



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

Beech Class - Spring 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would all like to extend a huge thank you for the wonderful gifts and good wishes we received at Christmas. We were very touched by your kindness. We all hope you enjoyed a restful and happy time over Christmas and we are very happy to welcome your children back to a brand new term of exciting learning in Beech Class. Our new topic, "**Whizz, Pop, Bang!**", is inspired by *The BFG* and will immerse the children in a creative, cross-curricular journey full of investigation, storytelling and problem-solving.

The term will begin with an exciting science-based hook where children become *Young Scientists* investigating mysterious giant experiments. Through practical exploration, they will learn about solids, liquids and gases, how materials change state, and how these changes link to real-life phenomena such as the water cycle. This learning will lead to our end-of-term celebration, **The BFG's Whizzpopping Science Fair**, where children will create interactive science stations and explain their learning to visiting parents and carers.

In maths, children will develop their skills in **multiplication and division**, including times tables, efficient calculation strategies, scaling and reasoning. Later in the term, they will focus on **fractions**, building a secure understanding of numerators and denominators, comparing and ordering fractions, exploring equivalent fractions, and working confidently with mixed numbers and improper fractions.

Our English learning will be closely linked to *The BFG* and will include a wide range of writing opportunities. Children will write reports, instructions, letters, speeches and persuasive texts, while developing their skills in planning, drafting, editing and reading aloud. There will be a strong focus on building stamina, confidence and enjoyment in writing, as well as using adventurous vocabulary and clear sentence structures.

In geography, children will become **Giant Geography Experts**, helping the BFG plan a journey across the United Kingdom. They will learn to locate and name UK countries, regions, cities and settlements, identify human and physical features, and develop map-reading skills including the use of four-figure grid references. This learning will culminate in the creation of **The BFG's UK Travel Guide**.

The children will also take part in a wide range of creative learning experiences. In art, they will explore drawing in the style of Sir Quentin Blake and experiment with collage and printing inspired by animals. In music, they will compose and perform soundscapes inspired by colour, character and mood.

Across the wider curriculum, children will study computing through programming with Scratch and creating branching databases. In PSHE, learning will focus on safety, health, first aid, making responsible choices and understanding citizenship. Religious education will explore Hinduism, with a focus on Dharma, and

Christianity, focusing on Salvation. In French, children will learn greetings, numbers, colours and simple conversational phrases.

This term promises to be full of curiosity, creativity and collaboration. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you to our **Whizzpopping Science Fair at 2.30pm on Thursday 19th March**. The endpoint of our Whizz Popping learning journey will be our class trip to see **The BFG at the Festival Theatre on Tuesday 24th March**, followed by a picnic with other schools from the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. More details to follow in due course.

Excitingly, swimming at Westgate will begin on Wednesday 14th January and continue through the term each week for Year 3,4 and 5. Please see separate correspondence about this sent before Christmas.

Communication

Please feel free to talk to us 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.

Our email addresses are: janstee@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk and lplackett@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Best wishes,
Jenny Anstee, Laura Plackett and Sally Pearmaine