



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 37 04.07.25 Our overall attendance for the year is holding at **96.4%** Well done everyone!

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's a very busy time in school, but also a time of immense joy. The incredible weather is enabling the children to make the most of our outside spaces, as well as taking regular dips in the swimming pool, and everyone is busy preparing for some very special end of term events, including our production and Year Six Leavers' events.

At the beginning of this week I had the privilege of accompanying six of our Year Five children to the first Bishop Luffa Partnership Worship Leaders Conference. The day was jointly run by the Bishop Luffa clergy team and members of Chichester Baptist Church and was hosted at the latter, which is a fabulous, spiritual space.

The aim of the day was to equip the children with the knowledge, skills, understanding and passion to help to lead worship and spiritual development back in our schools; through prayer, drama, music and singing. It was fabulous to see the Year Seven, Eight and Nine students from Bishop Luffa, taking our younger ones under their wing and encouraging them.

Next week is all about The Lion King, with rehearsals everyday in the final run up to show time. If you haven't already, expect to hear all of the show songs on 24hr repeat in your households this weekend! As I said, exciting times, full of joy! Best wishes—Chris Williams

THE READING AGENCY Summer Reading Challenge

Story Garden

Join thousands of children taking part in the **Summer Reading Challenge** in all West Sussex Libraries from Saturday 12 July
View our [Story Garden video](#) to find out more!

- Fill in the **online registration form** at arena.westsussex.gov.uk/src
- Tell library staff the **secret code word**
- Pick up a book and start reading!
- **Collect rewards** for reading library books and completing special 'Extra Mile' Book Quests
- Read **any library books** you like—it's just for **FUN!**
- Look out for fun events and activities at your local library!

It's **FREE** to join the library and **FREE** to take part
Let's get GROWING!

Swimming—Come and enjoy the pool after school!

The swimming pool is open after school between 3.00-4.30. The cost is £5 per child per session. Thank you to our volunteer first aiders and supervisors for helping this to happen. Just a gentle reminder that if your child is booked to swim you must be present please. Let's enjoy the pool in the lovely sunshine while we can.

Goodwood Festival of Speed—Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July.

We have our Breakfast Bears available from 8.00 if you would like to avoid the traffic and bring your children in early. Please do ensure that you book in on schoolmoney, £4 from 8.00 -8.30 to include breakfast.

**Well done to...
The highest scoring
House for the third
week in a row!**



End of Term Summer Disco, Thursday 17th July.

Tickets are selling fast for our end of term summer disco on Thursday 17th July.

5.00-6.30—KS1, 5.30—7.00—KS2,.

£6 per ticket available on schoolmoney.co.uk to include a drink and a snack. Come and join in the fun!

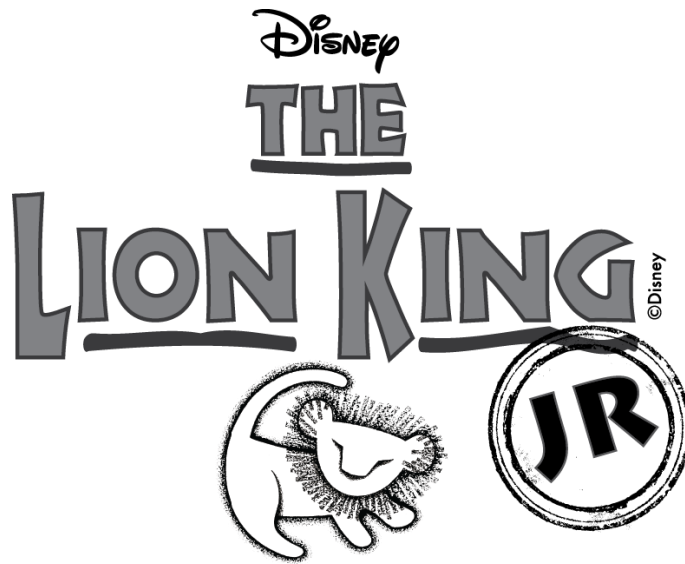
Deadline for buying tickets is Friday 11th July to allow time to plan refreshments.



The Lion King

Tickets are available to purchase on schoolmoney.co.uk @ £7 per ticket.

These are now on open sale.



The Lion King - Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to invite you to the West Dean CE Primary School summer production of The Lion King Junior, which will take place on the evening of Monday 14th July, starting at 6.00pm.

