



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 ORJ

Telephone: 01243 811247



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 20 07.02.25 Our overall attendance is at 96.8% this week.

Don't forget, Rev Sarah's 'Rector's Rambling' can now be found by [CLICKING HERE](#) Always an interesting and inspiring read.



Academy Conversion Update

It has been a while since we shared news of how our academy conversion process is progressing, so here is an update. We are due to convert to an academy school as a member of Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership (Academy Trust) on **1st April 2025**. This means that we are about to begin our final half term of learning as West Dean CE Primary in its current form and by Easter, we'll be a new school (albeit with exactly the same name)!

In reality, and to reassure you a little, to begin with you will not notice any difference and we hope the conversion will be a seamless process during which all aspects of provision for your children continue as normal and then grow in strength in the weeks, months and years to come.

Behind the scenes however, there is a great deal going on at the moment, as we prepare to migrate many of our systems and externally sourced services from the West Sussex Local Authority to the academy trust. This includes everything related to our site and premises management, financial services, information management, human resources and payroll to name but a few aspects.

As explained previously, it is hoped that being part of a larger organisation will achieve greater financial and organisational efficiency for us, particularly in all that behind the scenes work that is so crucial to the day to day operation of the school and to its strategic work to improve and develop in the future.

For our young people, we know that being a member of the partnership will bring all manner of enhanced learning opportunity—and that side of things has already started. The Chestnut Class TED talk project, on which we reported in last week's newsletter, is an example of this, with children already benefitting from working more closely with our partnership schools, with greater possibility for us to fund and organise exciting learning projects through partnership collaboration.

As head teacher, I am already being included in leadership discussion and development with colleagues in the other partnership schools, so there's a real sense of us being welcomed into the family well before that 1st April conversion date.

Later in the year, there will be some changes to the way we communicate with you and in the way you pay for things or make financial contributions to the school. This is because our backend information management system will be changing to something called 'Arbor', which is used in all Bishop Luffa Partnership Schools. Much more information will be shared about this in due course, so please do not panic, none of that is changing yet. A new way of working and exciting times ahead indeed.

Online Safety

Safer Internet Day 2025 is next Tuesday and whilst this is a timely reminder once a year of the importance of keeping everyone safe online, we cannot highlight enough the significance of being vigilant to online safety matters all year, all the time.

Online safety is a key aspect of both our PSHE and Computing curriculums, so families can be assured that the children learn and develop their understanding of this theme all the time. However, on or around Safer Internet Day next week, we will be doing some additional activities on the SID theme for this year: Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.

On another related matter, we are **increasingly concerned** children in school telling us about playing games at home, either on or offline, which are wholly inappropriate for children of primary school age, such as Grand Theft Auto (GTA) and Call of Duty. Recent tragic events, such as the awful circumstances in Southport, are evidence of the negative impact that inappropriate and violent games can have on young people. We urge you to be extremely vigilant at home. In our opinion, these games should be avoided altogether by children of primary school age. Due to graphic violence and strong language, Call of Duty has an **age rating of 18+** as does Grand Theft Auto due to the nature of its content.

Please support us in keeping your children safe online and in using the internet in a healthy and positive manner. Further information on game age ratings can be found at: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/video-games-age-ratings-explained/>



Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

After School Provision

As a result of your feedback our after school provision and club timetable looks slightly different for this coming half term and we are going to trial a different approach.

We are offering the following after school clubs:

Westbourne House Swim—for selected children in preparation for the SSP Arun Gala and Chichester Cormorants Gala.

Dance Club—for the children who took part this half term, in preparation for the Dance House performance in Worthing on Wednesday 30th April.

SCS Sports Club—for children in Yr 1—Yr 6. A multisport club with the opportunity to try a variety of different sports activities. Bookable through SCS <https://southcoastsports.ipalbookings.com>

Year 1 and 2 Art Club with Mr Williams

We are keen to ensure that there is some extra-curricular opportunity for our younger children. In this club, the children will work with Mr Williams, exploring a range of art techniques and hopefully developing their creative skills. There will be a maximum of 12 places available and there will not be a charge for this club. Booking details for this will be shared next week.

Activ8 will be offering wraparound care between 3.00 and 6.00pm. Booking for wraparound care should be made directly with Activ8.

Our **Breakfast Bears** Club is also available, Monday to Friday, 8.00 – 8.30, £4 per child (including breakfast) Please make sure that you book at least 24hrs in advance.

Bookings for our Breakfast Bears, Westbourne House Swim Club and Dance Club can be made on schoolmoney.co.uk.

Thank you to those who completed our survey regarding Activ8 holiday provision. Unfortunately there was insufficient response to make this a viable option at West Dean at the moment. Activ8 do run holiday provision at Chichester Free School, please contact Activ8 for further information: debbie@activ8forkids.co.uk

Or visit their website <https://www.activ8forkids.co.uk/>



Dates for your diary in the Chichester Area!

