



West Dean Church of England Primary School
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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 15 - 06.01.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very Happy New year to you all. Unfortunately there seems to have been many families affected by ill-health towards the end of last term and during the Christmas break. I hope this did not impact you too badly and that you were all able to enjoy the magic, joy and peace of Christmas and some relaxing family time. I am sorry that I was unable to be in school in the final few days of last term; I was so disappointed to miss several of the wonderful events that had been arranged for the children, but thanks to the incredible team of staff, governors and PTA helpers, I know that the children had a wonderful time, with the Christmas disco being a particular hit!

I thank you for your very kind Christmas gifts and wishes, as do all of the staff. As ever, these are not expected, but are very much appreciated.

Despite, the prevalence of cold and flu bugs and the like, I am very impressed and relieved that almost all of our children have been able to come straight back to school this week, enabling a calm and positive start to the year for all. Given the experience of recent years, viruses and the question of what to do if you feel or fall ill is never far from our minds, so understandably a number of parents have been asking what the guidance is regarding school attendance during various types of illness.

Quite simply, the very brief government guidance now states that if your child feels too ill to attend school, then they should stay at home. If they are showing a high temperature or fever, you should seek advice from a GP or health care professional. There is no longer a requirement to test for COVID 19, nor can I insist that your child stays at home if they test positive, but I would still say that it would help us greatly to minimise the spread and impact of all viruses, if sensible choices about when to stay at home can be made. Mindful that I wrote to you all on the subject of school attendance last term, to be absolutely clear, instances of illness will always be recorded as such—these are **not** recorded as unauthorised absence.

On to more positive things to look forward to in the spring term. It is now just two weeks until Chestnut Class will be making the trip up to the O2 Arena in London to take part in Young Voices 2023, an incredible mass participation choir and singing event involving around 6000 children. It is going to be a long but extremely exciting and proud day for the all of the children and staff involved, all of whom have been practising the songs for nearly a term now, as well as some quite complex dance moves. In fact, as I am accompanying them on the trip, I definitely need a bit more practice myself to avoid being shown up!

Swimming lessons at the Westgate Centre start for Beech and Chestnut Class next Wednesday and will run for the whole spring term. Parents have received details of logistics already and are asked to drop their child at the Westgate Centre between **8.35 and 8.45am** each Wednesday morning. Please note, school staff **will not be on-site** to supervise **before this time**. If this presents a problem with younger sibling drop-off at West Dean, please let the school office know. There is always a workable solution if we know in advance.

Each week, Rev Sarah writes a 'Rector's Ramble' letter to the church community. I always receive it via email, in fact I look forward to reading it each Friday and find it to be both reflective and inspiring. We think many of you who may not already receive Rev Sarah's 'Ramble' would also like to read it, so we are going to include a link to it each week in this newsletter (see below).

<http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>

Today is Epiphany, when the Christian Church celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men or Magi in Bethlehem and their gifting of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the new born king, Jesus. In collective worship this week, the children have been reminded of this story and have seen and smelt some real frankincense and myrrh (although I had to admit that my lump of gold is actually a spray-painted stone!). We have also discussed gift giving and how all of us have been given talents to use for the good of others in the world. The children also learnt that as well as being the name of a significant point in the Christian year, epiphany can also mean a moment of realisation or discovery, so I was pleased when so many children put up their hand to let me know that they had had at least one epiphany moment in their learning this week. Let's hope we see many more of those in 2023!

With my very best wishes for a happy and healthy year ahead,

Chris Williams

After School Club Provision

I am extremely pleased that most of the places for our after school clubs have been taken and clubs are full. We do however, have a couple of places free for our Language club with Mr Williams on Monday and for Westbourne House Swim with Mrs Johnson and Mrs Goacher on Tuesday evening. Places are available to book and pay on schoolmoney.co.uk.

Chartwells New Parent Pay Meal Ordering System

You will have received an email this week containing your activation details to log-in to your new Parent Pay account. Please do remember to take the time to verify your email address to activate your account. This will enable you to book through this new system for meals **w/c 6th February**. Please do contact the school office if you need any assistance.



West Dean CE Primary School
Acorn Awards
Friday 6th January 2023



- Yr R** *Barney P*, for being keen and enthusiastic in all challenges. You always have a smile on your face! :)
- Yr 1** *Harry*, for your brilliant understanding of the work respect. You respect the people around you and school environment.
- Yr 2** *Casper*, for your brilliant postcard about endangered animals. You shared lots of interesting facts. Well done!
- Yr 3** *Jack*, for coming back to school ready to learn. You have worked really hard at your maths and writing as well as being keen to answer questions in class discussions - keep up the good work.
- Yr 4** *Jake*, for confident and effective use of column addition with exchange to solve calculations—well done.
- Yr 5** *Emie*, for careful and accurate use of a compass and protractor during our 'circle investigations' in mathematics. Your understanding is clearly evident.
- Yr 6** *Sid*, for super presentation. Your writing is neat and legible and a delight to read. Well done, Sid.



Diary Dates 2022/23



2022/23 INSET Days

Monday 20th February 2023

Friday 31st March 2023



One final INSET day on a Monday/Friday in June or July — date TBC in early 2023

Spring Term 2023 - Tuesday 3rd January—Thursday 30th March

Half Term—Monday 13th—Friday 17th February

Easter Holiday—Monday 3rd April— Friday 14th April

Summer Term 2023 - Monday 17th April - Friday 21st July

Half Term: Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June



Spring Term 2023

Wednesday 11th January	Westgate Swim Programme begins for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 11th January	SSP Bronze Ambassador Programme for selected Year 5/6
Wednesday 18th January	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 18th January	Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre, Children's Concert
Wednesday 18th January	SSP Netball event for selected Year 5/6
Thursday 19th January	Chestnut Class Young Voices event at O2 London
Wednesday 25th January	Westgate Swim Programme for Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 25th January	SSP Cross Country event for Year 5/6 at Bishop Luffa
Thursday 26th January	Maple Class visit to Marwell (details to follow)
Wednesday 1st February	SSP Sportshall Athletics (selected Yr 5&6)
Wednesday 2nd February	SSP Future Flyers Westgate (selected Yr 5/6)
Monday 6th February	Maths in Action activity day for Chestnut Class at Fontwell Racecourse
Tuesday 7th February	Dancehouse at Alexandra Theatre for Dance Club

Remember to follow [@westdeanceprimary](https://www.instagram.com/westdeanceprimary) on Instagram

