



West Dean Church of England Primary School

West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ

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 24 14.03.25 Our overall attendance is at **96.6%** this week.

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



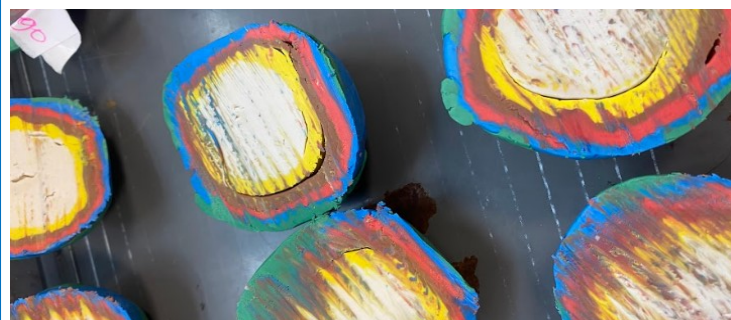
SSP Arun Swim Gala — Eight of our amazing young people competed in the Schools Swimming Gala this week. Henrietta has written a mini report on their fantastic participation and success: On Thursday, 12th of March, Beatrix, Bronte, Finley, Fynn, Henrietta, Max and Owen competed in a swimming gala at Arun Leisure Centre. Bea finished 2nd in the breaststroke final and 3rd in the butterfly final. The girls medley team came 2nd in the final and 3rd in the freestyle final. Overall: the girls team came 4th, the boys team came 8th and combined they finished 5th out of 16 schools. It was a very exciting, noisy afternoon with some fantastic swimming from everyone! Well done Team West Dean!



An Earth Shattering Exhibition of Learning!

Beech Class children opened up their classroom on Thursday afternoon to show their parents some of the brilliant learning they having been doing this half term.

Particularly impressive were their completed 'What is Success?' sculptures, now fully painted and looking stunning. Equally brilliant was the ingenious way that the children demonstrated their science and geography learning, creating really detailed plasticine models of Earth, that revealed even more detail of the core, mantle and crust when cut in half. A fabulous array of learning Beech Class, which we are sure your families will have been really interested to see and experience with you. Well done everyone!



This week's top House

Now that we have rebranded our house teams, we think it might be nice to celebrate the top scorers each week in the newsletter. Every Friday, two children from Chestnut Class collect the house points from each classroom and add them up to see which house has scored most highly during the week. I should add at this point, the totals are always incredibly close between the houses, which is a real positive in my view as it tells me that all of the children across the school are working really hard and demonstrating our school values consistently. This week, the top house was Hawk, with an impressive 148 points. They only scraped the win by 2 points though, so as I said, it is always close. Very well done Hawk!



It's **Red Nose Day** next Friday **21st March** and this year is the 40th anniversary of this charity event. Children are invited to **wear something red to school** for the day if they wish. Next week, there will be a facility to donate to Comic Relief on SchoolMoney.



Academy Conversion Update

Last time we updated you on the academy conversion, all was set for a conversion date of **1st April 2025**. It will not surprise you to hear that something as significant as changing the type of school you are involves a great deal of legal process and administration, and unfortunately, this process will not quite be complete by 1st April. I should reassure you, there is no issue or problem, it is simply a matter of some processes taking longer than anticipated. Consequently our conversion date has been moved to **1st May**, shortly after the Easter break.

In practice, we are already benefitting from close partnership with the BLLP schools and have welcomed a number of visitors to school this week to work with us. Tom the BLLP builder has been in to look at various potential summer maintenance projects, Julie Collins-Balland, the Trust SENCO came in to work with Mrs Bowman, Mrs Shears has been working with the Trust finance team and I have met this week with the headteachers of all five of the primary schools either already in the trust or about to join. So, there's a lot of positive work and support already happening, we just need to be patient for a little while longer before the official conversion.

After School Play, 3.00—3.20pm.

Now that the weather has improved it is lovely to see so many of you staying to play after school. This is a reminder, however, that children **must** be supervised by adults at all times, as school staff are unable to be present at this time and we are still responsible for your children's safety whilst they are on site.

