

Dear Parents/Carers

What a wonderful week it has been! We have had five wonderful nativity performances from Nursery to Year 2 and they have all been absolutely amazing! The children sang and danced their hearts out and demonstrated some amazing acting skills. A huge well done to them as well as a thank you to all the staff for helping to make the performances great.

Year 5 and 6 had a great time watching Zootropolis 2 on Thursday. Their behaviour was great throughout and apparently the film was well worth a watch. Year 4 had a great time at Cohort in St Ives on Thursday and Friday. We played on the beach, went on a mystery trail around the town, did Christmas crafts, met Santa, looked at the lights and watched a Christmas movie - I am sure they are as tired as I am! Thank you to all the staff who came along to help them have a magical time.

Next week we have lots of lovely Christmas things going on in class, as well as our Carol concert on Wednesday. I am looking forward to seeing everyone for a lovely festive week.

Have a great weekend

Nichola Smith
Headteacher

Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Nichola Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at nsmith@alverton.tpacademytrust.org 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

After school childcare - Friday 19th December

There will be no after school childcare club for any children on the last day of term, Friday 19th December. Please collect your child at 3.15pm.

THIS IS OUR

HELP YOUR SHELF

How it Works

It’s all free.

Take what you need, whenever you need it.



No Questions Asked – No Judgements Made

Give what you can if you would like to.

Donations wanted

Our Help Your Shelf is looking rather bare. If you are able to bring in any non-perishable food items, cleaning products or toiletries, we would be very grateful. These will all go to helping our families and community. Thank you very much.

Key Stage 2 Carol Concert

Please don’t forget to come along to our Carol Concert on **Wednesday 17th December** at the Chapel Street Methodist Chapel starting at 6.30pm. Key Stage 2 children will need to arrive, in full school uniform (including ties), between 6.10pm and 6.20pm. Please do not arrive any earlier. Parents of Key Stage 1 and EYFS children are also very welcome to attend and to bring their children along.

In order for us to have our final rehearsal at the church, we would like to ask you **please arrange for your Key Stage 2 child to be dropped at the chapel on Wednesday 17th December between 8.30-8.45am.** We will be walking back to school in time for lunch. A letter has also been sent home to all KS2 children about arrangements.

Christmas lunch and wear something Christmassy

Friday 19th December

If your child would like Christmas lunch on 19th December you must book it in advance via Aspens Select before the date. The choices are roast turkey or a vegetarian option. **There will be no jacket potatoes or tomato pasta option on that day.**

If you do not book you must send your child in with a packed lunch from home as there will not be any spare meals available on the day.

If they would like to, your child may wear something Christmassy with their school uniform (hat/decoration/Christmas jumper etc).

Menu change

Wednesday 17th December

Due to the Christmas lunch on Friday, Wednesday's lunch will be battered fish or fishcake and chips or cheesy bean wrap and chips **not** roast chicken or vegetarian strudel. Aspens are unable to change this online so if your child would like fish fingers please book the meat option and if they would like cheesy bean wrap please book the vegetarian option. Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta can be ordered as usual.



WOODLANDS BIG GARDEN PROJECT - Tesco Blue Token Scheme

Our Nursery's outdoor garden is currently in a poor and unsafe condition. The space, once a vibrant and engaging area for play and exploration, has deteriorated over time and now poses several safety risks to the children. Uneven surfaces, worn-out equipment and overgrown brambles limit how much time the children can safely spend in the Big Garden.

We aim to transform the garden into a safe, stimulating, and inclusive environment that meets the needs of all our children. We envision a space with age-appropriate equipment, sensory areas, natural elements, and safe surface, designed to inspire creativity, encourage exploration, and support learning through play.

To help support this project we have applied for funding from the Tesco Stronger Starts programme and have been successful. Alverton Woodland Nursery will be in Tesco Blue Coin Customer Vote in both Penzance Tesco stores from **mid-January 2026 – March 31st 2026**.

Please help support this project by shopping and voting for us in Tesco!

Thank you for your continued support.

TESCO
Stronger Starts.



