

Athletics Success!

On Thursday we took both a Year 3/4 team and Year 5/6 athletics team to the Quad Kids event at Penwith College. The children had to compete against 10 others schools in 4 events- a sprint, a long distance run, a javelin throw and a standing long jump. The sun was extremely kind to us too, shining brightly on our wonderful children but making it harder work to race in!



However, our pupils were **ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!** Each and every one of them represented the school brilliantly and showed themselves to be excellent sports men and women. Their fantastic efforts paid off, resulting in our Year 5 and 6 team receiving a bronze medal whilst the Year 3/4 team romped home with the gold!

A very big well done to: Willow, Eva, Isla, Flo, Bea, Alarna, Evie, Freya, Jacob, Charlie, Brae, Reuben, Teddy, Kai, Noah and Tyler.

Also to our Year 5/6: Kenza, Susie, Evelyn, Eliza, Phoebe, Sienna, Lola, Summer, Kaiden, Jenson, Thomas, Louis, Cove, Kai, Levan and Alfie.



Dear Parents,

School Attendance and Term Time Holidays

I wrote in the Friday News a few weeks ago about concerns relating to pupil attendance in the post-Covid world. These are concerns that are affecting schools nationally and, as such, are attracting the focus and interest of the DfE. The attendance figures have been, and continue to be, affected by Covid-related absences; this is inevitable. However, the expectation from central Government is that attendance should now return to the levels which existed prior to the pandemic.

An additional, and slightly less obvious impact of the pandemic on attendance, has been the fact that families have been unable to go on holiday for a considerable period of time and are currently putting in a large number of requests for term time holidays.

I absolutely understand that some families have had holidays cancelled or postponed because of the pandemic, and am acutely aware that going away during the school holidays is prohibitively expensive for most families (my own included!). I really do understand this, and am as frustrated as anyone that holiday firms continue to hike their prices outside of term time.

That said, as Head of the school, **I simply cannot authorise term-time holidays under the current DfE guidelines.** The only time this is possible is if there are 'exceptional circumstances'. There is no definition of what 'exceptional circumstances' might be, but it is clear that this does not include factors such as the price of holidays, Covid, etc. I do try hard to be as accommodating as possible, especially where a child's general attendance has been very good, but this is becoming increasingly difficult in the current climate.

As I have stated on a number of occasions, I am opposed to seeing parents fined for taking their children out of school during term-time, mainly because it is financial pressure which has led to the holiday being booked in term time in the first place. However, we are now in a position where our overall attendance figures and the volume of holiday requests being received means that parents taking unauthorised term-time holidays may well face a fixed penalty fine through the Local Authority's Education Welfare Service.

I have included details of this below, but am happy to speak to any parents who may have questions about this.

Best wishes,

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.

Alverton Primary School's production of

**Tickets now
on sale!**



Wednesday 25th May 2022 at 6.30pm

Thursday 26th May 2022 at 6.30pm

Tickets

£4.50 adult / £2.50 children over five.

Free tickets for pupils of Alverton School.

Please ask at the office if you have younger children
who would like to attend.

Music and Lyrics by

Lin-Manuel Miranda, Opetaia Foa'i and Mark Mancina

Book adapted by **Susan Soon He Stanton**

Music and Orchestrations Adapted and Arranged by **Ian Weinberger**

Based on the 2016 Disney film *Moana*

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with

Music Theatre International (Europe)

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by **MTI Europe**

www.mtishows.co.uk

Remember – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Martin Higgs (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk 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

Covid 19

Please see the link below for updated Covid 19 guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

Summer term

As the weather gets warmer please remember to ensure your child has a filled, named water bottle in school every day and a sun hat and you have applied suncream before they come to school in the morning.

As there will be many more opportunities for taking part in PE outside please make sure that a PE kit is brought into school on a Monday and is **left in school all week**.



Staffing update

We're delighted to welcome Sarah Mulholland to our team as a Teaching Assistant in Lower Key Stage Two. She brings a wealth of experience with her and we're looking forward to working with her.

Term dates 2022-23

Our term dates for the 2022-23 school year are now ready and have been attached with this newsletter for your information.

Summer half term date

This half term holiday will be from Monday 30th May until 3rd June. **School will also be closed on Monday 6th June** in lieu of the extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which falls in the half term holiday. We return to school on Tuesday 7th June. Woodland Nursery will be open as normal on Monday 6th June to children who do not receive free funding or who have chosen to stretch their funding (not term time only).

Save the date!

FOAS will be holding our first Summer Fair since 2019 on **Friday 1st**

July after school on the field so please keep the date free.



