

Dear Parents,

It's been a different term but a very successful one, nonetheless.

At this time of year, we always write about our Christmas celebrations and the various nativities and carol services enjoyed by the whole school community. You would think that, without all of these to prepare for, the end of term would have been a quiet and somewhat subdued affair. Not a bit of it! We have been awash with Christmas activities and experiences and the children have had a great, and very busy, time. We hope you enjoy the whole-school nativity – please see the information about it later in this newsletter.

We have been operating under unusual circumstances since September with regard to the various adaptations and adjustments we have made to accommodate COVID safety provisions. The real success of this term has been that we have managed to complete a relatively normal school term with children making excellent progress across all year groups. The staff and I have been so impressed by the flexibility, resilience and determination shown by your children to make sure that they make the most of their school experiences regardless of this awful virus. I would also like to thank you as parents for supporting our school during this difficult period and for making sure that your children come into school each day ready to learn and full of enthusiasm.

We are all very conscious in school that Alverton has a strong and longstanding reputation for high standards of academic achievement and pupil care and I am grateful to all of our staff, as well as our wider community, for ensuring that the challenges of the pandemic have not impacted upon our core purpose in this regard. We are very fortunate to have such a committed staff team who have risen to every challenge and who go the extra mile every day to provide a safe and happy experience for the children.

We hope that you and your families are able to spend time together this Christmas and, on behalf of all our staff and governors, I wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for a slightly less problematic 2021.

Martin Higgs  
Headteacher



## Christmas Track and Trace arrangements

Please ensure that you read the information that we emailed out yesterday about track and trace arrangements over the Christmas holidays. It is also attached to this newsletter. Thank you.

## Coronavirus symptoms

The main symptoms are:

**A high temperature** (hot to the touch on chest or back)

**OR**

**A new, continuous cough** (coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)

**OR**

**A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** (you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

If you or your child have any **ONE** or more of these you must get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and stay at home and do not have visitors— only leave home to get the test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result. **Please ring or email the school office as soon as possible to let us know.**

You can book a test online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Hi folks,

It's the last day of the Autumn term and all that remains for me to say is I wish you all the very best of Christmases. For some of you it will be super and for others it won't, it's really that simple. I know you may feel I'm just saying this, but I'm not, I really am here if you need me, although sadly I can't be here during the holidays. Trust me when I say my own Christmas festivities will be very different this year and while I am looking forward to them very much, they will be tinged with sadness and memories which won't be totally positive. It's always difficult for some at Christmas; it's that odd time of year when it feels like we should all be having the best time of our lives because that's what the adverts say we ought to be doing and everyone's social media notifications are crammed with glitter and smiles. If you're not having a great time, I really am very sorry. If you want to come and chat in the new year just come and find me, you know where I am by now, and if you don't then just ask. Nobody will make any assumptions, nor will they wonder why you want to chat. At the most they will hope that you're okay. But if you're not, come and say so. Don't let it build up. We do care and we may be able to help. At the very least I can listen. I'm good at that. Take care and see you soon.

Mrs D



## Sad news

We send our condolences to the family of Mrs Janice Jarvis who sadly died on 8th December. Janice was the secretary here at Alverton School for over twenty years and will be remembered by members of staff, children and parents.

## Wanted

Choughs and Robins would be very grateful for any pots, pans, teapots and utensils - **all metal** - that you would like to donate to them.

Many thanks.



## Decorated Christmas window

We have, once again, entered the Penzance Town Christmas Window Competition and last year we won! If you are in town, please have a look at our Christmas window display which is in the old Hunter Walsh shop directly opposite the bottom of Causewayhead and then vote. You can vote either by scanning the QR code in the window or below or online at <https://lovepenzance.co.uk/christmas-window-comp/>

The winning school window will receive £250 and one lucky voter will receive £100. Many thanks to Miss Williams and her team of creative staff and children.

# PENZANCE CHRISTMAS WINDOW COMPETITION

Vote for your favourite window

### HOW TO VOTE

Simply scan the QR Code to be taken to the online voting form. Vote for your favourite business window and your favourite school window display.



Penzance



[lovepenzance.co.uk](https://lovepenzance.co.uk)



# MERRY CHRISTMAS





## 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



# NSPCC

Help for children worried about COVID

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health>

Download this image onto your phone for **when you might need help**

**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

**Samaritans:**

Emotional support to anyone in distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.

**116 123**

**Shout:**

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**

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

### 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.

## ON YOUR SIDE NO MATTER WHAT

0800 58 58 58 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.



