



West Alvington Church of England Academy

Parent Updates Newsletter

5th March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

Ahead of opening to more children next week, I wanted to give you the detailed information that you will need to know as a parent prior to your child's return to school and hopefully answer questions and concerns you have. Thank you for your continued support throughout this prolonged period of school being open to Key Worker children only. A huge thank you and well done to all of our children who have been learning at home and their families for supporting them so brilliantly.

Next week is British Science Week and the children will be enjoying lots of practical and creative experiments as well as learning outdoors. Staff will focus on supporting our children's wellbeing as they return to school.

We are all looking forward to welcoming our children and families back next week.

With best wishes

Miss Coombe



What will drop off and pick up be like?

Drop off and pick up times will be staggered to ensure social distancing can be maintained. The table below shows the drop off and pick up times for each group of children and the entrance and exit they will use.

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

Please remember to keep a 2m distance from other children and adults whilst on the school grounds and wear a face mask unless you are medically exempt. A member of staff will be on duty to ensure everyone is staying safe and may ask parents to wait before entering the school site to avoid congestion. We have planned the staggered arrival and departure times carefully to try and limit the number of parents/carers on site at any one time and to make social distancing possible. To help this process, we ask you to arrive at your designated time. There will be a one way system in place to avoid families having to pass each other on the narrow path from the car park. Please only use the path to travel **up** towards school and use the field to travel **down** back to the car park. The top gate will be open and we ask parents to be mindful of space when using the path towards the playground. Once you have dropped your child off, a member of staff will ensure the path is clear for parents to exit the school playground via the top gate. Before you drop your child off and once you have picked them up, please keep them very close to you. This might be challenging as it is not what they are used to and they could be excited, but it is necessary to ensure we can maintain effective social distancing

What safety measures are in place?

In school the children will be reminded about the importance of frequent handwashing, social distancing and sharing of resources. This will be done in an age appropriate way using resources such as Ebug (<https://ebug.eu/>) and will be reinforced through the day. There are systems in place in school such as one way and no entry areas to ensure children do not mix and can maintain distance where possible.

Has the school risk assessment changed?

A copy of the updated parent version of our Risk Assessment is attached with this newsletter for your information.

Are children expected to socially distance in school?

No. Once in school, 2m social distancing is not required but they should try to stay as far apart as possible. Children in Oak class will be sat at desks spaced out as much as possible with individual equipment. In Nursery and Reception this is impossible and the children will mix. We will encourage them to distance but they are very young and we cannot sit them at desks and we cannot keep them apart.

What happens if a child or adult shows COVID-19 symptoms?

In the case of COVID-19 symptoms, if your child or any member of your household displays any of the COVID-19 symptoms please inform us immediately and ensure that your entire household remain in isolation until the results of a test can be obtained. If a child or adult becomes unwell at school, we will isolate them (with a member of staff for support) and make contact with you so that you can collect them immediately. It is vital that we are able to contact you and that someone is able to come and collect them immediately. If you think we may not have the most up to date contact details for you, please let Mrs Broadfoot know. If a case of the virus is confirmed, we will follow the guidelines and direct guidance from Public Health England to ensure we take every precaution to limit the spread of the virus.

Which adults will be in my child's class?

Oak Class 3/4/5/6 - Miss Cusack and Mrs Andrews

Hazel Class Reception, Year One, Year Two - Miss Holloway and Miss Elliott,

Beesands Nursery Mrs Lees, and Mrs Lywood

What does my child need to wear?

We understand that it is very late in the school year to be buying new uniforms. Because of this we ask that you try to meet our usual uniform expectations but understand if this is not possible currently. The children are also likely to be spending more time outside so please send your child to school in appropriate footwear and a coat (if the weather is wet). On PE days children may come to school dressed in PE kit.

What does my child need to bring?

We are asking that children do not bring bags, books, toys or any other items from home to reduce the risk of transmission between home and school. Your child should only bring to school a packed lunch, drinks bottle and snack (if they do not have school meals)..

Will I be able to meet with teachers in school or talk to Mrs Broadfoot in the office?

The school office will be closed as we need to minimise the amount of adults in the school for non- essential reasons. As always, you are welcome to contact the school via email or telephone. If you have a query for your child's teacher you could also use the class email address.

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/>

How do I prepare my child to return to school?

We have set out a number of things you can do to support us in opening up the school safely and to prepare your children for their return:

- Talk to your child about what it is going to be like going back. Help them prepare for staying in pods and the possibility that they will not see all of their friends.
- Talk to your child about social distancing. It is going to be really hard to see their friend and not fling their arms around them. They need to understand that they will be sat apart at their own station.
- Help your child be informed about the virus and the hygiene measures. Resources can be found here <https://www.e-bug.eu/>
- Talk to your child about their behaviour in school. They will need to follow our school behaviour policy. They cannot run off if they become frustrated. We can help them but they need to stay in their pod for the safety of themselves and others.
- Prepare your child for saying goodbye to you at a distance. Young children are going to find this hard; talk to them about what it is going to look like. We know that this is going to be upsetting.