

Alverton wins Plastic Free Prize!

Pupils from Alverton School were invited to the Plastic Free Penzance award ceremony last Friday evening at the Exchange Gallery in Penzance to receive an award for the work the school has done around the issue of single-use plastics. Five children from the 'Power to the Pupils' committee at the school were chosen to receive the award which was a free class visit to the Seal Sanctuary! Event organiser Rachel Yates said that she was impressed by the way the school had sustained their focus on the issue of plastics.



Dogs mess in the Alverton area

A parent has voiced their concern recently about the amount of dogs mess in the lanes and pavements on the route into school particularly in Creeping Lane. Apparently the council will take action if enough people report it via this very quick e-form. If anyone discovers or walks through any known hotspots, or witnesses anyone not picking up after their dog they can fill out the form and help clean our footpaths up (please see the link below):

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/animal-welfare/dog-welfare-and-enforcement-service/dog-fouling/report-dog-fouling/>

Our local Cornwall councillor, Jim McKenna, has arranged a meeting at school to discuss this issue. It will be held on **Thursday 7th February** at 3.30pm. All interested parents are welcome.



Online safety

Please see the next page with some excellent advice about TikTok, a video sharing website. We will be publishing a different information page each week.

Football success

Following our team's generosity last week allowing St Hilary to score 7 goals against us, we were in a ruthless mood this week scoring a total of 19 goals in two matches and conceding none! Well done to the team.





What parents need to know about TikTok

BEING INFLUENCED

More than one third of children aged 6-17 consider 'social media stars' to be among their top role models. There are millions of creators on TikTok, showcasing their talents, moments and knowledge, from singing to dancing to stunts and comedy skills, which receive thousands of likes and comments from around the world, quickly turning people into 'stars'. There is the danger that children may develop unrealistic expectations of how they should look and behave on the app in order to become the next 'star'. They may have feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem or become swayed by certain opinions.

INAPPROPRIATE SONG LYRICS

TikTok lets users lip-synch to their favourite songs and produce their own music videos. Some of the music choices contain swear words or sexual themes. So not only can children be exposed to potentially inappropriate content but they can broadcast themselves miming or singing these lyrics.

CONCERNING CONTENT

Some of the outfits and dance moves in videos can be overtly sexual and provocative. There have also been reports of some users sharing concerning content, such as videos that promote anorexia, porn, self-harm and violence.

DANGEROUS TRENDS & CHALLENGES

On TikTok, there are always 'trending challenges' and hashtags that users can copy or build upon, and sometimes, these challenges can pose risks to young people.

STRANGERS CAN FOLLOW YOUR CHILDREN

If your child's profile is open, strangers can use the app to comment on your child's videos. While this isn't always sinister, it gives potential predators the ability to contact your child through the platform.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Of course, as with many apps, there's a paid element to TikTok. Users can buy virtual coins to be exchanged for virtual gifts - for example, if they like a specific video, your child can use coins to purchase emojis to show approval. These can be expensive and easily purchased - there is the option to buy 10,000 coins for £9.99 with a one-click buy button.

ANYONE CAN SEE YOUR CHILD'S CREATIONS

TikTok encourages users to 'share their passion and creative expression through their videos' and while something may seem fun at the time, videos can get in the wrong hands and cause embarrassment in the future. If posted publicly, anyone in the world can see your child's homemade music video and potentially cause bullying within personal friendship groups or even online.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

TALK ABOUT THE PITFALLS OF OVERSHARING

Encourage your kids to always think before they do, say, like or post anything online, explaining that their 'digital footprint' can shape their online reputation and the way that other people see them. Something they may find funny and entertaining now may impact them in the future. Talk about how to deal with peer pressure and how doing something they think will impress others could affect them.

HANDLING CRITICISM

While it's fantastic to see your child being creative and expressive and bonding with people with similar interests, they need to be aware that not everyone will be supportive online. Comments can be negative or even cruel. Make sure they know how to comment respectfully and handle negative feedback. In the app's Privacy and Safety settings, your child can decide who can react to their videos, who can comment, and who can send them private chat messages. We suggest using these settings so only their friends can interact with their posts.

SIGNING UP WITH THE CORRECT AGE

When signing up to TikTok, you are prompted to input your birth date. If your child inputs their age as 'under 13', the app will not allow them to sign up and will be locked for 24 hours. The app is intended for users aged 13+, so explain that the rating is there for a reason; to keep them protected from online dangers. It is actually possible to watch TikTok videos without even creating an account, so it's important to check if your underage child has downloaded the app to their devices.

USE THE 'DIGITAL WELLBEING' SETTING

If you're concerned about the amount of time your child is spending on TikTok, in the app's settings, you can switch on a feature called Digital Wellbeing. This includes 'Screen Management' to limit the amount of time your child spends on the app.

SET THE ACCOUNT TO PRIVATE

This means that only people who you and your child approve of can see their creations. To make an account private, tap the three dots at the top right of the screen to access settings. Click 'Privacy and Safety'. Scroll down until you find 'Private Account' and turn this setting on.

REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you or your child see something on TikTok that appears to be inappropriate, they can report content in different ways within the app. They can report an account, video, comment or chat conversation by simply tapping 'Report'. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is also an 'Enhanced Restricted Mode', which limits the appearance of videos that may not be appropriate for all audiences.

AVOID IDENTIFIABLE OBJECTS

To ensure that there's no way of anyone tracking your child's location or identity, make it clear to them that they should never film a video in their school uniform or near a landmark that gives away where they live.

