

14/11/25

FRIDAY NEWS

Nº. 9

Dear Parents/Carers

What a week it has been ! We started our week with an assembly on the importance of Remembrance where we learned about its significance and how our money helped. The children created a beautiful poppy display that was up all week as a reminder.



On Wednesday we had our book grab! This was to enable us to make room for some new books in our library so that we can open it up to families again. It is really coming together now. I appreciate your patience with this, I promise it will be worth it. The children loved choosing their books and some went home with quite the haul!

On Thursday we had both girls' football and hockey matches. The children represented the school wonderfully. In the football we won 1, drew 2 and lost 1 making us 3rd overall. This was a great achievement - well done girls - you played your socks off! In the hockey, we won 5-0 which was a fantastic result! Apologies about the cancellation of the cross country, we are waiting for a new date and will inform you as soon as we have it.



With the weather now turning, can I please remind you to send your children in with a coat each day. We like to get them out as much as possible and want to make sure they stay warm and dry. The bad weather has also meant that more of you are driving to school. Please make sure that you park considerately. We often get calls from our neighbours upset that people are blocking them in / out. Remember also that the gate on the field is open and the parking down in Larrigan Crescent is plentiful.

Have a great weekend, fingers crossed that it dries up a bit!

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

FOAS Christmas card fundraising

Thank you to everyone who bought items to raise funds for FOAS. If you missed the deadline, the next date when you can order will be **21st November and the deadline is 1st December**. The company estimate delivery of items ordered then will be in the last week of term. If you’d like to order something FOAS still get commission so please go online on or after 21st November. Thank you.

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.

Payments for Year 4 sleepover and Year 6 London

Year 4: If your child is going to St Ives in December, please ensure the remainder of the final payment is paid online by **Friday 21st November at the latest**.

Year 6: The next payment of £70 for the London trip next July is due on **Friday 28th November at the latest**. Please pay online on Arbor.

Double fun with The Gardeners' House!

This week I got to hang out with Alverton not once but twice – and both times were such a pleasure.

On Tuesday morning I and my two volunteers, Cara and Rich, went into nursery to introduce our new project with Alverton. We have applied for funding to make a Dragonfly Garden in the nursery! So first we need to find out all about dragonflies and what they need. We had a whole morning at the school – drawing what dragonflies might look like -



And singing a song about dragonflies too. Our garden needs to be an amazing habitat for all kinds of living things if dragonflies are to thrive there, so we went around the field looking for tiny creatures and plants to see where they live and what they like. We found loads – even though it was grey and windy and damp there were many tiny animals hiding under logs and leaves. And finally the children made their own fantasy insects with natural finds. These turned out to be one of the best things I've made with kids – I couldn't wait to get them back to The Gardeners' House to show everyone – I kept saying "Look at THIS one – ooh, actually, look at THIS one!". They will be fired (when the leaves drop off!) and



turned into tiles for the garden.

The second Alverton group visited us in Morrab Gardens to do an evening of Jelly Printing. And boy, did they print... we had prints in the hall, in the Lab, in the kitchen – the House now looks like a Mexican Fiesta!



We also did tiny prints in the sensory garden which helped students look at the Small But Interesting. A lovely evening with really engaged and chatty and bright children.

Both sessions were all in all a good reminder how Alverton's students are just a delight to be with.

Daisy from The Gardeners' House



Emails via Arbor

You may have noticed that emails from us via Arbor are going straight into your Junk or Spam folder. Apologies but this is an issue with Arbor not with us. If you are able to go into your email provider's settings you should be able to choose to mark all Arbor emails as not Junk/Spam which will hopefully solve the problem.



