



West Alvington Church of England Academy

Newsletter
29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

I do hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It has been so lovely to see so many of you on the different live sessions. It is very heart-warming to see the smiles on the children's faces when they see their friends and the adults in school. Please remember that we have a variety of live sessions throughout the week, including the Care and Share sessions for parents. You are very welcome to attend these forums and it would be brilliant to see you there!

February Half Term

I wanted to write to you to confirm the arrangements for the upcoming half term break. There has been much speculation in the media regarding the arrangements for half term and yesterday we received confirmation from The Department for Education of what these arrangements will be.

Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week.

I wanted to inform you of this as soon as possible as I am aware that this may have implications for those of you who have currently taken up a school place. I am hoping that by getting this information to you promptly, that you will be able to now plan for this.

Reopening of Schools

We heard from the Prime Minister this week that, should all go to plan with the vaccine roll out, then schools will start to open from the 8th March. Further details on this roll out will be published during the week of 22nd Feb. As soon as we have the information we need to make plans for a safe reopening, we will share these with you. We are all very much looking forward to seeing all of the children in school again.

Free School Meal Vouchers

In addition to this, families who are currently eligible for free school meals will not receive lunch parcels or vouchers from school during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time. If you would like more information regarding this then please do contact the school office.



Laptops, tablets and chrome books

A huge thank you to our parents, local community and charities who have generously donated devices to support our children learning at home. The devices have been an invaluable resource for our children as they learn remotely. We continue to await our allocation of devices from the Department for Education. Please do let the school office know if you feel your child would benefit from the loan of a device.

Virtual Games



#DevonVirtualGames
Skipping Challenge
Rope Incentive Form

The #DevonVirtualGames has an exciting opportunity for all the family to get involved in a skipping challenge. If you don't have a skipping rope at home, do not worry, click on the link below to receive a maximum of two free skipping ropes per family. The skipping ropes will be delivered direct to your door. There will be a choice of a Gold, Silver or Bronze challenge that consists of different elements like Single Bounce, Double Bounce, Run, Slalom Skip and Speed Skipping. Click on the relevant link below to take you to the #DevonVirtualGames Dan the skipping man challenges. He makes it simple and super easy to follow.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DVGSkippingRopes>



Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and I'm sure you will agree there has never been a more important time for us to look after children's mental health and wellbeing. Throughout the week teachers will be sharing ideas to support your child's wellbeing including mindfulness activities, expressing their creativity and breathing exercises. To launch the week on Monday at 9am there will be a special virtual assembly led by Oak Academy, teachers will share the link to this on their Google Classrooms. More information and ideas for parents can be found here-

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

Parent Care and Share Sessions

Many thanks to all the parents who have joined us for our virtual Care and Share session. We will be holding regular Care and Share sessions throughout February and early March. The teachers were so pleased to hear the many, many kind comments about the remote learning they've been working hard to provide. We've listened to feedback from these sessions and have already implemented improvements to our remote learning such as more live sessions and planning in mindful moments to ensure children get a screen break.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you for your support and engagement with the remote learning offer for children who are not currently on site. Teachers continue to be on hand to support you. We will always strive to help in any way that we can. We continue to recognise the different situations of individual families at this time and we applaud your efforts. Remember to be kind to yourselves, to not compare yourself to others and to recognise your successes!

All of the staff here at West Alvington send you our best wishes and we are very much looking forward to the day when we can safely see you all again.