

Dear Parents,

## **Christmas Productions**

It seems slightly bizarre to be writing about Christmas in September but we wanted to make you aware of our current plans. This year, all performances will take place at school and will be ticket-based and risk-assessed to ensure we follow up-to-date guidance. Teachers are already planning the performances and further details will follow nearer the time.

## **Moana**

We are absolutely delighted to tell you that our musical production in May 2022 will be Moana. We were so disappointed not to be able to put on our show for the last two years and our brand new, nearly 50-strong Drama Club held its first rehearsal this week. I think I can safely say that all the children, Miss Rudge and I had a brilliant time and are very excited to be putting on this production.

All of the above is, of course, subject to change and arrangements to enable these performances will depend very much on the guidance and situation at the time. However, we thought you would appreciate knowing what we are planning and that we intend to hold these events if at all possible.

## **Clubs**

Clubs started this week and we have probably the highest ever number of children attending them. Some clubs are not limited by numbers or may still have spaces so, if your child hasn't signed up and would like to take part, please ask at the office to see if they can join. Having clubs start up again has made this week feel the most "normal" since March last year and it has been lovely to see so many children enjoying such a range of after-school activities.

## **Parent Consultations**

This term, parent consultations will again be by phone call with your child's teacher and will take place over the next few weeks. A separate letter is coming home about this so please look out for it and book a date and time which is convenient for you.

## **Reading**

Reading remains the most important thing that you can do with your child to help them with their education. As well as reading regularly to parents and carers to practice decoding, reading includes discussion about a book and its pictures, not necessarily always just reading the words. We encourage reading with your child on a daily basis from Reception all the way through to Year 6, both sharing stories and listening to the children read. Even if your child is a fluent reader, they will always benefit from talking with you about their book and thinking about what they are reading. We are always trying to build our pupils' vocabulary – do they know the meaning of every word they've read each day? Thank you to everyone who reads regularly with their child – it really does make the most enormous difference.

Best wishes,

Cathryn Wicks  
Deputy Head

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

A reminder that there is no entry into the school buildings apart from into the office foyer area and that, when you are on the site, we would ask you to please wear a mask. Thank you.

### **Contact details**

We email you lots of letters and information and send quite a few texts too so we always need an up-to-date email address and mobile number for you. Please let the office know if your contact details change.

### **Year 6 London**

If your child would like to go on the London trip next summer please ensure that the deposit (£55) is paid online **by 1st October at the latest** or we will be unable to book them a place.

### **Lost property**

All the lost property is now put into the large chest outside the office window and is no longer kept in the hall. You can come at anytime from 8am-4pm to look inside for any lost or items or to take any un-named items. Any un-named items will be taken to the charity shop after every half term so please name all your child’s belongings.

### **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.**

**If your child tests positive over the weekend please email**  
**[head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk)**

You can book at test online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or phone the NHS test line 119.

### **Reception newsletter**

Please look at your Tapestry account to access the weekly Reception newsletter.

## Parents Evenings for Year 1-6

We have decided that our parent consultations this term will again be a **ten minute phone conversation** with your child's teacher in which you will be able to discuss your child's progress. A letter has come home today from your child's teacher by email 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 given 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 given 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 29<sup>th</sup> September**. It is easy and quick to use:

- Go to the school website <http://alverton.org.uk> and click onto the green log in button at the top right hand side of the screen.
- Your user name will be your first name.surname (all lower case) eg, john.smith (not your email address)
- If you have forgotten your password, please contact the office.
- Once you have logged in, the Parents Evening icon can be found in the blue bar at the top. Click on that and you'll be taken to your child's class page for you to book.

**If you have had a termly review meeting during the school day on the phone 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.

## Flu immunisation

Please see the information from Kernow Health about the flu immunisation taking place in school which was emailed home this week and is attached. If you would like your child immunised and haven't yet applied, please go online by 19th 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:** Thursday 21st October

**School Code:** EE142240

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

## 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](mailto:alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com)

## Guitar lessons

Steve Watkiss teaches guitar lessons to children from Year 2 upwards and has spaces on a Thursday afternoon. Please go to the Cornwall Music Service Trust website for more information and to sign up.

