



# Alverton School



27/3/15

## FRIDAY NEWS

Nº 25

Dear Parents/Carers

On Tuesday of this week I held two parents meetings to share the findings of our 360° School Survey and to outline the main priorities for school development which have emerged from this. I am grateful to those parents who attended these meetings and who showed such enthusiasm for the vision we have for the school.

This survey, which took the views of all staff, children and parents across the school, will be an annual event to help us retain a clear focus on the areas we need to improve. It will also help us to measure the success of changes and developments across each year.

I have included a short overview on how all of the areas identified for development will fit into a plan across the year from the start of the Summer Term 2015.

Whilst much of my focus will be on what we need to improve and add into the school development plan, it is perhaps worth reflecting on the areas of the survey which reinforced and underlined the aspects of the school which were rated most highly by those surveyed.

For parents, the **highest scoring** answers were in response to the following statements:

I believe that my child is well taught at school  
My child is well looked after at school.  
I feel that the staff are committed to the school and care for my child.  
I would recommend the school to other parents.  
My child feels safe at school.

One of the really interesting aspects of the survey was the fact that the weakest areas of the school being identified by staff, parents and pupils had a great deal of overlap and commonality.

The main areas identified by staff, pupils and parents **for improvement** were:

School meals at lunchtime  
The playgrounds and outdoor environment  
Improved IT resources  
Clearer Rewards and Sanctions

There are comprehensive plans in place to improve all of the areas identified as quickly as possible. Our Governors are, for example, in the process of looking at ways in which school meals and IT resources can be improved as a matter of some urgency. In addition, a new Rewards and Sanctions system has been developed and agreed by staff during this term and will be announced to pupils and parents immediately after Easter. I am confident that this new rewards system will be really popular with pupils and parents.

Perhaps the biggest challenge is in making improvements to the outdoor environment of the school. As you will be aware we have held two community events to improve access for pupils to the fantastic natural environment which the school enjoys. The two 'Big Digs' have seen staff and parents transform two woodland areas into inspirational outdoor spaces for children to enjoy.

Indeed, this morning (Thursday) saw the official opening of our Nursery woodland space as parents and their nursery aged children took part in various Easter activities in the woodland after an opening ceremony led by our very special guest, Miss Olga Collier. Miss Collier was one of the original teachers to work at Alverton School when it opened in 1955 and went on to be Headteacher at Mousehole, Nansloe and Alverton before becoming the Chief Inspector of Schools for Cornwall in the 1970s. I would like to thank all of those parents who attended this event, Miss Collier, as well as Miss Caddick and all of those who worked so hard to create this magnificent learning space.



# Alverton School



When I spoke to parents earlier in the week I made an appeal for help in accelerating the improvements we are trying to make to the playgrounds and outdoor areas. With budgets being squeezed ever more tightly in schools, any help which people are prepared to offer will have a direct and positive impact on the outdoor experience for the children at Alverton. To this end, we are trying to build a database of parents who feel able to offer time and / or skills on an ad hoc basis to help with our practical projects. Thanks go to all of those parents who have already signed up to this. There is further information available and a form to complete within this newsletter.

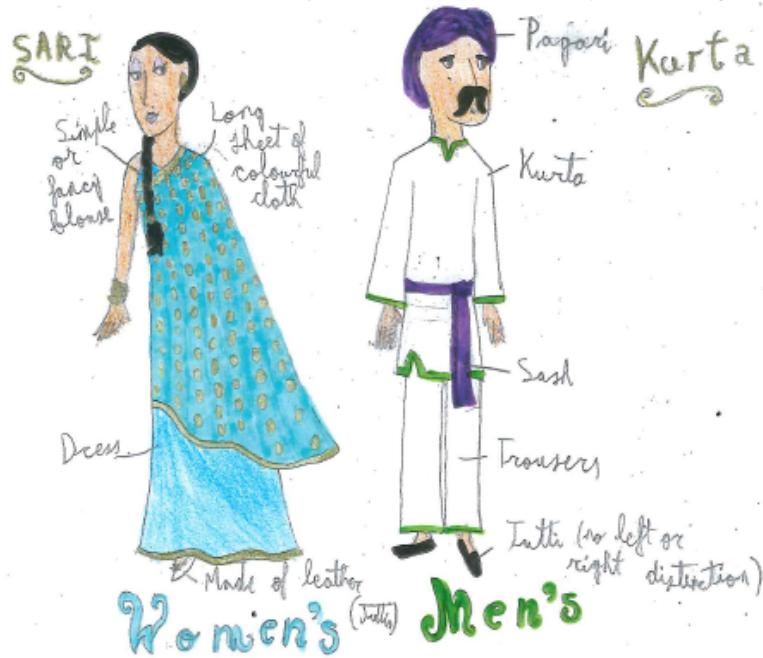
Finally, on behalf of all our staff and Governors, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you all a very happy Easter.

Best wishes

Martin Higgs  
Executive Headteacher



# Alverton School



Kenidjack has been working on their India topic this term. Here is a design from Marlene which she did for her homework....

## English News

Thanks to all the families who attended our Reading Café this term. It has been a fantastic opportunity for adults and children to share a love of reading and we look forward to running it again next year. Over the Summer Term Mrs Clive is running a Story Club for Reception class children on a Wednesday afternoon.



You may have noticed that we have updated our reading scheme books. Thanks to all the parents and children who gave us views on this - we are confident that the children will find something that appeals to them in the new range!

