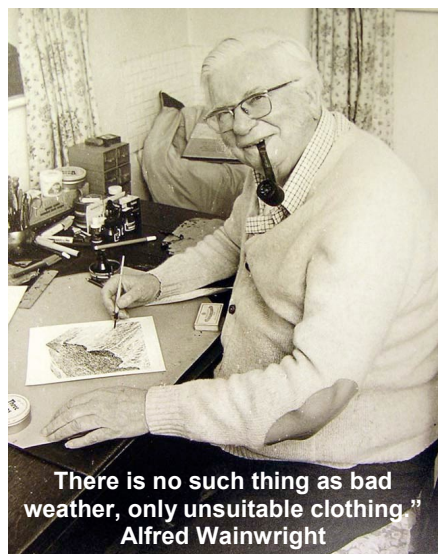


Dear Parents

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the Travel Plan Survey by completing the questionnaire. We received 118 completed forms which covered 162 children. This is a very significant return for this type of survey and reflects the strength of feeling which exists about this issue in our school community. A copy of the survey report along with our planned actions is attached to the Newsletter, it can also be found on the school website.

We have had a similarly positive response from parents to the traffic control measures introduced this week. I am very grateful indeed to all of the parents who have responded so positively to our attempts to stop traffic entering Toltuff Road and Crescent at the beginning and end of the school day. We intend to continue to have staff on patrol at this junction and would ask for your continued support in parking in one of the surrounding roads and walking the short distance to the school grounds.

Obviously the weather will not always be as fine as it has been this week. **We would therefore suggest that parents arrive in good time to park and walk on wet days and that you keep a brolly in the car!** In many ways it is even more important that cars do not attempt to drive close to the school on days when the weather is inclement as poor visibility and road conditions make children even more vulnerable around traffic.



As the great Alfred Wainwright said, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing." And being from the Lake District he knew a thing or two about wet weather walking!

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

Staffing Update

At the end of this term Ben Chalwin will step down as Deputy Headteacher of our school and move onto a part-time teaching role with us. Ben has been Deputy Head here at Alverton for the past ten years and has made a huge contribution to the school in this role, supporting three head teachers and innumerable young people. However, as many of you will know, the past couple of years have been particularly challenging for Ben and his family as a result of his wife's illness. This experience, alongside a growing interest in developing his teaching of Mindfulness across schools in the South West, has led Ben to make this decision. I am delighted that Ben will remain as a member of staff, albeit on a part-time basis, and am sure that you will understand and support his reasons for making this decision. On behalf of the whole school community, I would like to thank Ben for giving his time, energy and considerable talents as Deputy Head to our school for the past decade, and to wish him and his family every good fortune in their new venture.

Big Dig 3

The Big Dig is back! Advance notice that we will be out on the school field on **Saturday 7th November from 9am - 4pm.** We will be creating a woodland space for our eldest pupils. More information to follow. Please come along and support us - tea, cake & pasties provided!



Attendance

Whilst the vast majority of pupils have really good levels of attendance and only take time off when they are unwell, we do have a number of children who are what DfE call 'persistent absentees'. These are children who have attendance below 90%, which equates to missing half a day every week across the school year. Children with attendance below 90% are shown to be much less likely to achieve as well as they should by the end of Key Stage 2 and indeed in their GCSEs etc.

We have produced the poster below to show that, although education at our school is rightly free for children to access, it is not actually free to provide. **In fact it costs approximately £30 per day for each pupil to attend our school, which is £150 a week and £5960 a year.** The point we are making is that missing 10% or more of the school year is a huge waste on every level. In fact, whilst parents of children with attendance below 90% may face prosecution with the possibility of fines or even custodial sentences, it is the children who could be paying a much heavier price for many years to come.

EDUCATION IS **NOT** FREE



In fact it costs approximately:

£30 per day

£150 per week

£5960 per year

for each child to attend Alverton School.

If you had paid these fees, how many days would you be happy for your child to miss?

