

# West Alvington C of E Academy CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

# 2020



## Head of Academy

Dear Parents,

This week West Alvington has been so fantastically festive from Christmas dinner to the Nativity play, Christmas crafts, parties, Christingle service and even a special visit from Father Christmas. A huge thank you to all of our amazing staff for their hard work this week! We are also very grateful to our PTA for the lovely party treats which made our last day in school so special.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Miss Coombe

## Christmas Highlights at West Alvington



Dear Parents and Carers,

As the Chief Executive of the Trust I would like to welcome you to this month's Academy newsletter to thank you for the tremendous support that we have received from parents and our communities during these challenging times.

Since the beginning of the first lockdown in March our schools have been operating in the most extraordinary and challenging of circumstances to provide a safe learning environment and continuity of provision for our children. The safety and welfare of our children, staff and families remain our key priority.



Throughout this time staff have worked selflessly to keep our schools as safe as possible and at all times 'putting our children first'. I am immensely proud of our leaders, teachers and staff who have demonstrated such professionalism and dedication, above and beyond the call of duty. It is testament to the leadership of our Heads and the hard work of all our staff, with your support, that despite the current restrictions, our schools are beaming with happy children and staff where love and care is tangible and where the exciting buzz of learning exudes. I and my team across our family of schools have worked closely together throughout the pandemic to ensure that everyone is well supported. I am particularly thrilled with the feedback from staff in our recent staff wellbeing survey. There are 258 members of staff employed by and working across the Trust and 96% reported that they are proud to be a member of our Trust. As a result, 95% of staff would recommend the Trust as a place to work.

I want to also thank our Board of Trustees and Local Governance Committees for their continued work and support. The Trust values: '**Collectively Empowering Excellence**' have been abundantly evident during the course of this past year with all of our school communities pulling together to ensure we are able to deliver the best possible care and education for our pupils, while also delivering on ambitious projects to support those in the community who have faced challenges the past year.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the excellent work happening across the Trust. Across all our schools, there has been excellent fund-raising efforts for charities who are doing great work to support those in need at such a challenging time. We have seen some truly outstanding efforts from parents and pupils across our schools. Thank you!

As many of you will know, our Trust works extensively across the South West schools region to: support school improvement; deliver teacher training and provide staff excellent professional development opportunities, all with the aim of improving pupil outcomes. The Learning Academy Partnership is the Number 1 Trust in the country for the outcomes of disadvantaged children and in the Top 10 Trusts nationally for the progress that all our children make. This is an amazing achievement and testament to the excellent quality of leadership, teaching and learning across all our schools.



It was 10 years ago, in 2010, that we were designated as a National Support School, then recognised as a nationally designated Teaching School (2014) and then as a National English Hub (2019). This recognition and the resulting activity has contributed to improved opportunities and achievement for all our children, and also drives additional income generation that is reinvested into our Trust schools for the benefit of our children and staff. As always, our pupils are at the heart of everything we do.

I am pleased to share with you that very recently we were awarded almost half a million pounds' worth of extra Government funding to extend the reach of our flagship **English Hub**. The money means that the Trust will be able to grow the Centre of Excellence, based at Ilsham C of E Academy but involving all our Trust Schools, to share our expertise in teaching English both across the Trust as well as the South West more broadly. This is a flagship achievement that we are immensely proud of.

### **New School for Paignton.**

As some of you may know, the Department for Education previously asked the Trust to open a new school in Paignton, to support the overwhelming need for primary school places in the area. We are making good progress with our plans to open St Michael's Church of England Academy in Paignton in September 2021, with building work for the new site in Fisher Street making good progress, and the admission process in full swing. This new academy will be the tenth school in the Trust and another exceptional school within our Trust family. It will begin by offering Nursery and Reception places to families in and around Paignton. If you know of any families who would be interested, please put them in touch with our admissions team ([admissions@lapsw.org](mailto:admissions@lapsw.org)).

### **Dartington C of E Primary School**

Since June 2019, we have been working very closely with Dartington C of E Primary in a management partnership with a view to Dartington joining the Trust more formally. This relationship has been very successful. Formal consultations have been postponed due to COVID but I am now pleased to share with you that the consultation process will begin early in the Spring term with a view to Dartington converting to academy status and joining the Trust formally from April 2021.

