through practical experiments. In History, the children will learn about Grace Darling and her heroic rescue, comparing life then and now and Geography lessons will focus on maps and locating countries and seas in the UK.

In Design and Technology, children will design and make a lunchbox inspired by the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch', thinking about materials and strength in order for it to move across a pulley system. In Art, inspired by Joe Webster, we will experiment with natural and urban art, exploring textures, movement, and expression. Our Music includes creative projects and compositions inspired by trains and rivers. PE focuses on gymnastics, building balance, coordination, rolls, jumps, and sequences. In Computing we will look at safe and responsible use of technology in school and beyond. PSHCE explores friendships, families, feelings, manners, and understanding differences and stereotypes.

Your child will have a Home/School Diary for reading notes, letters, and comments. They will take part in weekly guided reading groups and will bring home one or two phonics or 'free reader' books every Tuesday. Please encourage your child to read each book at least once before returning it to school.. Children earn a cube each time they read at home, and once the class reading jar is full, they will enjoy a special reward!

Children will also have individual learning targets based on Year 2 curriculum expectations. These are reviewed each half term and practising them at home a few times a week really helps your child make progress. Phonics is taught three times a week, and we have handwriting practice every Monday. A list of Year 1 and 2 common exception words is included in the home/school diary to support learning at home.

In mathematics, the children will build their understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, counting in steps, and problem-solving. Over the Autumn Term, I will begin to introduce our Maths Matters Challenges for those children who are ready. Maths Matters is a system of mental maths challenges, which are designed to support the children's arithmetic skills. Please ensure their Maths Matters books 'live' in the book bags and support your child in working towards these challenges **every week**. These quick mental maths skills are vital in supporting all other areas of maths. Maths Matters will take place on a **Friday Morning**. TT rockstars will be introduced at the beginning of the summer term.

Homework will support reading, targets, Maths Matters, and sometimes topic-based learning.

Show and Tell will happen every Thursday (A separate timetable will be sent out), and Forest School will take place later in the year; more details will be provided in due course.

E-mails: office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk head@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

Additionally, all children need to have a named water bottle in school. They can fill this up from the tap in Maple Class. Children are welcome to leave their water bottle in school if they do not want to bring it home each day. I will then send them home each Friday.

Please feel free to talk to me 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.

My email address is: jreynolds@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

I will be available in Maple Class on Monday 15th September from 2.40pm to answer any questions you may have about life in Maple Class.

We are very much looking forward to the Autumn Term as Marvellous Maples!

Best wishes,

Mrs Reynolds and Miss Scott