

The Little Mermaid

Our school was transformed into an underwater world this week with truly fabulous and inspirational performances from our Key Stage 2 children as they performed the Disney show The Little Mermaid Jr.

The Years 5 and 6 Drama Club spend the year preparing for and rehearsing their production and these children have been amazing from the outset. They have transformed themselves into all-singing, all-dancing crabs, mermaids, eels and more. They have worked incredibly hard and their enthusiasm and commitment have made the whole process a hugely enjoyable experience.

This time of year always highlights just how lucky we are to have such talented, creative and dedicated staff, many of whom support us to prepare for the production beforehand and on the nights of the performances themselves both on and off the stage. Chief amongst these are Sarah McClure who is a talented and endlessly patient director and Helen Knowles who masterminds all things costumes, scenery and prop-related!

We are also very fortunate to have a hugely supportive wider school community, particularly the families of our staff such as Ivor McClure for the many hours he spent organising the sound system and Christine Scott (Mrs Knowles's mum) who has designed and made many of the amazing costumes for several very lucky children.

Our annual musical production is one of the highlights of the school calendar and, every year, it engenders a huge sense of team spirit, fun and enjoyment. It also emphasises Alverton's real strengths as a whole-school community with parents, families, friends, staff and children working together to create something spectacular with the children that they will never forget. Our very grateful thanks go to everyone who has been involved.

Mr Higgs said: "This year's production of The Little Mermaid was another example of the exceptionally high standards which are set by our children and staff. The quality of the show, from its technical aspects to even the smallest detail, reflects the care and time which everyone has so selflessly invested in it. Thank you to everyone who supported it and to all those involved, particularly of course, our exceptionally talented children."

Mr Keast has taken some incredible photos which will appear on our Twitter feed (@alvertonschool or @AlvertonCW) after half-term and will be on sale in reception.

Finally, an enormous "Well Done" to all the children – you were fantastic!



Spot the monkey!

Mr Kettless, our very talented set decorator and ex-caretaker, always hides a monkey in every backdrop he paints each year (even if it's not a jungle or forest theme!) As is tradition, this year's Little Mermaid scene has one in it! Can you spot where he's hiding?



PE kit

Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school **all week** and that it is taken home only on a Friday and returned on a Monday. Sometimes extra PE takes place on a day other than their PPA day especially in the summer term. Recently we have found that up to 8 children in each class have not had their PE kit with them which means they cannot take part. PE kit should consist of red shorts or black tracksuit bottom, white polo shirt, red zipped tracksuit top and a pair of trainers. All should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Near miss

Once again we have to report a near miss close to school involving a parent driving too fast round a corner in Toltuff Road and only just missed a pedestrian. An accident involving a child, parent or local resident is going to happen if drivers do not heed the speed limit in the Alverton area. **The speed limit in Toltuff Road and Toltuff Crescent is 20mph.** There are plenty of safe places to park your car just a few minutes walk from the school so you do not need to drive down Toltuff Crescent. The back gate from Lariggan Crescent is unlocked at 7.45am and again at 3pm so please consider using that route if you don't want to park in the Free Church car park. Consider the safety of your own child and if you must drive into Toltuff Road or Toltuff Crescent, please drive with care and below the speed limit.



Rangers trip to Marazion Marsh

The Rangers went to Marazion Marsh on Monday. What an amazing place to have on our doorstep! Clear blue skies and sunshine meant we made some great nature spots (including the rare Glossy Ibis). Claire from the RSPB helped us find and identify all sorts of creatures; these included a warbling reed warbler and even an African Grey Parrot (this was a bit of a cheat as it was somebody's pet being taken for a walk.....!)



Tennis success

Yesterday four of our Year 3 and 4 took part in the Penwith Schools Tennis Competition at Penzance Tennis Club. A huge well done to our team of Poppy, Jenson, Maisie and Kaiden who came back with gold medals! Thanks to Mrs Mooney for taking them.