Chichester District Council has arranged a series of **FREE laser light shows** choreographed to music during February half-term – starting with a brand new location: **Petworth House on Saturday 15 February with shows at 5.30pm and 6.45pm.**

Petworth House will also be **opening the beautiful house for free from 10.30am until 3.30pm on 15 February** and will be hosting **activities for the whole family to enjoy from 11am** – so why not make a day of it and explore what Petworth House and the town have to offer before the shows begin!

On **Friday 21 February** and **Saturday 22 February** laser lights return to the **Canal Basin in Chichester with shows at 6pm and 7.30pm!**

The Chichester laser show, which is now in its third year, will be more exciting and better than ever – with a new **immersive water screen** with film clips projected onto it!

The two shows each evening are different – so make sure that you stay around to watch both! The **6pm** showing is **Disney themed**, and the **7.30pm** showing will feature on **movie blockbusters**. And there will be lots of **food, drink and entertainment at each location.**

You can access the media release at: <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/39533/First-laser-light-show-coming-to-Petworth-plus-exciting-new-shows-announced-for-Chichester>.



Extra non-uniform layers please! A polite reminder please that we ask the children to bring a different outer layer for PE during the colder months. We prefer this to be a West Dean hoody, but it doesn't have to be. What shouldn't be worn for PE is indoor uniform. This is as much to save muddy uniform repeatedly coming home for families to wash, as it is for reasons of hygiene. It is preferable to be able to put on clean dry uniform at the end of an often energetic PE lesson. Thank you for your support, Chris Williams

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Chorister Open Day

Saturday
8 March
2025



CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK | #CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL

Be a chorister for the day!



The experience of being a Chorister is exciting and fun, and develops valuable skills that will last a lifetime. Choristers spend about 18 hours each week rehearsing and singing services, as well studying two instruments and following a full school curriculum of academic work, sport and drama. They make recordings, feature on broadcasts, and give concert performances at home and abroad.

Choristers receive an excellent academic education at the Prebendal School, a co-ed, independent prep school immediately adjacent to the

Cathedral. Following an inspection, the School has recently received the highest possible grading.

The musical and academic experience we offer is a springboard for future success. Many choristers go on to win scholarships at prestigious secondary schools, where their choral training, discipline and team skills are highly valued.

Scholarships are awarded to all Choristers, and with additional funding according to need. We want to recruit promising young musicians regardless of financial circumstances.

WHO IS THIS EVENT FOR?

This event is suitable for girls and boys in Years 2, 3 and 4, as well as their parent/guardians. We do not expect candidates to have any musical experience when they join the choir. We look for energy, enthusiasm and good reading skills.

BOOKING

The event will take place on Saturday 8th March 2025 from 1.30 - 4.30pm. To book your space, or ask further questions, please contact:

T: 01243 812 488 | **E:** chris.george@chichestercathedral.org.uk .



- Yr R Marley** - for your brilliant approach to learning. Well done!
- Yr 1 Dora** - for being so kind to everyone in Apple Class and having such a positive attitude. Well done!
- Yr 2 Willow** - for your perseverance in maths this week. You have been enthusiastic about your learning, and have approached challenges with positivity. Well done!
- Yr 3 Kash** - for your determination to get to grips with bus stop method in maths. Seeing the smile on your face when you 'got it' was brilliant!
- Yr 4 Finlay** - for the effort you have put into your 'Free Writing Friday'. We have loved seeing your positive attitude to your writing. Keep it up!
- Yr 5 Khloe** - Showing resilience and perseverance in so many aspects of your learning. You're reaching for the sky, well done!
- Yr 6 Jake** - for consistently being an all round role model. You are a good friend to all and can always be relied upon to do the right thing—with a smile!



2024/25 INSET Days

Tuesday 22nd April

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025



Spring Term 2025 - Monday 6th January (INSET) - Friday 4th April

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2025 - Tuesday 22nd April - Friday 18th July

Half Term - Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday) - Friday 30th May

Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February	Bishop Luffa Worship
Wednesday 12th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Tuesday 25th February	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 26th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 26th February	SSP Bronze Ambassadors (selected Yr 5, details to follow)
Thursday 27th February	9.00-11.00, GAS Drama Enrichment at Singleton (selected children)
Thursday 27th February	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Wednesday 5th March	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day (details to follow)
Thursday 6th March	Bishop Luffa Worship (in school)
Wednesday 12th March	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 12th March	SSP Arun Swim Gala (details to follow)
Thursday 13th March	3.00, Beech Class Showcase (details to follow)
Wednesday 19th March	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 19th March	Apple Class visit to Goodwood Motor Circuit
Thursday 20th March	Bishop Luffa Worship (in school)
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief
Wednesday 26th March	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 26th March	2.15, Apple Class Exhibition
Thursday 27th March	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected)
Thursday 27th March	5.30pm, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 28th March	Foodbank Friday
Tuesday 1st April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly (in school)
Wednesday 2nd April	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Thursday 24th April	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut)
Wednesday 30th April	Dance House, rehearsal and performance (details to follow)



Don't forget, we love to share special events and learning highlights wherever possible on Instagram. Follow us [@westdeanceprimary](https://www.instagram.com/westdeanceprimary)

