



## Additional INSET Day - Tuesday 3rd November

In order for our school to ensure we are doing the best we can to support our pupils' home learning, in the event that they are having to remain at home due to Covid 19, our school will be closed on **Tuesday 3rd November** for important staff training to be undertaken. As I am sure you are aware, all of our staff are working tirelessly to support our pupils in what are quite challenging times, and it is vital that we provide this dedicated time to this significant part of our provision. **School will, therefore, reopen after half term on Wednesday 4th November.**

Thank you for your support.

Martin Higgs

## Parents Evenings

Due to the current circumstances we are unable to hold our Parents Evenings in school this term. Your child's class teacher will, instead, speak to you during a ten minute phone conversation in which you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

A letter has come home from your child's teacher and has been emailed to you with all the dates and times later this term.

We are going to use our system for booking phone appointments through our eschools facility which is part of our school website, as we did last Spring.

You will previously have been sent log in details for eschools. If you are unsure what this is, please contact the office and they will arrange for new details to be sent to you. These details will be needed in order to go online and book the appointment slot that suits you best when **the booking period opens on the 12<sup>th</sup> October**. Some appointments start as early as Monday 19th October so the booking window is only open for four days for the following classes: Puffins, Owls, Kingfishers, Lanyon, Kerris, Bosigran and Kenidjack. The system is easy and quick to use. Go to <http://alverton.org.uk> and click onto the green log in button at the top right hand side of the screen. Once you have logged in, the Parents Evening icon can be found in the blue bar at the top.

**If you have had a termly review meeting during the school day via Zoom with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you don't need to book an appointment through the eschools system.**

Please ensure that we have your up-to-date phone number so that your child's teacher can contact you for your appointment.

If you need any further information please email or phone the office. Thank you.

## Individual photos - UPDATE

The photographers from Tempest will be in school next **Tuesday 13th October** to take individual photos. Please could you ensure that your child is wearing smart school uniform. If your child is in KS1 and would normally wear their PE kit to school, please ensure that they wear uniform and bring their PE kit with them just for next Tuesday. **We have considered very carefully whether this is possible but unfortunately this year it will not be possible to take photos of siblings together in school.**

## Flu immunisation

If you would like your child immunised and haven't yet applied, please go online by 21st October. **Your child will not be given the nasal spray without your consent so if you do not wish them to have it done, you do not need to do anything.**

**Date of Visit:** Friday 23rd October

**School Code:** EE142240

**Link:** <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

**Tel No.:** 01872 221105

## Library books

Please check at home for any library books that might be at home as we are missing lots. Please return them to your child's class teacher for them to be quarantined before being put back into the library.

## New consent of images form

Your child has brought home a new consent of images form and it has been emailed to you. If you haven't done so already, please complete and return one copy either in your child's book bag, to your child's teacher or into the postbox outside the office.

## Thank you

A *HUGE* thank you to everyone who brought in something for our Harvest Food Collection. A marvellous mountain of food was assembled in the hall with the help of the ministers who then had to carry all the boxes out to the car park ready for delivery to the Foodbank. Obviously, the need for the Foodbank is even greater this year and they were delighted to receive such an abundance of produce. Thank you again. *Mrs England*



## Daisy's Diary

### Bike shed

Well, it turns out that just deciding to get on and build the bike shed without the construction company was not the best idea I've had to be honest. Last Friday night I talked through my plan of digging the holes over the weekend myself (of course I'd also roped my long suffering husband in) with a couple of people and realised....well. Quite a lot. They were going to be mighty big holes. With big lumps of granite in and tree roots. On a slope (I've brilliantly chosen a site that's on the wonk both ways and has a hump in the middle). In the rain. Then of course there was making sure all the metal poles were in exactly the right place, at the right height, before filling the holes with barrow and barrow loads of concrete. Oh dear.

But help was at hand - Adam Flood, Isla's dad, who runs the Cornwall Building Company, decided to swoop in and save me. He and Billy The Bullet came and spent two long, tiring days working like troopers, measuring,



digging and mixing just out of the goodness of their hearts. I was so grateful to them and its proof of how kind and generous people in our school community can be. **A massive thank you to them both from all of us.**

Next in the bike shed on again/off again construction company news - Rebuild Southwest are going to come in and help with the build and make our school entrance more welcoming from this coming Monday. Now the foundations are done, which was the most difficult part of the whole job, they can get on with the structure, and as they work with all kinds of volunteers it means that there will be all levels of jobs to do - not just everyone digging for the first few days which is really hard if you don't do it regularly.

On another note, much respect for all of you doing the school run with more than one child. Now I've added chickens to the list of things to take to school in the morning I think I'm getting an idea of how difficult that must be. Once I've packed Sonny's snack, the chickens lunch, found shoes and water dishes....and at least the chickens don't all insist on going on a scooter or giving me their book bags....

### Wanted!

Size 8 (adult size) wellies - just one pair needed for someone who really needs them in school. Thank you very much.



