



At Tuesday's Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at the Methodist Chapel, I ended the service by saying that Alverton is "a really special school". This wasn't a throwaway comment from the Headteacher's book of 'Trite things to say to parents' (amongst my many faults, I find it very hard to say the prudent thing when I don't believe it to be true - ask my wife!). I said it because I believe it to be the case. In fact, I would challenge anyone who attended Tuesday's event to leave the chapel on that evening with anything but absolute pride in our children and in being part of our school community.

Reflecting upon the past few weeks, the dominant theme, as it always is in primary schools, has been Christmas. We have had a series of lovely events from Early Years nativity concerts which could melt even the most cynical of hearts, through to the Key Stage 1 nativity which managed to link the unlikely themes of aliens and underpants into the oldest of all stories. We have had a Christmas Fair organised by our fantastic FOAS team and, as always, amazingly well supported by our parents and we have had Christmas parties with even Santa dropping in to the delight of our youngest children.

Reflecting on what's gone is an important part of my role in planning for the future. In order to ensure that we keep moving forward, negotiate the obstacles, learn from our mistakes and protect all that is good about Alverton School, we have to regularly ask ourselves challenging questions. With Tuesday's carol service in mind, and the countless positive comments and emails I have received following the event, the question therefore might be: 'Why was it so good?'.

My belief is that Tuesday represented a kind of synergy, one of those occasions when our school community comes together to create something really, really memorable.

First and foremost were the children who sang with an enthusiasm and passion I have rarely seen or heard in any school, ever. This had much to do with the support and level of expectation they have received from all of the staff who had worked so hard with them, and the whole team who once again made sure that they were at the event whatever area of the school they work in.

Crucially, there was the support of you as parents. This may have been the latest in a long series of Alverton Carol Services you've attended over the years, the weather was miserable and (speaking from personal experience as a parent myself) some of you would probably have been quite happy to stay at home on Tuesday evening. The point is that you came along anyway because you knew that it was the right thing to do for your child and the school. You filled the impressive venue both physically and emotionally with your support for, and pride in, your children. You helped to make it memorable for them and in doing so made it the event it was.

The real pleasure I get in being a Headteacher comes from events such as Tuesday's concert where our community comes together and creates something 'greater than the sum of its parts'. If we continue to work together in this way, keeping children at the centre of what we do, then I am confident that Alverton will continue to be a really special school for us all.

On behalf of all our staff and Governors, thank you for your continued support and I wish all of our families a peaceful and very happy Christmas holiday.

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

Digital Dangers - Our Busy Parents' 5 Minute Guide to keeping up with a world that's changing much faster than we can!

Santa will no doubt be delivering a great many phones, tablets, games machines and laptops to some lucky children this Christmas. The number of gifts capable of connecting our children to the internet will be at an all time high, and whilst this creates a world of opportunity it also opens the door to a world of risk few adults really understand. After the initial excitement of unwrapping the new device, it is unlikely to be long before parents are asked about, or even more worryingly not asked about, downloading a social media app onto the device. We thought it might be a good time to remind parents that there are very few, if any, social media platforms which allow primary aged children access. The table below shows the age limits for each of the most commonly used platforms. Hopefully this will provide parents with a handy rationale to decline the Boxing Day demands?

If you would like more parental information on Social Media platforms we have some handy parent guides which can be found on our website under the online safety tab. We have included one example of these, What's App, as part of this Friday News.

Age Restrictions for Social Media Platforms

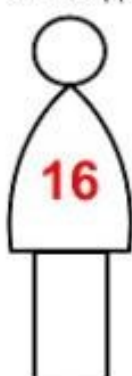
Twitter
Facebook
Instagram
Pinterest
Google+
Tumblr
Reddit
Snapchat
Secret



LinkedIn



WhatsApp



Vine
Tinder



Path



YouTube
Keek
Foursquare
WeChat
Kik
Flickr



Get to know our Governors

David Cooke

I am a physiotherapist at West Cornwall Hospital and when not at work can usually be found swimming. I have two sons at Alverton School and have been a governor for the last four years, a role I took on because I wanted to do something useful for the school, and because I thought it would be interesting. It's extremely satisfying to see all the positive changes there have been.



