



WEST ALVINGTON
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of the first half of the spring term, it has been a wonderful opportunity to pause and reflect on just how much our children at West Alvington have achieved. Week after week, they continue to impress us—not only with the progress they are making, but with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and positivity.

Across the classes, the children's attitudes towards learning have been exceptional. Whether they are proudly sharing their music work, talking through their art projects, or showcasing some truly impressive writing, their excitement for learning shines through. It is always a pleasure to spend time in classrooms and see how confidently and happily they engage with everything they do.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Mrs Carter, who has been incredibly busy in the outdoor area this week. She has pressure-washed, cleared and reorganised the space so that we can make much greater use of it after half term. Her hard work is hugely appreciated, and we are looking forward to the children benefiting from the refreshed outdoor environment.

Looking ahead to next half term, we already have lots to look forward to, including World Book Day and the Year 5 and 6 residential. These events are always highlights for the children and bring wonderful opportunities for learning and shared experiences.

As we round off the week, we are very much looking forward to welcoming parents and families into our **Praise Worship this afternoon at 2:45pm**. It will be a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate the children's achievements.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Wishing all our families a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Mrs Ruston

Advance Notice: World Book Day — Thursday 5th March

We will be celebrating World Book Day with a range of fun activities, including dressing up as a favourite book character. There's no need to purchase a costume—there are plenty of simple, creative ideas that can be made at home, and staff are always happy to help with suggestions.

A Message from West Alvington Parish Council:

West Alvington Parish Council currently has five vacancies and is keen to welcome new members. In particular, they would love to have one or two parents join the council to help represent the school. You do not need to live in West Alvington to apply—anyone residing within three miles of the parish is eligible to serve.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16th February- Friday 20th February – Half Term

Monday 23rd February- Non-Pupil Day

Wednesday 25th February-Forest school, Chestnut and Oak class

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th February- Parent consultations

Tuesday 3rd March – Art Express Toddlers and Preschoolers Group 09.15-10.15am every Tuesday

Thursday 5th March- World book day

Monday 9th March- Friday 13th March -Year 5/6 Residential

Wednesday 11th March- Forest school, Whole school.

Friday 20th March – Red Nose Day

Wednesday 25th March-Forest school, Chestnut and Oak class

Tuesday 31st March-Forest school, Chestnut and Hazel class

Thursday 2nd April- Last day of Term

Friday 3rd April- Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April- Non-Pupil Day

Tuesday 21st April- First day of term

Chestnut (Nursery)

We are constantly talking about the weather (as you are no doubt aware!) during our daily routines. All our children joined together again this week to create Chestnut nursery's colourful kite and yesterday we did have the opportunity to go and fly (well, in a fashion!) the kite. We need to make some adjustments which is a great opportunity for discussion. The Billy Goats Gruff story has been thoroughly enjoyed by the children, and they have enjoyed re-enacting and adapting the story. We also liked joining in with the rest of the school to make Valentine biscuits.



Hazel (Reception – Year 2)

The children have decided to form a steel pan band and they have called themselves 'Hazel Pans', this week they played along to a beat with Mrs Bickle accompanying them on the guitar. As scientists the children have planned an experiment to test the shock absorbency of different materials. They have made their predications and have then made a 'sleeping bag' for a real egg, and after half term, we will be dropping the egg from a set height to see if their eggs crack. As

geographers we recapped our knowledge of physical features by looking at some amazing physical features in England and Scotland. After half term we will be looking physical features in Wales and Northern Ireland. The children have been waiting to play the Dreidel game that we have been learning about in RE. So today we played the game, it was a great fun and a good end to our unit of learning. Mrs Lowe brought in some cookie dough today and we made 'Valentine' heart shaped biscuits; very tasty!



Oak (Year 3-Year 6)

As we reach the end of a very busy and very productive half term, the children in Oak Class certainly deserve their well-earned rest! This week has been especially creative and full of achievement. In Art, the children have been putting the finishing touches to their Henry Moore–inspired sculptures, carefully building up form and shape using papier-mâché. Their focus, patience, and imagination have been wonderful to see, and the final pieces are truly impressive – thank you Bex for helping us for the afternoon! In RE, the class completed their assessments on the Zam Zam story, explaining why this story is important to Muslims, linking it to themes of faith, perseverance, and trust in God, and describing how it is remembered during Hajj. We have also been incredibly proud of their efforts in writing. The children have now drafted their second Big Write of the term: a powerful and impactful speech about plastic pollution. They spoke with passion and conviction, and we hope you enjoyed hearing some of their speeches during our Praise Assembly—they were fantastic! A special well done to Harriet and her brilliant Art Club gang—aren't they fabulous? Their creativity continues to brighten our Fridays and inspire others around the school. Thank you for your continued support. We hope you and your children have a relaxing and enjoyable half term. See you soon,



Attendance

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)	96.9%
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	94.4%

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Chestnut (Nursery)	Teddie for tolerance and thoughtfulness around all his friends.
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Tanith for reading her books in the morning.
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	Louis for his excellent independent writing

Home learning

Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Daily reading, please record in reading diaries. Books changed on Thursday.
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	<p>HOME LEARNING</p> <p>For this week's home learning, I would like the children to create their very own Easter poem. This can be written in any style they choose—acrostic, rhyming poem, free verse or something completely original.</p> <p>We will be choosing a selection of poems to be read aloud during our Church Service, so this is a lovely opportunity for the children to shine and share their creativity.</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>SPRING 2 SPELLING</p> <p>Maths – White Rose Infinity</p> <p>We encourage all children to log in to White Rose Maths and use the Infinity platform to practise their fractions work. It's a brilliant way to reinforce what we're learning in class.</p>

