



West Alvington Church of England Academy Newsletter

23.10.20

Dear Parents,

I can't believe that it's already the end of the Autumn 1 half term! As we've moved into October, I have continued to be impressed by our children's approach to their learning. The whole staff have noticed how much the children skip into school and are working hard in lessons. Staff have been adapting their teaching, so that any gaps in learning have been spotted, and lessons shaped to help children feel confident.



Thank you for joining us this week for virtual parents' evening. If you haven't yet arranged a parent consultation please call the school office to arrange one. Over this half term we have welcomed Mrs Lees and Mr Nute to our school family, they are very much enjoying getting to know our fantastic children. They are so impressed by the family atmosphere in our school and the way the children support each other as they learn and grow.



Have a restful and happy half term break.

With best wishes,

Miss Coombe

Working Together to Stay Safe

As you know from the detailed risk assessment we have shared with you, we continue to have in place many measures to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in and around the academy. The children have adapted brilliantly to these, from regular hand washing, to eating their lunch with their class. These routines are now embedded and slick. Staff have been working incredibly hard with additional cleaning, providing the children with their own set of stationary/resources, ensuring that shared resources like the library/ PE equipment have robust additional measures such as 'quarantine periods' and extra cleaning. I'd like to reassure parents that we are continually reviewing our risk assessment, taking on board the key messages and expectations that the Government sends out in their daily email to Head Teachers. Being part of a family of Schools, with the LAP, really does support this; I meet each and every week (virtually) with the other heads and leaders to share expertise and ways of working so that we are continually innovating. Devon County Council also continues to be a great support through this time and shares regular updates with key learning and local protocols around COVID-19. Finally, a huge 'thank you' to our families who have supported us all the way through this time. We are grateful parents for wearing face coverings every day - it really does make our staff feel safer and no doubt makes you all feel safer too.



Information for Parents



Over the course of the school year lots of items are lost and found. Thank you for remembering to label clothing and water bottles with your child's name, this certainly helps us in school! In particular we have been looking for a black hoody zip up PE top that was lost at the start of term. Please could you help us locate this and any other lost items by double checking school bags?

Applying for Free School Meals

We want to make sure that we are providing your child with the best education and support we can. Healthy school food has obvious health benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also help to improve pupils' readiness to learn.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190

Registering for free meals could also raise extra funds for the school, to fund valuable support. This additional money is available from central government for every child whose parent is receiving one of the benefits listed above.

To check if your child is eligible you can apply directly through the Devon County Council website

[School meals - Education and Families](#)

or chat to Mrs Broadfoot in the school office.



Free school meals entitlement

Who is entitled to free school meals?

Parents do not have to pay for school lunches if they receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit* and have an annual household income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Universal Credit

*unless in the Working Tax Credit 'run on' - the payment someone may receive for a further 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Children who receive any of the qualifying benefits listed above in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.

What is the Pupil Premium?

The school receives a Pupil Premium payment for the year in which families are eligible for free school meals and automatically for the next five years. This additional funding will be invested in your child to help them achieve more at school.

Help for people who need cash for basic essentials during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/6950/Coronavirus-Welfare-Support-Fund>

The COVID-19 Welfare Support Fund can provide small emergency payments to help with basic essentials including: household essentials such as sanitary products or nappies or electricity key and gas card top ups, etc. to help people in financial difficulties. The fund is not available for the purchase of food where a food parcel is available. The fund is available if:

- They run their own business, and cannot currently trade, or their business has been drastically reduced because of the pandemic.
- Their employment situation has changed and their income now no longer covers needs.
- They have lost their job due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- They have still not received expected government funding (i.e self-employed).

If you are a resident and have been affected financially by coronavirus (COVID-19), and can demonstrate a need for immediate short-term financial help, you can apply for a grant by clicking the button below and your application will be considered.

How can I apply?

Further information and online application-

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/6950/Coronavirus-Welfare-Support-Fund>

Devon Family Advice Line

- Are you arguing more often with your partner?
- Are you struggling to agree about arrangements for your children with your ex?
- Are your children driving you mad?
- Is discipline becoming a problem in your house?

01392 949059

- Do you need someone to talk to?
- Someone to offer impartial advice and support?
- Do you need to find an agency who might be able to help you?
- Help and advice is just a phone call away

An experienced Family Support Worker will be available to talk to you Monday to Friday from 10 – 2pm. Or you can leave a message and your contact details outside these hours and we will get back to you.

Special Needs Support

Speech and Language

Resources for parents - speech sounds - Listening for Sounds Programme

The Listening for Sounds programme is a great resource to use with all younger children, regardless of whether they are showing difficulties with speech sounds or not. It helps children to listen to the sounds that we use in our speech, so that they can learn to use these sounds themselves.

<https://www.wchc.nhs.uk/services/childrens-speech-language-therapy/self-care-resources-and-support/>