<https://www.cornwallmusicservicetrust.org/>

## PPA days

Your child should come to school in their school tracksuit and not their uniform on the days they have PPA.

Reception - Fridays

Year 1 & 2 - Tuesdays

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesdays

Year 5 & 6 - Thursdays

**Please ensure that they have their PE kit in school all other days of the week** so that they can change into it for extra PE if necessary.

## Let's Talk Homes

The homes we live in affects every aspect of our lives.

We are starting to review the current Housing Strategy\* for Cornwall and have some further questions we want to ask of residents, stakeholders, organisations and anyone interested in housing. The answers to these will help us prepare a draft strategy that we will be more formally consulting on this winter.

Please visit the 'Let's Talk Homes' <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/housing-strategy> and fill out the survey '**What Challenges do we face? What should our Priorities and Objectives be?**' by 5pm Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The draft Housing Strategy will be formally consulted on towards the end of the year with a view that this be approved at Council in April 2022.

Plans are being made to engage with Council Members through the Overview & Scrutiny function alongside colleagues in Planning Policy, Local Transport and Economic Development to ensure that all our emerging Strategies are consistent and complimentary.

\*The Housing Strategy is a strategic partnership document and describes what our priorities will be for homes over the next five years and beyond.

For more information contact Sarah – [sarah.thorncroft@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.thorncroft@cornwall.gov.uk)





## 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



0300 123 3393

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



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

If you're worried about a child:

0808 800 5000

[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://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



"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](http://gov.uk/domestic-violence)

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

**01736 367539**

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





## What Parents and Carers Need to Know About...

# ROCKET LEAGUE

Age Restriction  
**PEGI 3**

Rocket League is a free-to-play multiplayer vehicle football game. It was developed by Psyonix, now part of the Epic Games family (which also includes Fortnite and Gears of War). Rocket League is essentially a football game where, instead of running, the players drive rocket-powered cars. The game was a surprise hit that took the world by storm when it first released in 2015. Rocket League is available for the Xbox One, Xbox Series X, PlayStation 4 & PlayStation 5, Nintendo Switch, Windows PC, MacOS and Linux.

### Fiercely Competitive Community

Competitive gaming isn't necessarily bad. However, playing purely to win (as opposed to simply having fun) can result in aggressive behaviour among some players if they're not successful in the game. Certain people can become hostile or "toxic" towards other players. Continually seeing this behaviour can cause children to think it is acceptable and lead to anger issues while playing.

### Unsuitable Online Interactions

A video game's age rating cannot take player-generated elements into account. Rocket League is rated PEGI 3, but its online features mean that appropriateness can't be guaranteed. Audio and text chat, player usernames, player-to-player trades and other user-created content may not be suitable for young players. The game is moderated, but catching everything can be difficult.

18+

### Grinding and Increased Screen-time

Features like the Rocket Pass and the ranking system can make Rocket League a grinding-focused game. This means players need to spend a lot of time on the game to progress through levels and collect rewards. Grinding encourages regular long gaming sessions for players seeking to climb the rankings (meaning increased screen time) but it doesn't always result in making much headway.

### Scams and Bad Trades

Player-to-player trading is common in Rocket League. The game has lots of cosmetic items to collect, and some can be very valuable. Players can trade items among themselves, but younger gamers are not always the best judges of what constitutes a fair deal. This can lead to them being swindled in trades – or to children signing up to illegitimate trading websites, where they then get scammed.

### In-App Purchasing

Free-to-play games (so called because they don't cost anything to download) like this depend on players making in-game purchases to turn a profit. Rocket League's in-game currency, called credits, are used to buy items in the game. Credits can be earned by playing the game or can be bought with real money – which could prove expensive if a child lets their love of the game and desire to progress get the better of them.

## Advice For Parents & Carers

### Use Parental Controls

Psyonix has added some safety measures into the game. The text and voice chat can be disabled, for example, limiting contact from strangers. However, it's not currently possible to block contact from other players about trades. It's a good idea, then, to talk with your child about the possibility of scams and bad trades either before they download the game or early in their Rocket League 'career'.

