



# West Alvington Church of England Academy

## Parent Updates Newsletter

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents,

This week the children in Oak class have been getting out and about around the school grounds exploring, finding plants and investigating how they grow to support their learning in Science. The classroom is full of various plants growing and being observed by our budding Scientists! Hazel class have been continuing to learn about the Art of Yvonne Coomber exploring her use of pattern and colour through experimenting themselves. I'm looking forward to seeing their beautiful creations! A highlight for me this week has been seeing the kind, responsible way in which the children in Hazel and Oak classes look after the Nursery children. Moments like these remind me of what a special school family we have at West Alvington.

Have a great weekend,

Miss Coombe



#### Mystery Reader

Mystery Readers Wanted

Who?

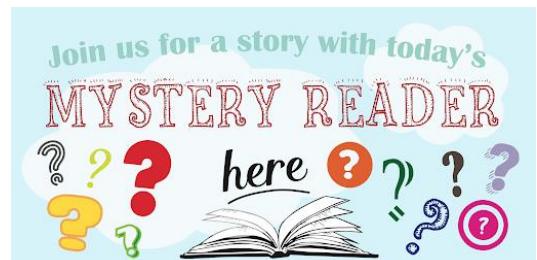
All parents, grandparents or other special people to surprise your child by being a Mystery Reader in their classroom.

Why?

Children love having their family and friends in their classroom sharing a favourite story by reading it aloud to the class. We will keep the identity of the reader a secret until the last minute!

What?

Mystery Readers can bring a book from home or read a teacher's chosen book from our class library.



## **Road closure West Alvington**

Over the half term holiday we are delighted that our school windows are due to be replaced and the exterior of the building smartened up. So that the builders are able to access the front of the building there will be a road closure in place from SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER 2021 for a to SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2021

Roads affected - A381 WEST ALVINGTON CROSS TO ILBERT ROAD, WEST ALVINGTON The alternative, signed, route for vehicles will be via - A381, A379, A381 AND VICE VERSA.

## **FREE gardening equipment for our School**

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to grow. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.

Your chosen school will be able to exchange their Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment to get kids growing.



## **Parent and Child Group**

All Nursery parents and friends are warmly welcomed to come along to our Parent and Child sessions each Thursday between 9.30am and 10.30am.

Who?

Parents and babies or toddlers 0-2 years old. All warmly welcomed.

Where?

Our school field.

When?

Thursday 9.30-10.30

What?

Each session will include outdoor play and the opportunity to chat with other parents.



## **Nursery Sessions Available**

There are currently Nursery sessions available that you might wish your child to attend. In particular, additional Nursery sessions will be useful to support your child as they prepare to start school. Attendance at nursery school gives children a valuable introduction to school, helping them to develop positive attitudes to learning and to mix easily with other children, assisting the transition process. Beesands Nursery offers a safe, happy and stimulating environment where children can thrive, grow and learn whilst having fun.

- Term Time: Open from 9.00am until 3.00pm weekdays
- Free Childcare for 2 year olds
- Free Childcare for 3 and 4 year olds
- 30 hours free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds
- Childcare Choices
- Paid sessions available
- Accept Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers

## Attendance

It is really important that children are in school every day. We have noticed an increase in holiday requests and absences which are unauthorised. Excellent attendance really does make a difference to the progress your child makes - and improves their chances in life. If they aren't here, they can't learn!

## **Help at Home Focus**

"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book." – Marcel Proust

### **Storytelling**

Retelling stories demonstrates understanding of the story itself. It helps children to understand key aspects of the story and also incorporate things such as the voices of the different characters. It is something you can do with props at home or children can draw and make the characters or they can just look at the illustrations in the book and retell what is happening.

Another fun way to retell stories at home is to make one yourselves with any phone/tablet device by taking small clips of key parts of the story and adding them together with a movie maker app. Take a photo after each small movement of each character – then put it together in an app such as iMovie and set time to 0.4 seconds. You can then add voices over the top if you wish.