The Big Battery Hunt

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting used batteries for us as part of the Big Battery Hunt. We have so far collected 2100 batteries! Here is Zac with the Environment Ministers, Cora and Finley who counted them up. Please keep sending them in!



Water bottles

Now we are in the summer term and the weather is much warmer, please ensure that your child has a named, refillable water bottle in school every day. This should be filled with **water only** (not squash or juice) and can then be refilled during the day.



Don't forget it's half term next week. See you on Monday 3rd June.

Online safety

Please see below for some excellent advice about Fortnite. We will be publishing a different information page each week.

Fortnite Battle Royale

AGE RESTRICTION
12+

'Fortnite - Battle Royale' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus', where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game. To make the game more challenging, there is an added twist called 'the storm' which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, bringing the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and IOS.

What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

MICROTRANSACTIONS

Newly featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins', 'gliders' and 'emotes', which change the characters' appearance, but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are attractive for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass'. When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can take part in a series of challenges, receiving more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whichever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes stated that it had seen "dozens" of online reports from people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers, who had gained access to user's accounts in the game and accrued hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with either their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, no proof of age is required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check whether your child has the game downloaded.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PS4 cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in the game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V bucks'. The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes at this point according to the game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and will want to continue playing until they achieve their desired result. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for them to stop playing halfway through as their position in the game could be affected.

'FREE' TO PLAY

The game is free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription, which does require a fee.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters must look unrealistic unless it consists of only minor or trivial injury such as a slap," making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile devices in April 2018, meaning it can be played without the need for a home games console. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is playing this game.

TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes readily good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and works towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

'Fortnite: Battle Royale' is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a payasafecard, or a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will allow you to restrict the amount your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

USE A STRONG PASSWORD

It may seem like a simple tip, but it is important that your child selects a strong password when creating an account, particularly if a credit/debit card is associated with the account. This will help reduce the risk of their account being hacked.

Top Tips for Parents

LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time a child is playing games on these devices. Be aware that the game is available on IOS and will soon be available on all mobiles, with this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to play the games for. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be difficult to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth imposing a limit on the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything for the game.

SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM TALKING TO STRANGERS

There is an option to turn off the voice chat feature, which means your child wouldn't be able to talk to anybody, including their friends. However, they would still be able to use the in-app chat and hear other people's conversations. To turn off voice chat, open the Settings menu in the top right of the main Fortnite page, then click on the cog icon. Open the Audio tab at the top of the screen. From there, you can turn off voice chat.

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NOS National Online Safety
A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/12/fortnite-accounts-hacked-how-to-protect-yourself-and-what-to-do-if-youve-been-compromised> #146392/cz.39

Mazey Day Dress Code

Early warning!

Our colour scheme for the Saturday parade (29th June) will be GREEN!

Alanna in Year 6 was the winner of our Mazey image competition. Well done to her. You will be able to see her creation brought to life on Mazey Day by the children and our very talented Mrs Hobin.

Headlice

A number of classes have reported that headlice have been spotted in their children's hair. Please check your child's hair daily and treat if found.

Payment for Year 5 camp

A reminder that full payment for Year 5 camp (£150) must be made by **Friday 24th May** at the latest. Please pay using schoolmoney.co.uk or ask at the office for a PayPoint barcode which you can use at any Co-op store.

Clubs

A new club for KS2 Bubble Football will start on Wednesdays after half term for 4 weeks with Go Active, cost £20. A letter has come home and if your child would like a place, please return the slip with payment in cash by Monday 3rd June. This replaces Go Active Street Dance which has now finished.

KS1 Dodgeball has now finished. If your child has signed up and paid for KS2 Dodgeball this will start on Monday 3rd June.

KS1 Outdoor Learning will continue after half term on Tuesdays with the same group of children as the club was not oversubscribed.

Drama club has now finished for this school year.

ALL Clubs except Jump Dance finish in the week ending Friday 28th June.

