



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2019

Executive Head Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2019 and my first newsletter as Executive Head of the South Hams Hub. Although I haven't yet had a chance to meet everyone, I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome which I have received from both those parents who I have met and the children! It really has been a privilege to be given this opportunity to work with 3 amazing schools and to be able to take them onto the next stage of their journeys!

West Alvington is a unique village school with a real family feel to it and the staff team are incredibly committed to ensuring every child has the best education possible. This term the children have been enjoying a range of opportunities in the wider curriculum from PE with a teacher from the Spires, Forest Schools and an author visit just to name a few. It has been wonderful to see the children return from these experiences with smiles on their faces and hear them talk excitedly about what they have learnt.

I have also been spending time with the children in their classrooms and looking at their books. It has been great to see that the children enjoy being challenged and also how they work together with their peers to support each other.

I look forward to meeting more of you during my visits to West Alvington, please come and say hello if you see me on the playground or around the building!

Miss Garside
Interim Executive Head

Chestnut



This month in chestnut nursery the children have been doing lots of new exciting activities.

We made our 'real life' fruit and vegetable shop, we talked about what foods were healthy and unhealthy. We also had fun making our own healthy and unhealthy lunch boxes. The children loved making delicious fruit kebabs which they enjoyed eating at snack time. We have been focusing on speech and language and our pencil control this month. We made some animal masks to go alongside our Jungle themed reading den.



PLEASE REMEMBER THAT COLLECTION FROM NURSERY IS AT 3PM AND LATE COLLECTIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO EXTRA CHARGES. THANK YOU.

Hazel



We have been learning about Africa this month and have already started writing information pages about African animals. Did you know that an elephant's trunk can be 2 metres long? WE measured it to see what it would look like!

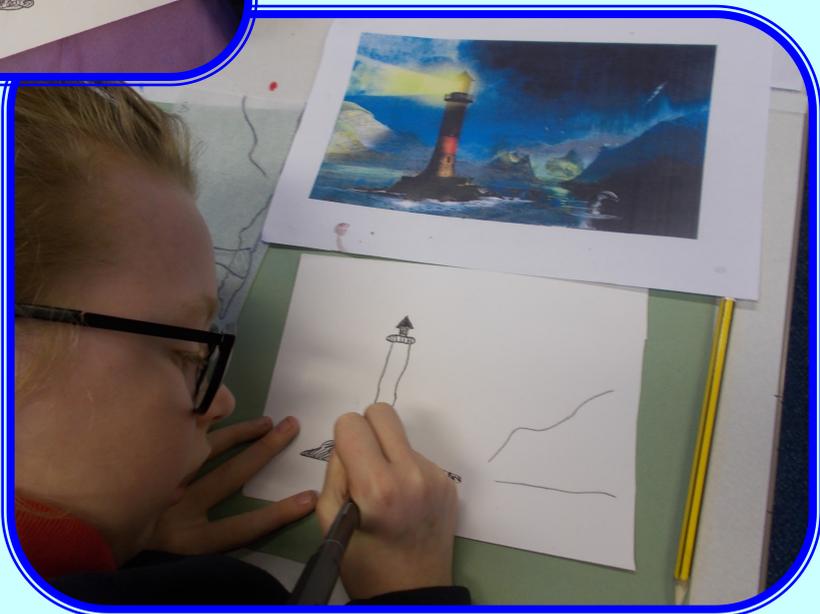
Our Art work is focussing on Henry Moore and we have had great fun turning ourselves into live statues ready to transform these ideas into our own sculptures.

We have also had great fun writing and making instructions for making gingerbread men. We made and decorated some fabulous ones!



Oak

This month, the children have been using the text *The Rhythm of the Rain* to create some beautiful watercolour images. In class, they have been using different types of media including ink, tissue painting and watercolours. We have been exploring tone, composition and perspective. The children have completed their first draft and provided feedback to their peers which have enabled them to make progress.



Forest Schools

The children have enjoyed forest school this month, we have been learning different skills. We learnt how to make clay animals, light fires, climb trees and den building.



RE and Values



This term our school value has been truth and truthfulness and we have been learning about how this affects our lives and the world we live in.

Oak class have been exploring whether God is loving and holy. The children have been using a range of texts to examine how God is seen by Christians. In class, the children examined Exodus when God spoke to Moses. In Hazel class we have been learning about the Good Samaritan and about people who help us. We acted out the story too!

The children were able to use this text to support their answers.

Worship

We said a sad 'goodbye' to Reverend David from All Saints West Alvington, who leaves us to take up his own parish in Dorset. We wish him lots of luck.



Our new Friendship Express Train

Our children love our new Friendship Express train. The train decorations were designed and painted by all of our children. Then the panels were then added to the train frame and the end product is amazing.



OFFICE NEWS

We have a fantastic new website which will be going live on 1st February.

westalvington-lap.co.uk

Have a look, it's amazing!

School money

It is easy to pay for school dinners, trips nursery fees etc. using School Money. We encourage all parents to use this way of paying as it is easier for both you and the school. Please check your account on School Money to see if you need to make any payments.

You need your mobile number, email and child's first name to log in. The Academy office will be sending you a reminder of your password.

If you do need to send cash in to school, please can you put in a named envelope stating what the payment is for.

Thank you for your support with this.

Don't forget to download the My Ed app so we can communicate with you more easily



MyEd App

New consent forms:

You will shortly receive an updated consent form for the use of photographs etc. It is really important that we get these back as soon as possible so we have an accurate, up to date record. Please complete the form and return to the Academy office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Reminder:

If your child is ill and will not be coming to school please ring in every day your child is going to be absent . Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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4 Feb - Internet Safety Week

12 Feb - Forest School

18 Feb - Half Term

4 Mar - Parent Consultations

5 Mar - Forest School

6 Mar - Parent Consultations

7 Mar - World Book Day

15 Mar - Red Nose Day

19 Mar - Forest School

2 Apr - Forest School

4 Apr - Easter Service

5 April - Break up for Easter Holiday

22 April - Bank Holiday

23 Apr - Back to School for Summer Term

ATTENDANCE

Attendance so far this academic year:

Whole school — 95%

Oak Class —96%

Hazel Class— 94 %

Academy Policy for Absence and Lateness

First day reporting

Parents are reminded of the first day contact procedure at the beginning of each term via the Academy newsletter.

On the first day of absence the parent/carer should ring the Academy between 8.00am and 9.15am to inform the office that their child will be absent and give a reason for the absence. An indication of the likely period of absence is to be provided. A letter explaining the absence should be sent to the Academy office on the first day the child returns to school.

Administration staff keep a log of absence calls and reasons received each day

Between 9.15am and 10.30am attendance/administrative staff will phone the parents/carers of any pupil whose absence is unexplained.

Lateness

There are two negative results caused by pupils who constantly arrive late. These are:

- The loss of education suffered by the child which over a year can add up to a significant proportion of their time at school.
- The disruption to other children in their class as the teacher's attention is taken from the task at hand.

Pupils who arrive 5 minutes after registration are considered 'Late' (L) and will be required to enter the school via reception to sign in and record the reason for their late arrival.

Children who arrive after 9:15 am should be considered as 'Late (after registers close)' (U unauthorised absence) and will be required to enter the school via reception to sign in and record the reason for their late arrival.

For full details please refer to the Academy Attendance & Absence Policy



West Alvington C of E Academy

West Alvington, Kingsbridge, TQ7 3PP

☎ 01548 852002 ✉ westalvington@lapsw.org
🌐 westalvington-lap.co.uk @WAlvingtonLAP