DISCUSS IN-APP PURCHASES

To lower the risk of your child making accidental in-app purchases, teach them exactly what in-app purchases are and the risks of making them without permission. Tell them that they are not essential to enjoy the app and that if they want to make a purchase, they should always ask you beforehand. In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' feature, there is the option to disable the function of purchasing coins and sending gifts.

SOURCES: mail.app.com/publication/article/119722/social-media-stars-influence-kids-but-parents-witch.html, commonwealthmedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-musically/, news.ouk.2017/05/17/musical-ly-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-app-your-child-has-evolved-with-451008/, youtube.com/watch?v=403u4FCd3s, youtube.com/watch?v=VVG21ZQ4t8g, static.musical.ly/website/pdf/creator/feedback.pdf, youtube.com/watch?v=87arQQ0tAM, support.musical.ly/knowledge-base/community-guidelines

Rangers visit to Feadon Farm



The Rangers went on their Feadon Farm and had a snake handcuffs, stroking a their hair checked for nits What a brilliant bunch of well and being brave a go.



first trip on Monday to fantastic time. Fox kisses, bat's bottom and having by a ferret....what a day! students for listening so enough to give everything

One Planet One Future - Key Stage1 Fundraising Event!

Between 3.00pm and 4.30pm on **Monday 25th February** (the first day back after half-term), Key Stage 1 will be hosting a fundraising event in the school hall that all pupils and parents are invited to attend. The event will raise money towards the Wildlife Garden that the children in Key Stage 1 intend to design and build on an area of the school field as their outcome for this term's project.

Wanted

Can anyone help Daisy put up the greenhouse at school? It's only a small one but previous experience of flat pack furniture has made her realise that it is impossible without two sets of arms! If you let Daisy or the office know if you have a spare couple of hours that would be so kind. Thank you.

Healthy Schools

On Wednesday, we were presented with our Cornwall Healthy Schools Award. We have received this award in recognition of the work that is being done to promote physical activity with girls.



Single Equality Scheme

Every Spring term we write to all parents about the Single Equality Scheme. This addresses our statutory duties in relation to race, disability, gender and promoting community cohesion and covers staff, pupils and people using the services of the school such as parents. The Single Equality Scheme also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, age and sexual orientation and includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

The scheme requires us to produce an annual report on our progress, looking at the impact of our actions. A “Single Equality Scheme Guide for Parents” is attached to this week’s newsletter which includes the report on our progress towards our key objectives for 2018 – 2019. The guide also asks anyone interested in being part of our ongoing consultation to get in touch with one of the Senior Leadership Team – if you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Change of date - Kingfishers sharing assembly

Kingfishers sharing assembly which was due to be held on 8th March has now been postponed until the summer term.

Club cancellations

Hockey club is cancelled next **Thursday 7th February**.

Drama club will not take place on **Tuesday 12th February** (the last one before half term).

All clubs will be cancelled on **Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March** due to parent consultations.

100 Word Challenge



Dear Alverton pupils,

Welcome to the Winter 100 Word Challenge! Please write a story about the above picture using **exactly** 100 words and then e-mail your entry to extremereading@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk. Entries should be in by **Friday 15th February** and there will be prizes for the winners!

Good luck!

Mrs Clive.

Year 3/4 camp at Bude (9th-10th May)

A reminder that ALL payments for Year 3/4 camp at Bude (£90 total) need to be made by **8th February at the latest**. This is because Adventure International ask for their final invoice to be paid at that time.

Full payment is needed by the above date. If it is not paid in full by this date, we will cancel your child's place and refund any money you have already paid (less the deposit) with immediate effect.

You can pay as much or as little as you want anytime up to the final date. Please pay online at schoolmoney.co.uk as we no longer accept cash or cheques.

Go Active holiday day

Following on from the success of the Go Active holiday provision in December, they are running another day in half term, **Wednesday 20th February**. Please see the letter attached for more information and how to book. If you are interested, please complete and return the form to the office, with your payment in cash, by 13th February at the latest.

West Cornwall Spring Show

A letter has come home about the West Cornwall Spring Show in March at Marazion. There are lots of fantastic categories to enter.



Need a chat?

Come and have a cup of tea with Mrs Daylak if you have any questions or concerns about anything which might be affecting your child in school. You can find her any Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm. If you would rather make an appointment, please ask the office. She might even find you a biscuit to go with your tea!



Schoolmoney

When you log into Schoolmoney you will be directed to the website of 'Eduspot', part of Teachers2parents. This is the correct website! Please choose the **Schoolmoney for parents login**, not the school one and log in as usual. If you are asked for a user name and password, you are on the wrong screen and need to go back a page and click on the correct choice.

Twitter

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



CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	89.0%	11
Robins	95.3%	6
Puffins	95.8%	5
Owls	91.7%	9
Kingfishers	91.7%	9
Trencrom ★	99.3%	1
Lanyon	93.3%	7
Kerris	96.9%	4
Bodrifty	98.8%	2
Bosigran	92.3%	8
Kenidjack	98.5%	3
Overall school attendance	94.9%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

February

8th Sharing assembly for Choughs and Robins at 2.45pm

15th School closes at normal time of 3.15pm for half term break

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd February – HALF TERM

PLEASE NOTE CLUBS CONTINUE AS NORMAL AFTER HALF TERM

March

1st Sharing assembly for Puffins at 2.45pm

5th St. Piran's dance for Year 6 – details to follow

7th World Book Day

11th-13th Parent Consultations – appointment times will be booked online – **no clubs this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

22nd Sharing assembly for Lanyon at 2.45pm

27th Last swimming for Year 5

29th Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm

29th **All clubs finish**

29th All music lessons finish

April

4th FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow

