



It's fair to say that this has been a long term but also a very successful one for the school. As always, the past two weeks have been dominated by the staging of a diverse and entertaining range of excellent Christmas concerts.

We had the fabulous Dinosaur Nativity inspired by Key Stage 1's topic on all things paleontological, and featuring my personal tip for this year's Christmas No.1 spot, the very catchy, "Sheep on the move..yeh, yeh!" (currently 250/1 at William Hill's - remember when the fun stops, stop!). Meanwhile Choughs and Robins entertained everyone with the "Wriggly Nativity" complete with the now famous 'flossing donkey'. This week, I had the absolute joy of watching the children of our Woodland Nursery tell the nativity story beautifully, led by the wonderful team of Mrs Hanley, Mrs Roberts and Miss McClure. Finally, on Tuesday evening the children of Key Stage 2 put on another remarkable Carol Service in the spectacular surroundings of Chapel Street Methodist Church. The enthusiasm and quality of the children's singing, speaking and playing was absolutely inspirational and very moving.

Thanks to all parents, grandparents and friends of our school who came along to support these concerts in such numbers and with such enthusiasm. The collection at the end of each of our concerts was for St Petroc's Homeless Charity and thanks to your generosity we are able to pass on £442 which will help some people in Cornwall have a happier Christmas. Thank you all for your donations.

These concerts gave us an opportunity to showcase the talents of our children who, as always, performed and conducted themselves superbly. They are a real credit to you.

Thanks as always go to the staff who, once again, have exceeded any reasonable expectations I could have of them this term. We have an amazing team here at Alverton and I am very privileged to be able to lead such a dedicated and talented group, from the ladies in the office through to all our TAs, teachers, support staff and governors - they are exceptional people.

I am pleased to be able to announce some exciting news for the Spring Term. The school has been successful in a bid (well done Mrs Wicks!) to have some new outdoor play equipment installed on the school field and next to the ball games playground. The successful bid will provide around £20,000 of funding for the new equipment which will be provided and installed by Newlyn-based South West Play. Some images of the new equipment are included on the next page. This development has been on Parliament and the School Council's wish list for quite some time and will enhance the fantastic developments and work in our grounds which has already taken place and is currently being led by the hugely talented Daisy Wright.

On behalf of all of our staff and governors, I would like to thank you for your continued support and to wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your families.

Martin Higgs  
Headteacher



At our Christmas performances, we always ask parents not to post any photos or videos containing any children other than their own on Facebook or any other social media platform. Parents have many different reasons for preferring images of their child not to be shared on social media and, for some families, these are very serious.

Ironically, we found this on social media but it sends a strong and clear message.

*"When you record your child's Christmas play, it is likely that a child in the school is at risk of abuse, has been removed from a dangerous and chaotic life or has been placed into foster care or with adoptive parents. If a photo or video is posted on Facebook, a friend may share it, others see it and, before long, the child's school is known to those people they need protection from.*

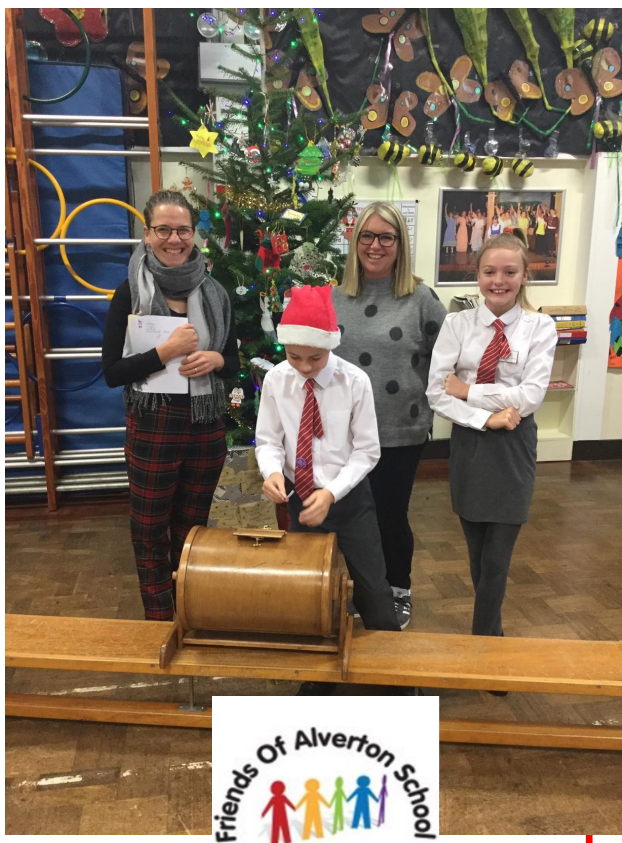
*This child then has to pack up belongings, move to a new home, new school, new carers, new life; the previous carers are also at risk along with their own children ... all because someone shared something on Facebook. Just follow school policy. They don't tell you not to record because they are miserable. They tell you this to protect vulnerable children."*

We are always very grateful that parents respect our requests relating social media. Thank you.



## Welly dog!

Here is Daisy, our outdoor learning co-ordinator, with Louis and Thomas who have made one of two fantastic welly dogs which will act as welly guardians from next month. They will be there to remind all the children to put their boots away neatly when they've finished with them.



## FOAS Christmas Fair

Thank you again to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair. An amazing total of **£2237** was raised which included **£628** on the raffle. Your generosity will help fund many different items and experiences for the children at Alverton. It is very much appreciated by the children and the staff.

## Applying for a school place for September 2019

If you have a child born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 you need to apply for a school place in a Reception class to start in September 2018. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2019**. The easiest way is to apply online at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

## Thank you

We're delighted to say that a fantastic **£442.43** was collected at all our Christmas performances. This will be given to St Petroc's to help them end homelessness in Cornwall. Thank you very much to everyone who donated.



## Wanted!

Next term our children will be planting in our school garden patches and we would be very grateful if anyone could donate small straw bales (preferably organic or unsprayed). If you are able to help, please let the office know. Thank you very much.



## Can we help you?

Mrs Daylak, who many of you know as she has been teaching our younger children for some time now, is available to meet any parents who might have questions or concerns about their child's attendance (including absences and holidays) or would simply like a chat about anything which might be affecting their child in school. She can be found in Robins classroom on Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm.



## Payment of debts

Please could all outstanding debts for schools meals, breakfast club, nursery sessions, trips, etc. be paid by the end of this week so that no debt is carried through to the new term.

## Found

A collection of metal Army models of servicemen has been found in school and have been here for a number of months. They are Royal Hampshire branded and have obviously been brought in for a child to show to their class and have never been taken home. If they belong to you, please call into the office to collect them. If they are not claimed by the middle of January, they will be taken to the charity shop.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	91.4%	10
Robins	91.7%	9
Puffins	92.4%	7
Owls	93.5%	6
Kingfishers	96.6%	3
Trencrom	91.8%	8
Lanyon	97.7%	2
Kerris	94.5%	5
Bodrifty	95.2%	4
Bosigran	100%	1
Kenidjack	90.7%	11
Overall school attendance	94.4%	



Our collective target is 96.5%

## 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



The spring term begins on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

### January

14<sup>th</sup> Music lessons start

14<sup>th</sup> Clubs start

