



WEST ALVINGTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Friday 1st May 2026

Dear Families,

This week has been a busy and exciting one for our pupils. Our Year 4 children thoroughly enjoyed a sailing session in Salcombe, making the most of the beautiful location while developing their confidence and teamwork skills out on the water. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and determination as they embraced a new challenge.

We were also delighted to see our Year 3 and 4 pupils attend a sporting event at Thurlestone School. The afternoon was filled with activity, smiles, and great sportsmanship, as the children took part enthusiastically and enjoyed spending time with pupils from another school. New friendships were formed, and our pupils represented the school brilliantly throughout.

We are looking ahead to another lovely experience for our youngest learners next week, when our Nursery children will be joining some of the Thurlestone Nursery children for a trip to East Soar. This shared visit will provide a wonderful opportunity for exploration, friendship, and learning outdoors. This term already seems to be filling up with lots of exciting opportunities, and it is fantastic to see our children benefiting from such enriching experiences.

Have a lovely long weekend

Mrs Ruston

Dates for your Diary

Monday 4th May- Year 4 sailing in Salcombe (Optional- Parents to take students)

Thursday 7th May – Chestnut and Steeple Cove visit East Soar Farm

Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May – SATs Week

Friday 15th May – Woodlands Year 6 SATS Treat

Monday 25th May- Half Term

Monday 1st June – Year 4 Residential Forest and Beach

Thursday 4th June – Cricket Tournament

Thursday 11th June – Year 5/6 Sports Afternoon

Tuesday 23rd June – Sports Day (1.30 - 3pm)

(Tuesday 30th June Reserve Sports Day)

Wednesday 1st July – Year 6 KCC Transition Day

Wednesday 8th July – Whole school Performance (1.30 - 3pm)

Wednesday 15th July – Year 6 Leavers Service @ All Saints Church 2.30 - 3pm

Wednesday 22nd July- Last day of summer term

Thursday 23rd July- Summer Holidays



We're delighted to share some exciting news!

Our partnership of schools has been shortlisted in the prestigious *Times Educational Supplement (TES) Teaching Awards*, reaching the finals for **Inclusive Trust of the Year 2026**.

This recognition celebrates the way we work together as one family of schools. Rather than working in isolation, we actively share training, resources and expertise across all 18 schools, ensuring staff are supported and children benefit from the very best practice.

The shortlist also reflects the strength of our SEND support. It highlights the guidance we receive from our SEND experts and the collaborative work led by our SENDCO, **Alannah Holloway**, who works closely with SENDCOs across our schools to improve support and outcomes for children with additional needs.

We are also working hard to prepare for and respond to the government's SEND reform plans, making sure inclusive practice is at the heart of everything we do for all our children. To have this commitment recognised nationally is something we are incredibly proud of — and it is only possible because we work together as a strong, connected family of schools.

The TES finals take place in June, and we will be sure to share the outcome with you.

Chestnut (Nursery)

Our daily Dough Disco has been getting easier for the children as they strengthen their hands and fingers, and they very much look forward to it, including Miss Lees and Mrs Butterworth! There has been some wonderful, imaginative play amongst the children as they have played together in a variety of friend groups, adapting their play to their collective interests. We have been out in both outdoor play spaces allowing time with Hazel children and introducing our new addition to Chestnut.



Hazel (Reception – Year 2)

Its all about the money, money money! We have been singing this as we continue to learn to calculate with money. If you have a few moments at home ask children to use money to match prices, add amounts together and find change; the children are realising why we practise our 2,5 and 10 times table as it helps when counting money! As scientists we have planted some bean seeds in soil and some in a clear cup without soil, we are eagerly waiting to see what happens as we log changes in our 'bean diary'. As historians we examined different sources of information relating to the Great Fire of London in 1666, the children will be bringing home a template which they need to cut and assemble to create a Tudor house (they can have more than one if they want), please return them to school assembled, as we want to recreate the fire at our next forest school session!

We also need to say farewell to Emma who is leaving us today, we wish her all the best in her new school.



Oak (Year 3-Year 6)

It has been another busy and thoughtful week in Oak Class. Here is a look at what the children have been up to:

Computing: Logic and Patterns

In our computing lessons, the children have been diving into the world of **algorithms**. We explored how precise instructions can create repeating sequences, helping us understand the foundational logic behind the technology we use every day.

