# Alverton School

3/12/21 FRIDAY NEWS N°. 12

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid has now been a part of our lives for almost two years but we are still in a particularly difficult period of time which is causing some families enormous financial strain and anxiety. Worrying about whether there is enough for your children to eat is a step too far for anybody. If this is how you are feeling, please, please consider the local food bank. All you need to do is phone the school office on 01736 364087 and Mrs Gill or Mrs Stacey will help organise this for you. Please don't feel anxious about doing this – you know that they are always a friendly and reassuring voice on the end of the phone. They will liaise with the CTIPA Foodbank who provide enormous help and reassurance.

If you are struggling financially and are finding it difficult to feed your family at the moment and cope with the financial pressures of the Christmas season, you can also contact me by phoning the office or emailing me at head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk . Please note that all requests and support will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We are pleased that the government has again provided support which means that funding has been made available to schools to issue vouchers over the Christmas holiday. We will be issuing vouchers to the value of £30 per eligible pupil (those who qualify for benefit-related free school meals – not Universal Infant Free School Meals) in the same way as we have previously, using the WONDE platform. These will be delivered via email over the next couple of weeks so please look out for them, including in your Junk email folder.

If you think your child may be eligible for Free School Meals, please see the information later in this newsletter and complete the form on the Cornwall Council website https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium/. If you're not sure if you qualify, but think you might, it really is worth applying to find out for certain as there are benefits for your child beyond free school meals as they would then be eligible for Pupil Premium. Please see http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/what\_is\_pupil\_premium/172524 which has lots more information about this, including our Parent Guide.

If you are finding things difficult at the moment, please don't feel that you need to struggle on alone as there are people available who would be more than willing to try to help.

With the current spike in Covid cases in the school, we have had to make some very difficult decisions this week as you know from the letters sent home today. Decisions like these are not taken lightly and we really appreciate the support that you show us in these difficult times.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the staff at Alverton. They are always incredible but this week has provided new challenges and they have done a phenomenal job in responding to these with resilience, flexibility and good humour.

If your child displays any symptoms of Covid, they must not come into school when we re-open on Thursday and a PCR test should be arranged as soon as possible. Please let us know by emailing the office.

I hope that those families who are well have an enjoyable, Covid-free weekend and that all those who currently have cases in their family are recovering well and feel better every day.

Thank you again,

Martin Higgs Headteacher

#### Remember – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Martin Higgs (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at <a href="head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk">head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk</a> or, if it is out of school hours, please contact the Multi Agency Referral Unit on 0300 1231 116:

E-mail: <u>multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk</u>

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.

Hello again - I can only hope that you're not feeling really ill as you read this because this dreaded Covid seems to have taken us by surprise and reared its head with a vengeance. I'm not sure whether I was being naive or optimistic but I honestly though we had got most of it behind us. Sadly I was wrong. If you are poorly, I sincerely hope you get well soon. If you aren't poorly then I hope with equal sincerity that you don't succumb. And if you've had this illness then let's hope that's the end of it for you. On the plus side we're in December now, which means fun and festivities, plus the winter equinox which marks the end of the days getting shorter and the beginning of lengthening days as we head towards the promise of spring. I know it feels like a long time away but it will happen, that's one of our few certainties and one which always makes me feel better. With equal certainty I'm still here for you should you wish to talk, moan, grumble, weep or complain about any aspect of life that's making you feel sad, bad, cross or grumpy. I can also make the best cuppa. Take care and my very best wishes, Mrs Daylak xxx

### **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-coronavirustest or phone the NHS test line 119.

### **Go Active After School provision**

alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com

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

## Christmas lunch - Friday 10th December

Bookings for Christmas lunch next Friday have now closed. If you did 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.



A huge thank you to Mole Valley
Farmers for their kind donation of our
beautiful Christmas and thank you to all
the children who mad e a decoration for
it.



#### **FOAS News**



Filled jam jars

We would be very grateful if you could save a clean jam jar, decorate it and fill it with small toys, sweets or similar to bring in to school from Thursday 9th December. Please hand into the school office or to your child's teacher. These will be used for prizes in a draw for the

children on Friday 10th December.

## Friday 10th December



To coincide with Christmas lunch day, FOAS would like to invite all pupils to wear something Christmassy or their favourite clothes on Friday 10th December. If your child could bring a donation (we suggest £1) towards FOAS funds that would be great. For this they will also be entered into a draw to receive one of Alverton's famous fun-filled jars or a delicious treat! Funds raised are for the exciting  $\mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{I}$  music room  $\mathfrak{I}\mathfrak{I}$  target we are so close to achieving.









## **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**.

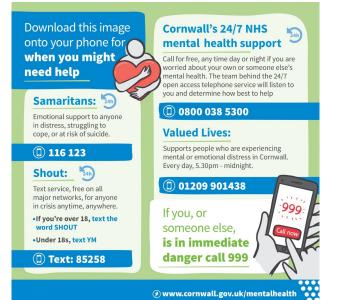








- **)** 0808 800 5000
- 🔀 help@nspcc.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk



#### Penzance CTIPA Foodbank

The CTIPA Foodbank in Penzance provides food for anyone in need. If their support would be helpful to you, just phone Veryan 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.







NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE 0808 2000 247 24/7 CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE



# WCWAid West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539 https://www.wcwaid.co.uk/helpline



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 <a href="http://www.alverton.org.uk/">http://www.alverton.org.uk/</a> website/online safety for families/246722. Your child's teacher will also always be happy to talk to you

### 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 <a href="http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/pupil premium/172518">http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/pupil premium/172518</a> 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.





## WHO DARES WORKS Invites you to our...

## FREE Communit Christmas Par

Pirates Rugby Ground, Penzance (Marquee) Wednesday 15th December 2021 4pm - 7pm

- Entertainment
- Festive food & drinks
- Decoration making
- Make your own Christmas Card
- Meet Santa
- Plus more festive fun

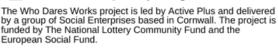




01872 300236



whodaresworks@activeplus.org.uk











## Christmas Active Holiday Club

20th - 23rd December 2021

Mounts Bay Academy TR18 7JT

Our Christmas programme promises to deliver massive amounts of fun, play and activity! Our full program will provide children the chance to discovery a new range of exciting activities that will be engaging, lots of activity, new games, play, wellbeing and much more.

10.00am - 2.00pm

To Book: Go to playwaze.com, create an account for your child and search 'Mounts Bay'

Contact us at: summercamp@mountsbay.org

We are delighted to offer a Christmas Holiday Camp. The programme is designed to support children's social, physical, and wellbeing skills. It is free of charge for Free School Meals (FSM) students. Children can attend as many days as they would like.

£10 per day FSM free

FREE HOT MEAL INCLUDED

(Open to KS2, 3 and 4)





auwaze



























