



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER WEST ALVINGTON C OF E ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

The festive season is here! We have a real buzz of excitement following Hazel's fantastic Nativity play at West Alvington Church, Hazel's visit to Pennywell Farm, KS2 Carols, Christmas Dinner and all of the many exciting festive events taking place at school.

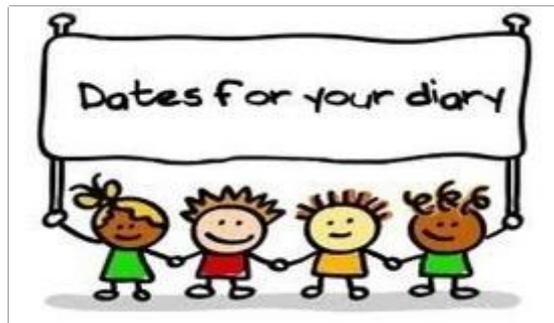
It is a magical time for children, with so many different celebrations taking place. It is wonderful celebrating the magic of Christmas, with your children, as well as exploring a deeper understanding of kindness and goodwill.

December is a time to reflect. The children this term have been discussing our whole school value of 'friendship' - being kind and considerate to others, doing those little things for each other and having exemplary manners all make the world a much nicer place to be.

I would like to take this time to thank parents and carers for your continued support including the PTA who are so instrumental in making Christmas special at West Alvington. I hope you have a wonderful break and enjoy spending quality time with friends and family. I look forward to seeing you all back for the start of the spring term on Monday 6th January 2020.

Miss Coombe





January 2020

Monday 6th January - Back to School

Wednesday 15th January - Forest School (Nursery and Reception)

Tuesday 14th January Year 6 Breakfast Club

Term Dates

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January - Back to School

Monday 17th - Friday 21st February - Half Term

Friday 27th March - Last Day of Term

Summer Term 2020

Tuesday 14th April - Back to School

Friday 8th May - Bank Holiday

Monday 25th - Friday 29th May - Half Term

Monday 1st June - Non Pupil Day

Friday 17th June - Last Day of Term

Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd July - Non Pupil Days



School Meals

It was wonderful to see so many children and parents join us for our shared lunch. We had some great feedback about our new menu which has increased the healthy options available to our children. The new menu for the Spring term has been sent home this week. Paper copies of our menu can be collected from the school office.



Staff Focus

Mrs Keiller—Trust Catering Manager

I am a qualified chef with 25 + years in catering, many in education. I Love all things foodie especially foreign food markets, I enjoy travelling and exploring different cultures I was lucky to do World Challenge with Torquay Girls Grammar School working in a school in Kenya. I love the water! SUP and Sailing and racing twice a week in the season I am a Mum to two grown up children and have recently become a Grandmum.



Reception Starters 2020!

Admission to Primary School 2020

Time is running out!



The application facility closes at midnight on **15th January 2020**. It is important that parents apply before the closing date. To apply go to;

www.devon.gov.uk/admissions

Parents with children due to start school in September 2020 will receive a letter from the Admissions Team which provides a Unique Identifying Number which will help the application. However it is not essential to have this number to apply. If you need any help with the application process you can contact the Admissions Team on 0345 155 1019.

Children in Need

We had a great day celebrating Children in Need this year. Our pyjama day with wacky hair was great fun and everyone looked great! This was followed by a Pudsey biscuit sale kindly made by the kitchen - thank you!

We raised an amazing £33.00! Well done everyone!



Chestnut Nursery

Wow! what a busy month we have all had, Christmas parties, visits from Father Christmas and craft afternoons. A wonderful opportunity for us to share some special times with our friends and parents in school.

We had a fantastic visit to Pennywell farm, where we were able to participate in the nativity with our friends from Charleton and Thurlestone, the children were beautifully behaved and had a wonderful time.

The children in Chestnut Nursery have been working exceptionally hard to learn all of the lovely songs ready for our nativity. We are looking forward to sharing these with you all on Wednesday.

