

Advent Service

Our Christmas tree has arrived and all children are invited to make a decoration at home this weekend and bring it into school to place on the tree ready for our Advent Service at 9.30am on **Monday 2nd December** which you are all warmly invited to attend. This is a traditional part of the school year, with the eldest child in the school lighting the advent candle and the youngest turning on the lights on the tree. There will be a lot of festive singing and mince pies. Please come along if you can.



Christmas Performances

All of the children are busy rehearsing for their Christmas performances and everyone is welcome to attend the various events. The first of these is on **Monday 9th December at 9.30am** when the Woodlands pre-school will be performing their Nativity in the school hall. Key Stage 1 performances on **Tuesday 10th December. Performances take place at 2pm and again at 6pm** in the school hall. **Wednesday 11th December sees the Reception performance at 4pm** which will be repeated on **Thursday 12th December at 2pm** also in the hall. **Tuesday 17th December sees Key Stage 2 putting on their Carol Concert at the Methodist Chapel in Chapel Street. This begins at 6.30pm** and is a wonderful event. All Key Stage 2 children are involved in the singing and even the staff perform a carol. Parents and children from the EYFS and Key Stage 1 are more than welcome to attend and we would love to see you there.

KS2 Exhibition

Our KS2 Exhibition 'A Night at the Museum' will be held next **Wednesday 4th December** from 4-6pm. Please come along between those times to see the fantastic work your children have been doing. The Museum costs £1 per adult to enter (children go free) and please bring money if you'd like some refreshments.



Clubs

ALL CLUBS have now finished with the exception of:

Y1-4 Gymnastics Monday 2nd December

KS2 Dodgeball Tuesday 3rd December

A new clubs list for the Spring term will come home in January.

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Schools Declare Climate Emergency

29th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Alverton School, in collaboration with primary and secondary schools in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, has formally agreed to declare a climate emergency TODAY Friday 29th November.

The climate emergency is the biggest challenge facing our planet and future generations. To have a significant impact we need to do more than make symbolic statements - we need to turn warm words in to impactful actions. Alverton School has made a commitment to the Green Charter for Schools and we will do all that we can to achieve its aims.

For more information about the Green Charter, please see the information on the following page or go to our school website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

A GREEN CHARTER

for schools in Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly



As educators, we are committed to teach our young people to be environmentally literate and to develop their knowledge, skills, motivation and confidence to practice and promote sustainability in their community.

As organisations, we are committed to ensure any decisions we make about our working practice take into account the impact on the environment, with the aim of adopting sustainable practices wherever possible.

To this end, we will:

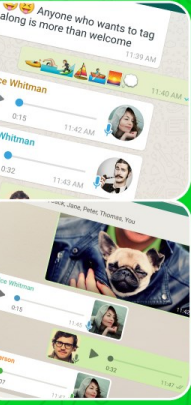
1. Collectively declare a climate emergency in November 2019.
2. Provide opportunities for staff, Governors, children, and community to find out about the climate emergency and what action they can take. Ensure at least one member of staff has climate change training.
3. Gain Eco-School status within two years, then maintain it thereafter.
4. Significantly reduce the use of single-use plastic with the aim of becoming 'plastic free.'
5. Develop the school grounds (or other local space) to promote engagement with nature, biodiversity and growing food. Plant at least 30 trees every year (eg free Woodland Trust Packs) and ensure they are looked after.
6. Have a meat-free school menu once a week and/or promote the benefits of eating less meat and more seasonal, locally-sourced food **(we will liaise with Caterlink regarding this)*
7. Speak out. Staff work with pupils to engage with parents and community in order to promote action on climate change.
8. Engage with another school (nationally or internationally) about action in schools.
9. Support Cornwall Council's aim to become carbon neutral by:
 - reducing energy consumption by at least 10%
 - using some form of renewable energy source on site, where possible
 - buying energy from renewable suppliers, where possible
10. Explore ways to lessen the impact of petrol and diesel vehicles on the environment.

Online safety


Please see the information below with some excellent advice about WhatsApp. We will be publishing a different information page each week.



WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world, with more than 1.5 billion people in more than 180 countries using it to send and receive text, photos, videos and documents, as well as make voice and video calls through an Internet or Wi-Fi connection. The free app offers end-to-end encryption, which means that messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient in one-to-one chats, or all members if it is a group chat. Not even WhatsApp can read them.



What parents need to know about WhatsApp



AGE LIMIT CHANGE

Since May 2018, the minimum age for using WhatsApp is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, including the UK. Prior to this, the minimum age was 13, which still applies for the rest of the world. WhatsApp has not yet stated whether it will take action against anyone aged between 13 and 16 who already hold accounts under the old terms and conditions, such as closing their account or seeking parental permission.