WIN £5,000 for your school's library



Visit our website for a chance to win a massive **£5,000 of National Book Tokens for your school** – enough to buy hundreds of new books for the library!

You'll also be in with a chance of taking home **£100 of National Book Tokens just for you.**



Spread the word: share with teachers, school staff and parents – the more entries for your school, the higher the chance they'll win!



Inspiring a lifelong love of reading

Enter at nationalbooktokens.com/schools

Terms and conditions apply



Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again it's time for the **Extreme Reading** competition at Alverton School! The aim is to take a photo of your child reading in the most unusual place or situation you can think of - the more extreme the better!

The competition is open to all pupils and the closing date is Friday 7th June. There will be a prize for the most Extreme Reader in each Key Stage!

Please e-mail your entries to extremereading@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued support,
Mrs Clive.



Need a chat?

Come and have a cup of tea with Mrs Daylak if you have any questions or concerns about anything which might be affecting your child in school. You can find her any Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm. If you would rather make an appointment, please ask the office. She might even find you a biscuit to go with your tea!



Twitter

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @alvertonschool to keep up-to-date with all the exciting things that are going on.



Guitar invoices

All guitar invoices should have gone home. Please ensure payment is made by the first lesson after half term, **Thursday 6th June**.

CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	92.4%	8
Robins	86.5%	11
Puffins	91.0%	10
Owls	96.6%	4
Kingfishers	93.3%	7
Trencrom 	98.6%	1
Lanyon	91.3%	9
Kerris	97.7%	3
Bodrifty	94.8%	6
Bosigran	95.3%	5
Kenidjack	98.1%	2
Overall school attendance	94.4%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

May

Monday 27th – Friday 31st May – HALF TERM

June

- 3rd **All clubs continue as normal today after half term (except Drama)**
- 4th New Reception Intake meeting for parents at 6pm
- 5th Swimming starts for Year 6
- 11th KS2 Sports Day at 1.30pm
- 12th-14th Y5 Camp at Porthpean
- 12th KS1 Sports Day at 1.30pm
- 13th EYFS Sports Day at 1.30pm
- 19th Last swimming for Year 6
- 27th Alverton Mazey Parade at 9.30am (followed by refreshments for children on the field)
- 29th Mazey Day Parade – time of parade to be confirmed
- 28th **All clubs finish today**
- 28th Cornwall Schools Games





HELP PAYING FOR CHILDCARE

MONEY TOWARDS CHILDCARE

Any **one** of the following schemes...



AVAILABLE IN UK

... **can** be used with

FREE HOURS OF CHILDCARE



AVAILABLE IN ENGLAND
For offers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland check childcarechoices.gov.uk

For full details visit

childcarechoices.gov.uk

Getting childcare vouchers?
Go to GOV.UK to find out more

Speak to your provider about any additional charges that may apply



OPEN DAY

PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 9AM - 4PM

9am-9.30am Warm up

Studio 1

- 9.30-10.30 Hip Hop/commercial (Ella and Kylie)
- 10.30-11.15 Drama (Sianne)
- 11.15-11.45 BREAK
- 11.45-12.45 Ballet and Jazz (Emaly)
- 12.45-1.30 LUNCH
- 1.30-2.15 Tap (Wendy)
- 2.15-2.30 BREAK
- 2.30-3.15 Contemporary (Charlotte)
- 3.15-4 Singing (Ella)

Studio 2

- 9.30-10.15 Drama (ages3-5 years) (Sianne)
- 10.15-10.30 BREAK
- 10.30-11 Singing (ages3-5 years) (Ella)
- 11-11.30 BREAK
- 11.30-12 Ballet & Tap (ages3-5 years) (Wendy)
- 12-12.30 Contemporary (ages3-5 years) (Charlotte)
- 12.30-12.45 BREAK
- 12.45-1.15 Jazz (ages 3-5 years) (Emaly)