

19/12/25

FRIDAY NEWS

Nº 14

Dear Parents/Carers

What a fantastic week it's been! It started off with a great performance from Squashbox which the children thoroughly enjoyed. A huge thank you to FOAS for funding it for us.

We were then treated to an incredible carol concert on Wednesday evening. We were so grateful to all the families who battled the weather to watch the children sing their hearts out. It really was a festive and uplifting performance and got everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Our fundraisers for both Man Down and the Women's Refuge raised a fantastic £586! Thank you so much for all your generous contributions.

We all hope you have a fantastic holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Nichola Smith
Headteacher

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated at our Christmas performances to our two chosen charities. We raised an amazing **£586** which will be split between West Cornwall Women's Aid and Man Down Cornwall.



Supporting
women and children
in West Cornwall

SUPPORTING MEN'S MENTAL
HEALTH IN CORNWALL



Remember – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Nichola Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at

nsmith@alverton.tpacademytrust.org or, if it is out of school hours, please contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit on 0300 1231 116;

E-mail:

multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk

THIS IS OUR

HELP YOUR SHELF

How it Works

It's all free.

**Take what you need,
whenever you need it.**



No Questions Asked – No Judgements Made

Give what you can if you would like to.

Aspens school lunches

The same three week rolling menu continues in January so don't forget to book your child's lunches before 9am on Monday 5th January. You can log in and book as many meals in advance as you like.

Term dates 2026-27

Attached with this newsletter are next school year's term dates which you can also find on the school website under Parents, Term Dates.

Donations wanted

Our Help Your Shelf is looking rather bare. If you are able to bring in any non-perishable food items, cleaning products or toiletries, we would be very grateful. These will all go to helping our families and community. Thank you very much.

Reminder

School and nursery finish for the Christmas holidays today. The Spring term starts on **Monday 5th January.**



Debt

Debts for trips (other than residential), swimming and wraparound care cannot be carried over into the Spring term. Please ensure you check your Arbor account to see what you owe and pay this online as soon as possible and by the end of December at the latest. Unfortunately if you still owe money for breakfast club and after school childcare when we start the Spring term, your child may not be able to attend until the debt is cleared.



Alverton Primary School Equality Policy

Annual Report to Parents December 2025

Every year we write to all parents about the Equality Plan and Equality Action Plan. This addresses our statutory duties in relation to race, disability, gender and promoting community cohesion and covers staff, pupils and people using the services of the school such as parents. It also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, age and sexual orientation and includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment as well as advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

We welcome the views of all members of our school community in creating the Equality Policy and Action Plan. The legislation states that it is important that minority groups (for race, disability and gender) are involved in the formulation and development of equality schemes and action plans, helping to ensure that the views of potentially disadvantaged groups are fully incorporated in the development of the scheme. We invite anyone interested in being part of our ongoing consultation, or with anything that they would like to raise, to talk to either Mrs Smith, Mrs Wicks or Mrs Clemens.

The Local Monitoring Committee of Alverton School has a responsibility to promote equality and eliminate discrimination and harassment. Our Equality Policy and Action Plan enable us to achieve a framework for action that covers all equality strands and ensures that we meet our responsibilities of the public sector duties in an inclusive way. We report annually on its progress to all stakeholders.

We are part of the TPAT Equality Policy which runs from 2022 – 2026. We review our action plan annually and are required to produce an annual report on our progress, looking at the impact of our actions.

Our Equality Policy is available to read in the Key Information section of our website under the heading of [Equality Information](#).

Annual Report of Progress in 2025

This table details our key objectives in 2025 and the impact of our actions to address them.

Strand	Objective	Outcomes
Disability	Staff are trained to enable full access to the curriculum for all pupils.	Training has been provided as part of the PINS project in neurodiversity. Staff have access support from the Autism specialist team as well as other external professionals, including 1:1 support for teachers and TAs who work directly with children with specific individual needs.
Race	Information provided is accessible to all.	We are in regular contact with Cornwall Council and the services they provide to ensure the children of families for whom English is an additional language access the full school offer and their parents are kept informed.

