



## Safeguarding Newsletter

All children have a right to be safe and we believe that keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. Sent home with this week's Friday News is our Spring Term Safeguarding newsletter which we hope that you will find informative and useful. Please can we ask you to take a few minutes to read this. Thank you.

## Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings this term will be held in the week beginning Monday 9th March from 3.30—6.30 pm and we are really looking forward to meeting you and discussing your child's progress.

We are going to use our system for booking appointments through our eschools facility on our school website ([www.alverton.org.uk](http://www.alverton.org.uk)) as we did last Autumn.

You will previously have been sent log in details for eschools. If you are unsure what this is, please ask at the office and they will arrange for new details to be given to you. These details will be needed in order to go online and book the appointment slot that suits you best when the booking period opens on 26th February (the first Wednesday back after half term).

If you have had, or will be having, a review meeting with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you don't need to book an appointment. Woodlands parents do not have to use this system either.

## New email for letters and the Friday news

Due to a few problems with emailing out the Friday News lately, we have changed the way we email out to parents. We will now be using the Teachers2parents system to send emails. Please ensure we have the most up-to-date email address for you. To help us be as environmentally friendly as possible, we will also be sending out other letters and information from now on via email. If you do not have an email address or would prefer not to receive these communications electronically, these will be available to view on the school website or you can pick up a paper copy from outside the office.

## Owls assembly - POSTPONED

Owls sharing assembly which was to have been held on Friday 13th March has been postponed until the summer term.

## Online safety

Please see the information below with some excellent advice about home devices online safety guide. We will be publishing a different information page each week. All this information can be found on the National Online Safety website (a link to which can be found on our website).

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. In many cases - they do, however these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

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### KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identity fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.



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### WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.



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### KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.



3

### CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. You can check your router manual on how to do this.

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### RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your Internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.



## 12 Top Tips To Get Smart About The

# DEVICES

## In Your Home



National  
Online  
Safety®



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### USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi, they won't have access to your devices.

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### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.



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### SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



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### DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact, there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. When someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.



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### BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming in and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



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### SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



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### REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



## Meet our expert

Emma was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old and has vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



SOURCES: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>, <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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## Netball finals

On Monday, the netball team attended the Penwith finals at MBA after coming top of their league before Christmas. They played brilliantly, beating Penpol 8-2 in the first game. After that, they faced St Mary's C of E School in the semi finals. It was a brilliant game but unfortunately we lost 6-4. They went on to play in the 3/4 play offs in which they beat Mousehole. Well done to the whole netball team who have played exceptionally well through out the season.



## Year 6 London trip - July 2020

A reminder that ALL payments for Year 6 London trip (£310 total) need to be made by 14th April at the latest.

**Full payment is needed by the above date. If it is not paid in full by this date, we will cancel your child's place and refund any money you have already paid (less the deposit) with immediate effect.**

You can pay as much or as little as you want anytime up to the final date. Please pay online at [schoolmoney.co.uk](http://schoolmoney.co.uk). Click into the amount box and change the total payment to the amount you'd like to pay. If you cannot pay online, please ask at the office for a Paypoint barcode which you can use to pay cash at a local Paypoint retailer.

## Clubs

Clubs continue as normal after half term. If your child is starting a new club - Disco Dodgeball or Roller Skating please ensure payment is made before the first club or your child will not be able to start.

## Club cancellations

**ALL clubs will be cancelled on Monday 9th, Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th March due to parents evenings** apart from morning Roller Skating club on Wednesday 11th.

## Mothers and Daughters Tennis Sessions (Year 2 upwards) - new date

Penzance Tennis Club will be running four mothers and daughters tennis sessions at the tennis club after half term starting on **Tuesday 3rd March** from 3.30-4.30pm. The cost is £1 per person, per week payable in cash to Ian Vidgen (club coach) on the day. If you're interested, please let either Mrs Dennison or the office know so that we can put your names down so that he knows you're attending.

## Guitar lessons

There will be **two** guitar lessons after half term - the first Thursday 27th February and one on Thursday 19th March. This is due to 5th March being World Book Day and Julyan being away on 12th March.

## Daisy's Diary

### Fire circle

We have a brand new fire circle! The old one was dangerous as it was on a slope and slippery so it had to be re-done. The new one is really lovely - built for us by Chris, an artist/ Cornish hedge builder. It is made out of a ton of granite that he first shaped for us in his workshop before digging in the huge stones at the right angle to make a volcano shape that looks magic when there are flames licking up over the top.