Finally, look out for two exciting competitions next half term: a 100 word challenge for adults and the extreme reading competition. Watch this space for details...

### 100 WORD CHALLENGE WINNER

Congratulations to the winners of our 100 word challenge competition (sixth week)  
Samson from Kingfishers and Toby from Robins.

## SCIENCE WEEK

A huge thank you to all children and parents for the fantastic entries for Science Week. Thank you also to the Year 6s who helped organise and run Science Week. The winners were:

KS1	LKS2	UKS2
1st Samson	1st Samuel	1st Lia
2nd Amon	2nd Leila	2nd Kensa
3rd Esme	3rd Morgan	3rd Molly P

## EASTER COMPETITIONS

Well done to everyone who entered the Easter competitions. The winners were:

EYFS(Easter biscuit)	KS1(cress egghead)	KS2(egg cosy)	All years (egg design)
1st Harry	1st Martha	1st Vinny	1st Destiny
2nd Ruby R	2nd Ava	2nd Keira	2nd Marlene
3rd Chelsey	3rd Zak P	3rd Stacey	3rd Armandas

## YEAR 6 TRIP TO LONDON (8th-10th July)

Just a reminder that the total cost of the London trip (£270) must be made in full by **Friday 17th April** at the latest. If you wish to pay in instalments, please use your payment card.

## Alverton School Mini Tennis Club

Mini tennis club will resume on Monday 20th April 2015 at 3.15pm to 4.15pm and will run for 10 weeks. Mini tennis is great fun for boys & girls of all ages and ability which help your child to develop the all-round physical abilities to play tennis. So come along and join in the fun.

Mini tennis subs:



- 1 Pay on the day @ £2.50 per child per session
- 2 Pre-pay for 10 weeks @ £20.00 per child IN ADVANCE
- 3 Pre-pay for 5 weeks @ £11.20 per child IN ADVANCE

Please make cheques payable to S Bassett. For any more details phone Sammy on 01736 757125 or 07854862399.

## Jump Dance for KS1

Jump Dance is a fun dance club where you can come along and learn new routines, show us your moves and play fun games. It's a pop/street dance club where you can plenty of fun dancing to current music. Being in many schools around the area JUMP Dance has proven a very popular club.

We hope to see you soon!

Starts Friday 24th April, 3.15 - 4.15pm. Cost £16 for 8 weeks

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins	Josh	for being an absolutely delightful member of our class
Choughs	Verity	for looking after her friends
Puffins	Ruan	for super drawings, concentration and listening
Owls	George	for his positive hardworking attitude
Kingfishers	Taylor	for working so hard to make a fantastic book about plants
Trencrom	Josh	for his quick and accurate work with division
Lanyon	Brandon	for all his hard work this term
Kerris	Jaguar	for his programming knowledge & understanding. Thank you for sharing with the class
Bodrifty	Bethany	for her hardworking and determined attitude to everything she does
Bosigran	Emily	for continued effort and focus throughout the term
Kenidjack	Flo	for being brilliant all of the time!
Dinnertime	Nat	for his lovely smile and manners
PE Star Class	Owls	for great understanding of the rules of team games



## ATTENDANCE AWARD



For week ending 20th  
March

**Bosigran** with 97.5%.

Well Done!

## RM MATHS

There will be no RM Maths for the first week of term. It will start again on Monday 20th April.

## Mounts Bay Holiday Soccer Courses

Thursday 9th & Friday 10th April at Mounts Bay Academy Unisex Soccer  
Tots 4-6 yrs 10-12pm £6 for one day, £10 for 2 days. Unisex Soccer Pros 7-14 yrs 10am-3.30pm £15 for one day, £20 for 2 days.

## Girls only Soccer Camp

Weds 1st April 10am-2.30pm £15  
See website for more information:  
[wwwmbfdc.co.uk](http://wwwmbfdc.co.uk)

## DIARY DATES

### **SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

#### April

- 13<sup>th</sup> All music lessons start this week (except keyboards)
- 20<sup>th</sup> All clubs start today
- 22<sup>nd</sup> First swimming for Owls, Puffins, Robins & Choughs
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Y3/4 residential to Plymouth



## THE ALVERTON TASK FORCE NEEDS YOU...PLEASE!

Dear Parents,

You will be aware that we are currently in the first phase of a much bigger project to transform our entire school site, which includes the field, woodland and playgrounds. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to do so, have a look at the amazing plans which are on display at the top of the hall.

We are appealing for any parents, grandparents or other relatives or friends who would be prepared to give some time during the school week to come onto site and help us with a whole range of jobs. We would like to build up an "Alverton Task Force" of people who don't mind getting stuck into a range of tasks - you don't need to be an expert, just prepared to give some time to help us accelerate our plans.



Any time you can give us would be very much appreciated – even an hour can make a real difference.

We have loads of work to do – painting, carpentry, general DIY and building, gardening, clearing etc etc. There is definitely something for everyone!

If you are able to help at any time in the future, please would you complete and return the form below or speak to Helen or Veryan in the office.

Many thanks,

Martin Higgs  
Executive Headteacher

I would be happy to help with (please tick): The best time for me to help is (please tick):

Painting (general)	
Painting (artistic)	
Carpentry	
General DIY	
Gardening	
Clearing	
Any of the above	

	am	pm
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Weekend		
Varies week by week		

Name ..... Phone.....

Thank you! Please return this slip to the School Office.