Finally, I wanted to share with you the 'Thank a Teacher Card' campaign, run by the Teaching Awards Trust. Any pupil, parent or member of the public can show their appreciation for those education staff working in schools and colleges by sending them a free card and personal message. In the lead up to Christmas, we want to make sure as many teachers and education staff receive thank you messages from students, parents and other teachers as possible after an incredibly challenging year. You can send a free thank you e-card to teachers and education staff in the next couple of weeks by visiting the website [here](#).

I would like to introduce our new Chair of Trustees, Richard Vaughton and end by wishing you all a very peaceful, safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Very Best wishes

  
Mrs L Atkinson , Chief Executive



## Chair Of Trustees

I was delighted to be appointed Chair of Trustees in September this year after serving on the Board since 2016. I would like to begin by thanking everyone for my warm welcome to this role. I have immensely enjoyed my first term as Chair of Trustees for this outstanding Trust. I feel very privileged to lead the Board of Trustees in a Trust that I believe passionately about. The Learning Academy Partnership provides a first-class education to its pupils, thanks to the hard work and commitment shown by the dedication of our Leaders, teachers, support staff, our parents and Local Governance Committees across the Trust.



I wrote to you in July regarding a report by the ESFA that related to historical matters between 2016-2018. The Trust is committed to self-improvement and I am pleased to now be in a position to provide an update to you and to share the excellent outcome of a number of recent independent audit reports that demonstrate the excellent position of the Trust and the high standards of Governance and Financial Management.

It is testament to the work of leaders within the Trust and particularly the Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer, Finance Team and the Governance teams that the Trust is recognised as so strong with all levels of Financial Management judged as **High Standard**. These independent reports described as **'flawless'** can be found on the Trust website under Governance. (<https://www.lapsw.co.uk/governance/>)

Furthermore, a 'forensic' Governance Review has been undertaken and I am delighted to also share that Leadership and Governance has been recognised as a strength. The final report will be available on 4th December. These reports build upon the many previous good reports the Trust has received since 2011 when the Learning Academy Partnership was established.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Local Governance I would like to thank everyone for your continued support to your school community and to the Trust overall. I look forward to our joint work to continue empowering excellence for all our young people.

Your sincerely,

Richard Vaughton

*RCVaughton*

Chair of Trustees, Learning Academy Partnership



## Chestnut Nursery

Here in Chestnut this term we have enjoyed Forest School, improvising, playing and learning with our toys and resources. We have been very busy elves making all things Christmassy. Chestnut's older nursery children were superstars in the school nativity, joining in with Hazel Class. A great experience making easy transition from nursery to KS1 in September 2021.



We are already looking forward to Spring and welcoming lots of new children in January. Miss Lees and Miss Hutchison wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Christmas Lunch

We had a lovely Christmas lunch on Tuesday which was served by Pam and all our staff. The children had a lovely time and were joined by staff as well.



## Hazel Class

Our hard work and dedication to the Nativity was clear this week as we took some deep breaths and braved the stage! What a stellar performance, Hazels! You did so well remembering your lines and actions...you should be very proud.

Our craft skills have been put to the test as we made calendars to represent the seasons. We also joined Oak Class to design and create beautiful glass candle holders and cards for our special family members – we hope you enjoy them at home. Another highlight was making reindeer hot chocolate cones, they smelt incredible and we may have sneaked a few marshmallows!

As Historians, we finished our studies about Sir Francis Drake by making fact files to show off our learning. The hot debate is whether he was a good person or a not-so-good person and we have deliberated this over the past few weeks. It is tricky to come to a decision as there are points for each side. When creating our fact files, we thought about our ideas first and then set about creating our masterpieces. I'm sure you'll agree, they are great!

As an exciting end to this term, our bucket overflowed again! We'd already chosen that we'd like to have a movie with hot chocolate and marshmallows, so we stopped everything, cosied up and celebrated our successes.



### **\*\*Ethan\*\***

Wow! You are an all-round superstar and an absolute asset to Hazel Class. You consistently put your all into everything and it really pays off. You are a great role-model to your peers and it is a pleasure to see your confidence grow. I know Bluebell will be thrilled to spend the Christmas break with you are we cannot wait to hear about your adventures. Well done Ethan!

Have a restful and happy Christmas break one and all,



## Hazel Class cont....

THANK YOU for all of the consistent homework help.

You have some Addition and Subtraction activity booklets to practice your skills over the Christmas. Please complete as much as you can and are able to.

