West Dean CE Primary School

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 10 13.11.26

Well done - Our whole school attendance for the year increased to **97.1%** this week.

Don't forget to check out Rev Sarah's Rector's Rambling this week, which can be viewed by CLICKING HERE.

Learning Event Dates for the Diary:

Chestnut Class Assembly followed by Open Classroom, Thursday 26th November, 8.45am.

Apple Class Open Classroom
Wednesday 2nd December, 2.30pm

Beech Class Open Classroom
Wednesday 9th December, 2.30pm

Maple Class Open Classroom
Thursday 10th December, 2.30pm

Sweaty Betty Sock



I have one Sweaty Betty white sock, part of a pack of 3, still in the wrapping, that was found on the playground. If the owner of the other 5 socks is out there please do come in and collect.

School Act of Remembrance



Each year we mark the period of Remembrance in two ways. Mr Williams attended the village Act of Remembrance last Sunday, and together with Mia, Eadie and Ivy S, laid a wreath at the War memorial in church on behalf of the school.

On Wednesday we had our Act of Remembrance in school, to coincide with the 2 minutes of silence observed across our nation. Beech Class children read the names of those from West Dean who lost their lives in WWI & WWII and three Chestnut Class children read Lt. Col John McCrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Fields.

Football Success



Our footballers secured a hard fought win in their first competitive football match of the term against Bosham Primary School on Thursday. What a thrilling match it was to watch, as the scoreline went back and forth with West Dean pulling ahead and Bosham equalising a number of times, before the final whistle blew with the scoreline at 7-5!

It was a privilege to play on at Chichester City Football Club and we give our sincere thanks to Matt Horstead for coaching our children so brilliantly this term. Special mention to 'Player of the Match', Sophia, and to top scorer, Miles, who netted 5 stunners!

Scholastic Book Club

Your child will have brought home a Scholastic Book Club leaflet. Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running! Go to https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-QVMZXZS1 to browse the latest books and order online. For **every £1 you spend** on this month's Book Club, **our school will earn 20p** in Scholastic Rewards.Please place your **order online by November 30th, 2026**.



If you went down to the woods today…

You were certainly in for a big surprise! As promised, Pudsey did appear at various points during our Wellbeing Walk, but he wasn't too keen on getting caught and kept the children on their toes by running away and hiding. Much fun was had by all in aid of **Children in Need** and it was a spectacularly beautiful day for a walk - we really are so lucky to learn and work in West Dean.



Donations to Children in Need can be made on Arbor, this is available as a shop item at £2 but you can purchase as many as you wish by placing multiples in your basket. So far, we have raised a brilliant £174, and I'm sure we can do even better than that for such a good cause.



Caterlink Parent and Pupil Survey - As part of our commitment to continually improving our catering service, we would be grateful for your support in sharing our Parent & Pupil Survey with your school community. The survey can be completed by parents alongside their child at home, it takes approximately 9 minutes to complete and will provide us with valuable feedback on what we are doing well and, importantly, where we can improve our service.

To make participation as easy as possible, we have also provided a **QR code**. The survey will remain **open until 20 December**, and we encourage as many families and pupils as possible to take part. Once all responses have been reviewed in the New Year, we will share a summary of the feedback and key findings with the schools that have participated.

Thank you for your support in helping us gather this important feedback. The insights provided by your pupils and parents will help shape our service moving forward.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCYZD5L

West Dean Christmas Market - Friday 27th and Saturday 28th November 2026

The children had a busy crafting afternoon this week, making lots of lovely Christmas decorations for us to sell on our Friends stall at the Christmas Market.
In order to help us maximise profit we are trying hard to reuse and recycle but we need your help. If you have anything that we could use we would be very grateful if you could bring this in for us: We really need:

- Wool - brown dark and light, red, green, white, multicoloured Christmas colours.
- Pipe Cleaners - brown
- Knitters and crocheters who can make festive small and long hats for snowman
  wooden spoons
- Small pom poms - red and orange
- Felt sheets - red, green
- Christmas string and ribbon (pattern or plain - width 10mm)
- Cinnamon Sticks
- Green and brown lolly sticks
- Pine Cones, good quality and dried please
- Adhesive gems - silver, gold, black, multicoloured
- Wooden craft beads
- Crafting corks (not the wine bottle type)
- Scrabble craft letters
- Googly eyes
- Kraft paper brown card

We are grateful for any donations that you may think would be useful for our Christmas Decorations. Thank you for your kindness in supporting our children and our Friends. These are some examples of what we will be making, if you have other ideas or would like to make something, please do let us know.



Why do we need these funds and support?

