



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



Chestnut Class Parent Information Letter: Spring 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope you all enjoyed the break and feel ready and refreshed for 2026! Thank you, as always for your kind cards and gifts at the end of last term, your thoughtfulness and generosity always blows us away - thank you from the whole team!

This term, our learning will be based upon the question, **'Forced to Flee?!'** This will be the hook to enable us to think about, discuss and investigate what happens when people are forced to make difficult choices — and who helps others through them?

With this statement in mind our learning will cover a wide variety of topics including:

- English and History: The Titanic - the ship & the choices
- English and PSHCE: Refugees - when staying is worse than leaving
- Geography: Lines on maps and lives in motion
- RE: Jesus as King and as a leader - when leadership looks different
- PSHCE: Belonging, Responsibility & Community
- STEAM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths): challenges linked to Forces

Maths will start with written methods for division, before going on to learn more about fractions. This will then lead us into looking at decimals and finally linking all of this to percentages. Running parallel to this Mrs Huxham will be investigating area, perimeter and volume.

In English, we will be writing for a range of purposes, including a debate about 'Who was to blame for the sinking of the Titanic?' where we will look in depth at the language of discussion and persuasion. The children will also read various types of texts about refugee children who escaped danger and have retold their stories. Children will be rewriting these stories in their own words.

This term we are excited to be part of another learning experience with the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. This time we are all going to be Performing Poets! On the 27th January we are off to Bishop Luffa to hear three young, passionate, local poets who are going to perform their own poems, before going on to explain and share how they go about writing their poems. Then with their help we will have a go ourselves at writing our own. The experience will culminate with the children performing their own poems to you - a live audience (date TBC!)

Swimming at Westgate will begin on Wednesday 14th January and continue through the term each week for Year 3,4 and 5. Please see separate correspondence about this sent before Christmas.

As always everyday: Please ensure your child has a **reading book, water bottle, homework diary and PE kit.**

Our email addresses are: sjohnson@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk and shuxham@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk if you have any questions or queries.

Many thanks in anticipation of your help and support in the upcoming term in Chestnut Class!

The Chestnut Class team
Sarah Johnson, Sophie Huxham, Sue Goacher and Siobhan Sessions