### Stay Aware of Spending

Free-to-play games can become money sinks without children realising. For peace of mind, make sure you don't have any payment methods attached to your child's gaming account to avoid accidental purchases. Rocket League credits can be earned through gameplay or bought with real money; encourage your child to use their earned credits first before they ask you to top them up.

### Monitor Gaming Time

It's impractical to sit and watch your child every time they play Rocket League. Keeping an eye on their gaming hours is crucial, however: it's easy to lose track of time while playing (even for adults), so 'one more game' can soon turn into ten more games. Helping your child to balance their gaming time with their homework, chores and other activities is a life lesson in time management.

### Encourage Regular Breaks

Sitting in the same position all day while gaming isn't healthy, but it is an easy habit to fall into. A short break every hour or half hour is important. It allows players to rest their eyes, brains, hands and arms. Learning the value of an occasional break from any activity is good practice for the future. Encouraging your child to rehydrate regularly can also help to lower any rising competitive tempers!

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books. With experience in esports and content creation, Clare has seen the benefits and drawbacks of all aspects of gaming.



**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360015613074>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360053542814-Parental-Controls>, <https://support.rocketleague.com/hc/en-us/articles/360039907693-How-can-I-protect-my-child-from-online-interactions->, <https://theglobalgaming.com/rocket-league/credit-system-free/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://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: 08.09.2021

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](http://www.alverton.org.uk/website/online_safety_for_families/246722). Your child's teacher will also always be happy to talk to you about online safety.

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Puffins  
Owls  
Kingfishers  
Trencrom  
  
Lanyon  
Kerris  
Bodrifty  
Bosigran  
Kenidjack  
Dinnertime

## TO BE ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY



### Ties

Buying a new tie is easy!

Go online to Schoolmoney, into the Shop area and order and pay for a tie (£3.75)

We will get notification and will put the tie in your child's register or give it to them.

### Twitter

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



Dear all of you, I hope the end of the school week finds everyone well, happy and safe. Some folk are all of these things and some aren't and I think that's what I've come to understand more and more over these last few months as we all struggle with different issues. Some are covid related, others not. Many issues are family based and I discovered this morning at school that each day can bring totally different news, some really happy and a cause for celebration, some the opposite. A colleague is celebrating a wedding anniversary today and brought in a treat for us all so we could share her celebrations, while another colleague has just lost a close family member. Both occasions, for me, warranted hugs, so I threw covid caution to the wind and did just that. Especially the sad colleague. Who knows when we may need a hug, or a shoulder, or a sympathetic ear. Literally any of us, at any time. I can do all of those, I can do them in person, or on the phone or via emails. I'm happy whichever ways suits you best. But I'm here to listen if you need me. Have a lovely weekend and stay safe, Mrs D xxx



## 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](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.



## Do you have a child born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018?

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2022 for that child by the deadline of **15 January 2022**.

**Please note:** you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) for more information and to access the online application system

### Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**

The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**15 January  
2022**



The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**31 October  
2021**

## Transfer to secondary school September 2022

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

### Information and guidance

Website and application form: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

Post: **School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 101**

### Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**



## FREE CREATIVITY CLUB



For children age 7-11  
Mondays, 4-5pm  
The Centre, Newlyn

Take part in numerous arts activities, meet  
local artists and achieve arts award discover



To book your child's free  
place book: [https://www.minack.com/  
take-part/developing-and-performing-0](https://www.minack.com/take-part/developing-and-performing-0)  
places are limited,  
book now to avoid  
disappointment



**minack**  
theatre

**3 Villages  
Youth Project**



CORNWALL  
YOUTH  
BADMINTON



Join the Badminton England

'BIG HIT' Event

Sunday 10 October

Treviglas Sports Hub

**FREE (yes no charge!)**

Contact Cath Bick for more information on [cybsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:cybsecretary@gmail.com)

Timings:

Primary School Sessions is 0930 - 1100am

Years 7, 8, 9 session is 1115 - 1245pm

Year 10+ session is 1300 - 1430pm

Badminton is a sport for life



THE TIME  
IS NOW

THE  
BIG  
HIT