

This week Mike Hammond, Grace Caddick and I were invited to the Department for Education to meet with the Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb. The invitation came following a meeting I had with our local MP, Derek Thomas, where I raised a number of concerns about the negative impact that current education policy is having on our schools, specifically the new assessment system which has been brought in and impacts on pupils from Early Years to the End of Key Stage 2 and the expensive and negative impact that the Ofsted has on pupils and staff.

I am grateful to Derek for taking my comments seriously enough to arrange the meeting with Nick Gibb at the DfE, and to Mike and Grace who accompanied me to the meeting. Mike Hammond is, as many of you know, an outstanding teacher; he is also an expert on assessment and was keen to explain his misgivings around the new system. Grace is an exceptionally talented young teacher who has just completed her first year in teaching and I felt it was important for the minister to hear first-hand why she has chosen to become one of the 50,000 teachers who will reportedly leave the profession this year despite her love of day-to-day teaching and of our school.



We had a positive hour with the Minister where we were able to specify our concerns and suggestions for improving the current system. Whilst not all of our comments met with unconditional ministerial approval, there was a real sense that we were heard as well as listened to. Of course, only time will tell whether this visit has an impact upon Government policy and therefore a positive outcome on our children and our schools.

Martin Higgs

Staffing Update

This term, we will say goodbye to three of our much-loved members of staff. At half-term, Mrs France is leaving us to travel Europe with her husband. In July, Mrs Quick, who will have taught many of your children in the Nursery or Reception, is leaving to spend more time with her family while Miss Caddick, who has been a fantastic Nursery teacher for the last eighteen months, has decided to leave the teaching profession and start a new career.

We will miss them all and wish them well with their future plans.

Continuing our occasional series to introduce you to our governors, this week Isobel has interviewed Mike Baker.



Spotlight On: Mike Baker

We interviewed Mr Mike Baker, one of Alverton School's very supportive governors. He has two children, Marlene and Enzo; Marlene used to go to Alverton and Enzo still does. Mr Baker used to be a barrister and his wife is one too. Now onto the questions...



Why did you decide to become a governor?

He answered this almost immediately, "When I first saw Alverton School, I was living in Spain. My children went to a small village school and they spoke Spanish but knew English as well. We moved down to Cornwall and they loved their new school!" We found this extremely interesting.



What area of school are you involved in?

"Well, I am involved in the engagement and motivation of the students- as well as immersive learning. I am very interested in how children learn."

What has been your highlight as a governor?

He thought about this and then said, "It would have to be when I went to the end of term presentations. I particularly enjoyed the Egyptian Museum - it was just awesome!" We agree with this as we were part of it and thought we worked very hard indeed.

What do you see for the future of Alverton?

"I see a great future for Alverton: the leadership is great and the children are very hard-working. As they move on through the school, they have many different opportunities and the chance to become more individual." As Year 6, we really agree.

If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

"I used to think I would be Mr Fox, but then I got Oggy (Mr Baker's dog) and now I want to be him."

Which three words would best describe your personality?

He answered with the following:

- Controlling
- Fun
- Bossy.



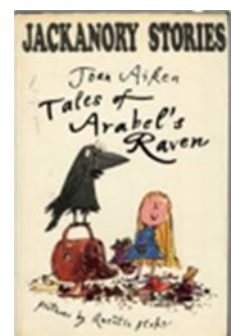
Which three guests would you invite to a dinner party?

"I would invite William Carne, the man who built the house I live in; Elizabeth Carne, his daughter who was the manager of a bank (which was very unusual for woman back then) and Andrei Arshavin, a former Arsenal player." We thought these were very good choices.

What is your favourite children's book?

"It would have to be 'Tales of Arabel's Raven' by Joan Aiken - I have still got the copy I had as a child. I also enjoy 'Wild Boy' by Rob Lloyd Jones. My whole family has read it and it has something for everyone in it: detectives, Sherlock Holmes and clues." We hope everybody reading this interview will be rushing down to the local bookshop to purchase these novels as soon as possible!

We would like to thank Mr Baker for letting us interview him and we hope you've enjoyed this. Thank you!



