West Dean CE Primary School

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 23.10.26

Our whole school attendance for the year dropped very slightly this week and is now **96.8%**.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by CLICKING HERE.

Hawk rounded off the half term with a win this week, topping the house team table with 153 points.









Chestnut Class' day in court!

Don't panic, they haven't done anything unlawful! The children have been learning about the rule of law and crime & punishment during the first half of this term. This week, they got to bring this topic alive by taking part in a mock trial in a real courtroom at The Royal Courts of Justice in London. Children played the part of barristers, solicitors and jury members amongst other roles and had a fascinating time learning about the function of the court and the UK legal system. To maximise the opportunity of being in the big city, the children then visited The National Gallery before a sightseeing walk back to Victoria Station. A great day!

Royal British Legion



Remembrance Day, 11th November.

Poppies will be on sale in Reception after the half term holiday.

Please Note: **Activ8 After School Provision now require 24 hours notice for bookings.** This has changed from the previous notice period of booking open until 12 noon on the day. Our new Autumn Term Club timetable is now available, bookings will be live on Arbor on Monday 26th October at 9.00am.

Date for the Diary:



Chestnut Class Assembly followed by Open Classroom,

West Dean Christmas Market - Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November 2026

Early next half term, the children will be busy crafting and making lots of lovely Christmas decorations for us to sell on our Friends stall at the Christmas Market.
In order to help us maximise profit we are trying hard to reuse and recycle but we need your help. If you have anything that we could use we would be very grateful if you could bring this in for us: We really need:

- Wool - brown dark and light, red, green, white, multicoloured Christmas colours.
- Pipe Cleaners - brown
- Knitters and crocheters who can make festive small and long hats for snowman wooden spoons
- Small pom poms - red and orange
- Felt sheets - red, green
- Christmas string and ribbon (pattern or plain - width 10mm)
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Green and brown lolly sticks
- Pine Cones, good quality and dried please
- Adhesive gems - silver, gold, black, multicoloured
- Wooden craft beads
- Crafting corks (not the wine bottle type)
- Scrabble craft letters
- Googly eyes
- Kraft paper brown card

We also still have some slots to fill on our rota so please do sign up if you are able to help with running the stall, to help us raise important funding for your children.












We are grateful for any donations that you may think would be useful for our Christmas Decorations. Thank you for your kindness in supporting our children and our Friends.
These are some examples of what we will be making, if you have other ideas or would like to make Something, please do let us know.






Healthy Eating in school

We try to encourage healthy eating in school and regularly receive feedback and enquiries from parents about how we could promote this further.

We would like to see all of our families supporting this with the food that is included in children's lunchboxes. We discourage chocolate bars and crisps in favour of more healthy options. Check out the NHS website for some great ideas: https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/

Family meal times, perhaps during the half-term break, would also be a good opportunity to practise using a knife and fork with your child, these are valuable skills for the children to learn.



Apple & Maple Class visit from PERFORM

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Tuesday 20th October. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of *Superheroes* and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of *Superheroes*. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click here to download it free or here to find out more about the *Superheroes* theme.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering **a special introductory discount** to all parents of West Dean Cofe Primary School if they come along for a free trial session before Wednesday 9th December.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting **WSWG091226** or book a Free Trial Session online at perform.org.uk/try.



Slightly late notice on our part, but some exciting events going on at Westgate this weekend…

Big Open Weekend on Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th October

Enjoy FREE activities, taster sessions, classes, friendly advice, special offers and more!

Come and take a look around, try various activities and meet our fantastic team – they will be on hand to answer all of your enquiries.

You don't have to be a member of our leisure centre or have visited us before to get involved in our Big Open Weekend, so why not bring your friends and family along too?

Please check the booking details for activities below - some need booking in advance.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Big Open Weekend hours:

Saturday 24th October: 9am - 4pm

Sunday 25th October: 10am - 4pm

https://www.moreleisure.com/westgate-leisure-centre/

Westgate Leisure Centre Big Open Weekend

Saturday 24th October

Location	09:00	09:15	09:30	09:45	10:00	10:15	10:30	10:45	11:00	11:15	11:30	11:45	12:00	12:15	12:30	12:45	13:00	13:15	13:30	13:45	14:00	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:15	15:30	15:45	16:00	16:15	16:30	16:45
Main Pool													Aqua Challenge (Free Marketing Session)					Aqua Challenge					Aqua Challenge				Aqua Challenge					
Teaching Pool											Swim Lesson Tasters		Swim Lesson Tasters		Family Fun Swim				Family Fun Swim				Family Fun Swim				Family Fun Swim					
Sports Hall Courts 1,2 & 6					Football session		Football session				Netball session		Netball session		Hybrid sport Youngstars		Hybrid sport Youngstars				Racket Sports		Racket Sports			Rugby Session		Rugby Session					
Speedflex			Speedlex Session										Speedlex Session																			
Spin Studio		Virtual Spin						Spin Class								Spin Class				Spin Class												
Gym							PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster		PT Taster									
Minerva Studio		Circuits				Body Pump					Pilates						Circuits						Breathwork									

