



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 28 26.04.24 Our whole school attendance rate has risen to **95.5%** this week. Well done!

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

GROUNDS MORNING Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who was able to spare an hour or two to come along and help to clear up our school grounds



and prepare for summer. We know your weekends are precious, but we really appreciated you giving just a little time to help ensure that our schools looks and feels lovely for the children and adults this term!

There was a lovely, friendly, family atmosphere to the morning with a huge amount of fantastic clearing, cleaning and tidying of our grounds completed—and bacon roll rewards cooked to perfection by Mrs Anstee—THANK YOU! Ian Graham made great progress in cleaning the trim trail structure and carpet, using the jet wash from West Dean Estate. Brilliant as this is, we think there is probably about 6 to 8 hours more work to do to entirely clean the trim trail and bring it back to its former glory. Ian is happy to supply the jet wash, if any willing volunteers can say in advance when they could give a couple of hours at a time to have a go at this. It is actually quite a therapeutic and satisfying activity! Please let the school office know if you think you could help.



Dance House

A huge well done to Ellie and our dancers for putting on such an amazing performance at the Dance House event in Worthing this week. They opened the show and set the bar high! We received a really appreciative and complimentary email from one of the organisers of the show, thanking them for their professional contribution and the children can surely be proud of a wonderful performance as a result of all of their and Ellie's hard work. We have been invited back for 2025. Well done.

Please could the soldiers return their costumes to school at your convenience.



Parent Consultation Meetings — Tuesday 30th April, 3.10-5.30 and Wednesday 1st May, 3.10—6.00.

Booking is now live for our summer term parent consultation evenings on Monday 22nd April at 9.00am. We would like to see all of our parents and would encourage you to book and make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Most appointments are for a face to face meeting in school, but there are a small number of Zoom appointments available, if you are unable to attend in person. Mrs Bowman is available on Tuesday evening, to meet with parents of children who are currently on our SEND register.

Thank you to everyone who came along and joined our PTA coffee and catch up on Wednesday morning.

It was great to have the opportunity to talk to some of our newer parents about the aim of the PTA and the really valuable work that it does for the school.

If you were not able to make it, do not fear, there will be lots of opportunities for involvement in the PTA, so whatever your level of expertise there will be a role for you. Let's build on our PTA future together.

Wednesday morning was not a formal event planning session, but all present agreed that one of these does need to happen soon in order to plan events for this summer and beyond. We will be in touch soon with details of the next PTA planning meeting.



Cricket Taster Day:

Alex King (Sussex County Cricket Club) and Stu (Singleton Cricket Club) led a day of exciting cricket for KS1 and KS2 children on Thursday this week. This was postponed from a previous date and luckily for us, the weather was much kinder yesterday. The children had a great day, learning new skills and practising their cricket abilities. Clearly some budding spin bowlers in our midst!

Wellbeing Walk at West Dean Gardens and Arboretum

The children and staff enjoyed their first Wellbeing Walk for this term on Monday afternoon, taking various routes around West Dean Gardens and Arboretum and absorbing the sights, sounds and tranquillity of springtime along the way. There were lots of very young lambs in the fields and the most magnificent rhododendron bursting into bloom up in the arboretum. It was a beautiful walk that left everyone feeling refreshed and ready to learn—a great way to start the week!



Academy Conversion Consultation

CHECK YOUR INBOX!

We sent out a letter to our whole school community today to announce that a formal consultation period has begun on the proposal for our school to become an academy and join the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. All parents, families and members of our community will have received this letter via email today—please check your inbox as the details contained are very important to the future work of our school.

During the consultation period, there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and find out more about what it means to be an academy and the difference this will make to the way we function as a school.

There will a choice of two meetings on **Monday 13th May (3pm and 5.30pm) in the school hall**, to which you are all invited.

This meeting will be attended by Mr Williams, members of our governing body and representatives of the leadership team of Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership.

Please come along to find out more.



West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 26th April 2024



- Yr R** *Raffy* - for your super knowledge about owls! You labelled the owl in great detail.
- Yr 1** *Ivy O* - for your brilliant team work in forest school, building a nest for the owls. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Monty* - For your focus towards your writing this week. You wrote a brilliant character profile, well done!
- Yr 3** *Nella* - for the creative sound map you made in our music lesson.
- Yr 4** *Jack* - for the pride you took in the super artwork you produced at West Dean on our Arboretum walk.
- Yr 5** *Iris* - for a super attitude. For always being helpful and for asking great questions to help move your learning along. Well done.
- Yr 6** *Heidi* - for really taking ownership of your learning in maths. It has been lovely to see you working independently to solve problems.



Diary Dates 2024



2023/24 INSET Days

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024



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

Saturday 27th April	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala at Westgate
Monday 29th April	5.30-7.30, GB Training Evening
Tuesday 30th April	Drama for All Workshops in School, Apple, Maple and Beech
Tuesday 30th April	3.15—5.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 1st May	1.00-3.00, Chichester Falcons Softball (Chestnut)
Wednesday 1st May	3.15—6.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 2nd May	Poling Day (School open as usual)
Wednesday 8th May	1.30-3.30 Year 3/4 SSP Tennis (details to follow)
Monday 13th May	3.00-4.00/5.30-6.30 Bishop Luffa Academy Meeting
Wednesday 15th May	Beech Class visit to Del-Quay
Thursday 16th May	5.30, FGB Meeting
W/C 20.05.24	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to France (Tues/Wed/Th/Fri)
Wednesday 21st May	12.45—3.45, SSP Tri-Golf Year 3/4 (details to follow)
Tuesday 4th June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 5th June	1.30-3.30 SSP Quad Kids Yr 5/6 (details to follow)
Thursday 6th June	D-Day 80th Commemoration
Friday 7th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 10th June	Yellow School Photographs, Classes and Year 6 Leavers
Wednesday 12th June	Sports Morning
Wednesday 19th June	2.00-2.45, New Entrants Day 1 Stay & Play
Monday 24th June	1.15, Year 6 Leavers' Service, Chichester Cathedral
Wednesday 26th June	1.30-2.30, New Entrants Day 2, Parents meet The Team
Thursday 27th June	GAS Sports at Boxgrove (Details to follow)
Thursday 27th June	Beech Class Big Camp (details to follow)
Monday 1st July	Apple Class visit to Lordington Lavender
Tuesday 2nd July	Maple Class visit to Lordington Lavender
Wednesday 3rd July	1.30-2.30, New Entrants Day 3, Drop and Go
Thursday 4th July	Chichester Library Summer Reading Challenge Assembly
Thursday 4th July	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 8th July	Paris Olympics Showcase Exhibition (details to follow)
Tuesday 9th July	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Friday 12th July	Foodbank Friday