



Dear Parents/carers

This week began with an assembly on Autism Awareness Month. Miss Atkins, who is our Autism champion, spoke to the whole school about understanding, acceptance and inclusion of individuals on the Autism Spectrum. Pupils spoke proudly and confidently about ways they help their friends feel included and reflected a lot on small changes we can make to help Alverton be a great place to be.

Next week we are trialling our new car park system. The main drive behind it (excuse the pun!) is to increase the physical safety of those children walking to school, while also allowing members of our community of additional needs to park safely. Parking permits have been issued to those in need. Please remember that you can park in Hope Church car park and take the short walk to school, or down in Larrigan Crescent and walk through the bottom gate. The details of the new system are attached to this newsletter. Please remember this is a trial, we may not have got it right and will continue to make changes as needed for the safety of our community. Please email the office if you have a concern and we will get back to you.

Finishing on a sad note now. Mrs Stellon will be leaving us at the end of the school year to relocate out of county with her family. I'm sure you will all agree that Mrs Stellon is an incredible member of our school staff and is much loved by children and adults alike. We are very sad to see her go but know that her new school will be very lucky to have her. We are busy behind the scenes recruiting a new teacher and will let you know more information as we have it.

Have a great (long) 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](mailto: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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Year 6 London meeting**

If your child is going to London in July, there will be a short meeting on **Thursday 7th May at 3.15pm** in Kenidjack classroom where Mrs Stellan will give out information packs and answer any questions you may have. Please come along if you can.

**Clubs**

Year 5/6 Football club is CANCELLED next Wednesday 6th May as Ewan is away. Please collect your child at 3.15pm.

Dance starts next Friday 8th May. Please ensure £30 cash payment for Steph is at the office by then or your child won’t be able to start.

Many of our clubs have waiting lists so if your child no longer wishes to go, please let the office know so we can give their space to someone else.

**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.

ALVERTON PRIMARY  
PRODUCTION



**SOLD OUT!**  
**NONE AVAILABLE**  
**ON THE DOOR.**

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026 AT 6.30PM  
THURSDAY 21ST MAY 2026 AT 6.30PM

Music and Lyrics by **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**  
Additional Music and Lyrics by **Lebo M**, **Mark Mancina**, **Jay Rifkin**  
and **Hans Zimmer**

Book by **Roger Allers** and **Irene Mecchi**  
Based on the Broadway production directed by **Julie Taymor**

#### **Tickets**

£5.00 adult / £2.50 children over five.

Free tickets for pupils of Alverton School.

Please ask at the office if you have younger children  
who would like to attend.

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music  
Theatre International

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI

[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



# Duck Race 2026

11am Saturday 9th May  
Wherrytown Boating Lake

Cash Prizes

All proceeds  
to FOAS

**£1**  
per duck

Buy in advance from  
the office

Refreshments  
available



## 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

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

### MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

### UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

### PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that 'freemium' software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some 'free' apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

### ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

### SIDeloADED BANNED APPS

'Sideloading' – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. 'Screen Time' (iPhone) and 'Family Link' (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

### LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at listings by digging into the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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@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: 08.04.2025

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

	Little Foxes	River	for his wonderful enthusiasm & always making us smile
	Little Owls	Reuel	for settling in so well & being enthusiastic & involved in everything
	Kittiwakes	Freyr	Perseverance: for showing an amazing attitude to phonics
	Curlews	Albie	Enthusiasm: for a superb attitude to leaning
	Puffins	Emily	Enthusiasm: for asking great questions in History
	Owls	Ezra	Perseverance: for always trying his best & making great progress
	Kingfishers	Joy	Enthusiasm: for great History this week
	Trencrom	Marissa	Enthusiasm: for being a fabulous star speaker
	Lanyon	Francis	Enthusiasm: for giving fantastic answers in class
	Kerris	Millie	Enthusiasm: for producing some absolutely brilliant English work
	Bodriftly	Arlo	Enthusiasm: for absolutely working his socks off
	Bosigran	Frankie	Enthusiasm: for fantastic effort in English poetry lessons
	Kenidjack	Isabelle	Enthusiasm: for fantastic effort in all she does
	Lunchtime Star	Brodie	Enthusiasm: for working hard for the last 2 weeks for SATs
		Benny	Perseverance: for working his socks off in the run up to SATs
		Odin	for his kind nature & lovely manners