The children are all busy making masks; channelling their inner African animals; rehearsing their lines, songs and dances, as well as preparing scenery and gathering costumes. There is a real buzz of excitement and I have no doubt that we are in for a real treat of a performance.

COSTUMES - We would like all children (excluding lionesses) to wear black as their base layer (masks etc will then be added during the performance).

We would like all children to provide a short sleeved black t-shirt and black leggings/skins, these must be plain with NO logos/pictures on. These were meant to be in school by today, 4th July, but if that has not been possible, we would be grateful if these items could be sent into school as soon as possible early next week.

We are enormously grateful for the support and hospitality of West Dean College, as the performance will take place in a grand marquee on one of their beautiful lawns. What a truly magical location that should be on a summer's evening!

Tickets are priced at £7 per person. Originally, four tickets for every family were guaranteed. As the deadline for claiming these has now passed, the remaining tickets are on general sale to the school community on a first come first served basis, purchasable on SchoolMoney

Ideally, we would respectfully request that very young siblings are not brought to the performance on this occasion, as we want to give your children the best chance of being heard and giving their best performance. However, do come and talk to us if this is going to be a problem for you. We aim to invite the children and staff from the Pre-School to see the dress rehearsal on Monday afternoon – details of this are to be confirmed with the Pre-School.

A bar will be open for you to purchase pre-show drinks. Then **after** the show (weather dependent) we invite you to bring a picnic for you to share with your family. The bar will reopen after the show and will close at 8.30pm.

It is important that you familiarise yourself with the timings for the day (on the following page), as the whole day, including school timings and location, will be different to normal. Activ8 care will be available, but please bear in mind the children will need to be back for the performance by 5.15 / 5.30 – details of how this will look on that day will be communicated in due course.

Timings for the day of Monday 14th July

As we only have use of the marquee for one day, we will spend the entire school day on 14th July at West Dean College. NO children will come to West Dean School that day.

8:30am Children to be dropped off at West Dean College car park in school uniform

Children will need packed lunch, snack and refillable water bottle – please CANCEL / DO NOT BOOK Chartwells meals

2:45pm Apple and Maple Class children to be picked up from West Dean College (there will be no clubs or swimming on this day)

3:00pm Beech and Chestnut Class children to be picked up from West Dean College

Activ8 after school care can be booked for this day. Activ8 staff will be collecting children and walking them through West Dean Gardens, back to school. Any children booked into Activ8 should be collected from school at your agreed pick-up time.

Timings on the evening

5.15pm Arrival at West Dean College for children in Chestnut and Beech – children to arrive in black costumes

5.30pm Arrival at West Dean College for children in Apple and Maple - children to arrive in black costumes

(If you have children in both, please come at the earlier time).

5.15pm Bar opens for pre-performance drinks.

5.50pm Bar closes for performance and the marquee will be opened. Please note, you will not be allowed access to the marquee before this time and no reservation of seats is permitted.

6.00pm Performance begins

7.15pm (approx.) Performance ends. The bar will re-open as soon as possible after this time. Families are welcome to stay and enjoy their own picnic in the beautiful surroundings of West Dean Gardens.

All drinks available from the bar (both soft and alcoholic) will be served in a can. If you would prefer to enjoy your drink in a cup or glass, please bring your own with you picnic.

8.30pm Bar closes – thank you and goodnight!

We hope that you will be able to join us to watch our performance, celebrate the children's summer term learning and enjoy a lovely social gathering as we near the end of the school year. This will be the culmination of a huge project for our school, so it would be lovely to have as many of you as possible with us to share in the magic!

Do please take note of the key dates and times listed above, so that you are well prepared to support us in the smooth running of the show.

We look forward to seeing you. Let's get ready to roar!

With best wishes,

Team West Dean



- Yr R **Barnaby** - for super swimming this week. Keep it up!
- Yr 1 **Delilah** - for your positive attitude to all of school life. Well done!
- Yr 2 **Charlie and Jack** - for the mature and independent approach you have taken towards looking after the school garden during your own playtimes (from Mrs Goacher)
- Yr 3 **Matilda** - for being a kind friend to so many in Beech class, always looking out for and thinking of others.
- Yr 4 **Hettie** - for the joy and enthusiasm you bring to our Lion King rehearsing. Your love of music shines through!
- Yr 5 **Bronte** - for being independent and proactive in getting things done, what a superstar!
- Yr 6 **Jake** - for being spotted by Ellie for excellent listening and hard work with her this week.



