



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 19 31.01.25 Our overall attendance is at 96.8% this week.

The link to Rev Sarah's 'Rector's Rambling' has **CHANGED**. It can now be found by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Marvellous Marwell

On Thursday, Maple Class spent the day exploring Marwell Zoo. We had a wonderful day in the sunshine learning about all the animals, many of which are endangered! We spent lots of time reading the information signs to find out their threat levels. We learnt how Marwell have helped the scimitar-horned onyx back from the brink of extinction and re-introduced it back into the wild! We also had a brilliant workshop in the tropical house where we learnt lots of facts about Santos the sloth.

Ava said 'I loved Marwell as we saw a sloth and sloths are my favourite animals. I also liked the giraffes and hippos who were swimming in the water. We saw the snow leopard who was lying down looking at us. We also saw the second largest pigeon called a 'Scheepmaker's crowned pigeon' and an iguana!'

Freddie said 'At Marwell I liked looking at the Red Pandas because they were cute. We saw the snow leopard who had spotty patterns on him and the penguins who were funny in the water. I really liked seeing the hippos who were camouflaged in the water''



TED Talks with our Learning Partners

On Monday Chestnut Class went to Bishop Luffa for our first joint learning experience with the Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership. We were lucky enough to watch Dr Vic Carr speak about her life and her TED talk about the Power of Language. The children were then able to ask her questions and seek her advice on how to give an inspiring TED talk. We will now be spending the next few weeks writing our TED talks, all the children will present them in school and then one or two children will be brave enough to present their talks at Luffa to a live audience after half term.

Activ8 Holiday Provision — We are looking into the possibility of holiday provision with Activ8. Please could you take a moment to take our short survey. Thank you to those who have already completed this. Access the form and complete the survey by clicking on the Activ8 logo here.



Extra non-uniform layers please!

As I looked out of my office window today, I saw a lot of school jumpers and cardigans having a PE lesson. 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

Online Safety

Safer Internet Day 2025 is just around the corner 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, during the week of Safer Internet Day, 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/>

Safer Internet Day 2025

Tuesday 11 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

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>.





Thank you to everyone who gave so generously in support of Foodbank Friday today. As always, your donations are greatly appreciated both by us and by the families in need in our community.



Exploring our Roan history at Fishbourne Palace

On Wednesday, Beech Class enjoyed a fascinating day at Fishbourne Roman Palace learning about the successes of the Romans and the palace itself. During the day, the children examined the vast array of ancient mosaics, learnt about the first underfloor heating system and discovered how to write their names in the classical Latin alphabet. Highlights included learning about roman toilets and "slave Bob" who had a very important job for Roman royalty!



Well done and congratulations to our cross-country runners who took part in the locality inter-schools competition at Bishop Luffa School in challenging conditions on Wednesday afternoon. Everybody ran with such determination and stamina, despite the stair rod rain that was falling in the latter races. We are delighted and proud that 5 children qualified for an invitation to the county championship race later this term. Congratulations to Imogen, who 'podiumed' in the Year 6 Girls race with a brilliant run and impressive 3rd place.

On Thursday, 6 of our aspiring athletes spent the afternoon at The Westgate Centre with children from a wide range of local schools. This was the first meeting of the 'Future Flyers' programme for this year, in which the children develop their skills in a variety of sports, as well as their technique in the competitive arena.



- Yr R** *Poppy* - for your enthusiasm in your learning. You always have such a positive attitude.
- Yr 1** *George* - for your hard work and independent approach in your writing. Well done!
- Yr 2** *Alice* - for your enthusiasm towards our topic learning. We loved hearing all about your research at home, well done!
- Yr 3** *Todd* - for your determination in maths. You did not give up when it got tricky but kept trying until you 'got it'!
- Yr 4** *Miles* - for your renewed confidence in your reading and writing. It is wonderful to see your love of learning.
- Yr 5** *Henrietta A* - for always putting in that little bit extra, working so hard and being a great role model.
- Yr 6** *Seb* - for your hard work, perseverance and successes in maths. Thank you for sharing your top tips linked to fractions.



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

Wednesday 5th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February	Bishop Luffa Worship
Wednesday 12th February	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut
Wednesday 12th February	SSP Netball event at Bishop Luffa (details to follow)
Thursday 13th February	3.00, Beech Class Showcase (details to follow)
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 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)
Friday 28th March	Foodbank Friday
Tuesday 1st April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly (in school)
Wednesday 2nd April	Westgate Swimming—Beech and Chestnut



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



Chichester
950



DRAW 950

Saturday 15 February (10.00 - 3.00)

WORKSHOP



Children, families and caregivers are invited to take part in creating a **monumental artwork** that brings the Cathedral's incredible **950 year history** to life.

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY (10:00 - 3:00)
FREE, DONATIONS WELCOME

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/WHATS-ON

Chichester Cathedral, West Street,
Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1RP

CHICHESTER
CATHEDRAL

CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE *home!*



15 – 23 FEBRUARY

Join us this February half term to
celebrate houses and homes

Have a go at hands on activities and follow the
house hunting trail around our 40 acres site.



Weald & Downland Living Museum
Singleton | Chichester | PO18 0EU



Find out more at wealddown.co.uk

01243 811363