



West Alvington Church of England Academy Newsletter

2.10.20

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy week at West Alvington packed with learning, laughter and a little rain! The children in Hazel class are really enjoying the outdoor environment and carefully observing the changes of seasons - the depth of discussion and meaningful observations have been a joy to witness. Hazel Class have also been making observational drawings and trying their best to focus their attention on the surroundings. Meanwhile Oak Class have been busy learning about the voyage of the Windrush which links to their class novel 'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin. They have also been having great fun in science lessons making working model versions of the human heart. What fantastic learners we have at West Alvington!

We continue to follow the government guidelines within the school to ensure that our children and staff are kept safe. I am very grateful to have a wonderful team who ensure that the school day can run as smoothly as possible for the children whilst also keeping them safe. The staff are working extremely hard to do this including covering two or three playground/lunchtime duties to enable the bubbles to stay separate. Whilst it may look effortless to ensure the school runs smoothly, our team are working doubly hard to ensure the bubbles, cleaning and handwashing can all take place. We must continue to remember that we are still in the middle of a pandemic and that this year will look different to other years. We thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

Best Wishes,
Miss Coombe

Remote Learning Plan: Guide for Parents

Along with this letter, you will have also been sent our Remote Learning Guide for Parents. This sets out what we will provide for our children in the event of a bubble or local lockdown or if a child has to self isolate. Please take time to read the guide so that you understand what will happen in these events. EYFS children will need access to Tapestry so please ensure you have your child's log in details. Years 1 - 6 will need access to their Google Classroom. Teachers are currently teaching children how to learn and access this in school and are setting tasks to be completed at home so that the children are confident with using this platform. Please support your child to do this and let the class teacher know if you are experiencing any issues. This will be a new way of learning for everyone so there are bound to be a few bumps along the way!

Welcome to Miss Lees

We are very excited to have a new LSA starting work with us on Monday. Miss Lees will be based with our Nursery children in Chestnut class. I know you will all give her a wonderful West Alvington welcome. She has written to us to introduce herself-



Hello from Miss Lees

I am so excited and looking forward to meeting you all at West Alvington Academy from this Autumn term. I have been asked to tell you something about myself, so here goes...

The first thing you may notice about me is that when I talk I will sound a little different to you despite having lived in the local area for the last 24 years! I am a lass from the North West of England, studied and worked in the South West and South of England, and travelled to various countries before settling in this beautiful part of the U.K. where I feel very much at home.

Consequently, my partner and I have brought up our three children here; all attended Kingsbridge Community College and are now heading on their different paths.

I have an arty background and my passion for all things outdoors eventually lead me to teaching in the field of outdoor education. I like to keep active and enjoy swimming in the sea (warmer than the rivers!) so you may spot me briefly dodging the seal especially this time of the year.

Rewind to the time when my children were younger, I retrained and worked as an Early Years Practitioner at our local preschool. Fast forward and I now find myself here with you and relishing the next chapter, getting to know you and having fun.

Forest School

We are pleased to be welcoming Pete Moore from Forest and Beach back to West Alvington. Sessions will start on Wednesday 7th October for Hazel Class and Nursery this term and run every other week up until Christmas. In the Spring term Oak class will have their sessions, with the Summer term being shared by all classes. The children will need to be wearing clothes suitable for the outside with wellies and coats suitable for the weather conditions.

This Week's Feature Hazel Highlights of the week

Reflective RE

Hazel Class. Beautiful discussions about God and the creation story and the type of being God must be. Ideas included:

"He showed us how to work hard and keep going but then showed us that we need a rest when we are tired."

"He made us to be fragile but looked after us because when we fall, he puts another layer of skin on us."

"He wanted us to ask, 'Why?' Why does a giraffe have a long neck? Why do zebras have black and white stripes? Why are birds so colourful? Why are ants so tiny? Why are slugs slimy?"

Marvellous Maths

Hazel Class. Our days are full of maths learning, in small group lessons and through play. We are laying some great foundations of number knowledge to set us up for the future weeks of learning. This week, we have been comparing numbers - more, less, equal to?

Reading Heros

Hazel Class. The enthusiasm and effort children are putting into their reading is an inspiration. We are learning at a fast pace and having lots of fun as we go. The pride children are taking in their work is wonderful to see. They are also thinking about sounds throughout the day. For example: d, d, d, door and b, b, b, book. Keep at it guys!

Super Scientists

Hazel Class. Wow...our exploration into different materials continues! This week – magnets and magnetic materials. We carried out an experiment using paper clips, magnets and glass jars full of water. The task was to remove the paper clip without getting our hands wet...the children decided that this felt a little like a fishing rod game! As super-special Scientists, we

made predictions on what might happen and then drew our experiment, thinking about ways we could extend our findings.

