



West Alvington Church of England Academy

26th February 2021

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well during this time. On Tuesday this week, we emailed you to follow up from the Government's announcement that all pupils will be returning to school on Monday 8th of March and attending school will be statutory again. Having thoroughly read the guidance, we will be running the school in a very similar way to the Autumn Term and the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and our community remains of paramount importance. Our robust systems of controls will be the same and we'll have staggered gate times, bubbles, social distancing and lots of handwashing and cleaning!

These routines now feel very familiar to us all now, but we will be writing to you again next week with a remainder of all of this. We are in the process of updating all of the Risk Assessments for the 8th of March and will be sharing with you the updated Parent Risk Assessment too.

We are very much aware that children may well have very mixed emotions about returning to school. By working in partnership together, we can support children to feel confident and ready to return on Monday 8th of March.

Supporting your child as they return to school

After such a long period of remote learning, it is only natural that many young people will be worried about returning to school.

Here are some tips from on how you can support your child to transition back to school life:

- Talk to your child about how they are feeling about going back to school and try not to make assumptions. Ask them if they are worried or feel scared about anything, but also if they are excited about or looking forward to something. No matter how your child feels, let them know that it is completely normal to feel a mixture of emotions and that everyone will be in the same boat.
- Provide your child with as much information about their new routine and school day as you can. This will help them to prepare for any changes that have been made to the timings of their day, the layout of their classroom, their peer groups and playtimes. For younger children, it can be really helpful for them to visualise these changes – so ask your child's school if they can send any pictures to help make things feel more familiar.
- Reassure your child. During the lockdown we have been told to stay at home, remain socially distant from others and wash our hands regularly. This means children may find it difficult to go back to school because it will be a huge change from what they have been asked to do during the pandemic. Talk with your child about ways they can stay safe at school, such as washing their hands before and after eating, and reassure them that the school is putting measures in place to keep them safe.
- Re-establish a routine to help ease into school life. During lockdown it is understandable that your family's routine may have changed. Children are likely to have been waking up later or going to bed later. To help them get ready for school, try to gradually get them back into their usual morning and bedtime routines as they get closer to their return date.
- Don't put pressure on yourself. The transition back into school is likely to take some time. Lots of children will experience ups and downs. Try your best to support, reassure and comfort them, without putting pressure on yourself to make sure their homework is done or they settle into a new routine straightaway.
- Think ahead. As well as reflecting on what has happened during the past few weeks, it is important to help children develop hope and a sense of excitement for the future. At a time like this, it can be

hard to feel positive, but identifying the things that they can look forward to will help them to realise that the current situation won't last forever and their feelings will change.

- Seek support if you need it. Transitioning back to school after being in lockdown is no easy task. You may find that your child struggles to get back into school or experiences difficulties while they're at school. If this is the case, reach out to your child's school as soon as you can so that you can make them aware of the challenges and work together to support your child. If you are concerned about your child's mental health and you think they need professional support, speak to the school and your GP about the best next steps
- Make Sure you've got your parent consultation for next week with your child's teacher and contact us asap if you have not done this. This will give you the chance to talk with the teacher about any concerns your child has.

Bubble Books

Attached is a copy of our Bubble Book for children. Hopefully this book will support your child in understanding what school will be like on their return and help them feel confident about what will be the same and what will be different.

Care & Share - Preparing Your Child for the Return to School

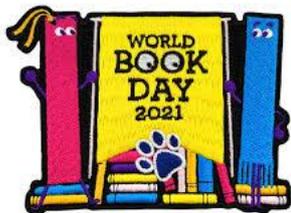
meet.google.com/hnf-yjgj-dew

On Wednesday 3rd March, Mrs Pascall, our Hub SENDCo, will be leading a session at 2.30pm on how you can prepare and support your child for their return to school on Monday 8th March. The session will include practical tips and resources to take away and try.



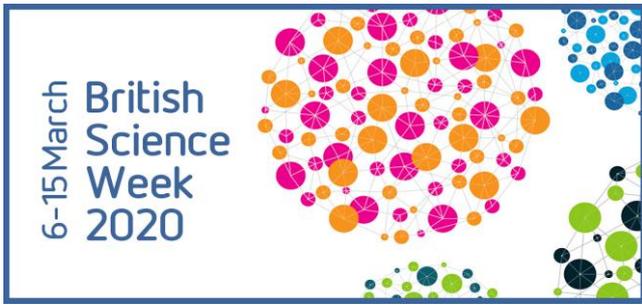
Parents Consultations

Our Parent Consultations will be held next week on Tuesday 2nd and Thursday 4th March. The information for booking appointments has already been sent out. Please contact the school office if you have not received the information or have yet to book an appointment. These consultations are the perfect time to talk with your child's teacher about how they have been during lockdown both for their emotional well being and their learning.



World Book Day

Next Thursday is 'World Book Day'. Information on what your child's class are doing to celebrate this can be found on Google classrooms.

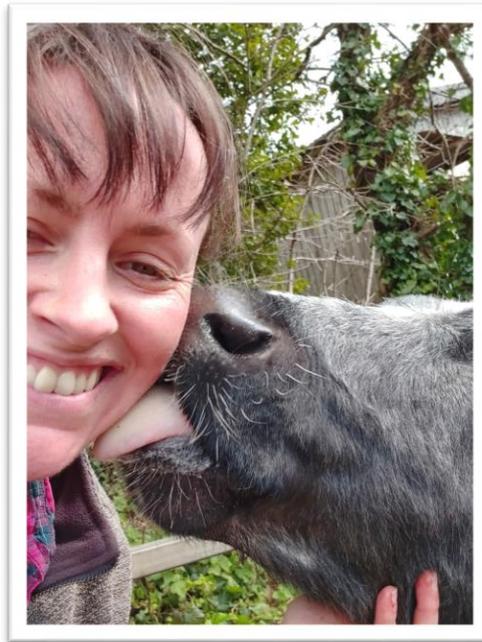


Science Week

The 8th March not only sees all children returning to school but it is also Science Week! The teachers have been busy planning exciting activities for the children to not only make the first week back super exciting but also to allow the children time to rebuild relationships and get used to the routines and expectations of being in school.

Welcome

A big West Alvington Welcome to Miss Lywood who has joined us in Nursery this week. We are delighted to have Miss Lywood join our staff team, having worked for many years in education as a teacher she is now excited to work alongside Mrs Lees with our fantastic Nursery children.



Hi My name is Miss Lywood. I've just started here at West Alvington in the nursery. I'm looking forward to getting to know all the children here. I grew up in Kingsbridge so know the local area well. I used to be a French and German teacher, so I as well as living locally I have also lived in France and Germany.

I have 3 primary age children myself so I fully understand how tricky the lockdown has been for everyone! I live at our family farm where we have a lovely mix of cows, sheep, pigs and tractors. Definitely enough to keep us busy!

In my spare time, I love to cook, much to the delight of my family. I also love working on our farm, I rear baby calves and look after the sheep and the pigs. I have a pet highland called Harold. He is very cute! I look forward to seeing you all.

A BIG
thank
you


As we come to the end of children working remotely, I wanted to say a huge 'THANK YOU' to all parents for your hard work supporting the children with their learning. I fully appreciate how hard it can be supporting your child to be motivated and engaged with their school work and we are incredibly proud of how well they've coped.

I will write to you again next week with more detailed information but please be assured this will be very similar to how we were running the school in the Autumn Term.

Miss Coombe