

Dear Families,

We are so delighted to have welcomed our children back to school! They've returned with such enthusiasm, a love for learning, and a readiness to embrace our core values of friendship, respect, responsibility and honesty. This half-term, as we reunite as a community, we are focusing on the value of friendship - exploring how we can show love and kindness within our school and beyond, in the wider community.

Below, you'll find lots of exciting updates and news from your child's classroom. We look forward to sharing this journey with you!

Have a great weekend,

Miss Coombe

Some important information for next week-

- PE for all classes every **Tuesday** (children may come to school in PE kit and stay in It all day)
- Forest School Dates
 - 25 Sept**
 - 9, 23 Oct**
 - 13, 27 Nov**
 - 11 Dec**

Calling all grown-ups!

Following on from the success of our careers week we would be delighted to welcome parents, carers and family members to enhance our curriculum by sharing skills and knowledge from their jobs or special interests. If you would be willing to support our learning in any of the areas below, please let the school office know.

Computer Networks

Health and Wellbeing

Human biology

Animals

Textiles

The water cycle and rivers

Save money on your childcare costs

The cost of childcare can take up a large chunk of the family budget. Whether you have babies, toddlers or teens, you could get support.

There are several Government schemes to help families with childcare costs, each one tailored to different needs, incomes and children's ages. They're not just to help pay for nurseries and childminders during term time, they can also cover wraparound childcare before and after school as well as help during the holidays.

To find out about all the schemes, [visit the Government's Child Care Choices website](#) and enter your details to see how you can save money on your childcare.

We have a duty to ensure there is enough childcare to meet parents' needs. [Use our online form](#) to tell us if you haven't been able to find the childcare you need.

Get a healthy start this autumn

If you receive certain benefits and are more than ten weeks pregnant, or have at least one child under four years old, you may be entitled to get help to buy healthy food and milk.

If you're eligible, you'll be sent a Healthy Start card, with money added every four weeks to buy cow's milk, fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables, fresh, dried, and tinned pulses and infant formula milk based on cow's milk.

You can also use your card to collect Healthy Start vitamins to support you during pregnancy and breastfeeding and vitamin drops for babies and young children suitable from birth to four years old.

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/>

Autism and Us Programme

Devon's popular Autism and Us programme returns in September, with a combination of free four-week courses and one-off workshops.

It offers support for families of children and young people who are either on the neurodiversity assessment waiting list or who have received a diagnosis of autism.

Parents and carers have opportunity to develop your understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting your child's presenting needs, whilst also connecting with other parents or carers.

The free four week 'live online' programme is run twice a term, with weekly two hour sessions on Microsoft Teams, each focussing on a different topic starting with an overview of autism, then communications needs, understanding and supporting behaviour and sensory needs.

There's also popular themed or topic based workshops, which lead on from the course, covering things like managing stress and anxiety, vulnerability and online safety and demand avoidance.

Full details, including course dates and how to secure your place, are available on the website.

[Autism and Us Devon](#)

No.	Programme topic	Programme one date	Programme two date
1	Autism overview	Tuesday 24 September: 10am – 12pm	Thursday 14 November: 4.30pm – 6.30pm
2	Sensory	Tuesday 1 October: 10am – 12pm	Thursday 21 November: 4.30pm – 6.30pm
3	Communication	Tuesday 8 October: 10am – 12pm	Thursday 28 November: 4.30pm – 6.30pm
4	Understanding and supporting behaviour	Tuesday 15 October: 10am – 12pm	Thursday 5 December: 4.30pm – 6.30pm

Workshop topic	Date and time
DiAS (Devon Information and Advice Service) and PCFD (Parent Carer Forum Devon)	Thursday 17 October: 10am – 12pm
Autism – Sensory processing and integration	Tuesday 5 November: 9.30am – 12pm
Autism and girls	Wednesday 23 October: 9.30am – 12pm
Autism – Demand avoidance and PDA	Wednesday 20 November: 10am – 12pm
Autism – Communication (speaking children – support strategies)	Tuesday 10 December: 10am – 12pm
Autism – Managing stress and anxiety	Thursday 7 November: 10am – 12pm
Autism – Vulnerability and online safety	Thursday 14 November: 10am – 12pm
Autism – Communication (non/limited speaking children – support strategies)	Thursday 21 November: 10am – 12pm



[Free Webinar - Supporting children to talk and read at home](#)

We know that speech, language and communication are vital to all areas of learning and future success in school and at work.

Action for Children are running a free webinar to give parents reassurance and understanding of the importance of speech and language development and learn strategies so that you can support your child and their learning opportunities and help them to talk and read at home.

The webinar will cover the following topics:

- Developmental milestones and what to expect at different ages and stages
- How to support your child with strategies to encourage and develop speech and language skills
- What can impact a child's speech and language development
- Bilingualism
- Dummies
- Common concerns parents may have

Visit Action for Children's Eventbrite page to book your place on the webinar which will take place on Microsoft Teams at 7pm on Wednesday 11 September 2024.

There will also be a free follow-up online workshop on Wednesday 25 September between 10am and 11am.