Alverton League Final

On Tuesday the Alverton boys football team took part in their League final against St Uny. The game took place at Bodriggy school in Hayle. The game kicked off at 16:00. After a while into the first half, Alfie managed to put a goal in the back of the net to put Alverton 1-0 up. Minutes later St Uny managed to pull one back to make the score 1-1. In the second half we had managed to keep it level but sadly not scoring any. After full time the game went into extra time. In the first half of the extra period Anto crossed the ball into Ezra who scored with a leaping header to win the League for Alverton. The players included: Ezra (Captain), Jude, Jake, Anto, Leo, Zac, Logan, Alfie H, Ollie P, Enzo, Gonzalo and last but not least our manager Mr Hammond. Report by Jude and Logan.



KS1 CONCERT

The KS1 choir sang brilliantly alongside 6 other schools at St Mary's Church on Tuesday afternoon. The concert, in memory of Bernard Williams, was organised by the Rotary Club and accompanied by Mrs England. The children performed The Little Red Hen to rapturous applause from a packed church. Well done to all the children.



CANCELLATION OF CLUBS

ALL clubs will be cancelled on **Monday 25th April** due to staff training.

Italian club

From next week, Italian will be held in Puffins classroom on Wednesdays. Please collect your child from the KS1 playground at 4.15pm.

Swimming

Apologies that swimming for Choughs, Robins and the Year 5/6 group was cancelled this week. This was due to an unexpected and complete power failure at the Leisure Centre. Swimming will start next **Wednesday 27th April** and we hope will run on until Wednesday 6th July (we are waiting for final confirmation from the Leisure Centre). Thank you to everyone who has paid. If you haven't, please remember to pay weekly either before or on the day. We use your money to subsidise the cost of the pool hire, qualified swimming teachers and the coach.



Year 3/4 Camp meeting

We are holding a Year 3/4 camp meeting on **Monday 25th April** at 3.30pm in the Hall. There will be lots of information given out about the venue, activities, etc and forms to take away and complete. Please come along if you can.

PE kit

Please remember that your child needs to have a PE kit in school ALL week as they may need it on days other than their PPA days. Please bring it in on a Monday and leave it in school for the whole week. We are getting a lot of children either unable to do PE or asking to phone home to get someone to bring their kit in.

Keyboard lessons

Maria has three spaces for keyboard lessons this term or from September. If your child is interested in learning the keyboard, lessons are held in school time on a Monday afternoon. The cost is £4.50 per week for a small group lesson of 30 minutes and children from Year 2 upwards are welcome. Please ask at the office.



Autumn term dates

School re-opens for the Autumn term on Wednesday 7th September 2016 and closes for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 20th December. Autumn half term is 24th-28th October inclusive.

STARS OF THE WEEK


Robins	Molly	for being a perfect person all the time
Choughs	Jenson	for a fantastic improvement with his reading and writing
Puffins	Skye	for an excellent week with super behaviour & for trying her best in all her work
Owls	Bailey	for his independent writing this week
Kingfishers	Alex	for some great descriptive writing this week
Trencrom	James	for settling into Trencrom beautifully, making lots of new friends & working hard
Lanyon	Madison	for always working to the best of her ability & being a sensible member of the class
Kerris	Brandon	for the super Maths work he has done this week with fractions
Bodrifty	Marie	for making such a great start in her new school. Well done
Bosigran	Enzo	for a great attitude to all of his work which has resulted in fantastic progress
Kenidjack	Piran	for his mature attitude to his work of late
Dinnertime	Max B	for always being so polite and well mannered



Paying online

If you can pay online for trips, swimming, camp, etc please do so. It will save you and us lots of time and is simple and secure to use. Visit schoolmoney.co.uk. You can pay as much or as little at a time as you like and you get an emailed receipt of your payment.

CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	96.3%	5
Robins	97.9%	2
Puffins	96.4%	4
Owls	90.8%	9
Kingfishers	97.0%	3
Trencrom 	99.0%	1
Lanyon	89.0%	11
Kerris	94.3%	6
Bodrifty	93.4%	7
Bosigran	93.3%	8
Kenidjack	90.7%	10
Overall school attendance	94.2%	

Our collective target is 97.5%

Twitter

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



DIARY DATES

25th	Year 3/4 camp meeting at 3.30pm
May	
2 nd	Bank Holiday – School closed
5 th -6 th	Year 3 & 4 camp at Bude
9 th -13 th	SATs week for Y6 - some music & clubs cancelled
14 th	FOAS Duck Race at Wherrytown Boating Pool
25 th & 26 th	School production of 'Annie' – details of ticket sales, etc to follow

May half term - Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June inclusive