## 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



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** 24h  
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](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

### Penzance CTIPA Foodbank

The CTIPA Foodbank in Penzance has let us know that, at the moment, it is not necessary to obtain a voucher to receive food from them. If their support would be helpful to you, just phone Vervan 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.

**ON YOUR SIDE  
NO MATTER WHAT**

**0800 58 58 58** | [THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT](http://THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT)

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY  
**CALM**

**citizens  
advice**

0344 411 1444

"It's alright to ask for help"

**SAMARITANS**

116 123

**COVID-19 isolation** may cause tensions to rise and domestic abuse to increase. **Help is available.**

Who can help me?  
We can

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

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

**WCWAid**  
West Cornwall Women's Aid  
**01736 367539**  
<https://www.wcwid.co.uk/helpline>

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

#YOUARENOTALONE  
FIND SUPPORT AT: [gov.uk/domestic-abuse](http://gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

**SafeToNet** is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's rights to privacy.

# Online Safety

The BBC have a website and app called **Own It**. The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most.

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends, many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice. This information is updated as needed (it's recently added new information on apps) so it's worth another look.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What parents & carers need to know about...



# AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

### Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

### Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



### Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

### Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



PRIVATE

## Safety Tips

### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction 'Alexa, delete everything said.' Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to 'use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.'

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example, 'Alexa, buy some toilet paper.' To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

### Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.



## STARS OF THE WEEK

Puffins	Jack T	for his calm, thoughtful nature & his hard work
Owls	Benjamin	for trying so hard with his writing & making such excellent progress
Kingfishers	Finley	for his super listening skills & trying his hardest every day
Trencrom	Zachary	for mastering his column addition in Maths this week
Lanyon	Kelley	for being very hardworking, resilient & enthusiastic about everything he does
Kerris	Isabella	for simply being awesome all of the time!
Bodrifty	Clayton	for helping Daisy & being so gentle with the chickens
Bosigran	Maisie	for working really hard in all areas of the curriculum & always having a smile
Kenidjack	Freya	for being the Queen of Homework & producing some amazing work
Dinnertime	Jamie	for always being cheerful & well mannered



### LOST

Elise in Lanyon has lost her black & white Nike trainers. They were named inside with Ruby G. Please check and hand in if found.

### After school childcare provision

This is now only being offered to Year 3-6.

Please contact Mr Timmons for details and to book by emailing [alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com](mailto:alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com) or by phoning 07843 126 833.

### Wellies and coats!

Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies in school at all times and a coat so that they can use the field and woods at times during the school day.

### Twitter

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



### Need a chat?

Life has been pretty challenging recently and you might need someone to talk to. If you would like to come and have a chat with me about anything at all in confidence, I'm here for you. Talk to Adele or Veryan in the office and they will arrange it. I make a good cuppa and I know where the best biscuits are hidden!



Mrs Daylak

### Lost property

All the lost property in the lost property box was un-named when we looked through it this week. These items will be sent to the charity shop on a regular basis. **Please ensure that you name ALL your child's items of clothing.** This way anything found in school will be returned to you.

## Free School Meals

At this time, many families may find themselves eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium who previously did not meet the criteria. Please read this page carefully to find out if you are now eligible. Our Pupil Premium Parent Guide is being sent home alongside today's newsletter to provide you with more information.

Cornwall Council are continuing to process new applications for Free School Meals. **Please ensure that you read the eligibility criteria before applying** and complete the online application form if you are eligible.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/application-for-free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium/>

Postal applications are currently not being accepted but, if you are unable to apply online, 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. Please make sure that your phone will accept calls from a private number.

*NB All Key Stage 1 (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. Whilst schools are closed to most pupils during the current Covid-19 pandemic, schools are not required to provide meals or vouchers to Key Stage 1 children who usually receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme but are not currently attending school.*

**However, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals (as well as all Key Stage 2 children) may have an underlying entitlement to benefits-related Free School Meals. Schools will make arrangements for these children to receive free meals through food parcels or supermarket vouchers.**

Your child may be eligible for benefits-related free school meals if you, or the child themselves in their own right, 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:

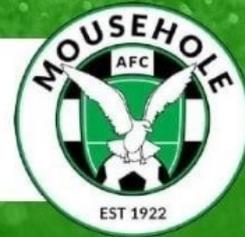
- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and/or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance

However, you will be temporarily eligible to claim free school meals if you receive a **Working Tax Credit run-on**, which is the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

**If you think that your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we strongly recommend that you contact Cornwall Council as detailed above.**

# MOUSEHOLE AFC U11 GIRLS

**NOW RECRUITING**



**MOUNTS BAY ACADEMY 3G  
THURSDAY 5-6PM  
TR17 OHW**

**ALL SKILLS WELCOMED!**

**FOR MORE DETAILS:**

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**OR EMAIL [ISABEL.DESCRIVAN.NOTT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ISABEL.DESCRIVAN.NOTT@GMAIL.COM)**