



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



Apple Class Summer 1 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share an overview of the learning taking place this half term. It promises to be a fun and engaging term full of discovery, creativity, and meaningful learning experiences.

Our first topic is called, 'Roots, Shoots and Giant Boots' and we will be enjoying the delightful stories Errol's Garden and Jack and the Beanstalk, which will inspire our reading, writing, and discussions about nature, community, and taking care of our environment. Our focus this term is on living things, where the children will be planting and caring for their own plants, learning what they need to grow and thrive. We will also explore our school grounds, identifying and discussing human and physical features in our local environment including looking at plants and wildflowers in West Dean Gardens. We will also be learning about kings and queens, past and present, discovering what life was like in royal times. A highlight of the term will be our exciting visit to Arundel Castle, where the children will get to see history come to life! We will also visit the beautiful gardens and castle grounds.

In Year 1, our maths focus will include multiplication and division and simple fractions. The children will be exploring these concepts through practical activities and problem solving. In Reception, we will be working with numbers to 20 and beyond, developing a strong understanding of numbers through play, exploration, and hands-on activities. We will also be learning and making connections in maths through stories, songs, and real-life situations.

In R.E in Year 1, we will be exploring the question, "What is the good news Jesus brings?" while Reception will reflect on, "What makes every single person unique and precious?" These lessons help us think about kindness, love, and what makes each person special. Our digital journey in Year 1 continues with a focus on digital writing, where children will develop their typing and presentation skills using technology. This term in art, we will be looking at the work of artists linked to castles, such as Paul Klee and John Piper, inspiring the children to experiment with colour, shape, and pattern. In Design and Technology, we will explore mechanisms, including levers and drawbridges, and look at structures – a perfect link with our castle learning! Linked to our science topic, we will also learn about healthy eating and how growing our own food can support a healthy lifestyle. In PSHE, Year 1 will explore economic wellbeing, helping children begin to understand simple concepts about money, choices, and needs. In Reception, our focus will be on building relationships, recognising the importance of family and friends in our lives.

We look forward to a busy and exciting half term full of hands-on experiences, creative thinking, and lots of curiosity!

Warm regards,

Laura Plackett and Alison Chilton