



17/9/21

FRIDAY NEWS

Nº 2

As we reach the end of our second full week back in school, I am pleased to be able to report that the children and staff have all settled in extremely well. The removal of bubbles has made a noticeable difference to the feel of the school which is now much closer to the pre-Covid atmosphere that we all enjoyed. That said, the situation with regard to infections locally means that I believe we still need to remain cautious in and around school for the time being. I would therefore ask parents to continue to wear masks on site and, apart from the school Reception area, to refrain from coming into the school building at the moment.

We are pleased to announce that a **new rewards system** is being launched in the next week or so. We are keeping many of the existing elements of our current system but are giving them a new lease of life. The new system is a digital one which will increase the importance of Houses and House Points for the children, whilst still allowing pupils to collect individual points and reach reward milestones. These milestones will still also result in children being rewarded with books from our shop.

The main differences of the new system are that all staff across the school will be able to award House Points electronically, and that House Team, Class and individual House Point totals can be tracked in real time and celebrated across the school community. The new system will also automatically reward children with House Points for recurring weekly positive behaviours such as attending school every day, or having no negative behaviours recorded in the week.

Children will be able to track their own rewards and achievements online, and once established we plan to give parents access to this system so that they too can celebrate the positive behaviours and work of their children.

We have two planning applications in at the moment with Cornwall Council. The first of these is for a new **Music Room** and the second one is for a **Bike 'Pump' Track** on the school field. The Music Room is intended to provide a teaching and practice space for instrumental and group sessions and will hopefully be located just off the top playground amongst the trees at the top of the slope. The Bike track is being funded by British Cycling and the application is for it to be positioned at the top corner of the school field.

Thank you to everyone who continues to park away from Toltuff Crescent and to walk their children to school as this does make the traffic situation near the school gates much safer. Many of you will have noticed that I now stand on the end of the Crescent asking parents not to park elsewhere much less frequently. This is in part because I now try to monitor the new school car park in order to ensure that cars entering and leaving this space do not pose a risk to pedestrians; it is also because there are only so many times you can ask people to change their habits before it becomes frustrating for both parties.

Of course the situation of cars and children mixing outside of the school gates is no less dangerous than it ever was, and I have witnessed a number of near misses already this term during my time at the car park entrance. I would therefore once again request that unless they have a good reason to do so, parents don't drive into Toltuff Crescent between the hours of 8.30am and 9am and 3.10 and 3.20pm please.

Thank you all for helping to make the start of the school year a positive one in school.

Martin Higgs  
Headteacher

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### **Don't forget...**

All children from Year 1-6 need to have a coat and a named water bottle in school every day. Children from Year 3-6 also need a healthy snack for breaktime or 50p to spend at the tuck shop.

### **School lunches**

Our new catering providers are Chartwells. The cost of a school lunch for all Year 3 children upwards, unless your child is receipt of free school meals, is £2.34. The menu has been sent home and can also be found on the school website under Parent Pages, What's on this term. Payment for meals is by cash or cheque (payable to Chartwells) and pupils should not be in arrears by more than 5 days lunches (£11.70). Please ensure that you pay whatever is owed by the Friday of the week your child has lunches. **If you have not settled the debt by the following Monday the kitchen staff will not be able to let your child have a meal and you must send your child in with a packed lunch from home until payment is received.** The school office will contact you if your child has not brought in a packed lunch and will ask you to bring one in.

### **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 test as soon as possible and stay at home and do not have visitors— only leave home to get the test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result. **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](mailto: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.

### **Reception newsletter**

Please look at your Tapestry account to access the weekly Reception newsletter.

This week we were finally able to hold the leaving party for our much-loved Mrs McClure who worked at Alverton for 24 years and retired at the end of the summer term. It was lovely to celebrate her time with us and say goodbye to her properly.

### Lost property

All the lost property is now put into the large chest outside the office window and is no longer kept in the hall. You can come at anytime from 8am-4pm to look inside for any lost or items or to take any un-named items. Any un-named items will be taken to the charity shop after every half term so please name all your child's belongings.

### 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](mailto:alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com)



### Violin and guitar lessons

The violin teacher, Emma Stansfield, has spaces for children from Year 2 upwards for violin lessons on Monday afternoons. If you'd like to find out more about these please contact Emma on 07895 958902.

