

Head Teacher's Report for Parish Council, MAY 2022

After one of the most challenging years in our living memory, it was wonderful – joyful, in fact - to see everyone returning to school in September. As always, we have continued to work closely with Charleton and All Saints Thurlestone this year. Sharing staff development together, learning from each other and getting the children together for sports competitions and school trips. We gain so much from being part of our local hub and wider Trust family of schools. This year we have been delighted to welcome Lifton Community Academy in West Devon to our Trust.

School overview

Pupil Numbers

We currently have 35 children in Oak and Hazel classes with 12 children on roll in Chestnut Nursery. Hazel class includes children in Reception, years 1 and 2 whilst Oak class includes children in years 3,4,5,6

Estates

Having been successful in securing funding from the DFE we have been able to install a new roof, new windows and new hall flooring which has made a huge difference to the quality of the building and the environment in which the children learn.

Resources

Due to investment from the Trust we have been able to improve the outdoor learning areas for Nursery and Hazel class to include new mud kitchens, water walls and reading nooks. Additionally, we have started to spend the Lottery grant money we received last year and are now working in partnership with Kingsbridge Mens' Shed to create a growing school with planters around our perimeter that we hope to invite the community to help us plant and maintain.

Covid 19 Impact, Challenges and Support

We have had lots of support from our local community and church over the last year including providing food parcels for families, funding uniform and giving practical support to families who are struggling. As a group of schools, we were successful in bidding for funding from the HAF programme (Holiday activities and food programme) meaning we were able to provide food hampers, holiday days out, sports clubs and family recipe kits for vulnerable families to support them in the school holidays.

Charity Work

At West Alvington Academy it is very important to us that we look outwards to the wider world and show our school value of Friendship by helping others in need. Our children and families have given generously to our appeal for emergency supplies for Ukraine, raised money for Children in Need and supported a charity called Promise of Education Uganda that we have a link with.

Bikeability, Sailing and Residential Trips

It was wonderful to see all the children taking part in Bikeability this term. The instructors were very complimentary about the children and we were delighted to have achieved a 100% success rate. Bikeability provides the children with essential skills in road sense and safety. We have been very lucky to be offered sailing lessons by Salcombe Dinghy Sailing this term. The children in Years 3 and 4

have a fabulous time learning to sail and learning to work as a team! After a pause due to the pandemic, we held our annual residential trip this year. The children in Years 5 and 6 had a very memorable week at Grenville House in Brixham making lifelong memories. Highlights included rafting in the harbour, abseiling down the cliff and canoeing at sea where they were greeted by dolphins!

As the Summer term progresses we are looking forward to our community Jubilee celebration, Summer Play, Sports Day and many other Summer events!