



West Dean Church of England Primary School
West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ
Telephone: 01243 811247



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 5 06.10.23

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



Thank you to everyone who joined us today for our Harvest Service at West Dean Church. Thank you for your support with donations which will go to Chichester Food Bank.

SIAMS Inspection

Parents and carers will have received a separate email this afternoon with details of the SIAMS inspection that will take place in school next Thursday, 12th October.

The Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) primary purpose is to evaluate how our school's Christian distinctiveness enables all children and adults to flourish. Although elements of the inspection will no doubt be rightfully demanding, we are looking forward to celebrating all that we are and do as a school with the inspector next week.

It is likely that some parents will be approached by the inspector to give their view on this aspect of our school.

Apple Class Dinosaur

Bake Sale

Apple class are having a Dinosaur biscuit bake sale next Wednesday after school.

Please bring in some money to support the children. This is part of Apple Class Business Enterprise to raise funds to buy a new Woodland rug for their classroom carpet area.



Acorns will be coming next week!

The more observant among you will have noticed that there are no Acorn Awards included in today's newsletter. This is because we were in church celebrating harvest this morning, instead of having our usual Acorn Awards in school.

Never fear! Acorns will be presented during collective worship on Monday instead, so there will be two-weeks worth of awards celebrated next week.

New Music Showcase for Pupils

Do you learn an instrument?

Would you like to perform to the other children in school at our new Music Showcase during Collective Worship?



Thursday 19th October

Please let Mrs Anstee or the school office know if you would like to take part. Don't worry if you do not quite feel ready, there will be another opportunity next term.

ROBIN HOOD



A Rip-Roaring Pantomime Adventure
Revised & Written By Scott Fagnall

Lavant Players - February 2024

**Additional Chorus
Members needed -
children & adults**
**LAVANT
MEMORIAL HALL**

Robin Hood Exciting Opportunities

The dedicated cast and crew of Lavant Players are currently hard at work preparing for their upcoming production of "Robin Hood," scheduled for a spectacular performance in February 2024. We're excited to announce that we have a few open spots in our chorus, and we warmly welcome both children and adults to join us.

To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please reach out to our director, Liz Goodey, at committee@lavantplayers.net, or you can also get in touch with our assistant director, Toni Holloway, also at committee@lavantplayers.net. Alternatively, you can simply drop by Lavant Memorial Hall on any Monday evening at 7 p.m. to meet our wonderful company in person. Join us in bringing the legendary tale of Robin Hood to life on stage!



Supporting your child's online activity

In the fast moving world of the internet and social media, we all know that it can be very challenging to balance the need to monitor a child's online activity and ensure they are safe, whilst also giving them the freedom to discover all of the positive aspects of being online.

Later this year, we plan to run an information evening for parents, hopefully with an expert speaker, where advice will be shared in achieving this balance.

In school, we have filtering and monitoring procedures in place, which ensure that the children do not encounter any negative or harmful influence whilst online in the course of their classroom learning.

However, there are occasional instances of children feeling upset in school, due to language or behaviour that they have experienced online, outside of school. It is very much part of our duty of care to the children to support in protecting them from this as well, even though in the physical sense we cannot monitor what the children do online outside of school.

Parents and carers may find the following websites useful in supporting children in being safe in their online activity:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

<https://cyberbullying.org/category/resources/parents>

Watch this space for detail of the internet safety event coming later this year.

Chartwells Hot Lunches & ParentPay

As you are aware the system for ordering Chartwells Hot Meals changed in January 2023. Ordering is now the responsibility of parents and not school. If you have not registered with ParentPay, you would have received a welcome message yesterday (28th September). We are pleased to advise you that we have booked our Chartwells Christmas Lunch for Wednesday 13th December. If you wish for your child to have a Christmas lunch, it is important that you register, as we are unable to place your order. Please contact the office if you have not received a welcome message or you require any further help. Thank you.

YOUR PTA NEEDS YOU!

West Dean School PTA is tremendously supportive in raising funds and running events to enhance the life of the school. Last year these funds helped to purchase new iPads, run the swimming pool, renovate the library and much more. We need more enthusiastic and keen members to help with the work of the PTA. There will be a meeting on **Monday 9th October, 7.00pm at The Selsey Arms**, where you can find out more and help to plan the year ahead. Please do come along—we would love to see you.



Clubs and Care Bears It is wonderful to see so many children enjoying our range of clubs this term. We do aim to provide as much variety as possible and ensure that there is an offering for most age groups. Thank you for your support and your children's enthusiasm at clubs!

Our Care Bear provision is also well used, but there is a need to clarify that it has a specific and different purpose to our clubs.

We understand the challenge of being a working parent (most of us are one too), and we hope that Care Bears enables a little more time for families who, for whatever reason, cannot pick up at 3pm. Care bears is however, not a club and should not be seen as such.

Where possible, we need to know well in advance of the day that your child will be attending Care Bears, so that appropriate planning and resourcing can be put in place. Again, thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

...to the green-fingered parents who have given their time after school to carry out some gardening jobs around the school grounds. Your help is really appreciated.

There is always lots to do, so we still need more help if you are able to give a little of your time.

A number of parents have suggested to us that, as everyone leads such busy lives, this approach, instead of having a grounds morning, may attract more volunteers.



Pupil Absence due to illness - a polite reminder

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please email or telephone the school office:

01243 811247 or office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk, preferably by 8.30am on the day of absence.

Mrs Shears and Mrs Bailey will pick up your message, ensure that this is noted in the register and will inform your child's class teacher.



Diary Dates 2023/24



2023/24 INSET Days

Friday 1st September 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 19th February 2024

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Autumn Term 2023 - Monday 4th September - Friday 15th December 2023

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

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

Monday 9th October	7.00pm, PTA AGM at The Selsey Arms
Wednesday 11th October	GAS Maths Enrichment Event (details to follow)
Wednesday 11th October	Apple Class Dinosaur Museum (details to follow)
Thursday 12th October	Maple Class visit to Winchester Science Centre
Thursday 12th October	Yr 6 NHS Programme
Tuesday 17th October	Beech Class visit to The Novium Museum, Chichester
Wednesday 18th October	GAS Enrichment Day at West Dean Gardens (details to follow)
Thursday 19th October	9.55, Music Assembly
Tuesday 31st October	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Tuesday 7th November	Yellow School Photographs, Individual and Sibling
Friday 10th November	8.45, Remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 14th November	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 15th November	Parents' Evening
Thursday 16th November	8.45, Beech Class Assembly
Friday 17th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 21st November	Flu Vaccination programme in school
Friday 24th November	Food Bank Friday
Tuesday 28th November	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Thursday 30th November	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly
Thursday 30th November	Full Governing Body Meeting