



West Alvington Church of England Academy

Parent Updates Newsletter

12th March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

It has been such a delight to welcome all of our children back to school this week. It has been lovely to see them reconnecting with their friends on the playground, sharing lunch together and sharing the wonder and excitement of Science Week. They have all settled back into school life so well - a credit to the way parents have supported them to learn at home and prepared them for their return to school. I've attached a summary of the remote learning survey we sent to parents a few weeks ago. Many thanks for taking the time to fill in the survey. As always, feedback is very important in helping us to grow and flourish. I hope you all have a restful weekend.

With best wishes

Miss Coombe



British Science Week

There has been a real buzz about Science in school this week as the children celebrate British Science Week. Some of the highlights included Oak making parachutes and cola bottle explosions. Hazel class also had a fantastic time meeting a farmer on Monday and trying out lots of different foods from the farmyard. Chestnut Nursery loved joining Hazel for their tasting session and making volcanoes in the Nursery outdoor area.



Easter and further ahead

Easter will soon be here and although we are still restricted in having visitors on site we plan to go ahead with our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Service. The Easter Service will be held virtually on 30.3.21 at 11am so that parents can join us to celebrate.

We have also been looking further ahead to the Summer Term, whilst we are currently not able to book trips, we fully intend to plan our usual Summer events such as our school play, sports day and Year 6 leavers' service. We hope that restrictions will be relaxed and families will be able to join us. Although the Year 6 SATs are cancelled this year, our year 6 children are keen not to miss out on the usual SATs breakfast so we will make sure we include this in our Summer Term plans too!



Forest School

We were delighted to welcome Pete back for our first Forest school session next week. The whole school (including Nursery) will be taking part in the session on Wednesday. These sessions will take place on a **Wednesday** every other week. We recognise the many personal benefits that can be gained from engaging in learning in the outdoors and feel that Forest School is a perfect way to promote these, whilst also learning about the importance of our local environment.

To ensure your child is prepared for their Forest School session, please send them into school with a change of clothes and shoes suitable for wearing outside. These are likely to get a little messy so

please avoid anything that is new or favoured. Suitable footwear is particularly important. Children will change for their session in the Academy.

Our first Forest School Session will be for all children from Nursery to Year 6 on 17.3.21

Red Nose Day 2021

The theme for Red Nose Day this year is Superheroes! You can either wear a costume from home or create your own superhero costume! We can't wait to see all your outfits. A donation of **£1.00** will be greatly appreciated to support this cause. For children in Oak class, a donation of £1.00 will include the 50p towards Rock Down Relief.



Rock Down Relief

To mark the awesome date that is 12th March 2021 (12-3-21, which reads the same forward as backwards) and to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, we are holding a Battle of the Bands (an in-school times tables competition) in aid of Red Nose Day. It is part of a UK-wide Rock Down Relief event run by Times Tables Rock Stars and will be the biggest times tables event in the country ever!

Starting on Friday 12th March and ending on Thursday 18th March 2021, the whole competition is done online via play.ttrockstars.com or the TT Rock Stars app. For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours). Winning classes in the school will be the ones with the highest average.

To help raise money for Red Nose Day, we ask that the children provide a donation of **50p**.

Hub Dance Along 2-3pm

All three schools in the South Hams Hub will be joining together on Red Nose Day for a virtual dance along. A great opportunity to meet up with our friends at West Alvington and All Saints Thurlestone and show off our dance moves!



Weekly Worship

Our Vision - Holding Hands, Striding Forward, Flourishing Together

Whilst most of our children were learning at home we have held weekly virtual assemblies with our friends at Charleton, Ken the Church Warden at St Marys, Rev Jackie and Rev Matt from All Saints West Alvington. It was a fantastic way for our school communities to stay connected. These virtual assemblies will continue this half term. This week we reflected on our school vision, in particular how we **flourish together**.

We shared the story of the Good Samaritan and considered how we can help everyone to flourish, even those who we don't know well.

Parent Support

Can I get home testing for myself and my child if we don't have symptoms of Covid 19?

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus from spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other.

Household members of primary aged children are able to get onsite and home testing kits.

On-site testing is available from a range of locations delivered by the Devon County Council Community Testing Service. These must be booked in advance. This service is for:

- anyone whose job or volunteering work requires them to leave the house and be in contact with others
- anyone who cares for others, either paid or voluntary
- members of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil

Home-testing kits are now available from the government for members of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil. Their test kits can be collected only from NHS testing locations, or ordered online. These cannot be collected from Devon County Council Community Testing Service locations at this time.

Here's the link to the Devon County Council Website - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/coronavirus-testing-in-devon/>

Free informal Speech, Language and Communication workshop for parents and carers

A free, informal workshop for parents and carers to consider the links between behaviour and speech, language and communication needs is taking place on Monday 22 March.

Does your child have difficulty with listening? Attention? Communication? Friendships? Literacy? This free virtual event will aim to raise awareness of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and considers the impact on a child's social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). SLCN can become apparent through a child's behaviour in a variety of ways and we shall provide further insight into these complex links.

The session provides an opportunity to share ideas about what works for you and a chance to discuss and learn from other parents/carers. And there will also be an opportunity for questions to the Advisory Teachers and Family Worker from the Communication and Interaction Team and the Social, Emotional and Mental Health team.

The workshop will take place from 1pm to 2.30pm.

To book your free place, please contact Sue Vanstone by emailing sue.vanstone@babcockinternational.com or by calling 01392 287355.

Devon Twilight Information Sessions



Parents and Carers in South Devon are being invited to join three, free online sessions to enable them to enhance their support of young people through challenging times.

They offer an opportunity to explore and navigate the challenges parents/carers and young people are facing with the threat of gangs, exploitation, and social expectations in 2021.

This isn't a parenting course! But it is an opportunity to raise awareness while empowering you as parents to be able to support your children, and it offers an understanding of the reality of the challenges our young people face in these changing times. The sessions are primarily aimed at parents and

carers of secondary age children.

Sessions start on Tuesday 13th April and each will last for 90 minutes virtual sessions – see the schedule below for details.

Book a place by emailing safetyandresilienceconsultancy@gmail.com.

Please be aware that the sessions are not suitable for children and young people.

Schedule

Session 1 – The challenges we face

Tuesday, 13 April starting at 7pm

How real is the threat?

Influence of peer groups

Warning signs

Safety planning

Where to get help

Session 2 – Family Strengthening

Tuesday, 20 April starting at 7pm

Additional challenges our girls face

Additional challenges our boys face

Let's Talk to each other

Social media

Family Life

Session 3 – Building Young People's resilience

Tuesday, 27 April starting at 7pm

What you can do

Wellbeing and self-care

Social Media guidance

Role modelling

Multi agency information – a chance to see what support is available.