Last week I touched on time and how fast it flies by. I sometimes wonder if it goes faster as I get older. I will never know but I know for certain that for me personally it whizzes by at a rate so fast it feels like a blur. And this brings me to something I've been pondering recently, namely, our purpose as parents. What is our role? I wonder what you perceive your role to be. What is your job? I always struggled with this until I read about an African concept, 'roots and wings'. Those are the two things we need to give our children. Wings to fly and soar away with confidence and secure roots, deeply embedded and firmly sunk into the ground (home). They need to know we as parents and carers are solid, firm, loyal, always there if they need us, without judgment. And wings to fly with. So that, should they wish, they can fly as far away as possible, knowing we are there if they need us. And suddenly I knew exactly what my job as a parent was. And it still is. That is what we need to give them as we raise them. Just those two things. Only two. And I have stuck by this since I read it. It informs all of my parenting decisions and conversations and chats. Currently my daughter isn't too far away but this time next year she may well have put many, many miles between her and home. And that's okay. It means I have done my job. Don't get me wrong, I shall be a small snivelling heap when she leaves, weeping copiously, but I will be fine, because she will be too. She has the things she needs. She is equipped and ready to fly. I have done my job. So, as the children in your care get older, take on new roles and identities, change and alter, know that you are doing an incredible job, a tough job, with many rewards and challenges, but a great job. And pat yourselves on the back. Well done you. Come say hi anytime, I love seeing you guys, even if you just fancy a hug and a pat on the back - Mrs Dxxx



## DIARY DATES

<b>Monday 4th May</b>	Early May Bank Holiday - school & nursery closed
<b>Saturday 9th May</b> 11am	FOAS Duck Race at Wherrytown Boating Pool
<b>Wednesday 20th - Thursday 21st May</b> 6.30pm	School show - The Lion King <i>Sorry - tickets sold out</i>
<b>Monday 25th - Friday 29th May</b>	Summer half term holiday
<b>Wednesday 3rd - Friday 5th June</b>	Year 5 camp at Porthpean
<b>Monday 8th June</b> 1.30pm	LKS2 Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 9th June</b> 1.30pm	UKS2 Sports Day
<b>Wednesday 10th June</b> 1.30pm	KS1 Sports Day
<b>Thursday 11th June</b> 1.30pm	Reception Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 16th June</b>	Hatchbox class photos
<b>Tuesday 30th June</b>	Year 6 transition day at MBA & HDS

### Upcoming Fixtures



Tuesday 5th May

Year 3/4 Football Tournament at MBA (after school)

Wednesday 6th May

Year 4/5 Girls Football Tournament at Penwith College



PENZANCE  
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FAMILY DROP IN SESSION  
WITH NATASHA THEAKSTON**

**£20**



**THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 10 - 2**

**Looking for something a bit different this half term?  
Come together as a family for a hands-on printmaking  
session where you'll design, carve, and print your very own  
tote bag to take home and use every day.**

**You'll work together to create your own design, learn how to  
carve a simple printing block, print onto a tote bag to take  
home.**

**Whether you collaborate on one design or each create your  
own, it's all about making, experimenting, and enjoying  
some creative time as a family.**

**Under 3s welcome (free to attend)  
Please reserve a space + time slot in advance**

**4 WOOD ST, PENZANCE, TR184AP**

***To book: Email Tash at: [penzanceprintmaker@gmail.com](mailto:penzanceprintmaker@gmail.com),  
message on Instagram or call 07501208302.***