



THE 96% CHALLENGE

As you will be aware, the school has a legal duty to closely monitor pupil attendance. Over recent years, the pressure from the Government upon schools to improve the attendance rates of pupils has increased significantly. In response to the latest changes in legislation we are introducing a number of changes to our attendance policy and strategies.

We are looking to achieve an overall attendance target of 96% across this year for the school as a whole as this is now the national average in primary schools across England.

This means that individual pupils will need to aim to reach a personal target as close to this percentage as possible. As a parent, I realise that there are times when children are simply too unwell to attend school and the challenge targets we are setting take account of this.

There are only 190 school days in an academic year for pupils. Achieving a **96%** attendance rate therefore means being absent for a maximum of approximately **7 days** in any one year. If a child suffers a major illness then clearly this will be difficult to meet, but in the normal course of a school year this should be achievable.

Children who fall below **90%** are now classed as Persistent Absentees and this is recognised **as a serious level of concern**. In real terms, this means missing **20 school days** across the year. If this happens, parents may well find themselves being visited by the Local Authority's Education Welfare Officer (EWO). The EWO has a duty to ensure that the law relating to the 1996 Education Act is upheld. This states that:

Section 444(1) Education Act 1996 - If the child is absent without authorisation then the parent is guilty of an offence. This is a strict liability offence i.e. all that needs to be shown is a lack of regular attendance. Sanctions can include a fine of up to £1000.

Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 - an aggravated offence. If the child is absent without authorisation and the parent knew about the child's absence and failed to act then the parent is guilty of an offence. Sanctions can include a fine of up to £2500 and a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

Obviously we want to avoid a situation where parents find themselves facing legal action, fines etc as our aim is to work in partnership with you so that your children get the best possible start in life. However, the impact of a child missing large amounts of school time is proven to be very damaging to their future levels of achievement and the opportunities which they will have as they reach adulthood.

Attendance Challenge

We are introducing an Attendance Challenge for all pupils in the school. This is a graded level of challenge based upon the number of days a child has missed in any one school year. The table below shows the graduation of levels.

Gold	Silver	Bronze	Requires Improvement	Significant Concern	Persistent Absentee
Attendance 100-98%	Attendance 97-97.9%	Attendance 95-97.9%	Attendance 93.1-94.9%	Attendance 90.1-93%	Attendance Below 90%
max. 3 days absence	max. 5 days absence	max. 9 days absence	13 days absence	19 days absence	20 days absence
<i>The best chance of success for your child. They are much more likely to achieve well with good attendance</i>			<i>This level of absence may well impact upon a pupil's achievements.</i>	<i>Children have much less chance of succeeding or reaching their potential</i>	<i>A serious impact upon their education and chances of success. Parents liable to legal action or fines.</i>

We will be introducing the challenge to pupils next week explaining that there will be awards and prizes for pupils who reach the Bronze, Silver and Gold standards. To enable parents and pupils to track progress against these we will be issuing class teachers with monthly tracking sheets for their pupils and posting these onto our attendance notice board.

Win a free Family Ticket to the Cinema

Alongside the individual challenge targets we will also be developing our existing weekly class challenge. The class with the best attendance each week will receive a new trophy which they will keep for the week. They will also win a Book Bank Voucher for a new class book and a free playtime.

In addition, every child in the winning class will be entered into a raffle with the winner receiving a free family ticket to the Savoy Cinema in Penzance as part of a new partnership we have established with Merlin Cinemas.

The Attendance Challenge will also be extended to include Staff Attendance alongside Class Attendance as an additional incentive for the children. Any class who beats the Staff figure will also qualify for a Book Bank Voucher and a free playtime.

Year 3/4 Camp at Bude

If your child would like to go to Bude next May, please ensure that you return your consent form and pay £20 deposit online at schoolmoney.co.uk **by Friday 18th November**. The total cost will be £85 (as long as we have 70 or more children who go) which can be paid online at any time and in any amount until February 2017. We have to finalise numbers by then.

KS2 Exhibition Evenings

UKS2 Portrait Exhibition
(Bodrifty, Bosigran & Kenidjack)

Thursday 1st December

Venue and time to be confirmed.

LKS2 Exhibition

(Trencrom, Lanyon & Kerris)

Tuesday 13th December at Chapel Street
Methodist Chapel (after the KS2 Carol Concert)

BAG2SCHOOL COLLECTION ON WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER

We are pleased to tell you that the Friends of Alverton School has organised another fund-raising collection with Bag2School. Once again, it's time to clear out your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted clothes/accessories in the bag provided. Please use either the bag provided or you can use your own. Can you give any of the following?

- **Wearable adults' and children's clothes**
- **Pairs of shoes (tied together, please)**
- **Scarves, hats, belts, bags and ties**
- **Jewellery**
- **Soft toys**

Please DO NOT include any of the following in the bags: anything soiled, ripped or wet, school uniform that features logos, curtains, towels, bed linen, duvets, pillows, blankets, household linens, carpets, rugs, bath/toilet mats, fabric remnants or rags.