Debt

Debts for trips (other than residential), swimming and wraparound care cannot be carried over into the Spring term. Please ensure you check your Arbor account to see what you owe and pay this online as soon as possible and by the end of December at the latest. Unfortunately if you still owe money for breakfast club and after school childcare when we start the Spring term, your child may not be able to attend until the debt is cleared.

Lost property

The lost property box is full again. If you are missing anything please check it before Friday 19th December as any un-named items left in it will be taken to the charity shop. The box is next to the outside hall door. Last half term we took **six** full bin bags full of clothes to the charity shop so **please name all your child's clothes, shoes and other items.**

Friends of Alverton School

FOAS

NEWS



Squashbox Theatre

As a special festive treat for the children, the Friends of Alverton School have organised for Squashbox Theatre to come to school and perform *The Christmassy Christmas Show of Christmassy Christmasness!* Full of songs, laughs and silliness, it is a 'celebration of everything Christmassy, from fir trees, fairy lights, sleigh bells and snowflakes to crackers, carols, presents and puddings!'

The performance will take place within the school day on 15th December and is a Christmas gift from the Friends of Alverton School, funded entirely by the proceeds of our events. Thank you for all your support!



15th December

Merry Christmas!

From FOAS ✦

@ friendsofalvertonschool@gmail.com

@ You can also follow us on Instagram...
[alverton_school_foas](https://www.instagram.com/alverton_school_foas)



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

ChildLine

0800 1111



0300 123 3393

www.mind.org.uk



for better mental health

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

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 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.

citizens
advice

0344 411 1444

ON YOUR SIDE
NO MATTER WHAT

0800 58 58 58

THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
LIVING
MISERABLY
CALM

"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

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.12.2025

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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. Your child's teacher will also always be happy to talk to you about online safety.

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 17th December 6.30pm	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at Chapel Street Methodist Chapel
Friday 19th December	Pupils Christmas lunch <i>Wear something Christmassy with uniform</i>
Friday 19th December 3.15pm	School and Nursery close for Christmas holidays (normal time)
Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January	School and Nursery closed for Christmas holidays
Monday 5th January 8.30am	School and Nursery open for Spring term
Monday 13th January	Clubs start
Monday 26th January	INSET Day - school and Nursery closed
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February	Spring half term holiday
Thursday 2nd April 3.15pm	School closes for Easter holiday (normal time)
Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April	Easter holidays

Christmas charity collections

Our chosen charities this year for our retiring collections at all our Christmas performances are West Cornwall Women's Aid and Man Down Cornwall. Both these local charities support men, women, children and young people in Cornwall. We would be grateful for any amount you could give. Thank you.



Supporting
women and children
in West Cornwall

SUPPORTING MEN'S MENTAL
HEALTH IN CORNWALL



Kalabash Theatre with The Acorn

CALLING ALL YOUNG ARTISTS & THEATRE-MAKERS - 8-14 years

The Acorn is teaming up with the wonderful Kalabash to create handmade theatre productions with the kids and young people of Penzance.

