



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 1 04.09.26

Great start everyone - our whole school attendance is **97%** this week.

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

Welcome back to a new term at West Dean School. From all of the staff team, we hope that whatever your summer looked like, you were able to spend some quality time with your family and find some relaxation. Sincere thanks from all of us for your very kind and generous words and gifts of thanks at the end of the summer term - I have said it before but I will say it again - these are never expected, but always very much appreciated. Thank you.

Your children have returned to school with big smiles on their faces and a very positive attitude. I don't think I have talked to a single child this week who has moaned in any way about the summer holiday being over - they all seem delighted to be back in school, which is a fantastic way to start. There has been a lovely feeling of calmness and happiness around school, as everyone has settled into new classes and in some cases, started to get to know new teachers. A very warm West Dean welcome to Miss Ellie Gale, who joins us as Beech Class Teacher, and to Mrs Abi Gilbert, who will be job sharing as Class Teacher with Mrs Plackett in Apple. It's a short news week this week, so all that is left to say for now is look out for the following key points of communication coming over the next few days:

- Clubs go live at 5 this evening
- Please note dates starting next week for beginning of year class 'Meet the teacher' meetings.
- Your child's class curriculum letter will be emailed to you next week
- We will be sending out a separate 'dates for this term' email soon, in addition to this newsletter.



I have a personal apology to make!

For an entire year I have been promising to make the film of last year's amazing Lion King performance available. It is a large file size so this is trickier than you might think, but no excuses - I am very sorry to have kept you waiting. Sincere thanks to Dom Archer for his amazing work in filming the show and producing the video and to the generous group of parents who paid for the filming license. Details of how to download the film from a secure location and of how to make a donation will be shared in a separate email this evening. Chris Williams



We have received the following notification from West Sussex Music regarding guitar tuition:

We are writing to provide an update regarding music teaching provision at your school for the 2026-27 academic year. Prior to the end of last term, we advised that we had identified a replacement teacher to take over from our departing teacher.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, we have been unable to make the proposed teacher's schedule work alongside their existing commitments and the requirements of the school's timetable.

As a result, there will be a delay to **guitar** lessons recommencing whilst we continue to explore alternative staffing options. We appreciate that this may be disappointing news, and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Please be assured that we are actively working to find a suitable solution and will keep you updated as soon as we have further information. We remain committed to providing continuity of music tuition for your pupils and are doing everything we can to secure appropriate teaching provision.

Thank you for your understanding and patience while we work through this matter. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Nicola Needham
West Sussex Music

South Coast Sports After School Club

Please be advised that our Autumn club is now open for booking, by

clicking on the following link: <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com/>



Autumn Term Clubs 2026 - Booking will be live for Dance Club on Friday 4th September at 4pm. No booking required for Yarn Club.

Day	Adult Lead	Club	Year Group	Description
Monday				
Tuesday	Mrs Goacher Mrs Johnson	Westbourne House Swim		Stamina Swimming Sessions 6.15-7.00pm
Wednesday	Sophie Huxham	Yarn Club	Yr2 - Yr6	A lunch time club to crochet, knit and make pom poms . Just come along and join in.
Thursday	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.
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/

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. **Please note - we hope to add an additional club soon run by a member of staff soon once staff availability has been determined. This is likely to be on a Monday.** 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 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th September, 5th, 12th and 19th October, x7 weeks.

Westbourne House Swim Dates: Assessment Swim 8th September, followed by 15th, 22nd, 29th September and 6th October, x5 weeks.(By invitation)

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.

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

Tuesday 8th September	2.30, Maple Class Meet the Teacher (meeting for parents)
Wednesday 9th September	2.30, Chestnut Class Meet the Teacher (meeting for parents)
Thursday 10th September	First Day of Autumn Term for new Year R
Thursday 10th September	8.45-9.15, Tea & Tissues in the Pavilion for Reception Parents
Thursday 10th September	2.30, Beech Class Meet the Teacher (meeting for parents)
Monday 14th September	Open The Book Assembly in School
Monday 14th September	2.30, Apple Class Meet the Teacher (meeting for Y1 parents only)
Thursday 17th September	Whole School Wellbeing Walk, West Dean Gardens and Arboretum
Thursday 17th September	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 22nd September	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Friday 25th September	8.45, Proposed date for Harvest Service in West Dean Church (details to follow)