Go Active After School provision

Any queries or to book please contact Mr Timmons direct on 07843 126833 or by emailing him on

alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com

Daisy's Diary

The chickens are back! They had to stay at home for weeks because of bird flu but now it's fine for them to come to school again. Rabbit the chicken was so pleased to be back at school that by Thursday she had taken to waiting by her basket in the morning, ready to go. The children love it at lunchtimes when the chickens 'escape' - they pop out of the nursery garden and go into the field for attention! Silly birds. Rabbit also managed to fall asleep when 7 children were stroking her.



Charlie from Lanyon has been sorting out Lanyon's veg patch and it's starting to get going - how the lettuces have avoided the attention of the family of 3000 snails that live on the back of this raised bed I do not know. I did grow them at home until they were big enough not to be eaten in a single night but they've survived over a week!

FRIENDS OF ALVERTON SCHOOL

ANNUAL DUCK RACE

SATURDAY 14th MAY

AT WHERRYTOWN BOATING LAKE

To raise funds for the school we are holding our first Duck Race in three years on Saturday 14th May starting at 11.00am. Please come and support us. Ducks are £1 each and can be 'bought' from the office. You will be allocated a number for each duck and there will be a board with all the numbers on at the duck race. Cash prizes for the winner and runners up.

Refreshments available.

Please come along to support us and enjoy a lovely, family experience.





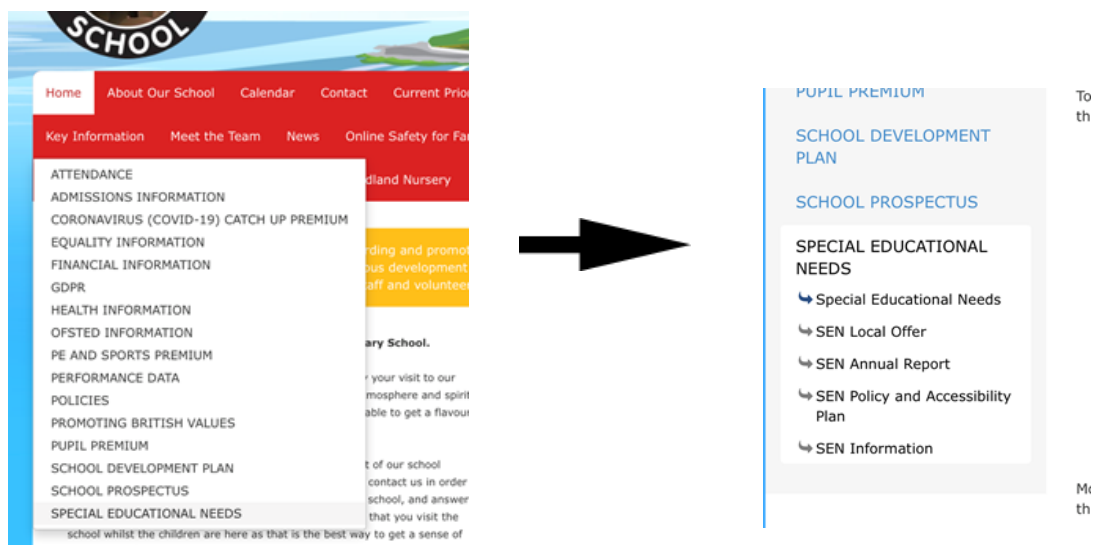
SEND Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Alverton School is working towards the Inclusive Dyslexia Friendly Schools award (IDFS). We have been guided by a set of criteria that promotes good practice for teaching and learning for all pupils, including pupils with additional learning needs.

On the school website we have a section on SEND which has lots of information about different areas of learning needs.

http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/sen_information/288474

Or find the website online and follow the screenshots below: Key information - Special Educational Needs - SEN Information.



As part of the IDFS accreditation we have a parent working party who meet to support the school through this process.

One parent made the suggestion that on Instagram there are some really useful resources and ideas for parents. She also pointed out that she was very selective and always questioned the source.

Dyslexia classroom is the one she follows.





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

mind
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 Vryan 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

**ON YOUR SIDE
NO MATTER WHAT**

0800 58 58 58

[THECALZONE.NET/WEBCHAT](https://thecalzone.net/webchat)

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
LIVING
MISERABLY
CALM

"It's alright to ask for help"

SAMARITANS

116 123

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE HELPLINE
0808 2000 247
24/7 CONFIDENTIAL
FREEPHONE**

**AT HOME
SHOULDN'T
MEAN
AT RISK**

#YOUARENOTALONE

FIND SUPPORT AT:
gov.uk/domestic-violence

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539

<https://www.wcwaaid.co.uk/helpline>

LONELINESS ONLINE:

What Causes It and Ways to Feel Better

Have you ever been online and felt a little bit lonely?
In a recent study, 14% of 10–12-year-olds said they often felt lonely, so you're not the only one who sometimes feels that way. We spoke to a group of children and teenagers, who told us some of the things that make them feel isolated when they're online.

