



West Dean Church of England Primary School

WEST DEAN, CHICHESTER, WEST SUSSEX, PO18 0RJ
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Headteacher: Mrs. G. Moss



Parish Council Report 2009 - 2010

In view of the fact that no Annual Report was invited by the Parish Council for the year 2008 - 9, this report will summarise the period from Summer 2008 until the present day.

Following the retirement of Mrs. Cook, Headteacher of West Dean C.E. Primary School for the previous eight years, Mrs. Moss took up the post in the Summer of 2008. The transition went well and the school began the year with an increase in numbers on roll, four classes rather than three, changes to classrooms internally, the development of our bursar's role to Business Manager and the appointment of a newly qualified teacher: Mr. Murray. The Autumn events of Apple Affair, Harvest Festival, charity events, Arts events, Christmas celebrations and residential visits to 'Little Canada' on the Isle of Wight proceeded as in previous years, with the Spring term culminating in a highly successful Ofsted inspection, where the school was judged 'Outstanding'. (The previous judgement was 'Good'.)

This year, the school has celebrated many successes and has built on its links with the local community and those further afield, to the benefit of our learners. Our Development Plan highlights aspects of maths and spelling, as well as the further development of the learning and outdoor areas for the younger children. It also included the development of our Governing Body and further links with the community as well as enabling all staff and children to maximise the use of our extensive and varied grounds.

We have been supported by staff from the LEA in developing the Early Years and these younger children are now able to use their outdoor area for learning, as our Kitchen extension is now completed. Hot school meals have been introduced successfully, with a take up of 50% of our children (particularly beneficial to our 12% Free School Meal families). We have gained a large cupboard space and Conservatory for small group work, as well as building work of a high standard which improves the external appearance of the school.

Our links with a school and community in France are growing, and will blossom in 2010/11. We have worked with staff from West Dean College to begin links via an arts project with Xilitla, the Mexican community much visited by Edward James. We hope to share our cultural heritage and build a sustainable programme to enrich both communities. Our recent development of an interactive website will facilitate this, and is enabling us to communicate in new and exciting ways with our community. This year, we are holding our Easter Assembly in St. Andrew's Church, in addition to using the church for our Christingle Service and Leavers' Service.

We have enjoyed many arts successes, with workshops in conjunction with sculptors through West Dean College Memorial Arts project. The children have enjoyed dance and music workshops and the staff have had drama training. We have worked closely with Petworth House on a project where our children's pots and plinths were exhibited in the house. This year, we will have art installations

alongside the art work within the house.

We have enjoyed the support of our local community in many areas this year. The Selsey Arms continues to help us with our parking and congestion issues, by allowing families to park and stride from across the road. The whole community, supported the road safety appeal which culminated in our whole community working together to secure a 30mph limit for the village. We are grateful to the Parish Council for their support in this in particular. We, in turn, support West Dean village by promoting and using the Post Office, attending the Pub Quizzes, using vouchers for the Pub as 'Thank you' gifts and by holding our new annual social Governors' evening in the Selsey Arms! In January of this year, we relied heavily on the pub car park for parking as we were able to ensure the school was safe for pedestrians only, for the first few days, and would not have been able to open without this help. These community links are very important to us as a school and we plan to develop them over the coming years. Singleton village and school are used for our cycling proficiency work with Y6 pupils.

The school has accommodated a number of student teachers and work experience students this year, in our role of 'Outstanding School', it is important to use our skills to train the next generation of teachers in a rich and supportive environment. We have also used our expertise to help several schools from the Midhurst Area with their first Y6 cohorts as their school system changes.

Our very active and capable PTA continue to do sterling work for the school: our Summer Fete, Apple Affair, Film Nights, Raffles, Mothering Sunday Baskets, Quiz Nights and Beetle Drives are always well attended, well supported and highly effective fundraising events. We have used much of this year's money to support our enriched curriculum and to purchase resources for imaginative play and practical work. We are currently saving for outdoor learning spaces.

There are many opportunities for children outside school, including clubs for ICT, Creative Writing, Athletics, Dance, Choir, Art, Chillout, Sports etc. Teams of children have reached the finals of the West Sussex Maths Competition and the finals of the Road Safety Quiz, as well as taking part in other inter-school events such as swimming galas.

With the other Goodwood Area Schools, we continue to provide enrichment activities including the Opera which children have been involved in writing, rehearsing and staging at Chichester Festival Theatre, led by a team of professional artists: Create2Learn. Children also benefit from, singing workshops, netball and football tournaments, country dancing events, as well as our programme of gifted and talented pupil days where selected children are able to immerse themselves in art (eg: Still Life work), ICT, crafts and creative writing etc. The support for all our staff provided by this family group of schools is invaluable and the Headteachers' meetings, held in West Dean College, enable this to flourish.

The year has been eventful one where the whole school community is proud of its achievements.

Additional Information: The current number on roll is 99, with a full compliment of 14 due to join in September. We have four classes, each with a full time teacher/job share and part or full time support staff:

Class	Teacher/s	Support Staff
Apple Class (YR/1)	Mrs. Pleasance/Mrs. Chilton	Mrs. Pinnington, Mrs. Stanford Mrs. Swinyard
Maple Class (Y2/3)	Mrs. Thomas/Mrs. Canning	Mrs. Cruttenden, Mrs. Mugeridge & Miss Collins

E-mails: office@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk head@westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk
Website: <http://www.westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk> **Moodle:** <http://learning.westdean.w-sussex.sch.uk>

Beech Class (Y4/5)

Mr. Murray

Mrs. Kitchen

Chestnut Class (Y5/6)

Mr. Dobson

Mrs. Goacher

We have a part time music specialist: Mrs. Keal

Maple and Chestnut Class children in take part in sport lessons with Brighton and Hove Coaches and Maple, Chestnut and Beech Classes attend swimming lessons at the Westgate Centre in Chichester.

We have one governor vacancy: please contact the school office if you are interested in joining our thriving school!