The children love to watch these back and also they are great to share with family and friends. Create an area that can be used as a pretend stage and take your child's favourite story and create a 'show' to retell the story. Create different voices for the different characters as you retell it. This is a great way to develop story language, boost children's confidence and aid crucial language development.

As part of retelling stories, children learn to order the events and they can gain a deeper understanding of what they have read.



### **Story maps**

Story maps are great to do with children to help them to retell the story. These help them to focus on the story sequence, study the theme, characters, settings, problems, plot events, and resolution-and on the relationship of characters.



<https://www.lapsw.co.uk/ilsham-english-hub/supporting-schools/>

## School Governance

# HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BEING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Would you like to shape the future for the next generation?  
Do you have valuable / professional skills you can offer?  
Are you committed to contributing to your local community?

If you answered YES to any of the above please get in touch: [clerk@lapsw.org](mailto:clerk@lapsw.org)

We welcome anyone who is interested in school governance and full training and support will be provided.



### **Election for Parent Representative**

We are asking our parents to consider putting themselves forward for election as a Parent Representative to support local governance within the Trust, but sadly at the time no one stepped forward for the role. As we now come out of lockdown, I thought it was timely to re-open the election for this role in the hope that a parent may now be in the position to fill it.

The Parent Representative will play an important role in the development and life of the academy and across our family of schools; supporting the Trust through local governance as we work together for the benefit of all our children and our communities. There will be one Parent Representative for each academy.

For more information, please contact Mrs Brodie in the office who will be happy to share with you more information and provide a nomination form should you wish to stand for election. If you wish to stand as a Parent Representative, it is necessary for you to be elected as per the Terms of Reference if we have had more expressions of interest than one place per academy available.

Completed nomination forms should be sent in an envelope marked for the attention of Mrs Brodie (Clerk to the Local Governance Committee) to the academy office or electronically to [thurlestone@lapsw.org](mailto:thurlestone@lapsw.org). Completed nomination forms must be received by 12 noon on Friday 11th June. Each candidate is requested to submit a brief profile of up to 150 words which will be circulated with the election papers.

A word cloud graphic centered around the word 'SCHOOL VOLUNTEER'. Other prominent words include 'Applause', 'Leader', 'Role model', 'Organizer', 'Friendship', 'Behind the scenes', 'Wonderful', 'Hero', 'Laughter', 'Thoughtful', 'Lifesaver', 'Essential', 'Problem solver', 'Tried and true', 'Needed', 'Thank You', 'Helper', 'Dedicated', 'Involved parent', 'Community service', 'Appreciated', 'Standing ovation', and 'Fun'. The words are in various sizes and colors (blue, orange, yellow, green).

## **Volunteers**

Getting involved by volunteering is a great way to take a further interest in your child's education. Parent volunteers offer a huge resource and support base for the school community. Even if you haven't been involved in the past, it's never too late to start!

Under the current Department for Education guidance we are able to welcome back volunteers to school. Volunteering in school can take many forms and does not have to be a regular commitment. Here are some ideas of how you could volunteer to support our school;

- Reading with groups or individuals
- Book Club
- Forest School
- Gardening Club
- Arts, crafts and school display
- Cooking School trips and welly walks
- Sharing your professional skills (for example, if you're a doctor, you might go in to talk to a class whose topic is healthy living)

If you would like to volunteer in school please ask Miss Baldwin in the school office.

## **Free Level 2 training for staff and parents**

Fully funded and accredited training for staff and parents of schools linked to the Diocese of Exeter is available through 'The Aim Group' for the remainder of 2021 (to be reassessed in 2022). There are over 40 courses available including: Children's Mental Health, Behaviour that Challenges, ADHD and ADD, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Mental Health First Aid, Equality and Diversity, and Safeguarding and Prevent. To be eligible individuals must be 19+ years and an EU/UK resident for 3+ years. Content is completed at the learner's own pace online over a six-week period. There are 500 fully funded spaces per month. In order to find out more, register and gain access, please contact Chris Greenfield by Friday 22 October on 0203 900 3091 (extension 213) or at [christopher.greenfield@theaimgroup.co.uk](mailto:christopher.greenfield@theaimgroup.co.uk).