Steve Watkiss teaches guitar lessons to children from Year 2 upwards and also has spaces on a Thursday afternoon. Please go to the Cornwall Music Service Trust website for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.cornwallmusicservicetrust.org/>



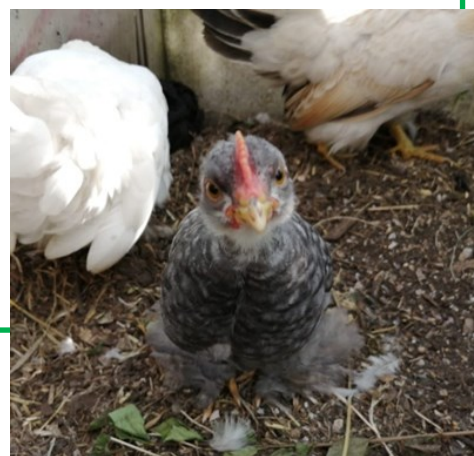
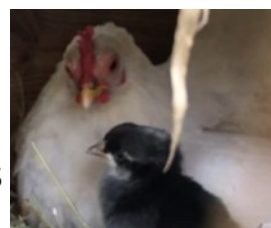


## Daisy's Diary

### Chicken update



Just before the summer holidays both the school chickens, Lemon and Rabbit, were sitting on eggs. They couldn't hatch their own eggs as now we don't have a cockerel the eggs won't turn into chicks. So Mrs Hanley found them some fertilised eggs and they sat and sat and sat - but those eggs didn't work either! Poor girls. Very luckily someone had tiny day old chicks without a mum so our school chickens adopted them. They are called Peewee and Hummus Montego. Over the summer holidays they grew and grew, like quite a few of the children at school over the holidays... they might end up being bigger than their mums!



### Year 6 London meeting

If your child is interested in going to London next July please come to a meeting next **Tuesday 21st September at 3.30pm** outside the hall in the paved area. Mr Hammond will be able to give you more information and you can ask any questions you may have.

### PPA days

Your child should come to school in their school tracksuit and not their uniform on the days they have PPA.

Reception - Fridays

Year 1 & 2 - Tuesdays

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesdays

Year 5 & 6 - Thursdays

Please ensure that they have their PE kit in school all other days of the week so that they can change into it for extra PE if necessary.



## 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](http://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](http://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

# HOOP

FOR



App Store  
Rating

13+

Hoop is a social networking app that syncs with Snapchat to help users build their community of friends. It works along similar principles to Tinder: swiping left or right will reject or accept potential contacts, making new connections in the process. When two users accept each other, they can then communicate via Snapchat. There is no chat function on Hoop itself: video and audio calls, messaging and image sharing all take place through Snapchat. When a user adds a new Hoop contact, they are essentially sharing their personal information from Snapchat.

### No Age Verification

The app groups ages 17–13 together and age children's profiles – and Hoop warns users that +18 years separately, so adults do not see they must input their real date of birth. However, there is no age verification system, meaning that an individual with intentions of grooming could sign up pretending to be a child, so that they could be connected with younger users.

18+

### In-app Purchases

Hoop offers in-app purchases that allow users to buy 'diamonds': the digital currency required to connect with others. Users can earn diamonds by watching videos, sharing links or contact lists, adding friends and completing surveys; alternatively, diamonds can be bought in packs, with costs ranging from 99p to 28.99p, which potentially could prove to be very expensive if a child has a payment method linked to their device.

### Visible Location

Hoop gives users the option to share their Snap Story on their Hoop profile. Snap Stories are visible for 24 hours and, by default, show the user's exact location on the Snap Map. This means that not only will a young person's friends be able to see this information but all Hoop users too – including, potentially, individuals who may have sinister motives for pinpointing a child's whereabouts.

### Grooming Risk

If a stranger uses Hoop to connect with your child on Snapchat, it means they would have access to your child's personal information, location, photos, videos and stories shared with their friends on Snapchat (unless your child has changed their privacy settings). Messages in Snapchat are automatically deleted after they're read, making it impossible for parents to monitor conversations.

### Potential Compulsive Use

Users are rewarded with diamonds for hitting certain targets. To reach these milestones, young people may be inclined to add as many friends as possible – including strangers. Users are also assigned a level that is displayed on their Hoop profile; to achieve a higher level, users must add more connections – which provides an incentive for children to spend even more time on the app.

### Possible Data Collection

One of the reasons Hoop has remained free to use is that it hosts video adverts and user surveys, which reward users with diamonds for taking part. This practice strongly suggests that the app collects personal information from the user, based on the adverts they watch and their responses to surveys, and then shares their data with third-party organisations.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### Learn How to Report and Block

If your child sees or is sent something that makes them feel uncomfortable, Hoop has a reporting and blocking function. When reporting a user, you are asked to provide a reason why you are reporting them (for example, nudity or sexual content, hate speech, or using a fake age or gender). You then get a notification that the other user has been reported or blocked.