West Alvington Academy Weekly Bulletin

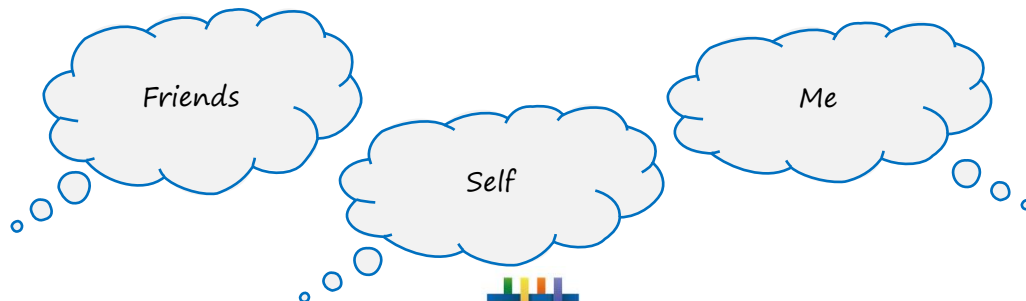
Welcome to our weekly bulletin. Below you will find lots of useful information and lovely news from your child's classroom.

Chestnut - Nursery



WOW Words!

We will introduce and explore new and exciting words with the children. Some we have been using...



Tapestry Tuesdays!

It would be wonderful if you could all upload a photo from your adventures over the weekend for our Tapestry Tuesday! It doesn't need to be something extra special; it could just be a walk in the woods or even snuggling up for a family movie night.

We can't wait to see!

Hazel Years R-2

Welcome back everyone, it has been so lovely getting to know the children and their families over the last week. I feel very blessed to be part of such a loving school family.

Hazel have had such a fun first week settling in to their new room in the old school hall, we definitely feel like it is our new classroom now. The children have been amazing at adapting to all of the different changes.

This week we went on our first school trip to the theatre to watch *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* with our friends from Charleton which was so much fun.

Home Learning

The children will be receiving their RWINC books next week after residential to read at home along with the reading record to record this. This week the children have some phonics sheet to recap the sounds that they know. They also have a design a menu for our trust census competition.



Reception children:

It would be wonderful if you could all upload a photo from your adventures over the weekend for our Tapestry Tuesday! It doesn't need to be something extra special; it could just be a walk in the woods or even snuggling up for a family movie night.

I can't wait to see!

Star of the Week!



Star of the Week

The whole of Hazel!

Miss Elliot and I are so impressed with how well you have all settled into the new class, you have all been amazing



Attendance

Our attendance target is 98%

Last week's attendance was 100%

Well done Everyone!

Oak Years 3-6

This week in Oak Class...

Welcome back! It's so lovely to have all the children back in school looking so smart and settling into their new daily routines. This week, we have been writing in the style of Roald Dahl, inspired by *The BFG*. In maths we have started our place value unit as well as practising fluency with our Flashback 4's. Year 6 are already keenly beginning to challenge themselves with morning SATs maths practise. We have also been learning about Empire Windrush in history as well as the Water Cycle in our geography learning. Thank you for attending the 'Meet the Teacher' presentation on Thursday – it was lovely to see you all. I'm looking forward to another fantastic year with Oak Class!

Please catch me on the gate if you have any questions, at drop off or pick up. Alternatively, contact Mrs Sutton, our administrator to make an appointment.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs Lowe.

Home Learning

Home learning consists of reading, spellings, Maths and curriculum themed projects.

Reading

Reading is key to everything your child will do in school. At West Alvington, we want our children to be confident readers with a love of books. Your support with reading is essential. Children are expected to read at least four times a week with a parent.

Please record the name of the book your child has read and the pages they have read.

Home Learning

For home learning this week, you are going to perform an experiment to investigate how rain falls from clouds. I am sending home a step-by-step guide for the experiment.

This is due by Thursday 18th September 2024.

YouTube – Met Office weather: Video explaining how rain forms and what is meant by the water cycle. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBnKgwnn7i4>

Bitesize – The water cycle: Class clips video explaining how the water cycle works.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z8qtfgs>

Spellings

Each week I will be setting the children spellings for them to learn. The children can practise these in school and at home for their assessment every **Friday**.

Star of the Week!



Star of the Week

Finley

For running into school with a huge smile on your face every day and settling so beautifully into Oak Class. What an amazing Year 3!

Well Done Finley. SUPERSTAR!



Our School Value of FRIENDSHIP Award goes to Billie this week for helping people to feel happy and settled in new surroundings. Well done Billie! What a kind friend.

Attendance

Our attendance target is 98%



Last week's attendance was 94%

Well done Everyone!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th/Wednesday 18th September – Hazel Residential

Friday 20th September – Jeans for Genes Day

Monday 23rd September/Wednesday 25th September – Oak Residential

Monday 23rd/Thursday 26th September- Bikeability

Friday 27th September – Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Friday 4th October – Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Friday 11th October – Junior Life Skills (9.30 am – 12 pm)

Friday 11th October – Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Friday 18th October – Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Friday 25th October – Year 5 & 6 Swimming

Half Term – 28th October to 1st November

Forest School Dates

Wednesday 25th September – Hazel & Chestnut

Wednesday 9th October – Oak & Chestnut

Wednesday 23rd October – Hazel & Chestnut

Wednesday 13th November – Oak & Chestnut

Wednesday 27th November – Hazel & Chestnut

Wednesday 11th December – Oak & Chestnut

