



West Alvington C of E Academy

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

Dear families,

As we come to the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly uplifting final week. It's been wonderful to see our school community come together in such positive ways, and I'm incredibly grateful for your continued support.

A heartfelt thank you to those who joined me for our recent *Coffee and Conversation* morning. These sessions are a valuable opportunity to share ideas, listen to your feedback, and strengthen the partnership between home and school. I thoroughly enjoyed our discussions and look forward to welcoming even more of you at our next gathering after the break.

This week also marked a special time for our Key Stage 2 pupils who visited our sister school, Charleton, to present their artwork in a collaborative gallery event. The children's creativity and confidence shone through, and it was a joy to see their work so beautifully displayed. We were especially honoured to have the talented artist Becky Bettesworth in attendance, who was genuinely impressed by the imagination and skill shown by our young artists — a proud moment for all involved!

As we head into the half-term break, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy some quality time with loved ones. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and enthusiasm — it makes all the difference.

Kind regards

Mrs Ruston

Operation Christmas Child – Shoebox Collection

We're excited to be supporting **Operation Christmas Child**, a global project run by **Samaritan's Purse** that brings joy and hope to children in need around the world.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your family to take part in a hands-on act of kindness by **filling our school shoebox with gifts** for a child who may never have received one before. Suggested items include:

- **Toys** – small cuddly toys, balls, puzzles
- **Personal care items** – toothbrushes, combs, soap (wrapped)
- **School supplies** – pencils, notebooks, crayons
- **Fun extras** – stickers, colouring books, accessories

Each shoebox is a chance to show love and compassion in a tangible way.

Box Collection Date: Friday 7th November 2025

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox#gift-suggestions>

Dates for the Diary

Monday 27th October- Friday 31st October- HALF TERM
 Monday 3rd November- NON-PUPIL DAY
 Friday 7th November – Christmas Box Collection
 Wednesday 12th November- Forest School Oak & Chestnut
 Wednesday 26th November- Forest School Hazel & Chestnut
 Wednesday 3rd December – Christmas Lunch
 Wednesday 3rd December – Nativity & KS2 Carol Service 2pm @ All Saints Church
 Wednesday 10th December- Forest School Oak & Chestnut
 Thursday 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day
 Monday 15th December – KS2 Theatre Trip
 Tuesday 16th December – KS1 Theatre Trip
 Friday 19th December – Last day of Autumn term
 Monday 22nd December- Friday 2nd December- CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
 Monday 5th January – NON-PUPIL DAY
 Tuesday 6th January- First day of Spring term

Chestnut

Pumpkin Power has elevated this week by allowing the children to have a go at using cutting skills safely.

We looked inside, found seeds (to plant), made soup and tasted it. We also used apples, cut them in half, and used them as stamps for making pumpkin pictures. We have been getting our hands dirty in our outside area by planting daffodil and tulip bulbs ready to appear in the Spring!

Have a wonderful break exploring.



Hazel

The weather was really kind to us this week at forest school and the children had a lovely time making badges and exploring the wood in autumn. We also enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate.

As historians we have been comparing old and new toys, looking at what they are made of and how they are manufactured.

As scientists we investigated the question 'Can we all move our bodies in the same way?' We had a lot of fun trying different moves!

Our Nativity is booked for the 3rd December so as it is quite early this year I will be sending out lines and songs for the children to learn. Please could you practise these with your child. Thank you



Oak Class

This week, we joined our sister school Charleton Primary Academy for a special art celebration, sharing the stunning Becky Bettsworth-inspired pieces we've been working on throughout the half term. The children were thrilled to showcase their vibrant, coastal-themed artwork—and the day became even more memorable when Becky herself arrived to talk about her artistic journey! Her visit inspired many budding artists in our class. As mathematicians: Years 5 & 6 have been exploring divisibility facts, sharpening their number sense and problem-solving skills. Years 3 & 4 have been diving into the inverse operation, building strong foundations in addition and subtraction strategies.

The children have completed their second Big Write of the half term, drawing inspiration from *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. Their imaginative stories and thoughtful reflections show just how much their writing has grown—wow!

Thank you for your continued support. We're so proud of everything Oak Class has achieved this week!

Have a lovely Half Term 😊



Stars of the Week

Hazel's star of the week goes to Emma for her enthusiasm and positive approach in her English lessons.

Oak's star of the week goes to Jackson for his cheerfulness, enthusiasm and for settling in so well.

Chestnut's star of the week goes to Thea, a superstar in PE with Mr P; her confidence grows with each session.

Values of the Week

In Hazel, Athur for Responsibility for his perseverance when logging the Chromebook.

In Oak, Teddy for the respect he shows to both adults and his peers – such beautiful manners.



Attendance

Our attendance target is 98%

Our whole school attendance is currently 94.9%

Class attendance is currently:

Hazel Attendance 99% Oak Attendance 94.7%

Home Learning – Hazel

Please read 3 times a week, books are still changed on a Thursday.

Reading- please ensure adults sign the reading diary. Continue to practise number bonds to 10. We will be sending reading books home over half term but please make sure they are returned on Tuesday 4th November. Thank you



Home Learning – Oak

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 and remind the children to bring their reading diaries into school every day.

Home Learning 24.10.25

Spellings – Statutory spellings

Science – Year 3 & 4 Plant Lifecycles

Year 5 & 6 Animals Including Human Task