



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 8 23.10.25 Our overall attendance has risen again to **97.1%** this week. Well done everyone!

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



Parent Consultation Evenings

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent consultation evenings this week. This is a really important part of how you can support your child in their learning. If you were unable to attend on this occasion, please do get in touch with your child's teacher after the half term break, to arrange a time for a conversation.



Following new guidance to schools, we now have a nominated Paediatric first aid member of staff. During training it was raised that children under the age of 5 should avoid having popcorn, marshmallows or uncut grapes, all of which have appeared in some children's lunch boxes. As a precautionary measure we would request that these items are not included in your child's lunchbox. A polite reminder too, that we are a **'Nut Free'** school. Thank you. Many of our staff will be busy renewing their First Response and Paediatric First Aid Training during our INSET day this Friday.



It was such a privilege to learn from Keanu and Khloe on Monday this week, as they led an assembly and shared with us how and they celebrate Diwali as a family. The important festival in the Hindu year began last Monday and lasts for five days. The children demonstrated a powerful message of 'Light over darkness', which is not just the core theme of Diwali, but also crosses the boundaries of faith and is shared by Christians and Hindus alike, across the world, as well as by many other faiths.

Keanu and Khloe explained the importance of both the Hindu and Christian faiths in their home and how they like to celebrate 'everything that is important to us as a family'. Happy Diwali—wishing you all Light over Darkness, Knowledge over Ignorance, Hope over Despair. ...and very well done Khloe and Keanu!



Farewell and Good Luck, Mrs Pierron

As many of you will know, Mrs Pierron leaves us this week, to begin her maternity leave and await the arrival of a very special new addition to her family.

We thank her for all she has done in Beech Class this year and send her our love, prayers

and best wishes for all that is to come! We wait with excited anticipation for news of Baby Pierron's arrival. Mrs Pierron will be on leave for at least the remainder of this school year. Mrs Anstee will be increasing her teaching to four days a week in Beech Class, with Mrs Plackett teaching the children on Mondays. Thank you to both members of staff for supporting the children during Mrs Pierron's maternity leave.

Día de los Muertos 2025

On the Sunday before we come back to school after half term, it will be Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), an annual festival celebrated by families across Mexico, including in our partnership school in Xilitla. As our friends in Mexico are often keen to clarify, although this festival coincides with Halloween, it is not the same thing at all. Día de los Muertos is a joyful and colourful remembrance of friends and family who are no longer with us. Despite the skeletons, which are symbol of the passing of ancestors, there is no spookiness, but rather fun, laughter and fond memories of times past. One tradition common in households and public buildings across Mexico is the Día de Muertos altar, a colourful offering and memorial to passed loved ones. We will have our own altar in school after half term, and, if you find yourself in London next week, the Ambassador told us there will be a pretty magnificent altar in the Embassy of Mexico in Belgravia!



School Meals and Healthy Lunch Boxes



Under the UIFSM Government scheme, children in Yr R, 1 and 2 are entitled to a hot meal at school each day. It is your responsibility to order the meals that you would like for your child through the Parent Pay/ Cypad portal. The ordered meals are provided for your child

and school is charged for this per meal ordered.

We seem to have a number of children who have ordered meals but are then bringing a packed lunch from home.

We have a report which shows us meals ordered and not taken, for our monitoring purposes.

Please could we ask that you do not order a meal if your child is having a packed lunch as we are charged for this and it is then wasted food.

If you have ordered a meal and then change your mind, please remember to cancel this if possible. **The cost to school for wasted meals in September was £105.60** Your support to help us to keep our costs down and reduce our food wastage is greatly appreciated. **Last week the cost to school was £12.80**



Poppies will be on sale after half term. Our Act of Remembrance for the children will be on Tuesday 11th November, during our normal Collective Worship.

Rev Sarah is also always pleased to include our school children in the parish Act of Remembrance, which takes place shortly after the **Sunday morning communion service at St Andrew's Church on 9th November**. All are welcome in church.

Head Lice

We have had reported cases of head lice in school. Please be vigilant and follow the link below for guidance.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



Friends Film Night, Weds 5th November, 3.00pm.

Apple & Maple—Lilo & Stitch

Beech & Chestnut - How to Train Your Dragon (Live Action). Available to book on Arbor, £5 per child.



Friends Wreath Making Evening,

Monday 1st December at Farbridge, 11.0am and 7.00pm.

Poster attached with full details, available to book on Arbor as a shop product.





