

Dear Parents,

Before Christmas, we had a very challenging couple of weeks with many Covid cases amongst staff and children, particularly in Key Stage 2. This week, we have had to take the difficult decision to close one of the rooms in the Nursery and several staff across the school are currently absent although the children appear to be relatively unaffected at present.

This week we have risen to new levels of organisation and flexibility as the staff have been amazing at covering for each other and working in different classrooms to their own, often at very short notice, in order to ensure that the children continue to have as normal a school week as possible. You may have spotted Mr Dawe (normally in Year 2) at the Eden Project with our Reception children or Mrs O'Rourke (normally Year 5) teaching Years 3 and 4. Our Teaching Assistants have also been completely brilliant and we are, as ever, so grateful that we work in such a fantastic place where everyone puts the children, and each other, first.

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Cathryn Wicks
Deputy Headteacher

A lovely story!

We had a super phone call this week from one of the local residents who had spotted one of our pupils demonstrating that he was a great local citizen. It was the end of the school day and children were on their way home from school. Driving up the hill near Trevena Road, a driver had thrown some rubbish out of his car onto the grass verge. Harry, one of our Year 6 pupils and an Environment Minister, had come along just afterwards and had picked up the rubbish, and some more already left by the side of the road, and taken it home, to be recycled. The gentleman had been so impressed that he phoned the school to tell us what he had witnessed.

Although the rules in England regarding mask wearing have changed, we would appreciate it if you continue to wear a mask when you come into the foyer to speak to one of our office staff. You can, of course, still wear a mask outside on the school site if you still wish to do so.

Harry was awarded with a book voucher for being so public-spirited and for setting such a great example for everyone. Here he is with Mr Higgs and our nice neighbour. Well done!



Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Martin Higgs (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk 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

A reminder that there is no entry into the school buildings apart from into the office foyer area and that, when you are on the site, we would ask you to please wear a mask. Thank you.

Sporting success

Yesterday twelve of our Key Stage 1 children went to a Multiskills Sports Tournament at Mounts Bay Academy with Mr Timmons. They took part in four different sports and games during a two hour session which included rackets, balls, beanbags and running and co-ordination. Competing against seven other local schools, they came third overall and were proud to show off their bronze medals. Mr Timmons was delighted with their excellent behaviour and team spirit. Well done to you all.

Contact details

Please ensure that we have your up-to-date contact details, particularly your mobile number and email address. We send out very useful information by text and email every week and our system doesn’t tell us if these have bounced back to us. If you move house please tell us as well as we sometimes post things home.

Coronavirus symptoms

The main symptoms are:

A high temperature (hot to the touch on chest or back)

OR

A new, continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)

OR

A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste (you’ve noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

If you or your child have any **ONE** or more of these you must get a COVID-19 PCR test as soon as possible and stay at home and do not have visitors— only leave home to get the test. Please check the latest Government guidance. **Please ring or email the school office as soon as possible to let us know.**

If your child tests positive over the weekend please email
head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk

You can book at test online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or phone the NHS test line 119.

Go Active After School provision

Any queries or to book please contact Mr Timmons direct on 07843 126833 or by emailing him on

alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com

Daisy's Diary

Hello! It's been so long since I've written Daisy's Diary, sorry! I seem to have been drowning in wellies!

Lots of lovely spring things seem to be happening at school. Logan found a beautiful hellebore in the woods. We've had strange fungi like wobbly brown ears growing on the tree, the birds are really starting to sing now (probably because they are delighted they have new houses - more on that next week), and of the 10,000 clover seeds I sowed along the new path 4 have not been eaten by slugs! That's a record! We've started planting seeds now to go in the cold frame - all bee friendly flowers, but Charlie has bought in a whole box of veg seed.

On Wednesday afternoon the Curlews and the Kittiwakes had a Wassail to bless our little circle orchard. We had toast and apple juice around the fire and then went to scare away the bad spirits living at the roots of the apple trees by banging saucepans and hooting until they left. Then Mrs England played the Wassail song on her violin and we all sang to bring in the good apple spirits, and hung toast in the trees to tempt them to stay. What a lovely afternoon.