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

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid  
01736 367539

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





**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 educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Privacy & Security Series

**NOS**  
Online Privacy & Security

Brought to you by  
**NOS** National Online Safety  
[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

# What you need to know about... THE DEEP WEB & THE DARK WEB

## What is it? 'The Deep & The Dark Web'

While the deep web and the dark web are not the same thing, they do overlap significantly. The Deep Web refers to pages that are not indexed, which means that most search engines (Google, Bing etc) won't return them to you after a search. The dark web is part of the World Wide Web that is only accessible by installing and using special software. It is the unregulated part of the internet; no organisation, business, or government oversees it or can apply rules. This is why the dark web is commonly associated with illegal practices.

## Know the Risks

### Unmonitored access

Children and young people often dive into the Dark Web using their devices, unmonitored, unregulated, and unnoticed. Whilst children may access and use the Dark Web and/or the Deep Web, a child's curiosity may result in the access and viewing of very inappropriate, unacceptable, and illegal sites, forums, and communities.

### Inappropriate content

Children can access sites with indecent images, sites selling drugs and/or weapons; however, this is also the case for the Surface Web. The possibility of users infecting their devices with malware is higher when visiting the Dark Web also.

### Online predators

Online child predators are more likely to interact and groom children on the Surface Web than the Dark Web. However, once contact is made, interaction can continue within the Dark Web.

## Safety Tips

### Question their motives

If you believe your child may be using TOR or accessing the Deep or Dark Web or asks if they can download the software, ask them why they are using them rather than using the surface web. Children should be able to access everything they need via normal web browsers.

### Check devices

Check all devices for the TOR (or I2P / Freenet) software and delete any unknown browsers. Monitor your child's online purchases. If you know that your child has been using TOR to access the Dark Web, watch for any unusual mail or packages delivered to your home.

### Talk about the dangers

Ask your children what they already know, and then openly speak about the Dark Web. Part of the attraction to the Dark Web may be the mystique and curiosity associated with it so it's important to educate your child about the dangers and how it can be misused by criminals.

## How they Work

### TOR Software

The most common software used is called TOR (The Onion Router). TOR is a web browser that keeps your identity a secret by hiding your IP address. This means that users largely cannot be tracked while browsing the dark web. Most dark web users use a search engine such as DuckDuckGo, which protects users' privacy. TOR can bypass school internet filters.

### Three Web levels

The surface web is the internet we are familiar with; we use it to run businesses and connect with family, friends, and customers. Deep websites emphasise protecting users' privacy. People who need to keep their identities private use this to share sensitive information. The dark web is focused on illegal activities and services. However, unless you carry out unlawful acts, it is not illegal to use the dark web or TOR.

## Our Expert Jonathan Taylor

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety, social media and online grooming expert who previously worked as a Covert Internet Investigator with the Metropolitan Police for over 10 years. He has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, apps and platforms.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.09.2020

### STARS OF THE WEEK

Choughs	Isabelle	for always being a kind, caring friend and an all round superstar
Robins	Casper	for his creativity and imagination
Puffins	Brodie	for his super work and hard work this term
Owls	The Whole Class	for their resilience and courage over the past term
Kingfishers	Charlotte	for super progress in Maths
Trencrom	Amelia-Mai	for working hard since day one and being a lovely individual
Lanyon	Tracey	for always working hard and being a lovely member of the class
Kerris	Evelyn	for creating a fantastic song all about the different states of matter
	Tegan	for creating a fantastic song all about the different states of matter
Bodrifty	Kitty V	for being such a star all term - always cheerful and works super hard
Bosigran	Ruby R	for working extremely hard and always producing amazing work
Kenidjack	Logan R	for being an utter star all term long
Dinnertime	Dylan	for being a very kind and helpful friend



### Spring menu

A paper copy of the new Spring menu has come home and is also attached to this newsletter. It can also be found on the school website under Parent Pages, What's On this term.

### 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.

### FOAS fundraising

FOAS have recently set up a Just Giving page to help us raise funds towards a new music room. If you would like to make a donation you can do so by following the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/alvertonmusic>

Thank you very much for your support.



### Twitter

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



### Reminder

The Spring term starts on **Wednesday 6th January 2021 at 9am.**



## 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.

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 / withheld number.

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 underlying entitlement to benefits-related Free School Meals. Please ensure that you check this and apply if appropriate, even if your child is in one of these year groups, because of the additional benefits (eg food vouchers during holiday times where these are given by the Government).

Your child may be eligible for benefits-related free school meals if their parent / carer (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.