- Yr R** *Rosa* - for your superstar phonics and learning your sounds. Well done!
- Yr 1** *Bertie M* - for consistently working hard with such enthusiasm for your learning. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Delilah* - for your brilliant story writing that was full of wonderful ideas and descriptive language! Well done!
- Yr 3** *Ava* - for writing a wonderful diary entry sprinkled with impressive adjectives and adverbs.
- Yr 4** *Kash* - for your brilliant 'can do' attitude to our writing yesterday. You should be really proud!
- Yr 5** *Nella* - for your quiet determination, especially in maths where you persevered to finish the challenge—well done Nella!
- Yr 6** *Reuben* - for being a responsible Year 6 role model and for your enthusiasm and love of learning!





2025/26 INSET Days

Wednesday 3rd September 2025
Friday 24th October 2025
Monday 5th January 2026
Monday 23rd February 2026
Wednesday 22nd July 2026



Autumn Term 2025 - Wednesday 3rd September—Friday 19th December

INSET - Friday 24th October 2025

Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025



Tuesday 4th November	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 5th November	3-5pm. 'Friends' Film Night, now available to book on Arbor
Thursday 6th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in school
Friday 7th November	West Dean Bonfire and Fireworks (details attached)
Monday 10th November	Open Book Assembly in school
Tuesday 11th November	Act of Remembrance in school
Wednesday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individuals and Siblings)
Friday 14th November	Deadline for Christmas Hamper donations please
Thursday 20th November	8.30, 'Friends' Meeting, Year Group Reps only please
Thursday 20th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 20th November	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 21st November	Children in Need
Monday 24th November	Flu Vaccinations in School
Monday 24th November	Open Book Assembly in school
Wednesday 26th November	Beech Class Egyptian Day and Exhibition (2.00-3.00pm)
Saturday 29th November	10.30-7.00, West Dean Christmas Market Event https://www.westdean.ac.uk/gardens/events/christmas-market
Saturday 29th November	'Friends' Foraging Weekend for Wreath Making Events
Sunday 30th November	Collections to school on Monday morning please
Monday 1st December	11.00am & 7.00pm 'Friends' Wreath Making at Farbridge
Friday 5th December	8.45, Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 9th December	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Wednesday 10th December	KS1 Nativity (details to follow shortly)
Monday 15th December	9.30, CYE Assembly in school



News from West Dean 'Friends'

You will have received separate notifications with details of our Christmas Market event. Save the Date - Saturday 29th November.

We are happy to accept donations for our Christmas Hampers straight after half term but we would like all donations to be in by Friday 14th November latest please. This will allow us time to make up the hampers.

We already have bookings for our Wreath Making events and would like to ask for some help with foraging. Ideally, this will be over the weekend of 29th and 30th November, all foraged materials can be brought into school on Monday morning, 1st December, and left on the pavilion decking for our organisers to collect and sort, thank you. We need as much as possible, greenery, moss, cones etc, thank you.

Pre-loved Uniform: 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!

The date of our next 'Friends' meeting is Thursday 20th November, 8.30am—this will be for Year Group Reps only please, information will then be communicated out through their 'Whatsapp' groups.

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

WEST DEAN Bonfire Night

7th November

**West Dean College
6pm - 8pm**

**Add "School" to your surname when
booking for West Dean to donate £1.25
back to the school.**

£5

Per person

Under 16's go free



For more information:

01243 818300

meetings@westdean.ac.uk

Book your tickets at

westdean.ac.uk/events





Christmas Lunch

Serving on Wednesday 17th December

MAINS
Roast Turkey
Or
Quorn Roast

SIDES
Roast Potatoes, Stuffing,
Mini Sausage, Gravy,
Broccoli & Carrots

DESSERTS
Festive Chocolate Brownie

Order on ParentPay.com no later than
Thursday 4th December.
Book in advance to avoid disappointment



www.ParentPay.com

Chartwells
<https://www.chartwells.co.uk/west-sussex/>



HALF TERM Holiday Clubs

27th - 31st OCTOBER

LOCATIONS

West Sussex

- East Preston Infant School
- St Margaret's School
- Chichester Free School

Brighton

- Mile Oak Primary School

ACTIVITIES

- A range of sports
- Dance - Gymnastics - Theatre
- Daily craft activities
- Free play



Open to children from any school

Discounts to HAF eligible children

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
HALF DAYS AVAILABLE

Book now

SUITABLE FOR
AGES 4-13 YEARS

<https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com/>