Christmas charity **WellChild** collection

the national charity for sick children

We're delighted to say that an amazing **£553.40** was raised for our chosen charity this year at all the Christmas performances and our carol singing at Tesco. This included £60 which was raised by Jacob and Eva who sold items to friends and family. Well done to you! Thank you very much to everyone who donated so generously.



Christmas lunch

A huge thank you to all our staff and the kitchen staff who prepared, cooked and served a delicious Christmas lunch to over 300 people yesterday. You did a fantastic job!



Lunches next week - IMPORTANT!

Wednesday 20th December - menu change

No roast meal.

A selection of hot meals (including sausages, fish fingers, quorn etc with chips) will be available which will be chosen at the counter, not pre-booked. This is so that the kitchen staff can run down their food stocks before Christmas.

We are going cashless!

In the new year it is the school's aim to become as cashless as possible. With this in mind, from January **all** payments for trips, swimming, Breakfast Club, school run clubs (that require payment) and camps should be made online via the schoolmoney website and we will not be taking any cash or cheques. Cash will only be accepted for tuck shop and ties.

Schoolmoney is quick, secure and easy to use but if you haven't used it before or would like a password reminder sent to you, please let the office know. You will need the mobile number and email address we have on our system for you so please update us if you have changed either of these.

If you are unable to pay online, we will issue you with a PayPoint barcode unique to your child which you will be able to take to a local PayPoint shop and pay with cash there.

As they are independent to the school finance system, you will still be able to pay cash for school lunches to Caterlink and after school provision to Go Active.

Thank you for your support.

Payment of debts

Please could all debts for schools meals, breakfast club and nursery sessions be paid by Monday at the latest please.

Reading newsletter

Please see the attached Reading newsletter for December. It has lots of great ideas for books to give at Christmas if you need some inspiration!

Catering Assistant vacancy

A catering assistant vacancy has become available working for Caterlink in the school kitchen. The contract would be for 7.5 hours per week to start on 4th January 2017. For further information please contact Sally Farrell, Caterlink Area Manager on 07884 738519.

Applying for a school place for September 2018

If you have a child born between 1st September 2013 and 31st August 2014 you need to apply for a school place in a Reception class to start in September 2018. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2018**. The easiest way is to apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

Crossing patrol absence

Please note that Mrs Slesser will not be patrolling the crossing on Toltuff Road in the afternoon of **Wednesday 20th December**.

Reminder

School finishes for the Christmas holidays on **Wednesday 20th December at 3.15pm** (normal time). The Spring term starts on **Thursday 4th January 2018 at 8.45am**.

Thank you

A huge thank you to all the parents, families and children who supported the Christmas Fair last Friday. An amazing total of **£2750** was raised which included **£816** on the raffle and **over £600** on the school tea towels and Christmas cards. This beats last year by over £1000! Our staff have also given up a lot of their time and energy to help prepare and we are very grateful to them. Particular thanks to Heather Weeks, Alex Rowe and Tamsin Woodhead, the FOAS team and all the parent volunteers who organised it so well.

The following businesses gave prizes for the raffle and we thank them so much for their support. Apologies to anyone who has been forgotten from this list:

The Eden Project

Porthcurno Telegraph Museum

Flambards

Lavenders

The Full House

Lincoln Kirbybell

Sorcha Cubitt Beauty

New Hong Kong

The Crown

Leif Olsen

Isles of Scilly Travel

Polgoon Vineyard

A big thank you also to all the parents, family, friends and staff members that donated prizes for the raffle, brought in a jar, toy or anything else or baked a cake. A special thank you to Nadine Nicholls and her family for donating 50 lovely decorated jars.



Go Active after school provision

A reminder that if you'd like to book your child into the Go Active after school club you need to contact them direct on **07843 126833**.