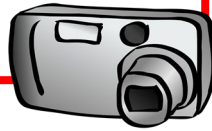
If a child's attendance falls **below 90%**

- They have missed at least **half a day** per week
- They are **much less likely to achieve well**
- Parents may face **prosecution**

**CHILDREN ONLY GET ONE CHANCE.
EVERY DAY MATTERS.**

Individual & family photos

The photographers from Tempest will be in school on **Thursday 22nd October** to take individual & family photos. Please could you ensure that your child is wearing smart school uniform. Children with siblings in the school or Ducklings nursery will be photographed together during the day. If you wish to have a family photograph taken with other children and/or parents, please come to the office from 8.30am and take a place in the queue.



Transfer to secondary school

If your child is currently in Year 6, you need to apply for their place at your preferred secondary school **by 31st October 2015**. The easiest way is to apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

Staff Vacancy

We are currently looking to appoint a part-time, temporary Teaching Assistant to work as 1:1 support. If you are interested in the role and would like further details, please have a look at the Cornwall Council website <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/jobs-and-careers/> and search for jobs in School Support.

FOAS Halloween Disco

Help wanted!

FOAS would be very grateful for any help you could give at the Disco on Thursday 22nd, particularly with the earlier disco from 6-7.15pm. If you can help in any way, please let the office know.

Disco - Thursday 22nd October

Infants (Reception & KS1) from 6 – 7pm, juniors (KS2) from 7.15 – 8.15pm. The cost is £1.50 per child to include a drink and a biscuit. Sensible fancy dress OPTIONAL. Please remember that some small children are frightened by scary costumes.



Rotary shoe boxes

We have a limited number of shoe boxes costing £2 each for filling for Eastern European children and families this Christmas. If you can commit to filling one, please ask at the office. They need to be back in school ready for collection by **Monday 2nd November**. Please support this very worthy cause if you can.

Friends of Alverton School AGM

Wednesday November 4th, 7pm at school.

Please come along and meet the current FOAS team, learn about what we do, ask us questions, give us feedback and find out the many ways you can get involved. FOAS is changing and growing every year, and we are always open to new people and new ideas. Wine, soft drinks and snacks available! See you there.



Bosigran - cancellation of sharing assembly

Bosigran's sharing assembly on 6th November has been cancelled.


Thank you

Well done to Kensa and Emily, with help from Hermione and Leo, who raised **£32.58** at their bake sale. This will be spent on new aprons for doing art and crafts. Thank you to everyone who supported them.

Lost

Bailey in Choughs has lost his brand new red zipped tracksuit top, aged 5-6. It is named. Please check and hand in if found.

CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	90.4%	11
Robins	98.7%	4
Puffins	95.0%	10
Owls 	99.2%	1
Kingfishers	98.3%	7
Trencrom	99.0%	2
Lanyon	95.3%	9
Kerris	98.6%	5
Bodrifty	98.5%	6
Bosigran	97.0%	8
Kenidjack	98.9%	3
Overall school attendance	97.3%	

Our collective target is 97.5%

Chartwells Catering Vacancy

School meals catering assistant 7.5 hours per week at Alverton School.

Are you interested in School Catering that fits around your family life? If so, why not join our friendly, professional Catering team. Appropriate training will be given and smart uniforms provided.

Contact Chartwells Recruitment line on 01872 540263 or email cornwall.vacancies@compass-group.co.uk

DIARY DATES

October

20th Bernard Williams Concert at 6.30pm, St Mary's Church

22nd Individual and Family photographs

22nd FOAS Halloween Disco

23rd Sharing assembly – Owls at 2.45pm

Monday 26th – Friday 30th October – HALF TERM

4th FOAS AGM at 7.00pm

10th Music Concert at 6.00pm for school musicians & parents

13th Children in Need fundraising day

13th Sharing assembly – Kenidjack at 2.45pm

20th M & M Theatre Production of Robin Hood – details to follow

25th Last swimming for Kerris, Lanyon and Trencrom

27th Non uniform day in aid of the FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow

27th ALL CLUBS FINISH TODAY

DECEMBER

1st Advent Service at 9.30am – followed by mince pies and coffee for parents

4th FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow

4th Guitar and keyboard lessons finish

