



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

Dear Beech class parents,

Welcome to Beech Class! We hope that, despite the wet weather, you were all able to enjoy a relaxing and fun summer holidays. This sunny weather as we are returning to school is an added bonus for us all! We are very excited to be joining the West Dean Team and have some super learning planned for the term ahead.

School Learning

Much of this term's learning will be centred around the overarching theme of 'Discovery'. This theme will lead us through some exciting geography and fascinating periods of history, including pirates and World War I. Our scientific learning through this topic will incorporate forces, magnets and light. The children will be given a range of scientific experiences to enable them to raise their own questions about the world around them. Within this topic, our literacy work will be inspired by the books Flotsam and Shackleton's Journey, as well as powerful poetry and stories about World War I.

Maths will be taught discretely and will focus on place value alongside addition and subtraction this half term. Later in the term, we shall turn our focus to multiplication and division.

We will begin our work in RE with the topic of Creation, looking at what we can learn from the Creation Story and how we can all care for God's world.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME



- Ideally, this will happen at least 3 times per week and should be recorded at the back of your child's **purple journals**. A mix of your child reading to you and you reading to your child is brilliant. If you can ask your child questions about what they have just read to you then even better!



- Practise the list of spellings that will be written at the front of the purple journals each week. There will be 5 spelling groups and each group will be 'tested' and receive new spellings on different days – this will be written on the inside cover of the **purple journals**.



- Every child will receive a TT Rockstars login and password (written on the inside cover of their **purple journals**) and this then gives them access and ability to practise their times tables.

KIT AND EQUIPMENT

- PE kit is expected to be in school EVERY DAY! PE lessons will be on THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS.
- Wellies will be needed when the weather turns and for Forest School, along with tracksuit top and bottoms if your child wishes to play football at playtimes.
- **Purple journal for Spellings, Reading, logins and passwords – in school EVERY DAY!**
- Pencil cases can be used for wet play and Dojo Time on a Friday. The children are welcome to keep them in their bags for those occasions.
- Water bottles are essential and can be refilled from the tap in the classroom.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Over the course of the year we are going to be using Google Classroom more and more. It would be really helpful if your child can be given time at home to practise using and navigating around this workspace. **We have invited all the children to join our new Beech Class 2023 Google Classroom so please login as soon as you can (new class code - 3pssi4l).** Year 4 will already have a username and password from last year. We will be giving Year 3 logins in the next week or so. If you have forgotten logins or passwords please let us know and we can generate new ones. We will be teaching them how to navigate Google Classroom in school, so please don't worry if your child is unsure about this at the moment.



ANYTHING ELSE...

We are pleased to let you know that this term Beech Class will be learning the Djembe drum as a result of our links to West Sussex Music. There will be a specialist music teacher coming into our classroom once a week for 12 weeks (start date tbc).

Also it is our turn for Forest School! Each year group will have 6 weeks with Ms Boxall and Miss Evans on a TUESDAY afternoon. **Year 3 will start Forest School shortly** so please ensure they have a complete change of clothes suitable for Forest School – arms and legs covered, wellies and waterproofs.

Mrs Pinnington will teach in Beech Class on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Mrs Anstee will take over the reins on a Wednesday lunchtime and teach Thursday and Friday. There will be a 30 minute slot on a Wednesday afternoon when the whole Beech Class team can meet to plan. During this time, Mrs Huxham will be in class. We are very lucky to have Miss Evans, our brilliant Teaching Assistant all day every day! Mr Johnson will also teach PE on a Friday afternoon.

If there is ever anything that you are not sure of, please do get in contact via the school office or see one of us on the playground before/after school and we will be happy to help.

We are all looking forward to a fantastic year together in Beech Class.

Best wishes,

Mrs Pinnington, Mrs Anstee and Miss Evans