

Songfest 2019

Our amazing Songfest choir performed this week in St John's Hall to a huge audience. Joining five other schools, they sang ten songs from stage and screen. Weeks of hard work really paid off and many people congratulated them on a fantastic show.



Keeping Children Safe at Alverton

Keeping children safe is an essential part of what we all do. Our Ofsted report praised our "strong culture" of safeguarding and recognised that pupils' safety and welfare are identified by the whole school community as key priorities.

At Alverton, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mr Higgs and the Deputy DSL is Mrs Wicks. Mrs Clemens, Mrs Daylak, Mr Dawe, Mrs Hall, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs O'Rourke have also received additional training and act as safeguarding officers. Dr Emily Jane and Mrs Pheona Lowell are our Safeguarding governors and meet regularly with Mr Higgs and Mrs Wicks to review our safeguarding practice and procedures.

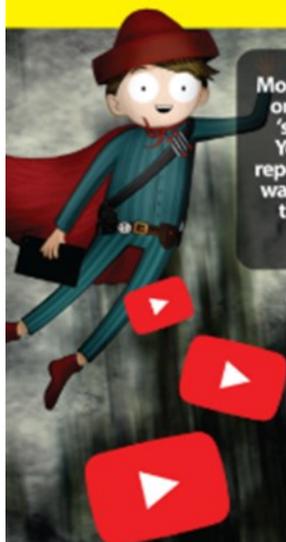
Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available to read in the Safeguarding section of our website, which also contains other information such as details about our participation in the Operation Encompass scheme which is a partnership between Devon and Cornwall Police and the school to support children exposed to domestic abuse. Our Safeguarding Parent Guide is being sent home with this newsletter (and is also available in reception or to download from our website) and gives further information and guidance should you be concerned about a child's safety in any way.

Please remember that keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. We are always here to listen if you are worried about a child. Thank you.

Online safety

Please see the next page with some excellent advice about Momo. We will be publishing a different information page each week.

It's important to note that new challenges are arising on the internet all the time. We have created to this guide to raise awareness of the issue and offer advice on helping parents to talk to their children about making safer decisions online. See also our '7 conversation starters' guide for more tips on better communication with your child.



Momo is a sinister 'challenge' that has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again has come to the attention of schools and children across the country. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and most recently (and most worryingly)... YouTube Kids. The scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images, and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm. It has been reported that the 'Momo' figure was originally created as a sculpture and featured in an art gallery in Tokyo and unrelated to the 'Momo' challenge we are hearing about in the media.



What parents need to know about **MOMO**

CHILDREN'S VIDEOS BEING 'HIJACKED'

There have been recent reports that some seemingly innocent videos on YouTube and YouTube Kids (such as 'surprise eggs', unboxing videos and Minecraft videos) have been edited by unknown sources to include violence provoking and/or other inappropriate content. Even though YouTube monitor and remove videos that include inappropriate content, clips can be uploaded and viewed thousands of times before they get reported and removed. As a parent, it's difficult to spot these videos as the harmful content doesn't appear until halfway through the video.

DISTRESSING FOR CHILDREN

Popular YouTubers and other accounts have been uploading reaction videos, showing their experience of the MOMO challenge. Some of the videos include a disclosure message warning that the content may be "inappropriate or offensive to some audiences" and that "viewer discretion is advised" but these videos are still easily accessed by clicking 'I understand and wish to proceed'. The image of the 'Momo' character can be deeply distressing to children and young people and it's important to note that it may slip through parental settings and filters.

SUGGESTED VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

Video apps such as YouTube include an 'up next' feature which automatically starts playing another video based on the video just watched. Due to YouTube's algorithm, users are shown 'suggested videos' that they may be interested in. The thumbnails used on suggested videos are purposefully created in a way to encourage viewers to click them. During our research, we found that when watching one Momo related video, we were shown countless other Momo themed videos and other scary content which would be age-inappropriate for children under 18.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

TELL THEM IT'S NOT REAL

Just like any urban legend or horror story, the concept can be quite frightening and distressing for young people. Whilst this may seem obvious, it's important for you to reiterate to your child that Momo is not a real person and cannot directly harm them! Also, tell your child to not go openly searching for this content online as it may only cause more distress.

