



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

Apple Class - Spring 2026

Reception & Year 1 Curriculum Letter

Look Closely

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to begin the Spring term with our fascinating new topic, *Look Closely*. This term, we will be exploring minibeasts, nature's hidden details, and the tiny wonders all around us. Through hands-on activities, outdoor exploration, and creative learning, our children will develop key skills across various subjects.

Key Learning Areas:

English & Literacy

- **EYFS:** Revisiting Set 1 phonics, oral blending, letter formation, CVC labels, and captions. We'll also focus on sequencing and retelling stories. Some children may start learning Set 2 sounds.
- **Year 1:** Revisiting or learning Set 3 phonics, spelling rules (including days of the week), and sentence structure (using finger spaces, full stops, and capital letters). Children will write simple narratives, say out loud what they will write about, and develop their handwriting. Some children will start learning Set 4 sounds.

We'll be reading poetry from *Mad About Minibeasts*, exploring insects through descriptive language and rhyming words. Additionally, we will examine stunning microscopic portraits of insects by *Levon Biss*, which will inspire our art and scientific observations. The book *The Woolly Bear Caterpillar* will also form part of our exploration into life cycles, where we'll learn about the transformation of caterpillars into moths and discuss how we can support these creatures in the environment. We will be reading the book *The World Needs The Wonder You See* which takes the children on an imaginative adventure through nature's small surprises.

Maths

- **EYFS:** Building numbers to 10 and beyond, exploring length, height, and time.
- **Year 1:** Place value up to 20, addition and subtraction within 20, and learning about length and height.

Science & Understanding the World

- **Minibeasts:** Children will observe insects closely, including pond dipping and using microscopes for detailed observations. We will learn about insect anatomy (legs, body, wings) and the life cycles of creatures like the woolly bear caterpillar.
- **Seasons:** Observing changes in weather and day length, identifying seasonal patterns in the UK, and learning about Spring.

Art & Design

In Art, we'll focus on creating detailed drawings and collages of insects, using various media like paints, pastels, and fabric. We'll explore symmetry and patterns in nature by examining nature up close, and work towards a **Spring Exhibition**, where your child's creative works will be displayed.

PSHE & Citizenship

- **EYFS:** Focus on taking on challenges, building confidence, and learning about rules and safety.
- **Year 1:** We'll cover topics such as road safety, safety at home, and how to communicate safely with adults.

Music & PE

In Music, we'll explore rhythms and sounds inspired by minibeasts, using instruments to create buzzing, swishing, and other creature-inspired noises. In PE, the children will develop their throwing skills and dance moves, with a focus on movement to represent minibeasts.

French

We'll introduce basic colours and numbers to the children, expanding their vocabulary in French.

Important Dates:

- **Exhibition:** We are having an exhibition on Wednesday March 18th at 2.30, where your children's work, especially their giant bug sculptures and insect drawings, will be showcased. All families are welcome.

We're looking forward to a fun and engaging term, and we can't wait to share all the learning and creativity that will take place. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or would like to know more about our plans.

Warm regards

The Apple Class Team

Alison Chilton, Laura Plackett, Sandra Muggeridge, Jackie Boxall and Rebecca Latchford.