Management Information System (MIS) - Arbor

Since becoming an Academy under the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership some of our system have changed. We will shortly be introducing Arbor to our school community ready for action in September.

Arbor is our new management information system which holds all of our staff, student, guardian data etc. We will also be using this for our communications to families, in place of our current e-Schools and this will be our booking and payment platform for trips, clubs etc in place of school money. For ease of use there is a parent 'App' Watch this space for further details and your welcome message to follow shortly. We would kindly ask that you please make sure school money accounts are cleared by the end of the summer term.



Yapton Churches Holiday Club. Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August, 10 am - 12 noon on Yapton Village Green. Sign up here:

<https://yaptonfreechurch.churchsuite.com/events/axxk40p3>



**ACTIVE KIDS. HAPPY DAYS.
JOIN THE FUN THIS SUMMER IN CHICHESTER**

**AGES
5-11
YRS**



**FREE FOR
CHILDREN
WITH A
HAF ID**

DATES + LOCATION

Tangmere Primary Academy, Chichester
Monday 28 July – Thursday 31 July
Monday 4 August – Thursday 7 August
Monday 11 August – Thursday 14 August
Monday 18 August – Thursday 21 August

BOOK ONLINE: www.southcoastsports.org.uk



2024/25 INSET Days

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025



2025/26 INSET Days

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 23rd February 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026

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

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

Summer Term 2025

Monday 14th July	6.00, West Dean School presents 'The Lion King' Bar open between 5.00-6.00 and 7.15/8.15, Event close 8.30pm
Tuesday 15th –17th July	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 17th July	End of Term Summer Disco—5.00-6.30 KS1/5.30-7.00 KS2
Friday 18th July	1.00, End of Term & Leaver's' Assembly
Friday 18th July	Last day of summer term.
Monday 21st July	School Closed—Inset Day
Tuesday 22nd July	School Closed—Inset Day

Autumn Term 2025 - Wednesday 3rd September—Friday 19th December

INSET - Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Half Term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 4th September	First Day of Autumn Term for Children Yr 1—Yr 6
Wednesday 10th September	First Day of School for Year R
Wednesday 17th September	8.30, 'Friends' Meeting in the Pavilion
Friday 26th September	8.45-9.45, Harvest Service in WD Church (details to follow)
Friday 26th September	3.00, 'Friends' Harvest Bake Sale



Summer safety tips from Public Health

Keeping families safe over the summer holidays

By Katie Bates, Advanced Public Health Practitioner

Sun safety

UV rays are strongest when the sun is highest in the sky, which in the UK summer is between 11:00 and 15:00. The strength of UV rays will vary depending on the country, so be aware of this if you are going abroad this summer. Find out more about what to do in a heat wave on the [NHS website](#).

Anyone can get sunburnt, including people with darker skin. Generally, people with lighter skin tones are at higher risk of sunburn, but just because people with darker skin tones might have a lower risk, this doesn't mean there is no risk at all. Therefore, everyone needs to follow sun safety messages. Find out more about sun safety on the [NHS website](#). You can still get sunburnt on cloudy days. Skin-damaging UV rays can pass through clouds so check the UV index even if it's cloudy outside.

Whilst most of us welcome warmer weather, the sun and heat can pose a significant health risk, especially to vulnerable people including children. To help you and your family stay safe this summer please follow our top tips:

- **Spend time in the shade**, especially between 11:00 and 15:00 in the UK
- **Cover up** with clothes, a wide brimmed hat and UV protection sunglasses
- **Apply sunscreen** with at least SPF 30 to protect against UVB and at least four or five stars UVA protection - use it generously, reapply regularly and use together with shade and clothing
- **Keep hydrated** by drinking plenty of water, especially when playing outside
- **Keep your home cool** by closing blinds and curtains on windows exposed to direct sunlight; move to the coolest part of your home; open windows (if safe to do so) when the air feels cooler outside than in
- If you or a family member does become sunburnt, please follow the [NHS guidance](#)

How to enjoy the sun safely



Seek shade

Take a break under trees or umbrellas, especially in the middle of the day when the sun is strongest.



Cover up

Wear a top that covers your shoulders, a wide-brimmed hat and UV-protection sunglasses.



Apply sunscreen

Pick one with at least SPF 30 and 4 or 5 stars. Use it generously and regularly.