



West Alvington Church of England Academy

Parent Updates Newsletter
3rd March 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

As promised last week, here are the arrangements for our wider opening from Monday 8th March. We have been working hard to ensure that our arrangements for next week are in place and that we are fully prepared to safely welcome back all of our children.

These arrangements should look familiar to what was in place in September and are there to ensure everyone's safety. The children have been out of school for several months so we would be grateful if you would take the time to share this with your child so they feel as prepared as possible about what school will be like next week.

A parent version of our latest whole school risk assessment will follow later this week for your information.

Bubbles for March

Due to changes in guidance we are now able to expand our Bubbles to include more children. This will ensure that we are able to offer a broad curriculum whilst maintaining standards of hygiene and cleaning. At West Alvington, as we are a small school, the school will be grouped into one Bubble as detailed below.

Class	Teacher	HLTA LSA Teaching Assistant	SLT
Oak	Miss Cusack	Mrs Andrews	Miss Coombe Mrs Pascall
Hazel	Miss Holloway	Miss Elliott	
Chestnut	Miss Holloway	Miss Lees / Miss Lywood	

Drop off and Pick up times

We kindly ask that only one adult drops off and collects their child. It is very important that you keep promptly to your time slot and allocated entrance/exit to help us to ensure our bubbles remain safe, and limit the risk of cross-contamination. This will help us to control the risk for our whole community.

To make drop off and collection easier for parents with children in more than one class we've added a separate drop off and collection time for families with 'multiple' children.

Group	Drop off time and location	Collection time and location
Multiple child families with children in more than one class	8.40	3.05
Nursery	8.40	3.05
Hazel - Reception / Year One / Year Two	8.50	3.05
Oak - Year Three / Year Four / Year Five / Year Six	8.40	3.15

Attendance and Uniform

From March, government guidance states that attendance is compulsory as it was prior to lock down. We are expecting to see all of our children in school uniform from 8th March 2021. In line with Government guidance the expectation is that all children will return to full school uniform this includes sensible school shoes. Further information can be found on our school website. We do

appreciate that shops are not yet open and that, especially for our year six children, buying new uniforms might be problematic or uneconomical.

Lunches

From March all children will be able to have a hot dinner in school if they wish. These will continue to be free for Reception, KS1 children and those entitled to free School Meals funding. Key Stage Two children will need to pay online and select their meal in advance using school money in the usual way.

Equipment

All children will be able to bring their own book bag, packed lunch box and water bottle. Key Stage 2 children may bring a pencil case, but this must not be shared with anyone else. PE kits should be brought to school on the days children have their PE lessons and taken home in the evening. We realise this is not ideal but we need to keep the school as clear as possible in order to enable thorough cleaning to take place.

Hygiene and Cleaning

There will be a continued focus on enhanced hygiene measures throughout the day to keep our children and staff safe whilst they are in school. Your child's teacher will be on hand to remind them about the importance of regular handwashing and the use of tissues to "*catch it, bin it, kill it*" for any sneezes or sniffles. We ask for your support in reinforcing these messages at home with your child.

Alongside these hygiene measures, the strengthened cleaning procedures will continue to be an important component of the school day. As mentioned above, we will be minimising the number of items we are able to keep in school. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or for more information.

We ask that our families cooperate with us to support the work of the national *Track and Trace* system when necessary.

Communication with staff

Whilst we are embedding our new approach to drop offs and collections, it will not be possible for you to speak to class teachers at the start and end of the school day. We know how important this is to you, and we value your support in helping us to mitigate the risk of bottlenecks or traffic jams at these key times which may endanger our whole community. Unfortunately, the academy office will also not be available at this time; however, Mrs Broadfoot will be available via the telephone and will pass on email messages during the school day. The teachers will be teaching throughout the day, but they will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We fully appreciate that every family will have had differing experiences during the pandemic, and that for some children and families, returning to school may be a source of anxiety. We would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we will be continuing to support your child's wellbeing and mental health as they make the transition back to school. We also understand that some children have found learning tricky during this time, and as a staff we have carefully considered how

we will support each child, identifying any gaps, responding to their strengths and moving them forwards on their individual learning journey.

In preparation for returning to school you might find some of these resources useful in supporting your child;

Preparing your child for the first day of school

https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/images/preparing_your_child_for_the_return_to_school.jpg

Feelings about going back to school

<https://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/uploads/Files/PDFs/Resilience%20Activities/Going%20back%20to%20school.pdf>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and partnership during the lockdown in particular during the recent difficult times we have faced. I look forward to welcoming you all back to school next week.