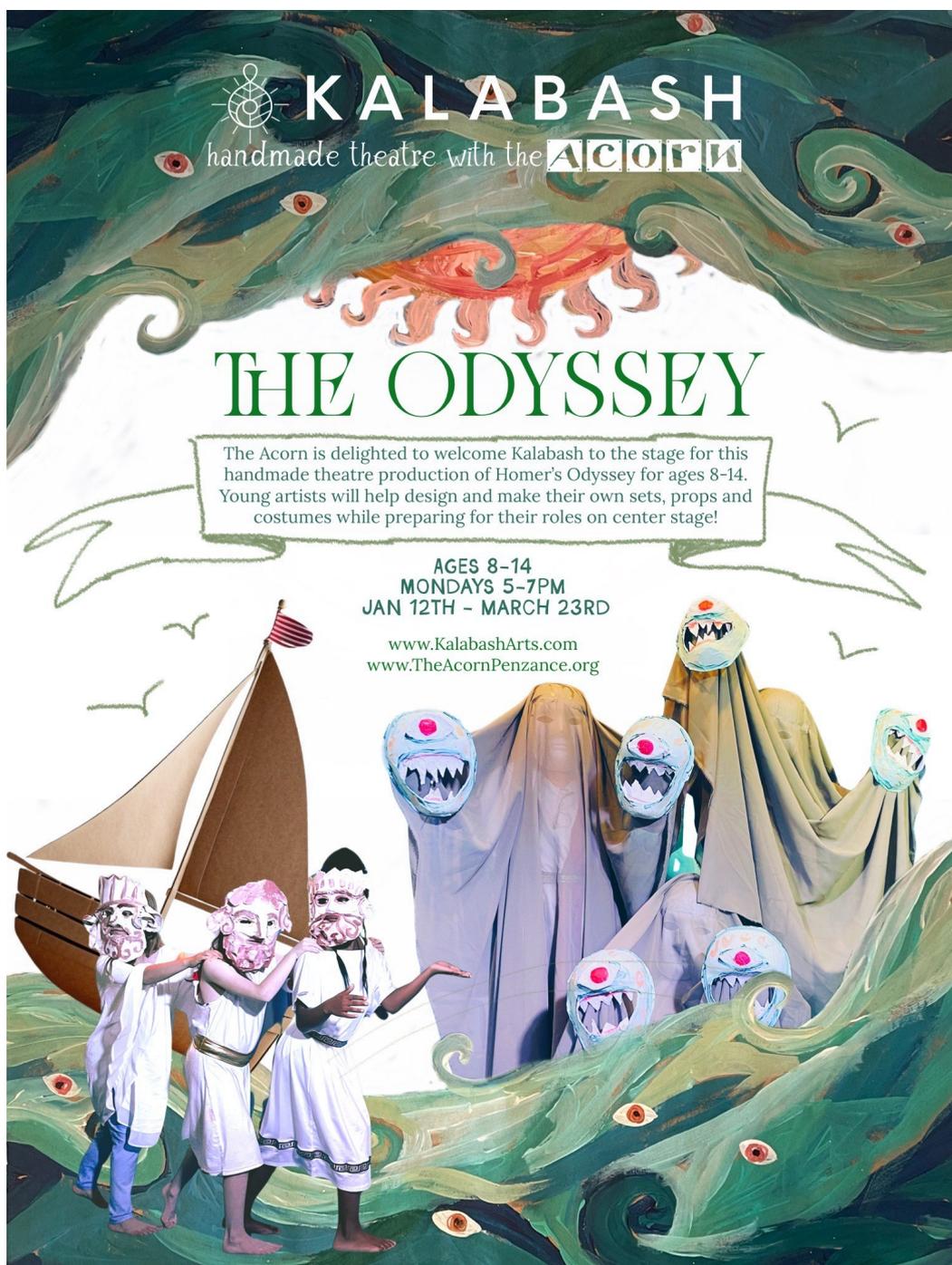
This term, over 10 sessions on Mondays after school, the young artists will be putting together a production of The Odyssey, to be performed at The Acorn in the Spring.

This is not your average drama club - Kalabash put together a unique, handcrafted experience, where the young artists roll up their sleeves and help to craft their own sets, props and costumes.

If this sounds like something for your child, then sign up here -> <https://bit.ly/49KQOKo>

Spaces are limited, so get in QUICK!

*The Acorn is also offering two subsidised bursaries, and payment plans are available if parents would prefer this to paying in one go. Please call The Acorn for further information.



Penzance Hockey Club

A friendly, sociable club with great facilities.

**New players, umpires and volunteers
always welcome!**

Tuesdays

U8s & U10s (Yr 5 & below)

4.30pm - 5.30pm

U12s (Yrs 6 & 7)

5.30pm - 6.30pm

U14s (Yrs 8 & 9)

6.30pm - 7.30pm

U16 Girls & Senior Women

7.30pm - 9.00pm

Wednesdays

U16 Boys & Senior Men

7.30pm - 9.00pm

For more information please go to -

www.penzancehockeyclub.com



CHRISTMAS 2025

TIME2MOVE

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

ACTIVITIES



22nd Dec, 23rd, 29th, 30th, 2nd Jan

www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme
Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk



Funded by
 Department
for Education