### Limit Spending Power

If your child's device is linked to a bank card, a PayPal account or another form of payment, ensure that you have either removed this connection or adjusted the security settings, so that you get notifications of any attempts to make in-app purchases. Make sure that you have set a password which has to be entered for a purchase to go ahead.

### Avoid Over-Sharing

Talk to your child about what they share online and who they share it with. Make them aware that once something is online, then anyone can see it. Talk to them about what might not be safe to post online (for example, things which could give away their home address or that of their school, explicit photos or their current location). Make sure that they don't share something they will regret later.

### Be Wary of Strangers

Talk to your child about the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Encourage them not to engage in private messaging with people they don't know – particularly on Snapchat, as automatically disappearing messages makes the app difficult for trusted adults to monitor. Ask them to think about why they are adding all these connections and whether they genuinely need hundreds of 'friends' on Snapchat.

### Adjust Privacy Settings

Check the privacy settings in place on your child's Snapchat account to make sure that only their friends or a custom group can see their stories, Snap Map and any images that they post. You may wish to seriously consider going into the settings and enabling 'ghost mode' to turn off the location services, so your child's whereabouts won't be publicly visible to other users.

### Encourage Safe Communication

With the amount of time that young people spend communicating with others online, it's vital to ensure that these connections are positive and healthy ones. Regularly check which apps your child is using: if there are any new ones, talk to your child about what these apps are and how they work. If you are unsure about a new app, you could download it to try yourself and see if it is suitable.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber-safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES:



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://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: 25.08.2021

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](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.

### STARS OF THE WEEK

Puffins	Felix	for always listening & trying his best in everything he does
Owls	Millie T A	for settling in so well to Year 1 & trying hard in everything she does
Kingfishers	Kaden	for his great listening skills & super attitude towards his learning
Trencrom	Theo	for setting an amazing example & putting 100% into all he does
Lanyon	Kieran	for a fantastic start to the new year. You have worked extremely hard in every subject.
Kerris	Joe	for settling in so well & having a fab attitude towards his learning
Bodrifty	Lilly	for making such a brilliant start to Year Five & working so hard
Bosigran	Katie M	for settling so well & always having a fantastic smile
Kenidjack	Cora	for being a lovely Year 6, working hard & helping younger children at lunchtime
Dinnertime	Leo Si	for his exceptional manners with all the lunchtime staff



### LOST

Raya in Puffins has lost her named wellies. They were left here over the summer when she moved up from Reception. Please check and hand 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.



Hey again, I hope everyone is coping and managing the stresses and strains of life this week? Personally I feel I'm relatively okay, thoroughly enjoying the extra few days of sunshine we've been given, although the weather forecast as I type this on Thursday is predicting rain tomorrow. Which to be honest, I find quite annoying...working Monday to Friday and then the weekend kicks off with, rather than a bang, a bit of a soggy downpour. However, as the gardeners around me keep saying, the plants love it. But the mornings are definitely getting darker, the evenings drawing in, the temperature dropping. And that makes life harder somehow, it's less easy to be positive and smile when it's cold and dark. But we can snuggle in at home, have a cuppa and maybe feel better. I'm here, as always, if you want to have that cuppa with me. And I do love an excuse for a biscuit Take care and keep safe, no matter what your weekend holds, Mrs D xxxx



## 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](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.



## Do you have a child born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018?

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2022 for that child by the deadline of **15 January 2022**.

**Please note:** you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) for more information and to access the online application system

### Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**

The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**15 January  
2022**



The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**31 October  
2021**

## Transfer to secondary school September 2022

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

### Information and guidance

Website and application form: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

Post: **School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 101**

### Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**



# Dyslexia Cornwall Out & About

## Penzance

Poppies Cafe, Unit 2, Knight's Yard, Belgrave Street, TR18 2BL

**Wednesday 22nd September**

4.00pm - 6.00pm

**All Welcome!** Please drop in for **free advice & guidance**  
on **Dyslexia** for ...

- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Children
- ✓ Students
- ✓ Adults
- ✓ Employees
- ✓ Employers

  
Dyslexia Cornwall Helpline  
**07716 639375**  
[helpline@dyslexiacornwall.org.uk](mailto:helpline@dyslexiacornwall.org.uk)  
[www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiacornwall.org.uk)