Our Friends work really hard to raise funds to provide things for your children in school that ever shrinking school budgets will not stretch to. We cannot run fundraising events without the practical support of our families. Donations are very much appreciated, but they don't run a stall or collect the money from customers. To run this stall at the West Dean Christmas Market we need more help, as we have had a disappointing response so far, unfortunately. To put the value of Friends financial support in context, annually they fund some of the cost of transport to Y3, 4 & 5 swimming lessons in Chichester AND pay a contribution to running our school pool. As it stands currently, we will struggle to justify the expense of our pool next summer and therefore it may not open. Friends work really is so important and you can help and make a difference. We still have some slots to fill on our Christmas Market rota, so please do sign up if you are able to help with running the stall, and in so doing help us to raise important funding for your children. Thank you for your support.

Chris Williams - Headteacher.

Coming up next week - Monday 16th November, 3.00pm:
Year 1 children's book sales and hot chocolates!
Join us on the playground after school to support the Year 1 children.
Preloved books- please bring any preloved children's books (in good condition) Tonie characters and Yoto cards (for audio books) to the pavilion next week to support the sale.



West Dean Christmas Market.
Our Choir will be performing over the 2 days as follows:
Friday 27th, 3.30 - 4.00
Saturday 28th, 2.00 - 2.30.

Please see the Christmas Wreath banner on this page for details of this year's **Friends wreath making event on Monday 30th November.**
Please do sign up for this now if you are interested. There are some spaces available for the morning. **The 7pm session is now full.**

You can book via the following links:
https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QNUY8UXV (11.00am)
or by using the QR code. Booking is also available on Arbor as a school shop item.

Friends Christmas Disco - Thursday 17th December - Booking available now.
£6.50 to include a drink and a snack.



hark

FESTIVE

Bauble Painting Workshops



15% OFF
WITH CODE
WDN26

£45

Scan to book

SAT 14TH NOV | 7-9PM
SUN 22ND NOV | 10-NOON

PLACE

HOSTED AT THE VALE
WEST STOKE CHICHESTER
PO18 9HJ

West Sussex mind

Mental Elf

festive fun run







SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

WORTHING PROMENADE

SIGN UP TODAY!

Don't panic, a double edition of Acorn Awards will return next week. We didn't have an Acorn Assembly today due to our Wellbeing Walk. We'll be having an extra Acorn Assembly on Monday and will publish them in next week's newsletter.

INSET Days in 2026/27:

Autumn: Tuesday 1st September 2026 (school closure), Wednesday 2nd September

Spring: Monday 4th January 2027, Friday 5th February 2027 (NB: not aligned with the half term break)

Monday 22nd February 2027 (aligned with half term break)

Summer: Wednesday 21st July 2027



Autumn Term 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 18th December 2026
Half Term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October 2026

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October - Half Term

Monday 16th November	3.00, Friends Yr 1 Hot Chocolate and Book Sale on the playground
Thursday 19th November	1.00-3.30, Football Tournament at Chichester University, Year ⅝ (selected team) Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 26th November	8.45, Chestnut Class Assembly and open classroom, Parents invited to join us.
Thursday 26th November	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Friday 27th November	NHS Year 6 NHS Healthy Child Programme
Friday 27th/Saturday 28th Nov	West Dean Christmas Market (Friends stall and choir) Choir Performance: Friday, 3.30 - 4.00 and Saturday, 2.00 - 2.30.
Monday 30th November	'Friends' Wreath Making event at Farbridge, 11.00am and 7.00pm sold out. (See poster for details)



Monday 30th November	Open the Book Assembly in School
Tuesday 1st December	Chestnut Class TED Talks at Lavant Primary School - walking from school, collect from Lavant at 2.30
Wednesday 2nd December	2.30, Apple Class Open Classroom
Thursday 3rd December	Christingle Making in School
Thursday 3rd December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 3rd December	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Thursday 3rd December	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 4th December	8.45, Christingle Service in School
Tuesday 8th December	Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa for TED Talks. Meet by the netball courts at 9am, return public bus.
Tuesday 8th December	Hugo Van Driel Assembly in School
Wednesday 9th December	2.30, Beech Class Open Classroom
Thursday 10th December	2.30, Maple Class Open Classroom
Thursday 10th December	3.00 - 4.00, Dance Club with Ellie Holder
Monday 14th December	Visit to West Dean College
Tuesday 15th December	6.00, Whole School Carol Service in West Dean Church, everyone welcome
Wednesday 16th December	2.00, Beech Class visit to Chichester Festival Theatre for Peter Pan
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Jumper Day and Caterlink Christmas Lunch
Thursday 17th December	Bishop Luffa Worship in School
Thursday 17th December	5.00-7.00, 'Friends' Christmas Disco
Friday 18th December	11.00, Christian Youth Enterprise Assembly in School
	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Inset Day - School Closed
Tuesday 5th January	First Day of Spring Term 2027
Tuesday 12th January	Chestnut Class United Voices - rehearsal at Chichester Free School (details to follow)
Wednesday 13th January	Chestnut Class United Voices event (details to follow)