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

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01736 367539

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like *The Witcher* and *Halo*.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like *Power Rangers* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, to comic book characters including *Batman*. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.10.2025

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

STARS OF THE WEEK

Little Foxes	Cove	for growing in confidence & making new friends
Little Owls	Katie	for her fantastic involvement in the garden project
Kittiwakes	Reggie	Enthusiasm: for fantastic enthusiasm in everything we do in school
Curlews	Efa	Enthusiasm: for boundless enthusiasm
Puffins	Teddy	Perseverance: for working super hard in Phonics
Owls	Ivy-Ella	Kindness: for being an absolute ray of sunshine in our classroom
Kingfishers	Ruby Rose	Perseverance: for 100% focus & effort on her Phonics
Trencrom	Rosa	Enthusiasm: for being an absolute superstar in Maths this week
Lanyon	Amy	Enthusiasm: for always being consistent in her learning
Kerris	Layton	Perseverance: for making a huge effort with his beautiful handwriting
Bodrifty	Immy	Enthusiasm: for fantastic enthusiasm in English lessons
Bosigran	Hollie	Enthusiasm: for sharing her fantastic ideas in English
Kenidjack	Marley	Enthusiasm: for wonderful effort & enthusiasm in English this week
Lunchtime Star	Emily G	for being very helpful
Breakfast Club Star	Alora	for being kind & helpful

I was feeling really rather unsettled recently and couldn't quite figure out why. Not exactly unhappy but not feeling great either. I thought it was perhaps the beginning of a school year, or the weather changing (I struggle when it gets darker and colder and wetter) but it was after one of many conversations about something that has been really bothering me that I suddenly realised that it was none of these things, it was this worry that had been getting to me. Turns out it was really impacting and influencing how I viewed the world. My world. It has taken me a long time, many weeks now, to get to a point when I feel like me again, but talking has made it all okay. I have literally done nothing but discuss this issue, over and over, with every one of my family, in person or on the phone, and my closest friends. And they have been fabulous. Supporting me, listening to me, showing patience and just being there. It all worked out but my point is that without these people in my world I don't know what I would be feeling now (though quite possibly still not me). And so I am very grateful to them all and hope to be able to repay them should they ever need to talk and talk to discuss things in order to feel right again. Fancy a chat? I have first hand experience of how it really does help. You talk your way into a better understanding of what the problem is, it lessens and you feel better. You chat again, solutions present themselves, just by talking about things, and the cycle goes on. Come and tell me all about it, over a cuppa. Have a superb weekend. Much love, Mrs D xxx



DIARY DATES

Friday 28th November	Clubs finish
Monday 1st December 9.30am	Advent Service <i>Followed by coffee & mince pies</i>
Tuesday 9th December 9.30am and 2pm	Reception Christmas performances
Wednesday 10th December 2pm and 6pm	KS1 Christmas performances
Thursday 11th - Friday 12th December	Year 4 Christmas sleepover at St Ives
Friday 12th December 2pm	Nursery Nativity
Wednesday 17th December 6.30pm	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at Chapel Street Methodist Chapel
Friday 19th December	Pupils Christmas lunch
Friday 19th December 3.15pm	School closes for Christmas holidays (normal time)
Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January	School closed for Christmas holidays
Monday 5th January 8.30am	School opens for Spring term
Monday 26th January	INSET Day - school closed



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Bring a packed lunch.

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Penzance
TR18 2EW**

For more information email Tash at
penzanceprintmaker@gmail.com, find me on Instagram or call
07501208302.
Website: <https://www.natashatheakston.com>



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**TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT KELLIE WILLIAMS:
[KELLIE.WILLIAMS@CORNWALLCRICKET.CO.UK](mailto:kellie.williams@cornwallcricket.co.uk) / 07842 765445**

Free Money Advice for Fishing Communities and Families

Looking after your money worries

Questions about money? Problems with debts? Confused about benefits? Come to our Net Savings advice drop-in days and Money Wellbeing events for expert help on keeping on top of your finances, interest rates, loan sharks, savings and pensions. The Centre, Chywoone Hill, Newlyn TR18 5AR.

Mon 20 Oct - Money Wellbeing Session / Tues 21 Oct - Advice Drop-in

Mon 15 Dec - Money Wellbeing Session / Tues 16 Dec - Advice Drop-in

Mon 19 Jan - Money Wellbeing Session / Tues 20 Jan - Advice Drop-in

Drop-ins: come in anytime between 10am to 1pm, no appointment needed. Arrive at 10am for Money Wellbeing Sessions which run to 1pm. For more information email netsavings@cacornwall.org.uk



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