Friends & Maple Class Bake Sale

Maple class have had a busy week making biscuits for their bake sale today, tasty pumpkins and bats ready for you to enjoy! Thank you to everyone who baked and donated, we were able to raise an amazing amount of money, over £250. Thank you everyone and well done Maple Class



Jess Brown-Fuller MP
Christmas card competition

I'm inviting primary school aged children (4-11 years) to enter my Christmas card competition. The winning design will be used for my official Christmas card for 2026.

How to enter

Design your card using all the space below the black line (A5 sized). Feel free to be as creative as you like! The deadline for entries is Sunday 8 November.

Submit your design(s) by either scanning a copy and emailing it to jess.brownfuller.mp@parliament.uk or post your design to: Jess Brown-Fuller MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Please fill in the information below:

Child's name:
Child's age:
Child's school:
Name of parent/carer/teacher:
Email address:



Activ8 for kids

HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUBS

From sports and games to creative activities and new adventures, there's plenty to keep everyone active, entertained and having fun this half term!



26th - 29th October 2026

Locations:

St Margaret's School
Chichester Free School
Mile Oak Primary School
East Preston Infant School

- Multi Sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Gymnastics
- Musical Theatre
- Board Games
- Challenges
- Free Play
- & much more

FULL & HALF DAYS AVAILABLE

BOOK NOW

FOR AGES 4-12 YEARS

activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com

Autumn Term 2 - After School Clubs 2026

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs L Placket	Art & Craft	2 & 3 Max 10	Children can use their imagination in our art and craft club, They will use a mix of materials to draw, paint and create each week.
Wednesday				
Thursday	Mrs J Anstee	Lunch Choir	Yr 2,3,4,5,6,	Learning Christmas songs and carols ready to perform at West Dean College Christmas Market. Children can come along and join in.
	Mrs E Holder 	Dance (Hall)	Yr 2,3,4,5,6	A structured dance club for children to explore music and movement in a variety of dance styles.
	Mr M Horstead 	Football 3 weeks only	Yr 3,4,5,6 Selected	Football club to practice skills and have fun, preparing for team and matches (selected) 5th at WD, 12th, match at Chichester City, 19th SSP at Chichester University
Friday	South Coast Sports 	Multi-sports	Yr 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	This club needs to be booked and paid directly with SCS. Details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

Dance Club - additional information:

Children signing up for Dance Club this half term are committing to 16 weeks, until Thursday 15th March 27. This is in preparation for the Dancehouse Event on Monday 19th March 27. The cost per session has been increased slightly to £6 per session to cover the cost of costumes for the performance. 16 spaces are available and booking will be open on Monday 26th October at 9.00am.

For our after school provision this half term we are offering a range of after school clubs, which our staff will be leading (with the exception of Dance Club, led by Ellie Holder and our usual SCS sports club.

The cost of our Dance club will be £5 per child, per session. SCS is booked and paid directly through their booking system. (details above. Other clubs will be free of charge to join and all of our clubs run between 3.00 – 4.00.

After School Club Dates: W/C 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December, x6 weeks.
Football Club: (3 weeks) 5th November for selected children to form a team at West Dean. 12th November, Match against Bosham at Chichester City Football Club, 3.00-4.00pm.
19th November – SSP event at Chichester University, 1.00 – 3.30pm.
SCS Please check their website for details: https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/

In addition to our after school club programme , Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8.https://activ8forkids.ipalbookings.com. Bookings must be made in advance, up to 12 noon on the day of care. Email: Josh at westdeanmanager@activ8forkids.co.uk.
Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4.50 per child (including breakfast) Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance.
After School Clubs and Breakfast Bears, you can make your bookings on-line at Arbor. Please contact the school office if you require a reminder of your log-in details.

Parent consultations meetings

Thank you to everyone who attended a meeting with your child's class teacher this week and/or Mrs Bowman. We hope you found the meetings informative, both in terms of how your child is progressing in school and how you can support at home.
These meetings are a an important part of our school-home partnership, enabling clear communication in support of your child's learning. If, for any reason, your were unable to attend on this occasion, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an appointment next half term.

