



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 25 22.03.24 **95.1% whole school attendance** rate this week.

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



We have a king who rides a donkey!

Today, we held our Palm Procession and Easter Service at West Dean Church. Led once again by Tilly the Shetland Pony (as a stand-in donkey), the children and staff processed through the village first thing this morning, waving palms that had been freshly cut and supplied by West Dean Gardens. The re-enactment of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem has become a very special feature in our annual cycle of worship. Once in church, each class contributed to the service in their own way and Rev Sarah explained a little more about what we remember on each of the days of Holy Week, from this Sunday, Palm

Sunday through to Easter Day in a week's time. Rev Sarah blessed our wonderful palm branches, as well as some absolutely beautiful miniature Easter gardens, made by children in Beech Class. Thank you to all of our parents and friends who were able to join us for Easter worship.

The Little Hoot Project, supporting Chestnut Tree House

If you have not read it already, do please have a check of your inbox for details of this exciting fundraising and art project. There will be lots of owl and woodland themed learning activity next term and if you would like to be proactive in your fundraising support, please follow the link to our Justgiving fundraising page: [West Dean Justgiving Page](#)



If you spotted colourfully odd socks on some of our staff members' feet yesterday, it wasn't because they were bleary-eyed when they got dressed, but rather in support of World Down Syndrome Day. The 21st day of March was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome. We'll try to remind you of this next year so the children can join in and help to raise awareness too!



SSP Arun Swim Gala

Well done to our Chestnut Class swimmers for their fantastic performance and attitude in competing in the SSP Arun Swimming Gala



Thank You for supporting us with Comic Relief, Red to Toe. We were able to make a donation of £115, all of our donations help to make change happen and support communities facing poverty.



Below is a link to Haslemere Educational Museum's new programme of events for April-June 2024, including Easter holiday activities for children and families.
- <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/499d9aa871.html>



Palm Sunday

24th March

4 – 6

East Dean Village Hall

Crafts, activities, food, songs, and the story of Palm Sunday.

Make an Easter Box. Create your own Dove of Peace

Decorate your own Palm Biscuits



Registration and start @ 4pm
Please bring an adult with you

We need YOU!



Governing Body Vacancy

We have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. If you feel this might be a role for you please do come and have a chat or contact Pasha Delahunty, who is our Clerk to Governors. Information attached with our Newsletter last week.

Pdelahunty@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk



SAVE THE DATE!

After a dreadfully mucky winter, there are a lot of jobs to do around school and in our grounds to clear up and prepare for summer. Some are gardening jobs, others may require a few DIY skills.

We will be having a 'Grounds and Jobs' morning on Saturday 20th April—the weekend after we return from the Easter break.

We know your weekends are precious, but we would so appreciate you giving just a few hours to help ensure that our schools looks and feels lovely!

More details and timings to follow soon.



Wraparound Care Places Available

Care Bears, Monday to Friday, 3.00-4.00pm, £5 per session, to include a drink and a snack. **Breakfast Bears**, Monday to Friday, 8.00—8.35, £4 per child, per session, to include breakfast.

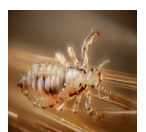
Head Lice

Please be vigilant, we have had reported cases of Head Lice in school.

Please check your child's hair thoroughly and treat as necessary.

Guidance can be found:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>



Apple Class visit to...



Tuppenny Barn

The children in Apple Class enjoyed a fantastic day of learning about growing and bees at Tuppenny Barn, near Southbourne on Wednesday.

We were very impressed by their willingness to try tasting all kinds of exciting salad vegetables! Thank you Tuppenny Barn for a brilliant Day!



Lindsay Galvin Visit

A favourite author of the children (and Mrs Johnson) in Chestnut Class came to visit on Thursday. Lindsay Galvin has written, amongst other books, a story based on the events of the Titanic disaster.

After an inspiring talk the children literally couldn't wait to get planning their own historical fiction stories!

BIKEABILITY



Well done to our Year 6 children who achieved their level one and two Bikeability awards this week. They all applied full focus, listened carefully to instructions and progressed well in learning how to be careful and safe road users. Thank you to Derek and Chris, the instructors, and to Mrs Goacher, who endured a particularly moist day of weather on Tuesday in support of the children!



A treasure trove of Ancient Egyptian creativity! You might have thought you had walked into the burial chamber of an Ancient Egyptian Pharaoh in Beech Class this afternoon, as the children were busy creating the most beautiful Canopic jars, many featuring carefully sculpted Anubis heads. You could have heard a pin drop, such was the level of concentration!



Diary Dates 2024



2023/24 INSET Days

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024



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

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

Monday 25th March	NSPCC Workshops for Maple and Chestnut Class
Monday 25th March	3.00, Pre-Loved Uniform Sale—Pavilion
Tuesday 26th March	2.30, Chestnut Class 'Open Classroom'
Wednesday 27th March	2.30, Maple Class 'Open Classroom'
Wednesday 27th March	6.00—Chichester Runners Corporate Challenge
Thursday 28th March	Beech Class Egyptian Day
Wednesday 17th April	'Hawking About' - Owl visit to school
Thursday 18th April	1.30-2.30, Worship Music Festival, Chichester Cathedral (3/4/5)
Friday 19th April	Foodbank Friday
Saturday 20th April	Grounds Day—All welcome, please come and help!
Tuesday 23rd April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Tuesday 23rd April	Dance House, Worthing (Dance Club Children)
Saturday 27th April	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala at Westgate
Tuesday 30th April	Drama for All Workshops in School, Apple, Maple and Beech
Tuesday 30th April	3.15—5.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 1st May	3.15—6.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 2nd May	Poling Day (School open as usual)
Wednesday 8th May	1.30-3.30 Year 3/4 SSP Tennis (details to follow)
W/C 20.05.24	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to France (Tues/Wed/Th/Fri)
Wednesday 21st May	12.45—3.45, SSP Tri-Golf Year 3/4 (details to follow)
Tuesday 4th June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 5th June	1.30-3.30 SSP Quad Kids Yr 5/6 (details to follow)
Thursday 6th June	D-Day 80th Commemoration
Friday 7th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 10th June	Yellow School Photographs, Classes and Year 6 Leavers
Wednesday 12th June	Sports Morning
Monday 24th June	1.15, Year 6 Leavers' Service, Chichester Cathedral
Thursday 27th June	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 9th July	Hugo Van Driel Assembly