



West Alvington Church of England Academy

22nd January 2021

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has helped to support our children and school community this week: those supporting remote learning at home, those helping friends with advice and support, and those working in school. Our thoughts and best wishes go to all families who are recovering from COVID-19. These are difficult times for so many, particularly after the challenges so many of us have faced with work, finances and health this year. We must all do as much as we can now, so that the lockdown is lifted as early as it is safe to do so.



Digital devices and internet access

We have delivered a number of devices to families to support children's access to remote learning. We are also awaiting the arrival of our allocation of Chromebooks from the Department for Education, so please keep your class teacher informed if you are finding it difficult to access the remote learning due to technology. Games consoles that are connected to the internet can also be used to access Google Classroom for use at home.

Remote learning

We have been teaching remotely the start of the lockdown and the feedback from parents and carers so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

Parents and carers, and children have said:

- Children love seeing their teachers in the live lessons and hangouts
- Children have also enjoyed seeing each other and feeling part of their class and year group
- The timetable has provided a good structure and routine for children learning remotely at home
- The timetable also allows flexibility for working parents to jiggle the day around other commitments, available devices or supporting several children at home
- The live lessons have provided parents with time to leave their children to be more independent
- Videos have given parents support with explaining things clearly, the language to use and useful images or resources to use.

In our (online) staff meeting on Monday, teachers shared their way of working for their year group and also shared ideas and top tips. I'm sure you join me in thanking them for their professionalism, determination, bravery (!) and commitment to continue to do the very best that they can to support all of our children.

Rapid Flow Testing

The government has announced this week that all primary staff will have access to rapid flow testing from next week. As yet, we have not had updated guidance, received the home kits, discussed this information with staff or updated our risk assessment, so we will share this information with parents when we can. There are currently no plans to test primary age pupils.



Care and Share Virtual Parent Coffee Meeting

Thank you to all of our parents who were to join Miss Coombe, Miss Holloway and Miss Cusack for our virtual coffee break! It was really useful for the teachers to hear how you are getting on with Remote Learning and to share some top tips. Hopefully it was useful for parents to see that everyone is facing challenges and just trying their best!



Free online webinar for Parents 'How to support anxious online learners'

Title: How to Support Anxious Online Learners

Led by: Tom Vodden, parent and educator

Date: Tuesday 26th January at 4pm GMT

Aimed at: Parents and professionals from any country

How to book: Register using the link below to attend or to receive a recording

https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/product/how-to-support-anxious-online-learners-26th-january/?mc_cid=52f1993acf&mc_eid=cd7cbfc2e2



Worried about debt, struggling to make ends meet or just wish you were better at managing money? Home Start is running a six-week workshop programme that could be for you. The weekly, informal, one-hour session will give you the chance to ask questions, look at resources and ideas, talk to other parents in a similar situation and reflect on what might help you personally. The sessions will be participant-led and tailored to individual needs. The next group starts on Thursday 28th January, 11am to Midday. If you are interested in attending or would like to know more, contact homestart.shpt@gmail.com



Covid 19 Hardship Grant South Hams

South Hams District Council, in association with Devon County Council has launched a Local Support Fund to support those whose financial situation has been affected by the current pandemic and are now out of cash for basic essentials for their household.

The COVID-19 Welfare Support Fund can provide small emergency payments of up to £50 to help with basic essentials, essential travel costs, food support and gas and/or electricity meter top ups. You may be eligible if you are:

- An applicant who runs their own business, and cannot currently trade, or their business has been drastically reduced because of the pandemic.
- An applicant whose employment situation has changed and their income now no longer covers needs.
- An applicant who have lost their job due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- An applicant who have had a delay in receiving their benefit allowances or have had an unexpected reduction in benefit income
- Any other one off unavoidable event which has impacted on finances and led to an immediate need for financial assistance to meet basic needs.

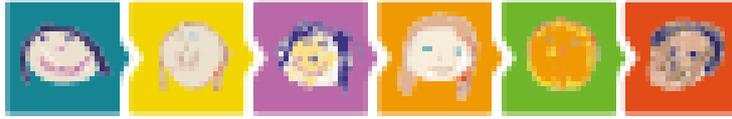
For further information-

<https://southhams.gov.uk/welfarefund>



If your circumstances have changed you may be entitled to free school meals or lunch vouchers if your child is not attending school. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> [Devon County Council](https://www.devon.gov.uk)

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



SOLIHULL APPROACH

The Solihull Approach Parenting Courses

Public Health are offering free online courses for residents of Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

The Solihull Approach parenting courses are for everyone - anyone who wants to be the best mum, dad, grandparent, carer that they can be. The Solihull Approach aims to improve emotional health and wellbeing by supporting relationships. The courses are written by CAMHS professionals with other health and education workers. They are evidence based and accredited by the DfE.

- For more information and details of how to access the free online courses, [view the flyer](#).
- Read more about the [Solihull Approach on the website](#).