Myself and Miss Hutchinson would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



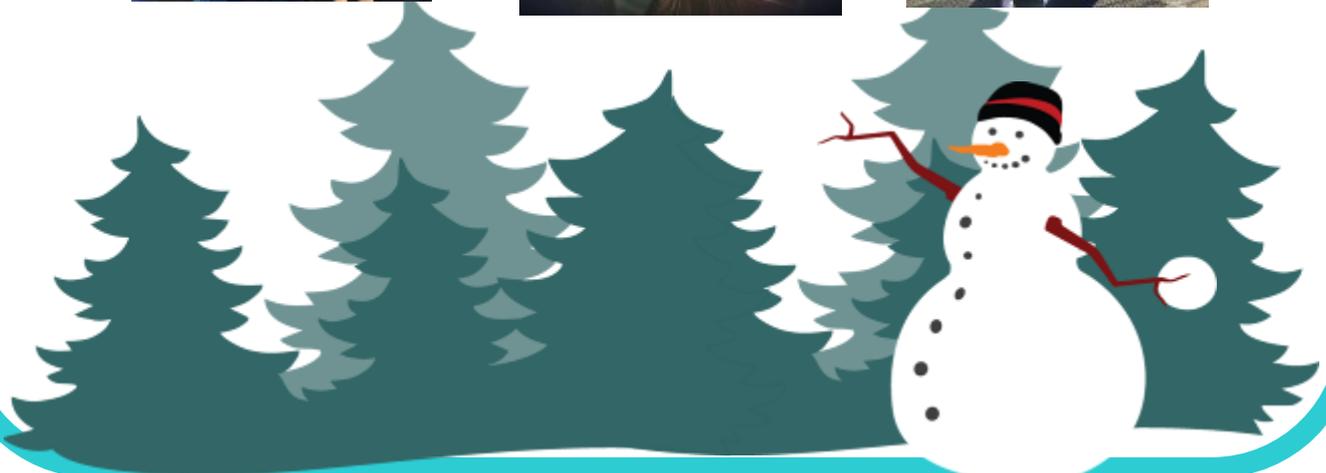
Oak Class

This month, we had an exciting trip to a local farm. At Terawhiti Farm, we were able to understand how the farm contributes to the local community. The farm we visited specialises in arable farming and the selling of livestock for meat. The children were able to receive a guided tour from Miss Baldwin who works at the farm. As a group, we were able to meet some cows and spend time exploring the machinery and fields where food and livestock are kept. This was a great opportunity for the children to spend time on a farm and one which has been running for over 400 years!



On Thursday 12th December and Friday 13th December, we had our Christmas craft afternoon and Christmas Fayre. I would like to thank all the parents and friends who gave up time to come and spend the afternoon crafting and purchasing the children's crafts.

On Friday 13th December, Plymouth Raiders came and taught the children some tricks and skills. The children were able to learn how to dribble, pass and shoot the ball. The children loved taking part and it allowed them to develop their team skills, throwing and catching and physical development.



Hazel Class

Hazel class have had a really busy month in the run up to Christmas.

We had a wonderful trip to Pennywell Farm at the beginning of the month. Our Christmas spirit wasn't dampened by the driving rain, we visited Father Christmas in his Grotto and participated in a fantastic Nativity, which included; a donkey; baby lambs and llamas! This really heralded the start of Christmas for us!



We were visited by Plymouth Raiders, who taught the class some excellent basketball skills, which we will definitely continue to practice next term.

Thank you to all the children who took part in our Nativity. Staff were really impressed by how well all the children delivered their lines and confidently sung the songs. Special mentions need to go to Miss Elliot for all her hard work during rehearsals and Sophia Brown for the mammoth task of Narrator.



Parents in Partnership

Parent Survey

Thank you to those parents who completed the survey. We had 24 responses. I have been looking at the results of the survey to ensure that we move forward to achieve the best outcomes for our children. Some areas we will be able to address immediately, others may be longer projects. I am going to use the newsletter to keep you up to date with what we are doing as a result of the survey. Some feel we do not teach a wide range of subjects at the academy, so I would like to start with a focus on the curriculum.

The Curriculum at West Alvington

We teach to the National Curriculum, which is the requirement of all schools. This covers the subjects which children should learn and the content of each subject, broken down into the different Key Stages. As a staff, this term we have really been focusing on the curriculum which we provide for the children at West Alvington. As a result, the children and yourselves may have noticed a difference to what and how they have been learning! At our recent PIP meeting we discussed some of the highlights for this term including the childrens' enthusiasm for their learning in History.

