



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 - Autumn 2025


Reception & Year 1 Curriculum Letter


Autumn Half-Term 1 – Everyone's a Superhero!


Dear Parents and Carers,


Welcome back to a new school year and a particularly warm welcome to our new families. Our topic for this half term is "Everyone's a Superhero". The children will be exploring what it means to be a superhero through stories, creative activities, discussions and role play. We will also be thinking about real-life heroes in our community such as firefighters, teachers and doctors, and discovering the special strengths and qualities that make each of us unique.

 In English, the Reception children will be learning Set 1 phonics, practising name writing and mark making, and developing their listening skills by enjoying and retelling stories. Year 1 children will be revisiting Set 2 phonics and moving on to Set 3, learning the names of letters, practising handwriting and using finger spaces in their writing. They will also be listening to and discussing stories beyond their independent reading level. Throughout the term we will be enjoying books such as Supertato, Superworm, The Colour Monster and Traction Man. These stories will inspire us to create our own superheroes, design masks and badges, and even make our own comic strips.

 In Maths, the Reception children will begin by matching, sorting and comparing objects before moving on to exploring measure, patterns and early number. They will be representing, comparing and composing numbers to three, including developing their subitising skills. In Year 1 we will be focusing on place value within 10 and then moving on to addition and subtraction within 10.

 Science this half term will be centered on living things, with a focus on the human body. The children will learn to identify and name body parts and discover which parts are linked to each of our senses. We will also be observing the changes in our environment as autumn turns to winter, thinking carefully about what we can see, hear and feel outside. This will link with our Geography learning about weather, seasons and daily life in the UK. In History and Geography, the children will also be finding out more about their school, their local area, and the four countries of the United Kingdom.

 In RE, Reception children will be considering why the word "God" is so important to Christians, while Year 1 will be exploring the big question, Who made the world? We will learn about the Christian story of Creation and reflect on how people can take responsibility for looking after the world.

 In Art and Design the children will be drawing self-portraits and superhero portraits inspired by the artist Julian Opie. They will learn about primary and secondary colours, create bold designs and experiment with line and shape. In DT we will be using different materials to make creative models, including traps for the "Evil Pea"! Music will include singing and musical games through our "Sing Up" programme.

💬 In PSHE we will be exploring feelings and relationships. Reception will use The Colour Monster to help identify and talk about emotions, while Year 1 will think about friendships, families and the importance of kindness. Across the school we will be celebrating “super-kindness” and encouraging children to be “super helpers”.

🏃 Finally, in PE, Reception will be developing ball skills and gymnastics, while Year 1 will take part in gymnastics and multi-skills sessions.

We are very excited about this half term and look forward to seeing the children enjoy learning, creating and discovering their own superpowers. Thank you for your continued support.

Please note that Forest School days have changed-Year 1 are now Thursdays and Reception are Fridays.

Our email addresses are: achilton@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk and lplackett@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk

Our 'Meet the Teachers' session will be in the pavilion on Wednesday 24th September at 2.40pm, during which we are happy to answer any questions you may have about life in Apple Class.

Warm regards,

The Apple Class Team

Alison Chilton, Laura Plackett, Sandra Muggeridge and Jackie Boxall.