Attendance

With their termly report, your child received a grade for their attendance and their classes are now similarly colour coded in each newsletter. Please see below:

98%+ outstanding (blue)

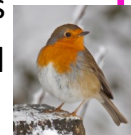
95-98% good (green)

90-95% requires improvement (orange)

90%< poor (red)

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 Mondays after school until 4pm.



Lost Property

The lost property box is overflowing again. If you are missing anything, please come in and check. The box will be emptied next Wednesday and everything that is not named will be sent to the charity shop.

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	94.8%	7
Robins	83.5%	11
Puffins	92.1%	9
Owls	93.7%	8
Kingfishers	92.1%	9
Trencrom	95.2%	6
Lanyon	97.8%	2
Kerris	96.3%	5
Bodrifty	96.7%	4
Bosigran	97.2%	3
Kenidjack	98.1%	1
Overall school attendance	91.5%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

DECEMBER

20th SCHOOL CLOSSES at normal time 3.15pm

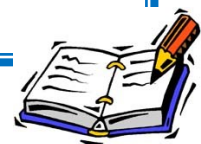
The spring term begins on Thursday 4th January 2018

JANUARY

8th Music lessons start

10th Swimming starts today for Year 2

15th Clubs start



A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, focused on cracking a white egg. The child's hands are positioned to break the egg, and a stream of yellow egg yolk is visible falling into a dark bowl below. The background is softly blurred, showing warm indoor lighting.

COMING TO
PENZANCE
SPRING 2018!

WELLBEING COOKERY COURSES FOR CHILDREN

Does your child suffer from anxiety, worry, stress
or a lack of self confidence ?

These 8 week courses for 8-11 & 12-15 year olds introduce
children to their innate wellbeing & resilience through a mix
of cookery & engaging classroom activities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JO SMITH
jo@thespaceinbetween.org.uk or 07702192734

MAKE WAVES

It doesn't matter if you've never been on a boat before. Sea Cadets will give you all the training and support you need to be part of an incredible experience. Get out on the water and hoist the sail of a yacht, or learn how to navigate a power vessel.

Mountain bike down stony trails, kayak along wild waters or earn badges in camp craft and Morse code. Want to travel? We have fantastic overseas opportunities for cadets to explore places like Bermuda, Hong Kong and America. Whatever you want to do, we'll help you dive in.

"The teamwork, learning, commitment and fun that I have experienced have taken me so far already, in my dreams for the future."

Able Cadet Orlando



Contact your local unit here:



Patron HM The Queen
Marine Society & Sea Cadets,
a charity registered in England and Wales
20075 and in Scotland SC025708

FLOURISH

Grab a better future with us

SEA CADETS



UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL

Unleash your confidence and be the person you want to be. Sea Cadets gives young people the chance to learn and develop skills for life. Experience the exhilaration of being out on the water and the satisfaction of achieving goals as part of a team.

Do you enjoy a challenge and want to flourish in every way? We're looking for young people who enjoy a challenge and want to flourish in every way. If you want to find out what you can achieve, join us and set sail on a new adventure.

When it comes to the future, whatever path you choose, you need self-belief. Let us help you build that. Sea Cadets can help you develop the confidence and skills you need to thrive. Not only will you gain valuable knowledge in teamwork and leadership, you'll also be able to work towards certificates and qualifications in any of our accredited courses.

Take your Duke of Edinburgh or study a BTEC in Marine Engineering, Public Service or Music. We'll work with you every step of the way, so you can discover your talents and flourish.



Sea Cadets will help you get the most out of every invigorating adventure. Get active with rock-climbing, windsurfing and diving, or take part in more traditional activities like Drill and Piping. When you've mastered new skills, why not put them to the test and compete in year-round competitions and regattas?

As a Sea Cadet, you'll also get exclusive access to nationwide events including the Trafalgar Day Parade in London. Whether you're on land or on sea, you'll grow in confidence and pick up lifelong skills, so you can grab your future with both hands.

"It has been the best experience of my life and I only wish I had joined sooner. I would recommend it to anyone. It's amazing!"

Cadet 1st Class Craig

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) /seecadetsuk