Lots of students spent the next two weeks cobbling around the inner circle and lugging heavy wheelbarrows full of granite grit to make a new less slippery surface. The first to use the new circle were the nursery, who had a rainy day



Wassail to bless the outdoor circular classroom/orchard. We made toast around the fire and then sung our way to the orchard, where we scared the bad spirits away with some terrifying saucepan bashing and welcomed the good spirits in by putting toast in the trees and singing the Wassail song, along with the accompaniment of Mrs England's violin.

### Tip trip!

We also had a trip to the tip. The Eco team and a few other students went along to the St Austell Recycling Centre to see where our rubbish goes. It was noisy, it was smelly - and it was fascinating! We will be passing on what we learnt to the rest of the school and to parents too via the newsletter - Top Tip Tips! A big thank you to Sita UK Ltd who manage the tip for paying for our transport.





# West Cornwall Spring Flower Show 2020

## Marazion Community Centre

**Friday 6th March 11am-6pm & Saturday 7th March 10am-3.30pm (£3 admission, under 14s free)**

**If your child would like to enter any of the following categories their entry MUST be in, clearly labelled (see box below), by Wednesday 4th March so that they can be taken to Marazion in time.**

### General Classes

- A** (Ages 5 years and under) a decorated pebble (max size 15 x 15cm).
- B** (Year 1 & 2) a potato print of a palm tree on A4 card.
- C** (Year 3 & 4) a Mother's Day card made from any material to be completed on the inside with a Mother's Day greeting. Max A5 when folded.
- D** (Year 5 & 6) a miniature garden in a standard seed tray. Max 38cm x 21.5cm - any materials

*The following are open to any child Year Reception- Year 6*

- E** A model animal made of plant materials (max size 20cm x 20cm) **Has to stand up by itself.**
- F** A flower filled boot, welly or shoe. Max size 30cm x 30cm.
- G** An A3 collage of violets or spring flowers on card or paper. Can be made from any materials.

### Photography

*The following class can be entered by any child under 12 years*

- H** A mounted photograph on A4 card (max photo size 18cm x 13cm). Subject: "My favourite thing".

All entries <u>must</u> be clearly marked with the <b>category reference number, name, school year and school</b> of the entrant either on the reverse of the entry or on a small card securely attached to the exhibit.
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## Reading Revolution Poster Competition

Don't forget to enter the Reading Revolution Poster Competition. Entries should be on A4 paper and should include the words 'Alverton School Reading Revolution' and at least one fact about why reading is so important. Prizes are fantastic book tokens from the Edge of the World bookshop. The closing date is **Monday 24th February**. Please hand entries to Mrs Clive.

## Lost

Fred in Lanyon has lost his coat. It's an orange puffa jacket with a navy inside and it is named. If found, please hand in.



**HAPPY... HOLIDAYS**

## CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	98.0%	3
Robins	93.2%	9
Puffins	98.2%	2
Owls	97.1%	5
Kingfishers	92.7%	11
Trencrom	97.4%	4
Lanyon	96.7%	6
Kerris	96.4%	7
Bodrifty	99.3%	1
Bosigran	95.0%	8
Kenidjack	93.2%	9
Overall school attendance	96.2%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

## 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.



## DIARY DATES

### February

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – HALF TERM

PLEASE NOTE CLUBS CONTINUE AS NORMAL AFTER HALF TERM

### March

5<sup>th</sup> St. Piran's dance for Year 6 – details to follow

5<sup>th</sup> World Book Day

9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations – appointment times will be booked online – **no clubs this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

13<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm—**POSTPONED**

19<sup>th</sup> FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow

20<sup>th</sup> **All clubs finish**

20<sup>th</sup> All music lessons finish

25<sup>th</sup> Last swimming for Year 5

**FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm (normal time) FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY**

**SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL at 9am**





HM Government



# **CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC INFORMATION**

The Government and NHS are well prepared to deal with this virus.

You can help too.

Germs can live on some surfaces for hours.

To protect yourself and others:

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze.
- Bin the tissue, and to kill the germs, wash your hands with soap and water, or use a sanitiser gel.
- If you have arrived back from China within 14 days follow the specific advice for returning travellers.

This is the best way to slow the spread of almost any germs, including Coronavirus.

**Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)**