



West Alvington Church of England Academy

Parent Updates Newsletter

21st May 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a very rainy week at West Alvington Academy! There was a brief moment of sunshine just in time for Hazel class to enjoy "Poco Loco" - dancing outside for to Spanish music. In both classes we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of butterflies, the children have been carefully observing them as they grow and we are crossing our fingers that they arrive before half term. Next week will be a productive, busy last week before half term with Miss Godfrey (a teacher from Ilsham Academy in Torquay) joining us on Monday for a day of reading and phonics learning. She always looks forward to joining the children in lessons and taking time to talk to them about their learning.

Have a great weekend.
Miss Coombe



CEO visit

The new CEO of our Trust Tracey Cleverly visited our school last week to spend time with children and staff. She was delighted to see the children enjoying their time outdoors actively learning and happily playing with friends on the playground. She also enjoyed a chat over lunch in the school hall with Hazel class. Miss Cleverly is already looking forward to her next visit after half term.



School Dog News

I'm delighted to announce that Uno, Mr Nute's dog who often visits us in school, had nine puppies last weekend! Uno and the puppies are thriving. We can't wait to meet them. In the meantime we have been sharing some photos with the children.

PTA

A big thank you to our PTA for the fantastic new playhouse that they have funded for the outdoor area. It is such a cosy spot for reading and imaginative play.



Internet Safety

With children and families necessarily spending more time at home due to the pandemic children have been using the internet more frequently and we are therefore sharing with you some tips and resources to help you guide your children and help you keep up to date in a digital world. Here are a few tips to help you keep your children safe online:

o Think u know (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Primary/>) is always a good place to start – you will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.

o Another site that is helpful for parent controls is UK Safer Internet Centre (<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers>) This site advises you to take four steps:

1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, eg Facebook privacy settings
3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet
4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer



There are three areas to think about:

WHO your child is talking to.

WHAT they're doing.

WHERE they're going online.

Changes to bubble structure

Over the next week we will be reviewing the bubble structure in school to see if any adjustments need to be made including reviewing the system of controls such as cleaning, mask wearing and distancing. I will write to you next week with a further update.

Information for Families

The COVID Local Support Grant is now available until 20th June 2021

Please let us know if you would like us to apply for this for you.

This is designed to directly help families and individuals who have been hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Under this fund, Early Help is able to provide a grant per family to support with:

- Providing vouchers for food and personal items.

- Supporting with energy and water bills for household purposes.
- With other requests clearly linking to the priorities of the fund grants can be provided for essential white goods such as a cooker, fridge or freezer.

The criteria set by Early Help is as follows.

- You are a family (at least 2 people where at least 1 person is either pre-birth or up to 18 years old)
- You are experiencing financial hardship linked to or independent of COVID (e.g. unemployed, furloughed, being made redundant)
- You need financial help associated with keeping your family warm and fed
- You need financial help associated with purchasing essential items

Please note:

Methods of payment will be either via vouchers sent directly to families, payment direct to families or through company reimbursement.

The professional should apply on behalf of the families they are representing and verify the circumstances of the request when doing so.

Two year old funding

The Citizens Portal can be used by any parent who wants to check if they are eligible for 2 year old funding. Where parents have seen changes to their employment and income over the last 12 months there may be more 2 year olds eligible for funding so please encourage your parents to run a check.

https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE/en



ASC – Wellbeing and Support Sessions for parents/carers.

Please join us for a wellbeing and support session for parents/carers of children with a diagnosis of ASC (Autistic Spectrum Conditions) or possible ASC/ Sensory processing difficulties with Educational Psychologist, Kate Anthony

Sessions will be held:

Wednesday 26th May 10-11am,

Wednesday 26th May 1-2pm

Thursday 27th May 6-7pm.

Join other parents from across our Trust on a Zoom call with Kate.

We understand the difficulties children with ASC can face, and we do our best to support them. We also know how tricky it can be to parent a child with ASC and we want to support you too.

As well as being an expert on ASC, Kate leads wellbeing sessions for our staff, which always leave us feeling positive and refreshed. She intends this support session to be informal, informative, interactive and fun!

Please let the school office know if you would like to join these meetings and they will send you a meeting link.



What is the Goodie Box and why are we doing it?

Devon County Council are running a new initiative for half term called 'The Goodie Box'. Families who sign up will receive food for simple and delicious recipes delivered straight to their door, as well as a step-by-step guide on how to cook the recipes together as a family. The recipes are suitable for weaning age children and have modification suggestions to suit your tastes. The Goodie Box also contains a fun activity booklet and some cress seeds to grow together. I wonder whether this would be an enjoyable activity for your family to take part in?

How do families order a box?

Please let the school office know if you would like us to refer you to the scheme.

What will the box contain?

Families will receive a box with some exciting new recipes to try along with the food to make them. The food included in the box will enable families to make the following recipes:

- Mexican Bean Burrito
- Creamy Summer Pasta
- Hearty Veg-Packed Pie
- Dhal Curry, Flatbreads and Mango Salsa
- Tasty Tomato & Courgette Risotto • Warming Carrot Soup
- Pitta Pizzas
- Fruity Pancakes

Each recipe will have tips on how to swap or add ingredients (including meat and fish), as well as tips on healthy eating, how to introduce infants to solid food and how to prevent food waste! All the recipes use store cupboard and/or widely available ingredients, many of which are also consistent with food available for purchase with Healthy Start vouchers (should families be eligible).

Also included in the box will be:

- A fun book with activities and useful information for the family
- Cress seeds with planting instructions

How will boxes be delivered?

Boxes will be delivered directly to the homes of families by the suppliers Devon Norse / Total Produce. All boxes will be delivered over the half term period (28th May – 8th June).