We want to ensure that all of our children will flourish through experiencing a knowledge rich curriculum, which is both broad and balanced and fosters a love of learning and, which prepares them well for the next stage of their education. This term, we have moved away from teaching through topics and have been teaching each subject discretely, making links where possible. The children have really embraced this new way of learning and are enjoying learning explicitly about the knowledge and skills they need to become Geographers, Historians, Musicians, Artists, Scientists etc. In order to give more emphasis on the wider curriculum, earlier in the term we 'tweaked' the school day to provide two hour sessions in the afternoons. This means that generally on a 'normal' day, Maths and English are taught in the mornings and the afternoons are free for the foundation subjects - Science, History, Geography, RE, Art, Music, Computing, Design Technology, PE and Modern Foreign Languages (KS2 only). In addition to these National Curriculum subjects, we also ensure that through the year each class will have a term of Forest and Beach school and also, this year, each class will have a term of 'Well Being' lessons with Premier Sport both of which contribute greatly to the wider personal development of the children.

Recently I have spent time talking to groups of children from each class and year group about their learning and have been blown away, not just by their learning of the knowledge but also by their depth of understanding and the links which they have made to their prior learning and events happening in the world today! In order to keep you informed about what your child is learning, we held 'Meet the Teacher' events at the beginning of term, we send curriculum maps home and the weekly / monthly newsletters also give details of each classes learning.

Please ask your children what they have been learning and feedback to their class teachers the highlights and what they have enjoyed. The staff have already started planning for next term and are very excited!

Trust Links

Thank you to everyone who attended our Read Write Inc Parents' Workshop. Thank you for fully embracing and supporting our ethos and determination that all our children will be successful, confident readers who adore the written word. We will also be running some further RWINC workshops in the Spring term where parents will be invited to see a 'live phonics lesson' If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Barrett in the first instance.

Sports Round-up

Cross Country

We took 2 teams to the Cross Country in Filham Park Ivybridge on a very wet and windy October afternoon! All the children ran extremely well in the muddy conditions with some slips in the mud along the way! Congratulations to the girls team - Ruby and Kiya joined the girls at West Charleton - they have qualified for the Devon Finals which will take place in Paignton next year!

After School Clubs

Premier Sports



On Tuesdays after school, Premier Sports have been running a fencing club. At the club, we learnt how to use our footwork to effectively beat our partner. We also learnt to parry, defend and attack their partner.

Next half term Premier Sports will be running a Dance Club on Tuesdays starting on the 7th January 2020. If your child would like to join please book direct with Premier Sports at:

<http://www.premier-education.com/sport>



Parents In Partnership

During our latest PIP meeting we had a discussion about the curriculum, in particular History and Geography. It was very useful to hear about the curriculum from the point of view of parents, including what key learning had really 'stuck' for the children. We also decided on some key actions before our next meeting.

- ◆ setting a date for parents to share learning in class with their children (22.11.19)
- ◆ implementing a one way system for wet pick up.
- ◆ information for parents on our RWINC phonics scheme.
- ◆ all minutes from our PIP meetings are emailed to parents.

SEND

Across the LAP, the SENDCos (Special Educational Need and Disabilities coordinators) have been revising how we identify, assess and monitor the progress and achievements of all our amazing learners. All teachers are teachers of children with or without special educational needs, and all children are unique in how they play, learn, communicate and progress through their school lives. Teachers will have the most impact on a child's progress. "The first response to such [less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances] progress should be high quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness." SEND Code Of Practice 6.19 p95 The SEN 'code of practice' highlights that all schools should follow a 'graduated approach' to SEN.

This is illustrated in the flow chart. If your child's teacher has any concerns regarding academic progress, a child's social, emotional or mental wellbeing, communication, speech or any other area of need, they will begin a 'Step 1' tracking document that will monitor all the provision already in place, anything new that is tried and how this has an impact. It can take some time for a new approach, intervention of resource to be effective. This step helps to refine where the need is. E.g. sometimes children may mask an unmet unidentified learning need through their behaviour - such as appearing withdrawn and quiet in a lesson. Children can have needs that are not displayed at school and vice versa with needs that are not displayed at home. If you have any concerns, please talk with the class teacher who can share the 'Step 1' document and begin the process of a graduated response.

The SENDCos will attend meetings where a child is in receipt of an EHCP. They will also carry out a range of assessments where needed to support the teacher identify an underlying need and planning intervention and resources. The graduated response to SEN ensures that early intervention is put in place as quickly as possible - this could be anything from using a coloured overlay for reading, assistive technology or for some children, additional evidence based interventions such as Read Write Inc. If you have any further questions about SEN, please contact the class teacher and look out for SEN coffee afternoons coming up.