West Dean Christmas Market. This proved to be an extremely valuable fundraising event for our school last year, but to run a stall over two full days again this year, we will need significant help from parents and families. **There is a sign up sheet available in the office/outside on the playground, please do let us know if you are able to help either on Friday 27th or Saturday 28th November. We need lots of volunteers to sign up to man the stall and also helping to set up and take down, there are still lots of spaces, please help!**

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year's **Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.** Please do sign up for this now if you are interested. There are 25 spaces available, to us at the moment, but it will be advertised to our wider community and on social media.
Apologies, we were having some technical issues with the previous QR codes but this is now resolved and the codes on the right are working. Alternatively, you can book via the following links: https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QNUY8UXV (11.00am)
https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QFYWNW9W (7.00pm)
Booking is also available on Arbor as a school shop item.

Friends Film Night - Wednesday 4th November, 3.00 - 5.00pm:
GOAT KS2 and Hoppers KS1. £5 per child to include a drink and snack.
Booking is now available on Arbor as a school shop item.

Friends Christmas Disco - Thursday 17th December - Booking available soon.



West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 23rd October 2026



Year R **Hugo** - for becoming so independent this term, sorting all your belongings every day. You are always keen to try something new and give your all everyday. Superstar!

Year 1 **Mila** - for a fantastic week, actually, a fantastic term. Always an amazing role model, always working hard, always helping others, always being a superstar.

Year 2 **Olivia** - for being an awesome role model in Maple Class. You are kind, thoughtful and responsible - What a star!

Year 3 **Rory** - for working really hard to create your own version of 'The Stone Age Boy'. You spent time naming characters and retelling the story in your own way. Well done Rory!

Year 4 **Mila** - for being an all round wonderful member of Beech Class. You work really hard everyday, take on feedback and edit your work independently. You are a superstar!



Year 5 **Elsie** - for working so hard, showing faith and acting as an excellent Clerk yesterday.

Year 6 **Emji** - for your continuing kindness always! Also for your fantastic artwork and your excellent contribution in court yesterday.

Clerk to Governors of West Dean CE Primary School

The Governing Body of our welcoming and inclusive Church of England Primary School is seeking to appoint a highly organised and professional Clerk to Governors to support the effective governance of our school.

This is a key role, providing administrative and procedural support to the Governing Body, ensuring meetings are well organised and governance is carried out in line with statutory and regulatory requirements.

We are a caring and nurturing CE primary school with a strong Christian ethos, committed to enabling every child to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. Our Governors work strategically to support and challenge school leaders, ensuring the very best outcomes for our pupils.

The role:

- The Clerk will prepare and distribute agendas in consultation with the Chair of Governors and Headteacher.
- Attend Governing Body and committee meetings (typically evenings)
- Take accurate minutes and maintain official records
- Provide procedural advice in line with current legislations and guidance
- Manage governor membership records, terms of office and statutory information
- Ensure compliance with relevant governance regulations and policies.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Excellent organisational and administrative skills
- Strong written communication and minute-taking ability
- Knowledge of school governance (desirable, not essential as training can be given)
- Discretion and confidentiality
- Good IT skills
- The ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Experience of working in an educational setting would be an advantage but not essential for the right candidate.

We offer:

- A supportive and collaborative governing body
- Training and on going professional development
- Flexible working arrangements
- The opportunity to contribute to the life of the school

This role would require circa 2 hours per week, with some flexibility to be agreed with candidate, term time only, to include some evening meetings.
Salary: GO3, Point 4 - £25,185 pro-rata (£13.05 per hour)

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check will be required.

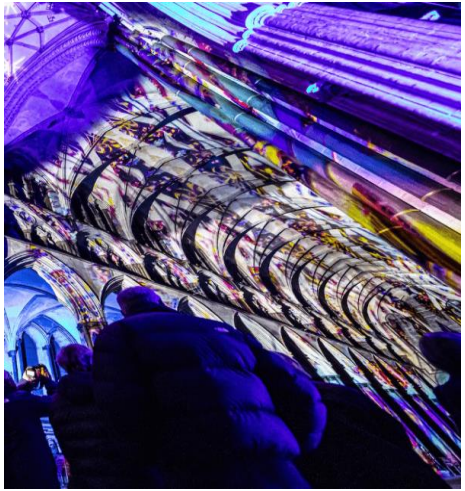
To apply:

Please request an application form from the school please contact office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Closing Date: 31st October 2026

Interviews: Wednesday 4th November 2026

Chichester Light Experience | Illuminating Art



Chichester Cathedral, Cathedral Cloisters, P019 1PX
Friday 23rd October 2026 - Saturday 31st October 2026
Chichester's Annual Light Experience returns this autumn, transforming the Cathedral into a new breathtaking canvas of light, sound and digital art.
Running from 23 - 31 October 2026, this year's Light Experience presents Illuminating Art, the spectacular immersive installation by internationally acclaimed artistic collaboration Luxmuralis – artist Peter Walker and composer David Harper.