SCAM MESSAGES

Occasionally on WhatsApp, people receive spam messages from unauthorised third parties or from fraudsters pretending to offer prizes to 'lucky people', encouraging recipients to click on a link to win a prize. A common scam involves messages warning recipients that their WhatsApp subscription has run out with the hope that people are duped into providing their payment details. Other scam messages include instructions to forward the message in return for a reward or gift from WhatsApp or another person.

FAKE NEWS AND HOAXES

WhatsApp has been linked to enabling the spread of dangerous viral rumours. In India, for example, a number of attacks appear to have been sparked by false rumours shared on WhatsApp.

THE 'ONLY ADMIN' FEATURE AND CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is the act of sending threatening or taunting text messages, voice messages, pictures and videos, with the aim to hurt and humiliate the receiver. The group chat and group video call features are great for multiple people to chat simultaneously, but there is the potential for people to hurt others with their comments or jokes. The 'only admin' feature gives the admin of a group chat greater control over who can send messages. Whilst this can be good for one-way announcements, the group admin has the power to block somebody from responding to an offensive message in a chat, which could result in a child being upset and unable to reply.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

To start a chat in WhatsApp, you need to know the mobile number of the contact you want to speak to and they also need to have the app downloaded. WhatsApp can find contacts by accessing the address book of a device and recognising which of those contacts are using WhatsApp. If your child has shared their mobile number with someone they don't know, they can use it to get in touch via WhatsApp.

LIVE LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp's 'Live Location' feature enables users to share their current location in real time to their contacts in a chat, allowing friends to show their movements. The feature, which can be found by pressing the 'attach' button, is described by WhatsApp as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." Location-sharing is already a common feature on other social apps, including Snapchat's Snap Map and Facebook Messenger and can be a useful way for a child to let loved ones know they are safe. However, if your child is in a group chat with people they do not know, they will be exposing their location.



Top Tips for Parents



CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though somebody would need your child's phone number to add them as a contact, as an extra security measure we suggest altering their profile settings to control who can see their profile photo and status. The options to choose from are 'Everyone', 'My Contacts' and 'Nobody'. We suggest selecting 'My Contacts' or 'Nobody' to ensure their profile is protected.

EXPLAIN HOW TO BLOCK PEOPLE

If your child has received spam or offensive messages, calls or attachments from a contact, they should block them. Messages and status updates sent by a blocked contact will not show up on the phone and will stay undelivered. Blocking someone will not remove this contact from the contact list – they will need to be removed from the phone's address book. To block a contact your child needs to open the person's chat stream and tap on the settings.

REPORT SCAM MESSAGES

Advise your child not to tap, share or forward any message that looks suspicious or sounds too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they will be given the option to report the number as spam directly inside the chat. They can also report a contact or a group as spam using the following steps: 1) Open the chat. 2) Tap on the contact or group name to open their profile information. 3) Scroll to the bottom and tap 'Report Spam.'

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is part of a group chat that makes them feel uncomfortable or has been added to a group they don't want to be part of, use the group's settings to show them how to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once. If they leave again, they cannot be added again.

USING LIVE LOCATION SAFELY

If your child needs to use the 'Live Location' feature to share with you or a friend, advise them to only share it for the amount of time they need to. WhatsApp gives the options of either 15 minutes, one hour or eight hours. However, your child can choose to stop sharing at any time.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child has sent a message to the wrong chat or if a message they sent has contained a mistake, they can delete it. To do this, simply tap and hold on the message, choose 'Delete' and then 'Delete for everyone'. The app allows seven minutes to delete the message after it has been sent, but it is important to remember that recipients may have seen and screenshot a message before it was deleted.

SET TIME LIMITS

A 2017 study found that by the age of 14 the average child will have sent more than 35,000 texts, 30,000 WhatsApp messages and racked up more than three solid weeks of video chat. Although it is inevitable that your child will use technology, you can still set boundaries. This is not easy, especially since teens use their devices for both schoolwork and free time, often simultaneously.

SOURCES: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/apr/26/whatsapp-plans-to-ban-under-16s-the-mystery-is-how>, <https://whatsappbrand.com/>, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/whatsapp-update-latest-india-hoaxes-forward-messages-app-download-a8456011.html>

© National Online Safety Ltd
This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Cross Country

On Monday, twenty of our Year 3-6 went to St Ives Rugby Club to take part in the next Penwith Cross Country event. The children were a credit to the school with their behaviour, attitude and how they battled through the mud, the wind and the rain. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to George C, Agnes and Ruby R who did particularly well.

KS2 Cinema trips

If you haven't done so already, please pay for your child's trip to the cinema online **and** ensure you return the form so that we know where you are going to collect them from afterwards.

Year 3/4 Tuesday 10th December

Year 5/6 Wednesday 18th December

Applying for a school place for September 2020

If you have a child born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 you need to apply for a school place in a Reception class to start in September 2020. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2020. 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.

