



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
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*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 17 19.01.24** We're back up to **96.1% whole school attendance** rate this week — well done!

**Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble'** which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>



#### SSP Indoor Cricket Event

A huge well done to our talented cricketers who competed in an indoor cricket tournament at the Westgate Centre this week.

We would of course usually encourage a mixed team of boys and girls to participate, but on this occasion the event was specifically for boys.

Thank you to Miss Evans and Ben Turner, who supported and encouraged our boys throughout; so much so that they came second overall in the tournament—a fantastic achievement indeed, after some tough matches with other local schools.

We are really proud of you boys! Well done, not only for your exceptional cricket skills, but also for the brilliant sportsmanship that you demonstrated all afternoon.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from our collective worship theme of 'Role Models' last week, this week has focussed on 'Teamwork'.

The children have developed their understanding of how each of us has the ability to encourage others to work together and by working together we achieve more.

On Monday, I 'accidentally' tripped over and dropped a container full of tiny plastic counters, all of which split and rolled in a hundred different directions on the hall floor, causing the desired level of shock from all of the children!

What happened next was very encouraging. A special mention goes to Martha, who was the first to raise her hand and ask 'Mr Williams, would you like some help to pick these up?' A very thoughtful offer from Martha, but the reaction it prompted was even more special. Martha's action and desire to help, prompted a ripple effect of teamwork, with dozens of children working together and managing to pick up the thousands of tiny counters in under a minute. The power of teamwork. We may be small, but together we can achieve great things!

Alongside the general busyness of school, it has been an important week for our teaching staff team, as we held the interview day for prospective Beech Class teachers.

I am delighted to report that we have appointed a very strong practitioner to join the teaching team in Beech Class towards the end of next half term. Understandably, our new team member will need to share this news with her current school, after which I will be able to share more detail with you.

I am very proud of the way that two groups of children responded and conducted themselves throughout the interview process on Thursday.

Firstly, the children of Beech Class, who worked with three candidates on three different lessons, whilst being observed by Mrs Johnson and I. Their enthusiasm and engagement with the learning was exceptional.

Also playing a key role in the process were members of Pupil Parliament, who conducted their own interview with each of the candidates, asking, so I am told, some very pertinent and quite gruelling questions!

It has been wonderful—and very important—to involve the children in the recruitment process. Well done everyone.

With best wishes for a healthy and happy weekend,

Chris Williams

#### THANK YOU

##### We are warm and snug at Forest School!

A huge thank you from Forest School for their water bottles, which are helping to keep everyone warm during this cold weather, whilst still being able to enjoy learning outdoors.



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Use your smartphone to access some useful information by Skips online safety, about how to help your child engage responsibly and safely online, by scanning this QR code.

# Diary Dates 2023/24



## 2023/24 INSET Days

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024

**Spring Term 2024 - Wednesday 3rd January - Thursday 28th March 2024**

**Summer Term 2024 - Monday 15th April - Friday 19th July 2024**

Wednesday 24th January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 24th January	SSP Cross Country, Bishop Luffa, Year 5/6 (selected children)
Thursday 25th January	1.00-3.00 SSP Future Flyers (selected children)
Thursday 25th January`	5.30, Governing Body Meeting
Monday 29th January	Young Voices at O2, Chestnut Class
Tuesday 30th January	GAS Drama Workshop at Singleton (selected 3/4 children)
Wednesday 31st January	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 31st January	1.30—3.30 SP High 5 Netball at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Thursday 1st February	Maple Class visit to Marwell
Tuesday 6th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 7th February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 7th February	1.30-3.30, AAP Tag Rugby at Bishop Luffa, Year 3/4 (details to follow)
Friday 9th February	Foodbank Friday
Wednesday 21st February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 22nd February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (Selected Yr 5/6)
Wednesday 28th February	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 28th February	1.00-3.30, SSP Bronze Ambassadors at Westgate (Selected Yr 5&6)
Thursday 29th February	2.00-4.30, Beech and Chestnut visit to Chichester Festival Theatre
Tuesday 5th March	Hugo Van Driel Worship
Wednesday 6th March	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day (Dress Up—details to follow)
Wednesday 13th March	8.45, Westgate Swimming for Beech and Chestnut (Last Session)
Friday 15th March	Comic Relief—Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20th March	Apple Class visit to Tuppeny Barn (details to follow)
Wednesday 20th March	SSP Swim Gala at Arun Leisure Centre (details to follow)



- Yr R**    **Hugo Y** - for being so enthusiastic and engaged in your learning! :)
- Yr 1**    **Ivy O** - for being such a helpful, smiley superstar to others! :)
- Yr 2**    **Keanu** - for your enthusiastic and engaged approach to our learning about animal threats and extinction. You showed such maturity in sharing your knowledge and understanding. Well done!
- Yr 3**    **Lucas** - for helping others so thoughtfully when they were stuck using the Chrome Books this week. You showed great thoughtfulness and kindness.
- Yr 4**    **Owen** - for showing a great confidence in maths this week. You have grasped the idea that multiplication is in the inverse of division superbly.
- Yr 5**    **Iris** - for a great approach to solving maths problems, we love how you are starting to draw and make notes to help you get started - well done!
- Yr 6**    **Humphrey** - for a fantastic display of skills and sportsmanship at the cricket tournament, what a super role model for West Dean.