Making its Sussex debut, Illuminating Art will take visitors of all ages on a mesmerising journey through four centuries of artistic imagination.

Using monumental projections, immersive soundscapes and an original score by composer David Harper, the Cathedral's ancient architecture is reimagined in extraordinary new ways.

From the drama of the Baroque and the vibrant colour of the Impressionists to early photography, the age of steam and the dawn of animation, Illuminating Art brings familiar creative movements to life through bold contemporary projections - creating an unforgettable experience whether you're an art lover or simply looking for a magical evening out.

The experience unfolds through a series of atmospheric immersive scenes, building towards a striking finale in the nave.

SCHOLASTIC

Book Clubs

Scholastic Book Club

Your child will have brought home a Scholastic Book Club leaflet.

Our new **Scholastic Book Club is up and running!** Go to https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-QVMZXZS1 to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.Please place your **order online by November 30th, 2026**.



Be a chorister for the day!

Saturday 7 November 2026 | 1.30-4.30pm | Chichester Cathedral

Spend an afternoon finding out what it is like to be a cathedral chorister. Join us for a singing workshop, open-forum Q&A, a short service and tea.

We welcome children who enjoy music and are curious about the choir, as well as those who might want to explore the opportunity to join our choir school and become a chorister.

Who is this event for?

The open day is suitable for boys and girls in years 2, 3, and 4, accompanied by a parent or guardian. No musical experience is expected: we welcome children who are enthusiastic about singing and music.

Booking

To book a space or ask any questions about the event, please contact Chris George:

E: Chris.George@chichestercathedral.org.uk T: 01243 812488

For more information about the chorister life please contact Charles Harrison:

E: organist@chichestercathedral.org.uk T: 01243 812486



Join us for one of our special

Half term boat trips in Chichester Harbour

Kids tickets starting from just £5!

- **Bird's Ahoy!** — Thurs 29 Oct 11.30am, Fri 30 Oct 13.30pm, Sat 31 Oct 11.45am
- **Harbour Discovery** — Sat 24 Oct 2.30pm, Tues 27 Oct & Fri 30 Oct, 2pm, Thurs 29 Oct 1pm
- **Roman History Family Trip** — Mon 26 Oct, 10.15am
- **Sunset Sailing** — Sat 24th Oct, 4.30pm

All aboard 'Solar Heritage' our solar-powered, eco-friendly tour boat departing Itchenor

www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk

Gift vouchers and private hire available

Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Chichester Harbour National Landscape



West Dean Bonfire & Firework Night

The annual West Dean College Bonfire and Fireworks Night will take place on **Friday 6 November, from 6:00pm**, with the fireworks display beginning at **7:15 pm**. If you would like to attend, West Dean Primary will receive a reduced price of £4 until the 5th October for school families using the link and code **BONSCH**. Children under 16 attend free of charge but please purchase a ticket. Additional tickets can be purchased for **£6 each** via the West Dean website from the 5th October.

INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

Spring: Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Monday 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026
Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Tuesday 3rd November	Hugo Van Driel - whole school assembly
Wednesday 4th November	3.00 - 5.00, Friends Film Night - GOAT (PG) KS2 and Hoppers (U) KS1 Booking available on Arbor.
Thursday 5th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Team selection only) Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 5th November	'Raise your Voice' - Beech Class Music Project, Chichester Cathedral
Thursday 5th November	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Friday 6th November	West Dean Bonfire (6.00) and Fireworks (7.15)
Monday 9th November	Open the Book, whole school assembly
Tuesday 10th November	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Assembly in school



Thursday 12th November	Yellow School Photographs (Individual and Sibling)
Thursday 12th November	3.00 - 4.00, Matt Horstead's Football Club (Match with Bosham at Chichester City Football Club)
	Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 19th November	1.00-3.30, Football Tournament at Chichester University, Year ⅝ (details to follow)
	Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Friday 20th November	Children in Need (details to follow) - Whole School Wellbeing Walk to West Dea
Thursday 26th November	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly, Parents invited to join us.
Friday 27th November	NHS Year 6 Healthy Child Programme
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir)
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm. (See poster for details)
Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Tuesday 1st December	Chestnut Class TED Talks at Lavant Primary School
Thursday 3rd December	Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 3rd December	Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 3rd December	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 4th December	Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 8th December	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks
Tuesday 8th December	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Thursday 10th December	Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Monday 14th December	Visit to West Dean College
Tuesday 15th December	6.00, Whole School Carol Service in West Dean Church, everyone welcome
Wednesday 16th December	2.00, Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre for Peter Pan
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Caterlink Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 17th December	5.00-7.00, 'Friends' Christmas Disco
Friday 18th December	11.00, Christian Youth Enterprise Assembly in School
	Christmas Holidays