Flu immunisation

Please see the information below from Kernow Health about the flu immunisation taking place in school. If you would like your child immunised and haven't yet applied, please go online by 4th December. **Your child will not be given the nasal spray without your consent so if you do not wish them to have it done, you do not need to do anything.**

Date of Visit: Friday 6th December

School Code: EE142240

Link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Tel No.: 01872 221105/06

Deadline to submit: Wednesday 4th December noon

Christmas lunch - Friday 13th December

If your child would like a school lunch on 13th December you must return a slip to us, (with the money if your meals are not free) by **Friday 6th December**. If you do not return a slip, you must send your child in with a packed lunch from home as there will not be any spare meals available on the day.



FOAS Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December from 3.15pm

Please don't forget to come along to the Fair next Friday.

Thank you to everyone who donated an item or money today. If you haven't yet donated, we would really appreciate the following:

- a decorated jam jar full of goodies
- as new gifts/jewellery
- bottles and Christmas goodies for the tombola
- cakes and buns (please bring in on Friday)

There will also be stalls with items made by your child's class and there will be refreshments available.

We have lots of lovely raffle prizes kindly donated but please sell your raffle tickets & return the stubs and money to the office or your tickets if you are unable to sell them.

Visit to Father Christmas

This year we will be selling tickets to see Father Christmas in his special grotto in advance. There are 50 spaces and tickets will be on sale at the office from Monday at a cost of £2 per child which will include a chat to Santa and a present. Your child will still have to queue up on the day but will be guaranteed a visit.

If you can help set up and/or man the stalls, please put your name down at the office. Thank you.



Hey, I just met you,
And this is crazy,

But here's our sign up

Help the FOAS maybe?



The Friends of Alverton School are looking for fresh ideas and new recruits.

Who Are We?

Parents, Carers, Grandparents, Friends.

What do we do?

We organise events that bring the school and the community together whilst raising money to help Alverton School be the best place for children to learn.

Would you be willing to help out in any of the following ways?
Just a couple of hours of your time can really make a difference.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Fair | Setting up, manning stalls, packing away |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Disco | Manning the door or refreshments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duck Race | Setting up, manning stalls, packing away |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Fair | Setting up, manning stalls, packing away |

Would you be interested in-

- ☐ Joining FOAS
☐ Putting your name on a help list

Do you like the idea of the following events?

- ☐ Family Silent Disco
☐ Family Quiz Night

Child's Name _____

Class _____

Your Name _____

100 Word Challenge



Dear Alverton pupils,

Welcome to the Christmas 100 Word Challenge! Please write a story about the above picture using **exactly** 100 words and then e-mail your entry to extremereading@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk Entries should be in by **Friday 13th December** and there will be prizes for the winners!

Good luck!

Mrs Clive.

DEER AND SHINE JEWELLERY
EBB FLOW CORNWALL
MADE BY THERAPY
MARIANNE NICHOLLS ART
LAMORNA GORE CERAMICS
PENZANCE GIN
DOTTY D CLOTHING

Christmas Fair @Exchange Gallery PZ

Enjoy a free glass of mulled wine and a mince pie while you shop

Thursday 5th December 5pm-8pm

Be in with a chance to win a prize from each of the fabulous traders by taking part in our

Raffle in aid of the Street Food Project

Woodlands pre-school closure

Due to the pre-school room being used for polling in the General Election, Woodlands pre-school will be closed on **Thursday 12th December**.

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!



Sleep workshop for parents

If you are interested in a sleep workshop to help develop good bedtime routines and sleep patterns for your child, please let the office know. If there is enough interest, we may be able to run one.

Lost

Niko in Kingfishers has lost his blue shark wellies. They have a draw string top, size 1 and are named. Paloma in Choughs has lost her school shoes. They are black, patent Clarks with a Velcro strap and bow. Please check at home and hand back in if found.

Twitter

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



CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	97.0%	5
Robins	95.0%	10
Puffins	95.9%	7
Owls	95.0%	10
Kingfishers ★	99.7%	1
Trencrom	98.4%	3
Lanyon	96.0%	6
Kerris	99.0%	2
Bodrifty	95.9%	7
Bosigran	95.7%	9
Kenidjack	97.1%	4
Overall school attendance	96.9%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

- 2nd Advent Service at 9.30am – followed by mince pies and coffee for parents
- 6th FOAS Christmas Fair at 3.15pm
- 10th KS1 Christmas performance at 2.00pm & 6.00pm – **please note new date**
- 11th EYFS concert at 4.00pm
- 12th EYFS concert at 2.00pm – **please note new date**
- 12th Woodlands pre-school room **closed** for polling
- 13th Pupils Christmas lunch
- 17th KS2 concert at 6.30pm at the Chapel Street Methodist Church
- 20th **SCHOOL CLOSSES** at normal time 3.15pm

The spring term begins on Monday 6th January 2020