Bag2School will be collecting from our school on the **MORNING OF WEDNESDAY 7TH DECEMBER.**

Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the front of the school outside reception by 9am.

Please don't bring your clothes in any earlier, as we can't store them.

Thanks for helping with this great fundraising opportunity.



Site Allocations Plans

We (Cornwall Council) are publishing a new plan which will identify sites for future growth and regeneration in ten of our main towns.

The Cornwall Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Allocations DPD), which covers the towns of Penzance and Newlyn, Hayle, Camborne-Pool-Illogan-Redruth, Helston, Falmouth and Penryn, St Austell, Newquay, Bodmin, Launceston, Saltash plus two 'Eco-community' sites at West Carclaze and Par Docks, has been prepared by the Council with support from local Members.

Now we want to hear the views of local people to help shape the final strategy. Public consultation on the plan runs until **5pm on Monday 14 November 2016**. You can view the plan on our [website](#), where you can also complete an online questionnaire.

The document and questionnaires will also be available to view at the libraries and one stop shops in our main towns. You can also provide feedback by e-mailing delivery@cornwall.gov.uk or sending responses to: Allocations DPD, Cornwall Council, Dolcoath Avenue, Camborne, TR14 8SX.

Peter Pan

We are delighted to be welcoming M&M Theatre Company back to perform Peter Pan on 23rd November. All children from Reception upwards will be seeing the performance on that day. Please help us by paying £3 per child online as soon as possible.



St Trinian's - The Musical

Please support Stage-Struck's latest show, St Trinian's - The Musical. To be performed at The Ritz, Queen St, Penzance. November 17th-19th, Evenings at 7.30pm: £8 (£6 under 18) and also Saturday 19th matinee 2.00pm: £6 (£5 under 18). Senior Concession 17th only: £6. Group Rates also available. Tickets available now on **01736 368953**. Please support what's sure to be an entertaining show.

Stage-Struck is an amateur youth theatre group based in Penzance. It is a non-profit-making organisation and is celebrating its 20th year this year with St Trinian's - The Musical, an all age show which is sure to be entertaining. Children from as young as 6 are involved, and auditions for joining the company will follow this show. Come and watch and see if you fancy being a part of the next show. Contact Judith Nicholls (07762 764052) jaen@mac.com for more information regarding auditions.

PLEASE HELP US WIN 100 NON-FICTION BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY

PRIZE BUNDLE: A 100 BRILLIANT
non-fiction books for
children and young people

A selection chosen to
excite, inspire and enjoy!

World Book Day 2017

National Non-Fiction November

The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Charity No. 268289

Please nominate us! Go to
<http://www.worldbookday.com/competitions/win-100-books-national-non-fiction-november/>

STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins	Arthur	for a very positive attitude in writing
Choughs	Freddie	for trying with his reading
Puffins	Logan	for excellent subtracting in 10s
Owls	Jackson	for his hard work and positive attitude to all of his work
Kingfishers	Grace	for fantastic documentary making
Trencrom	Merryn	for settling in Trencrom really well & having a fantastic week
Lanyon	Liam	for an excellent start to half term. Well done
Kerris	Alex	for the fantastic progress he is making in swimming lessons
Bodrifty	George	for showing a great attitude to his work, listening really well
Bosigran	Jago	for playing a fantastic Henry VIII
	Zac	for playing a fantastic Henry VIII
Kenidjack	Joby	for excellent focus and concentration in Maths. Well done
Dinnertime	Ryan	for always having exemplary manners



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	92.5%	7
Robins	96.2%	5
Puffins	84.3%	11
Owls	96.8%	2
Kingfishers	94.6%	6
Trencrom	97.7%	1
Lanyon	88.2%	10
Kerris	90.0%	9
Bodrifty	96.6%	3
Bosigran	92.3%	8
Kenidjack	96.4%	4
Overall school attendance	93.2%	

Our collective target is 97.5%

DIARY DATES

NOVEMBER

- 11th Sharing assembly – Lanyon at 2.45pm
- 18th Sharing assembly – Kenidjack at 2.45pm
- 18th Children in Need fundraising day
- 23rd M & M Theatre Production of Peter Pan
- 23rd Last swimming for Kerris, Lanyon and Trencrom
- 25th Non uniform day in aid of the FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow
- 25th Sharing assembly – Trencrom at 2.45pm

DECEMBER

- 1st Advent Service at 9.30am – followed by mince pies and coffee for parents
- 1st KS2 Exhibition
- 2nd ALL CLUBS FINISH TODAY
- 2nd FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow
- 2nd Guitar and keyboard lessons finish
- 6th EYFS concert at 9.30am & 2.00pm
- 7th KS1 exhibition/Christmas performance at 2.00pm & 6.00pm
- 9th Pupils Christmas lunch
- 13th KS2 concert at 6.30pm at the Chapel Street Methodist Church
- 20th SCHOOL CLOSSES at normal time 3.15pm