BE PRESENT

It's important for you, as a parent or carer, to be present while your children are online. This will give you a greater understanding of what they are doing on their devices, as well as providing you with the opportunity to discuss, support and stop certain activities that your child may be involved in. As the nature of each task become progressively worse it's also important to recognise any changes in your child's behaviour.

TALK REGULARLY WITH YOUR CHILD

As well as monitoring your child's activity, it's important for you discuss it with them too. Not only will this give you an understanding of their online actions, but those honest and frequent conversations will encourage your child to feel confident to discuss issues and concerns they may have related to the online world.

DEVICE SETTINGS & PARENTAL CONTROLS

Ensure that you set up parental controls for your devices at home. This will help to restrict the types of content that your child can view, as well as help you to monitor their activity. In addition to this, it's vital that you are aware of your device and account settings to ensure your child's utmost safety. For example, on YouTube you can turn off 'suggested auto-play' on videos to stop your child from viewing content that they have not directly selected.

PEER PRESSURE

Trends and viral challenges can be tempting for children to take part in; no matter how dangerous or scary they seem. Make sure you talk to your child about how they shouldn't succumb to peer pressure and do anything they are not comfortable with, online or offline. If they are unsure, encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult.

REAL OR HOAX?

As a parent it is natural to feel worried about certain things you see online that may be harmful to your child. However, not everything you see online is true. Check the validity of the source and be mindful of what you share as it may only cause more worry.

REPORT & BLOCK

You can't always rely on parental controls to block distressing or harmful material. People find ways around a platform's algorithm in order to share and promote this type of material. Due to this, we advise that you flag and report any material you deem to be inappropriate or harmful as soon as you come across it. You should also block the account/content to prevent your child from viewing it. Also encourage your child to record/screenshot any content they feel could be malicious to provide evidence in order to escalate the issue to the appropriate channels.

FURTHER SUPPORT

Speak to the safeguarding lead within your child's school should you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity or malicious content that could affect them.

If your child sees something distressing, it is important that they know where to go to seek help and who their trusted adults are. They could also contact Childline where a trained counsellor will listen to anything that's worrying them.

The Childline phone number is
0800 1111.

SOURCES:
<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/sick-video-youtube-youtube-kids-14052196>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/health-47339223>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-47339223>



WORLD BOOK DAY

Non uniform day

Just a reminder that we are celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March** and will be holding our annual Book Oscars. If the children would like to dress up for this, they should come to school dressed as a book character or as if they are going to an awards ceremony.



Thank you

Thanks to everyone who supported our KS1 fundraising event this week to raise money for our wildlife garden. A total of £265.93 was taken. We look forward to showing you how our garden is progressing over the coming months.

Club cancellations

All clubs will be cancelled on **Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March** due to parent consultations except Cricket Club with Greg Smith and Roller Disco on Wednesday. The last Nerf Wars club will now be held on **Monday 1st April**.

Dance club

An extra Dance club (for the one that was missed last half term) will now be held next **Monday 4th March** as well as on Thursday as usual.

Advance notice

Year 3&4 camp meeting

If your child is going to Bude in May please come along to a camp meeting at 3.30pm on **Wednesday 3rd April** in the hall. There will be lots of information provided and a chance to ask questions.

Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings this term will be held in the week beginning **Monday 11th March** from 3.30—6.30 pm and we are really looking forward to meeting you and discussing your child's progress.

We are using our system for booking appointments through our eschools facility on our school website (www.alverton.org.uk) as we did last Autumn.

You will previously have been sent log in details for eschools. If you are unsure what this is, please ask at 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. **The booking period is now open so please book your slot as soon as possible.**

If you have had, or will be having, a review meeting with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you don't need to book an appointment. Woodlands parents do not have to use this system either.

Menu changes

Tuesday 5th March - St Piran's Day

Meat or cheese & onion pasty with chips & baked beans

Shortbread biscuit

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Horrid Henry's Burger

or

Mr Fox's Fantastic Veggie Burger

with Where's Wally Wedges, Secret Garden Peas & Jack's Magical Baked Beans

Charlie's Chocolate Cake

Jacket potatoes and sandwiches will be available on both days.