Residential camps 2022

Please see the deadline dates for when the full payment for camp needs to be received.

You can pay a little at a time via Schoolmoney. Just change the total in the green box to the amount you want to pay.

Year 3 camp - Penryn - June - £100

Deadline: 29th April. £75 remaining

Year 4 camp - Bude - April - £105

Deadline: 11th February. £70 remaining

Year 5 camp - Porthpean - June - £180

Deadline: 20th May. £150 remaining

Year 6 London trip - July - £310

Deadline: 1st April. £175 remaining online plus £10 cash to office for meals on the last day.



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 Vervan 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 & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.01.2022

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.

Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/>

Registering a child as eligible for free school meals (as described below) means that your child receives a free meal every day (though they can, of course, bring a packed lunch should they prefer) but there are additional benefits too. Pupil Premium brings more money into the school to help children achieve and learn. Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium also receive other benefits (eg contributions towards Key Stage 2 camps and funding to use for uniform, music lessons, trips etc). At some times, there are further benefits for these children such as food vouchers during holiday times where these are given. Please see the Pupil Premium Provision Map in the Pupil Premium section of our website http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/pupil_premium/172518 or speak to Mrs Gill or Mrs Stacey in the office or contact Mrs Wicks who leads our Pupil Premium provision.

The easiest and quickest way to apply for free school meals is online through the Cornwall Council website but, if you are unable to do this, you can call the Free School Meals team on 01872 323298 and a member of the team will call you back to complete the application over the phone.

A child is eligible for free school meals if their parent / carer (or the child themselves) receives any of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers' Allowance (Income-Based) and equal based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) and equal based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Support
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

If you are claiming the benefits listed below you are NOT eligible for free school meals, regardless of what other benefits / credits are being claimed:

- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and / or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance

NB All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to receive a free school meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative, regardless of what benefits are being claimed. However, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 may also have an entitlement to benefits-related free school meals and it is important to apply for these if you think your child may be eligible.

Registering for free school meals / Pupil Premium is confidential. If you think that your child is eligible, we strongly recommend that you contact Cornwall Council as detailed above. Mrs Gill and Mrs Stacey in the office will also be able to help you and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Kittiwakes	Millie	for her impeccable behaviour & positive attitude on our trip to Eden
Curlews	Kendra	for always being such a kind, caring & all round wonderful member of Curlews
Puffins	Kea	for his excellent art work this week
Owls	Hollie	for super creative ideas in writing this week
Kingfishers	Sofia	for her amazing dragon artwork
Trencrom	Scarlette	for having a fantastic attitude to her learning, always using her manners & working so hard in Maths
Lanyon	Riley	for fantastic perseverance with fractions
Kerris	Eva Cl	for being so enthusiastic & determined towards all of her learning all of the time
Bodrift	Olivia	for a fantastic performance in The Tempest play rehearsals
Bosigran	Summer	for being a complete star & working hard in everything she does
Kenidjack	Lolabelle	for always being brilliant, every day in every way
Dinnertime	Harris	for a very varied & healthy packed lunch



Lost property

The lost property box has been moved to outside the hall door in the undercover paved area by the table tennis table. This should mean that the clothes don't get wet if it rains. Only un-named items will be put into the box and it will be emptied every half term and given to the charity shop. **Please remember to name all your child's clothing and property so that it can be returned to them.**

Well I for one am absolutely shattered and in need of a relaxing weekend. It's been really busy as we have had staff poorly this week so the healthy ones left have all worked extra hard. Covid, surely one day, will not be such a major part of our lives but for now it seems to linger on. So, this weekend I shall rest, swim, see family and friends and chat, chat, chat away, to anyone who will listen really. I am aware that I am very lucky, as have several very patient friends and some equally caring family members who will listen as I tell them my woes, worries, wobbles and concerns, plus the good times too. If you haven't enough ears, come and bend mine, I really don't mind what you want to say, school related or not. It's all confidential and comes with a smile, cuppa and a biscuit. If you want to chat on the phone, that can be arranged too. Take care and my very best wishes, Mrs Daylak xxx