



WEST ALVINGTON

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new term! It has been a truly lovely first week in school. Although the term started with an unexpected burst of activity as we planned for a possible school closure due to the recent gas issues in the area, we are incredibly grateful for your patience, understanding, and support while we made provisional arrangements.

A huge thank you also goes to the multiple engineers who came out to assess and resolve the situation. Their swift response and hard work ensured that the school could remain open and fully operational.

Despite the busy start, the children have settled back into routines beautifully. They have returned with enthusiasm, positivity, and a real eagerness to learn. Our staff have been busy planning exciting learning opportunities for the coming weeks, and we are looking forward to a productive term filled with creativity and discovery.

Please take a moment to look through the important dates below, as our calendar is already beginning to fill up.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Ruston

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 21st January – Forest school, Chestnut and Oak class

Wednesday 28th January- Visit Charleton

Wednesday 4th February- Forest school, Chestnut and Hazel class

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

Thursday 5th March- World book day

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

Wednesday 11th March- Forest school, Whole school.

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

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

Chestnut (Nursery)

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break! It was certainly a chilly one here, with frosty mornings and crisp winter air. While we were bundling up in scarves and gloves, one of our students enjoyed a very different Christmas in Kenya—sunshine, warmth, and summer vibes! We've had great discussions about how winter looks and feels in different parts of the world.

We have been focusing on Winter this week, particularly the sounds from the crunch of snow underfoot or sledding down hills to rain drops on your umbrella, winter brings its own unique sounds and experiences.

Hazel (Reception – Year 2)

Welcome back! This week we have started new units across the curriculum. In science we are exploring 'Everyday Materials' and this week we have been sorting different materials and looked at a bicycle to see the different materials that are used. Andy Goldsworthy is the artist we are learning about in our art lessons and the children will be creating their own nature inspired sculptures. In history we will be learning about the Royal Family and in geography the British Isles will be our focus. We will also be exploring the Jewish faith in our RE lessons.



Oak (Year 3-Year 6)

Welcome back to a brand-new term. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some well-earned rest with family and friends. It has been lovely to see the children return with such enthusiasm and readiness for learning.

This week, the children have begun their new Jane Considine unit, focusing on writing to inform. They are working towards creating a newspaper report based on the traditional fairytale Goldilocks. We've already had some brilliant discussions about headlines, eyewitness accounts and how to report events clearly and accurately.

In maths, we have started exploring fractions. The children have shown great curiosity as we break down wholes into equal parts and begin to compare and find fractions of amounts. Each

child has now been given a login for Infinity on White Rose Maths. This is a fantastic online resource that can help boost confidence and deepen understanding at home as well as in school.

Our RE topic this term focuses on what it means to be a Muslim living in Britain today. The children are already asking thoughtful questions and showing great respect as we explore beliefs, practices and the diversity within the Muslim community.

In science, our new unit is electricity. This week, the children investigated what happens when more components are added to a circuit. They worked brilliantly as young scientists—predicting, testing and observing changes in brightness and power.

The children absolutely loved playing the steel pans in their music lesson with Mrs Bickle. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they explored rhythm, teamwork and the unique sound of this fantastic instrument.



We're off to a fantastic start this term and I'm looking forward to all the learning and discoveries still to come.

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%)	93.9%
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	97.7%
Oak(Year 3- Year 6)	92.5%

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week

Chestnut (Nursery)	Matilda-Rose for her enthusiastic singing and remembering all the songs so well.
Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Ava, for reading so much at home. Well Done!
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	Lilly, persevering in maths and then helping a friend to understand tricky questions in our morning Tough Ten! Well done Lilly.

Home learning

Hazel (Year R- Year 2)	Daily reading, please record in reading diaries. Books changed on Thursday.
Oak (Year 3- Year 6)	Daily Reading Please ensure your child reads each day and that this is recorded in their reading diary. Spellings Regular spelling practise makes a huge difference to confidence and accuracy, so please continue to support your child with their weekly spellings. Maths – White Rose Infinity 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.