There were no complaints made in relation to discrimination or inequality in 2025.

Key areas identified for 2026 include:

- Further develop pupils' understanding of diversity and of Britain as a multi-cultural society.
- Continue to ensure staff are trained to enable full access to the curriculum for all pupils.



Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has its own Out of Hours telephone support provided by Support Matters Cornwall. This service operates from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. The service is open to all patients (aged 16+) under the care of the Trust's mental health services. Support can be delivered over the telephone, via text, email or web chat. Call free on **0800 001 4330**.



Family
Line

0808 802 6666



Download this image onto your phone for **when you might need help**



Samaritans: 24h
Emotional support to anyone in distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.

☎ **116 123**

Shout: 24h
Text service, free on all major networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere.

• If you're over 18, text the word **SHOUT**
• Under 18s, text **YM**

☎ **Text: 85258**

Cornwall's 24/7 NHS mental health support

Call for free, any time day or night if you are worried about your own or someone else's mental health. The team behind the 24/7 open access telephone service will listen to you and determine how best to help

☎ **0800 038 5300**

Valued Lives:

Supports people who are experiencing mental or emotional distress in Cornwall. Every day, 5.30pm - midnight.

☎ **01209 901438**

If you, or someone else, is in immediate danger call **999**



🌐 www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth

If you're worried about a child:

☎ **0808 800 5000**
✉ **help@nspcc.org.uk**
🌐 **www.nspcc.org.uk**

Penzance CTIPA Foodbank

The CTIPA Foodbank in Penzance provides food for anyone in need. If their support would be helpful to you, just phone Vryan or Adele in the office in confidence on 01736 364087 and they can phone the Foodbank for you who will be able to help.

The Foodbank are extremely busy at the moment and are very grateful for any donations.

citizens
advice

0344 411 1444

**ON YOUR SIDE
NO MATTER WHAT**

☎ **0800 58 58 58** 🌐 **THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT**

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS



"It's alright to ask for help"

SAMARITANS

☎ **116 123**

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE HELPLINE
0808 2000 247
24/7 CONFIDENTIAL
FREEPHONE**

**AT HOME
SHOULDN'T
MEAN
AT RISK**

#YOUARENOTALONE

FIND SUPPORT AT:
gov.uk/domestic-violence

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539

<https://www.wcwaaid.co.uk/helpline>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



The National College

X @wake_up_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.12.2025

There is a lot of help and advice available to help you keep your children safe online. Have a look at the Online Safety section of our website for lots of useful information and links http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/online_safety_for_families/246722. Your child's teacher will also always be happy to talk to you about online safety.

DIARY DATES

Monday 5th January 8.30am	School and Nursery open for Spring term
Monday 13th January	Clubs start
Monday 26th January	INSET Day - school and Nursery closed
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February	Spring half term holiday
Thursday 2nd April 3.15pm	School closes for Easter holiday (normal time)
Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April	Easter holidays

MAKE EVERY MOMENT COUNT

I was going to be very brief, short and sweet this week and simply congratulate you all on getting through the term! It's been an absolute pleasure as always being here and I love my job so very much. However, my Mrs D is a bit longer than I was expecting because I learned the hard way recently that life is precious and we need to enjoy every single moment of time with those we love, be they family, friends, colleagues, fellow parents or carers, anyone, everyone, because we don't know what may be around the corner. So, with that in mind, enjoy every precious moment with your families and friends and seize the day, have as much fun as you can, make memories, laugh, live and love; because it's only when those things are threatened that we come to fully understand how precious they are. And on that note, may I say how happy I'm feeling now, how the dark times of my previous week are behind me and I'm taking my own advice very seriously. And now all that I need to say is Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all. Much love, I'm here if you need me as soon as we return, Mrs D xxxx