There are also some festive challenge ideas for you to have fun with as quality time with our loved ones is the joy of Christmas. Please do post any photos or updates onto Google Classrooms – they would be wonderful to share.

In preparation for next term, please may you bring in photos of yourselves as babies! We are thinking about animals and humans and will be using our pictures to kick-start our learning.

For our art project next term, we will be weaving. Please could you try to make a loom! Here are some links to simple looms but feel free to use your imaginations for your creations!

<https://www.artbarblog.com/weaving-kids/>

<https://www.theweavingloom.com/how-to-make-a-cardboard-loom/>

Have a restful and happy Christmas break one and all,  
Miss Holloway and everyone in Hazel Class



## Oak Class

In maths, we have completed our learning of our addition and subtraction block and we will now be moving on to multiplication and division. The children will be learning how to multiply and divide numbers. In class, we will be exploring what happens when you multiply and divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000. As a group, we will be using our knowledge of multiplication and division to solve a variety of problems.

In English, we have completed our writing of Floella Benjamin's biography. The children have used the Google chromebooks and voice typing to present their learning. In class, the children have been reading aloud to the chromebook which has typed their biographies for them. The children have worked incredibly hard on their biographies and they should feel incredibly proud.

### Google Classroom:

I have decided not to set home learning for over the Christmas period; however, I would like the children to practice their times tables and ensure they have a secure understanding of their 2,3,5,10 and 11 times tables.

Maths: TT Rockstars

English: Reading.



### **\*\*Killion\*\***

For his improvement in his English writing, I am so impressed with how far you have come! Well done!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone! Thank you for all of your support this year and term from Miss Cusack and Mrs Andrews





## Christingle

Our Christingle took place with our friends from Charleton, Rev Jackie Taylor, Rev Matt and Ken Ball. Croft performed a tableau in a news report style. West Alvington led the prayers and we all lit our Christingles.

Ken Ball sent us this message:

Well done to school for the tableau (great reporting!!!) and the spoken carol.

West Alvington's prayers were excellent.

Please let parents and teachers know that we have an online Carol Service on Sunday evening at 7pm. Anyone is welcome to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7941618992>

Zoom ID 7941618992

Passcode 201220

Happy Christmas to you all. Ken



## Forest School

On Monday, Oak Class went to Forest school for the morning. They were able to explore fire lighting, making Christmas decorations and spending time in the hammocks and watching the robins. The children loved spending time in the woods and being able to explore nature, everyone had a lovely morning and luckily the rain held off!!

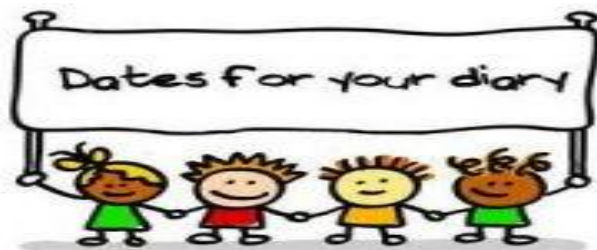


After Christmas Oak Class will be starting Forest School on Wednesday 13th January 2021. Could all children wear waterproof trousers as they sit on logs and on the ground to complete their activities, thank you.

## Christmas Toy Drive

The Christmas Toy Drive in aid of Kingsbridge Foodbank was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who donated a toy and thank you to our Caretaker Emma for organising it.





Please order your child/ren's lunches online. The menu's are available for the next 4 weeks.

Monday 4th January 2021- First day of Term

Monday 4th January –PE—Wear PE kit to school

Wednesday 13th January – Forest School Oak Class

**12th February - Non Pupil Day**

15th – 19th February Half Term



## Attendance

Hazel Class 96% Fantastic Hazel! Well done.

Oak Class 97% - Great Attendance Oak! Well done



## Support for Families

### New coronavirus winter support package

The government has announced a Winter Grant Scheme to support vulnerable households in England during the pandemic. The grants will be administered by local councils to provide support with food and bills to vulnerable families to the end of March 2021 and enable councils to provide food for children in low income families over the school holidays.

The Government has also said it will:

- Fund a Holiday Activities and Food programme across England during Easter, Summer and Christmas in 2021
- Increase Healthy Start scheme payments (which apply in England and Wales) from £3.10 to £4.25 a week from April 2021
- Provide funding for food distribution charities