Fine Motor Fun

In Hazel Class, we have been racing to use spoons and tweezers to put conkers into bun tins. There is a 30 second timer so that we can race against the clock! We have also been warming our fingers up before we start to write, using different exercises.

Stars of the Week

In Hazel Class over the past few weeks, Ottis has consistently worked hard. He is trying his best in every area and his beautiful, big smile tells us just how proud he is of his efforts. He is also taking positive praise from grown-ups with grace and pride. Thank you, Ottis, your attitude to work is an inspiration.

Well done!

The Star of the Week for Oak Class is Maya - For always demonstrating positive learning behaviours and attitudes towards her learning. Well done Maya, what a great example for your class!

Showing our school vision in everything we do...

Growing and Flourishing together.



West Alvington Primary School - 2021 Calendar Competition

Coast & Country Cottages have invited 12 Primary Schools in the South Hams to help create a wonderful calendar to distribute locally to businesses, organisations and to their second home owners.

Each school has been assigned a month and within the school there will be a competition to design the illustration for that given month, with entries being judged by a panel of local artists. The design can be anything that portrays our given month, from South Devon scenery to your favourite seasonal activity.

Here at West Alvington the month our children have been allocated is JUNE. I'm sure our children will have lots of Summer sunshine related ideas for their calendar design.

The winning design from each school will then be collated into one beautiful calendar, with the child's name, age and school included.

Every school that is involved will receive £100 of book tokens as a 'thank you', and each of the 12 winning children will also receive an age appropriate prize worth £30.

The main requirements are that only colouring pencils, pens or crayons are to be used, and for the purposes of reproduction we will require the entries to be flat with nothing stuck on. The bolder and brighter the entries are, the better!

The deadline for us to receive your competition entries is Friday 6th November.

Each child will have an entry form sent home which can either be returned to school or sent directly to Coast and Country Cottages.

We hope you feel inspired to get involved. Let's start looking ahead to a wonderful 2021, kick starting the year with an amazing community calendar!



Helping Your Child to Make a Great Start in School

As schools returned in September teachers have been working hard to understand the next steps needed for each child. I thought it might be useful to share some top tips from the teachers on helping your child to make a great start to the school year.

Top Tips for Nursery

- Please help your child by providing coats and shoes they can attempt to put on themselves, with the changing weather they need waterproofs and warm clothes so that we can take them outside.
- Please count with your child at any opportunity, up steps, counting toys, recognising numbers anywhere and looking at signs, ie; supermarket, road signs, toilet signs etc.
- Please give your child vocabulary, telling them the word for things, animals, weather, sky, colours, positional language i.e. up, down, through, under, over and how to ask for help, will help them enormously.
- Please read to your child and share books and stories with them.
- When they do artwork, ask them to describe their picture as opposed to telling them what you think it is as their imagination may tell them it is something completely different and they use their vocabulary to explain to you which is a good skill.
- Praise and show you value what they do as praise gives them the confidence to do it again.
- We will be focusing on Animals and their babies for a few weeks, please reinforce this by asking them about it at home.
- Please talk to your children about where they live, their relatives and the area around them so that they can tell us in Nursery and we show interest and get to know them.

Miss Holloway's Top Tips for Hazel Class

- Spot numbers everywhere and anywhere! Can you see 5 petals on a flower? How many things can you see 1 of? What numbers are on the clock?
- Play counting games together. Hide and seek is great for counting forwards and timing how many times you can do something (e.g. jumping) is great for counting backwards. What's the time Mr Wolf is another favourite!
- Fine motor activities are great for developing letter formation and neat handwriting. Some ideas are: threading pasta on a string, making a paper chain, playing with play dough, using pegs to help hang out the washing or even colouring in.
- Practice sounds learnt at school. There are sound mats for all in homework books. 5 minutes in the car on the way to school can make a big difference.
- Can you find shapes all around you? What shape are the windows?

Miss Cusack's Top Tips for Oak Class

- Remember to read five times a week - reading helps us to develop our vocabulary and sentence skills.
- Practice your times tables daily. It is important to practice your times tables, I practice mine when I am in the car, hanging up washing or tidying up!
- Practice your number fluency at home.
Can you add and subtract numbers using strategies you have learnt in school? For example: $9 + 8 = 17$, I made ten by adding 1 to my 9 and then added my 8, I need to remember to subtract 1 at the end to compensate for the 1 I added at the start!
- When writing at home, take this as an opportunity to develop your handwriting skills.
- Talk about your learning at home, can you remember key dates we have learnt in history? The names given to different parts of a river in geography or how our internal organs work in science!
- Share your feelings, worries or concerns with an adult - we are here to help!