CAUSES OF LONELINESS ONLINE

-  Seeing photos or videos of friends having fun without me
-  Being excluded from group chats or games with friends
-  Friends or family not replying to texts or answering my calls
-  People being unkind to me online
-  When friends leave my group chat

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

So if these things happen to you and you start to feel down, what can you do? The same young people also told us how they make themselves feel less lonely when they're online – and we've collected some of their advice to share with you.

- ✓ Tell a friend or a trusted adult that you feel lonely
- ✓ Watch funny videos of cats and pandas
- ✓ Watch yoga videos and do some exercises
- ✓ Play single-player games you enjoy
- ✓ Listen to happy music
- ✓ Listen to your favourite audiobooks
- ✓ Send nice messages to your friends and family
- ✓ Play games with friends who you trust, if they're online too

TAKE A BREAK

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to take a break from technology and do something offline that makes you feel happy.

Here's what our group suggested!

- ✓ Paint or draw pictures
- ✓ Play with a pet
- ✓ Write about your feelings
- ✓ Hang out with your family
- ✓ Get outdoors & enjoy nature

FURTHER SUPPORT

Remember, it's normal to feel a bit lonely sometimes – but if it's really upsetting you, and you have no-one to talk to, you can call Childline for free on

0800 1111

 **National Online Safety®**
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.05.2022

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

Free School Meals / Pupil Premium

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/>

Registering a child as eligible for free school meals (as described below) means that your child receives a free meal every day (though they can, of course, bring a packed lunch should they prefer) but there are additional benefits too. Pupil Premium brings more money into the school to help children achieve and learn. Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium also receive other benefits (eg contributions towards Key Stage 2 camps and funding to use for uniform, music lessons, trips etc). At some times, there are further benefits for these children such as food vouchers during holiday times where these are given. Please see the Pupil Premium Provision Map in the Pupil Premium section of our website http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/pupil_premium/172518 or speak to Mrs Gill or Mrs Stacey in the office or contact Mrs Wicks who leads our Pupil Premium provision.

The easiest and quickest way to apply for free school meals is online through the Cornwall Council website but, if you are unable to do this, you can call the Free School Meals team on 01872 323298 and a member of the team will call you back to complete the application over the phone.

A child is eligible for free school meals if their parent / carer (or the child themselves) receives any of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers' Allowance (Income-Based) and equal based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) and equal based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Support
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

If you are claiming the benefits listed below you are NOT eligible for free school meals, regardless of what other benefits / credits are being claimed:

- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and / or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance

NB All Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are entitled to receive a free school meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative, regardless of what benefits are being claimed. However, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 may also have an entitlement to benefits-related free school meals and it is important to apply for these if you think your child may be eligible.

Registering for free school meals / Pupil Premium is confidential. If you think that your child is eligible, we strongly recommend that you contact Cornwall Council as detailed above. Mrs Gill and Mrs Stacey in the office will also be able to help you and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Kittiwakes	Kayden	for giving 100% effort during his carpet time and always sitting beautifully
Curlews	Alex	for working so hard with his phonics and reading
Puffins	Lily	for her enthusiasm in everything she does
Owls	Millie	for always having a smile on her face & being a ray of sunshine in our class
Kingfishers	Lealou	for amazing comprehension in her reading
Trencrom	Sofia	for always trying her best, being a ray of sunshine & being incredibly polite
Lanyon	Jasmine	for always working hard & presenting her work beautifully. Well done
Kerris	Eddy	for settling into Kerris class so well. Well done - you're a star
Bodriftly	Oscar	for always doing his very best & for being a wonderful actor in the show
Bosigran	Kitty Rose	for working extremely hard on the lead up to SATs - what a star
Kenidjack	Roxy	for working so hard and making so much progress in the run up to SATs
Dinnertime	Lily R	for her help with the younger members of the school



Well hello again, it hardly seems like any time at all since I wrote last, but that extra day tagged onto the weekend makes a huge difference. I do hope you managed to get out and about for at least some of the long weekend, if not all of it (it seems as if most of my nursery children went to Flambards!). I do feel though that the loss of a day has made the week feel really odd for me, and I wonder if that's why I feel so strange and unsettled? Because I really do. No matter what, the week is over now, a new weekend is upon us and the following week is the usual 5 days long; hopefully I will feel more like myself by the end of it, if not sooner. If you feel unsettled, out-of-sorts, or just a bit sad, for reasons known or not, come and chat, it really does help, and the very act of chatting makes us feel better. The very act of putting the kettle on sorts me out most of the time, so let's do it together. My very best wishes, Mrs Daylak