RHE: Staying Safe Online

We had some very important discussions in Relationship and Health Education (RHE) this week regarding our digital footprints. We tackled some big questions together:

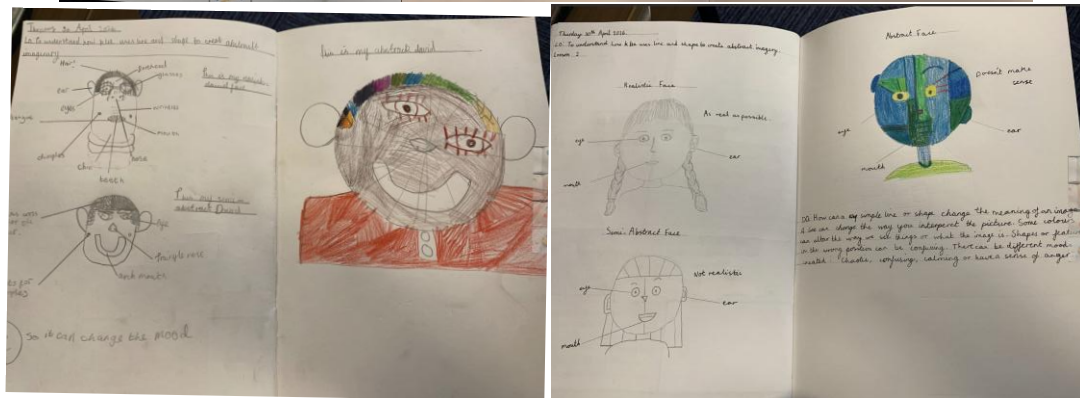
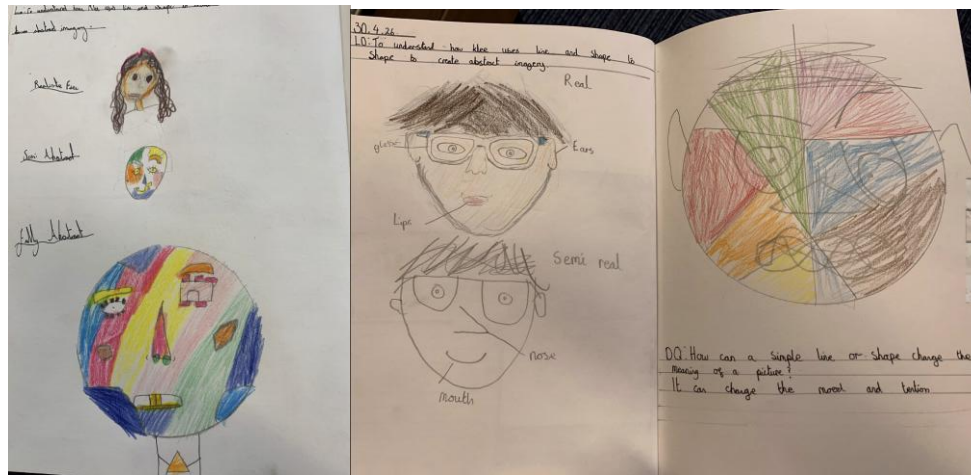
- What is appropriate to share with friends vs. what is safe to share online?
- What actually happens to information once it's posted on the internet?
- What steps should we take if someone shares our information or images without our consent?

The children showed great maturity in discussing how to protect their privacy and respect the privacy of others.

Art: Abstract Self-Portraits

Taking inspiration from the legendary **Paul Klee**, the classroom has been transformed into a

gallery of abstract art! The children used bold shapes and vibrant colours to create unique self-portraits.



Year 4 had a smashing time at sailing on Monday!

Finally, we say a fond farewell to Roxy this week and wish her all the best in her new school.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend.

Attendance

How close is your child to 100% attendance?

Number of days off school a year	Percentage attendance	Number of lessons missed	Level of concern
0 days	100%	0	Perfection
2 days	99%	10 lessons	Excellent
5 days	97%	25 lessons	Good
10 days	95%	50 lessons	Slight concern
20 days	90%	100 lessons	Concern
30 days	85%	150 lessons	Significant concern

Thank you for all your efforts to maximise the children's attendance.

The attendance this week can be seen on the table below.

Whole school attendance (Target 98%)	95.2%
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	97.2%
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	94.4%

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Chestnut (Nursery)	Thea for her imaginative play and wonderful use of language when communicating.
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Emma for being so amazing.
Oak (Year 3 – Year 6)	Roxy for her fabulousness!

Home learning

Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Daily reading, please record in reading diaries. Books changed on Thursday. Continue to practice 2, 3, 5, 10 times tables. Make a Tudor house using the template.
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	<p>HOME LEARNING</p> <p>The children loved their computing lesson this week. I have asked them to have a go at coding their initials on the Turtle Coding platform:</p> <p>Turtle Academy</p> <p>Daily Reading</p> <p>Please ensure your child reads each day and that this is recorded in their reading diary.</p> <p>Spellings</p> <p>Regular spelling practise makes a huge difference to confidence and accuracy, so please continue to support your child with their spellings.</p> <p>SUMMER 1 SPELLING</p> <p>Year 3 & 4</p>

question
accidentally
appear
complete
guard
remember
peculiar
difficult
through
earth

Year 5 & 6

apparent
communicate
curiosity
excellent
hindrance
muscle
privilege
rhythm
system
temperature

Maths

Times tables: Please support your child to learn their tables. Year 3 are learning the 3 times table. Year 4/5 and 6 are learning the 7 times table.

White Rose Infinity

We encourage all children to log in to White Rose Maths and use the Infinity platform to practise their decimals work. It's a brilliant way to reinforce what we're learning in class.