Hoops for Health Roadshow

KS2 have been super lucky this half term to have a visit from some members of the Plymouth Raiders basketball team! We had three sessions involving different aspects. The first included a healthy living workshop, general basketball skills and an anti-bullying workshop. The second session, looked at different basketball tricks and top tips! We played a game of hot seat which the children loved! Finally, the third session, which sadly had to be inside because of the weather, included a game of clap catch - another popular game - which managed to catch a few people out and cause lots of giggles, it was a great game to watch for me! We also spoke about basketball terminology and enjoyed a game where the children completed different actions and movements when Millie shouted a move in basketball! Overall, we have had fabulous sessions with Plymouth Raiders and we are very grateful they came to visit us. We are looking forward to having them back next year!



Behaviour

Behaviour In the parent survey

Some parents raised concerns about behaviour in the school and how it is managed. At Charleton all staff follow our Positive Behaviour Policy with the children. The policy can be found here-

<https://www.lapsw.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ACA004-Positive-Behaviour-Policy.pdf>

In classrooms the behaviour policy is shared with children as our 'Rainbow' charts which explain the system in a child friendly way. I am sure many of your children will have told you about this. We also have many ways to reward good behaviour these include stickers, family group points, postcards and certificates in Praise Assembly.

We often receive positive comments about the behaviour of the children and are very proud of how polite, friendly and well mannered they are to visitors in the school.

As our school has grown and flourished over recent years we have worked to make the most of our outside space including the adventure area. Our School Council has been instrumental in organising games and activities on the playground so that all children feel safe and are involved in active play. They have a weekly timetable for games which they have decided on by speaking to their classes.

To encourage this further we have introduced 'Playground Pals' this half term. The role of the Playground Pals is to support their peers, encourage happy play and to lead activities on the playground.

In the Spring and Summer terms we will be engaging in an exciting project called 'KIVA' KiVa is a research-based antibullying program that has been developed in Finland and shown to be highly effective. Miss Wright and Miss Alen will be learning all about the programme and implementing it in their classes..

If you have any concerns over specific behaviour issues, please arrange to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.





Keeping your under 5 safe online

Statistics released by Ofcom show that over 50% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 8 hours a week, and 1 in 5 children aged 3-4 have their own tablet.

This may be surprising, but **research** has shown that families are spending more on technology for a number of reasons:

- To further their children's education,
- to maintain connections with family and friends,
- and to facilitate and enjoy daily life.

What can I do to support my under 5?

There are lots of things you can do to support your under 5. This is not a complete list, but a range of strategies you can use to improve your child's online experience:

1. Explore together: Explore your child's favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.

2. Talk to your child about their online experiences: Start and continue regular conversations with your under 5 about what they enjoy doing online, introducing online safety messages. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce the message that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried, they can tell you or another adult they trust.

3. Supervise your under 5 while they're online: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult can supervise. Children under 5 **should not** access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.

4. Parental controls: Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the [internet matters site](#). If you need any help setting up parental controls, you can also call up the NSPCC/O2 Helpline or visit an O2 store.

5. SafeSearch: The use of 'SafeSearch' is recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which allows you to limit the material your child can see when they're online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to age inappropriate material.

6. Set boundaries: As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access. On devices you do not wish your under 5 to access, use passwords and keep these out of reach of your child.

7. Lead by example: Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be an effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

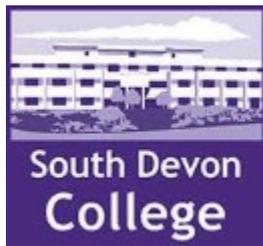
More information is available here;

https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/keeping-your-under-five-safe-online/?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=f3e45b5b92-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_TUK_NOVEMBER_GLOBAL&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-f3e45b5b92-55259237

Parent Workshop

We are working in partnership with South Devon College this year to provide some great Family Learning opportunities based at West Alvington Academy and open to all parents, grandparents and carers. The sessions will start on Tuesday 14th January and involve 4 week Story Craft course.

Each session will start at 10 am and finish at 12pm. More information including how to sign up will be sent to all parents soon.



Family Learning



Tuesdays Starting 14th January 2020
10am to 12pm
At West Alvington C of E Academy

Fun, free course for Parents
Gain new ideas to enhance storytelling with your child
Make story aids and interactive activities to share with your child

For more information and to book a place, please ask in the office

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