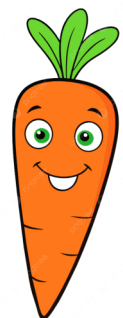
Our Forest School area is out of bounds for health and safety reasons, so please remain on the lower field and / or trim trail area.

Finally, if Activ8 or an after school club are using the outside spaces, please ensure that your child plays in a different area.

We ask you to respect these guidelines to enable everyone to enjoy this time and play safely. Thank you

Healthy Eating and packed lunches.

We offer hot school meals from Chartwells, our catering provider, for those that want this option. Alternatively, you are able to provide your child with a packed lunch. We have noticed a slight decline in the nutritional value of some items in some lunch boxes. The children are working hard to research some healthy options for their own lunches and to share with others. Watch this space for further information from our Pupil Parliament but in the meantime we would ask you to refrain from adding things like chocolate bars, sweets and treats etc and to encourage fruit and vegetable choices where possible. Remember too, that due to significant risk of allergic reaction for some in our community, **we are a nut free school** and it is vital that we respect this for everyone's safety!



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

Monday 17th March	3.00, PTA Meeting in school
Wednesday 19th March	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 19th March	Apple Class visit to Goodwood Motor Circuit
Wednesday 19th March	2.30-3.30, Maple Class Exhibition—Endangered Animals
Thursday 20th March	Bishop Luffa Worship (in school)
Friday 21st March	Comic Relief
Monday 24th March	Chestnut Class to Fishbourne TED Talk Day (x4 children)
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

Summer Term 2025

Tuesday 22nd April	INSET—school closed
Wednesday 23rd April	9.00-12.00, Chestnut Class visit to Bishop Luffa—TED Talks
Wednesday 30th April	Music Festival at Chichester Cathedral (details tbc) Beech and Yr 5
Wednesday 30th April	Dance House, rehearsal and performance (details to follow)
Thursday 1st May	West Dean Academy Conversion Day
Thursday 1st May	1.00-3.00, SSP Future Flyers at Westgate (selected Chestnut, date change)
Thursday 8th May	VE Day Celebration (details to follow)
Thursday 22nd May	2.30-3.30, Maple Class 'Come Dine with Me' (details to follow)
Thursday 22nd May	5.30, Governing Body Meeting
Monday 9th June	9.00, Yellow School Photos, Classes & Year 6 Leavers.
Tuesday 17th June	Apple and Maple Drama for All, Jungle Rumble (in school)
Friday 20th June	Foodbank Friday
Friday 20th June	NHS Healthy Child Programme—Year R (in school)
Monday 23rd June	1.00, Year 6 Leavers' Service—Chichester Cathedral. (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)





We had our Ash Friday worship last week, instead of Acorn Assembly, so we celebrated last week's Acorns on Monday this week—so there's a double-whammy of achievement to applaud in this week's newsletter!

- Yr R** *Harrison* - for being such a kind and polite boy with brilliant manners. Well done!
- Yr 1** *Theo-G* - for your confidence in your reading and using a super story voice.
- Yr 2** *Eadie* - for consistently applying yourself in your learning. Keep up the good work!
- Yr 3** *Harry* - for the kindness and consideration you show to everyone every single day.
- Yr 4** *Nella* - for the quiet determination you give across all your learning. Well done!
- Yr 5** *Ivy* - for being a kind and thoughtful friend.
- Yr 6** *Imogen* - for being a super speedy runner and helping others by giving top tips and encouragement.





- Yr R Bertie** - for giving 100% in all your learning. A fantastic week! Keep up the good work.
- Yr 1 Leo** - for your quiet determination and hard work in all your learning.
- Yr 2 Jack** - for your fantastic 'Lost Words' story writing. You used some brilliant 'WOW' words and your story was incredibly interesting to read. Well done.
- Yr 3 Holly** - for consistently being a fantastic role model in Beech Class, doing your best in all you do.
- Yr 4 Conran** - for being a reliable and responsible member of the class who is a wonderful friend to others.
- Yr 5 Owen** - for showing confidence and determination at the swim gala—wow, what a superstar!
- Yr 6 Ollie** - for being a supportive friend and sharing our learning to make sure everyone in the class understands and is up to date.