St Piran Parade

Our Year 6 will be in the St Piran Parade in Penzance next Tuesday morning (5th March). Do come and cheer us on from 10 - 11.30am. We start at the top of Causewayhead at 10.15am and then make our way to Morrab Gardens and back up Morrab Road to St John's Hall.

Advanced notice - keyboard lessons

Maria is away on **Monday 18th March** so there will be no keyboard lessons that day. There will be one on **Monday 1st April** instead.

Lost

Levan in Trencrom has lost his glasses. They are black frames with a green inside. Ava in Bosigran has lost her black suede brogue shoes, size 4. Please check at home and if found, please hand in.

Need a chat?

Come and have a cup of tea with Mrs Daylak if you have any questions or concerns about anything which might be affecting your child in school. You can find her any Monday to Thursday after school until 4pm. If you would rather make an appointment, please ask the office. She might even find you a biscuit to go with your tea!



SchoolMoney - you can now change your password!

SchoolMoney now has a new feature, custom passwords. You now have the power to customise your own SchoolMoney password once you are logged into your account.

How you change your password:

Step 1: Log into your account with the password you currently have.

Step 2: If you are using a computer you will see 'Change Password' in the top right hand corner. If you are using a mobile device, when you navigate to the menu side bar it will be listed below History.

Step 3: A screen will pop up asking for you to type in your current password and then enter and confirm your new password. These passwords must include - at least 8 characters, at least 1 capital letter and at least 1 number.

Step 4: Select 'Save Password'.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER NETBALL CLUB

WHEN

**Friday 15th March
4.00pm - 5.00pm**

WHERE

**Averton Community Primary
School Playground**

**ALL AGES AND
ABILITY
WELCOME**

**FREE OF
CHARGE**

**No fee required so
just turn up & play!**

VENUE

**Averton Primary
School**

4 Toltuff Crescent

Penzance

TR18 4QD

TIME

4.00pm to 5.00pm

**Coffee and biscuits
available after.**

**WE LOOK
FORWARD TO
SEING YOU ALL
ON FRIDAY 15TH
MARCH!**

Year 6 London trip - July 2019

A reminder that ALL payments for Year 6 London trip (£310 total) need to be made by **5th April at the latest.**

Full payment is needed by the above date. If it is not paid in full by this date, we will cancel your child's place and refund any money you have already paid (less the deposit) with immediate effect.

You can pay as much or as little as you want anytime up to the final date. Please pay online at schoolmoney.co.uk as we no longer accept cash or cheques. Click into the amount box and change the total payment to the amount you'd like to pay. If you cannot pay online, please ask at the office for a Paypoint barcode which you can use to pay cash at a local Paypoint retailer.



CRICKET TRAINING

All ages, abilities and genders welcome at St Clare!

Come along, meet new friends, get active, be social and most importantly - have fun! Enjoy exciting training from former professional cricketer and South African U19 international, Greg Smith.

Every Monday starting 25 Feb 2019 at Penwith College Sports Hall (17:00 - 18:00).

For more information contact Greg on:

Email: greg@penzancecricket.co.uk
Call, Text or WhatsApp: 07725 881 152

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	90.5%	9
Robins	97.9%	3
Puffins	96.1%	5
Owls	95.7%	6
Kingfishers	89.3%	10
Trencrom	88.6%	11
Lanyon	96.9%	4
Kerris	93.8%	8
Bodrifty 	100%	1
Bosigran	94.7%	7
Kenidjack	98.1%	2
Overall school attendance	94.6%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

DIARY DATES

March

- 5th St. Piran's dance for Year 6 – details have come home
- 7th World Book Day
- 11th-13th Parent Consultations – appointment times are booked online – **no clubs this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**
- 22nd Sharing assembly for Lanyon at 2.45pm
- 27th Last swimming for Year 5
- 29th Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm
- 29th **All clubs finish**
- 29th All music lessons finish

April

- 3rd Year 3/4 camp meeting at 3.30pm in hall
- 4th FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow
- FRIDAY 5th APRIL SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm (normal time) FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY**
- SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON TUESDAY 22nd APRIL at 9am**

