

## Youth Speaks South West Finalists

On Saturday, our fantastic Youth Speaks team of Jesse, Riley and Jacob travelled to Saltash for the South West Finals where they competed against teams from all across Cornwall and Devon. Once again, the boys were confident, impressive and superb ambassadors for the school making their large band of travelling supporters very proud of them. We must say an extra well done to Jesse, who came away with the prize for Best Speaker for his talk on “Is reading really good for you?”.

The Rotary Club’s Youth Speaks Competition is incredibly daunting and all the parents (and lots of the teachers) watching feel grateful that they don’t have to do it themselves. As Jacob said in the vote of thanks: “This has been a great, if not slightly scary, experience for us all”.

The boys have been so impressive in this competition that, on World Book Day, they were asked to give their talk at two schools in Falmouth.

We entered three teams into the Youth Speaks competition this year and are very proud, and completely in awe, of all of these children who worked so hard to prepare and performed so brilliantly and with such composure, eloquence and confidence.



## Near miss

Once again we have to report a near miss close to school involving a parent and child on bikes. A car failed to stop when exiting Penpons Close at the bottom of Toltuff Road and nearly crashed into a parent and child cycling home. They were uninjured but badly shaken. Please can anyone driving in all the roads around the area be particularly aware of pedestrians and cyclists. The speed limit in Toltuff Road and Toltuff Crescent is **20mph**.

## Dogs mess meeting

Our local Cornwall councillor, Jim McKenna, has arranged another meeting at school to discuss this issue. It will be held on **Wednesday 27th March** at 3.30pm. All interested parents are welcome.

## Online safety

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



Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game', which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately **74m** users each month



# What parents need to know about MINECRAFT



## GROOMING

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

## CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

## COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

## VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.

## AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

## CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



## National Online Safety

# Top Tips for Parents



## DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

## MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.



## SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

## PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scariest' monster/zombie characters.

## SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which 'mode' they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end,' but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode,' the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

## CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

### Sources:

<https://minecraft.net/en-us/article/minecraft-multiplayer-server-safety>  
<http://parentinfo.org/articles/playing-safe-in-minecraft>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-2014-03-28284216>  
<https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/faq/faq-security/faq-04-change-my-privacy-settings>  
<https://theflacker.com/a-parents-guide-to-playing-minecraft-with-your-kid-1788022798>

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/tech/news/minecraft-game-teeds-critics-11251242>  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/parents/parents-using-online-computer-games-10233554>  
<https://www.mcafee.com/uk/mcafee-dangereux-far-kids-a-parents-guide>  
<http://teachmean.com/4-fab-fun-family-friendly-minecraft-servers/>

<http://www.howtogeek.com/289985/how-to-set-up-minecraft-to-your-kids-can-play-online-with-friends/> <http://minecraft.com/chat-settings>

THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. THIS GUIDE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY NOR IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG

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This is not a definitive guide. Please always check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

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

## Arriving and leaving the School site

A reminder that:

- Children should arrive at school between 8.45 and 8.55am (unless they are attending the Breakfast Club).
- Children need to be collected at 3.15pm unless they have permission to walk home alone, or they have an after-school club. Children who are not collected will be kept safe in the Go Active After School Club. There will, however, be a charge for this.
- Please ensure that children are not left unsupervised on the school site before 8.45am or after 3.15pm as the school cannot be responsible for their safety. In addition, no children should be using the school playgrounds, or equipment, unless supervised by staff before or after school.
- If parents wish to make use of our lovely school field after school, particularly as the weather improves, we have no objection to this. However, again, we cannot be responsible for their safety; please supervise your children closely in order to ensure that there is no disruption to after school clubs or damage to equipment.

Thank you.

## New play equipment

You may well have seen our fantastic new outdoor play equipment on the school field and next to the ball games playground. These will be open next week which is very exciting as the children have been requesting this for a very long time. We were very fortunate to have been successful in securing a £19000 grant from the Healthy Pupils Capital Funding



for the equipment through TPAT and to have had a donation of over £3000 from FOAS to enable this to be built.



Many thanks go to local company South West Play who have installed this equipment and were extremely helpful in doing some extra pieces of work around the site for us too.

## **Sporting news**

### **Quad Kids**

On Tuesday, sixteen of our Years 3-6 went to Penwith College to take part in a Quad Kids athletics tournament. Although they didn't come back with any medals, they enjoyed themselves immensely and Mr Timmons said their behaviour, attitude and effort was faultless and they were a credit to the school.

### **Hockey**

Both our hockey teams have been in action this week playing their final matches in the League. One team played at the Astro Club on Wednesday and came back the overall winners. Yesterday our Thursday night hockey team played some fantastic games, winning two, drawing one and losing one meaning that we were third in the League overall.



Well done to Finley R, Finley L, Jacob, Callum, Lily Rose, Arthur F, Maisie, James, Nelly, Scarlet, Jasmine, Taylor and Ava. Thanks to all the parents who have supported the team and have transported the children to all the events.

### **Girls Football**

Our football team went to Parc Eglos School yesterday to play in the semi final of the girls Cup. They played a fantastic game in front of a large crowd but their opponents were just too strong and the final score was 3-0 to Parc Eglos. A huge well done to all the team for their determination and team spirit. Mr Hammond is incredibly proud of everybody and thanks to Summer's mum and dad for accompanying them.

### **Quiz Night Raises over £300!**

We would like to say a huge thank you to Councillor Jim McKenna and everyone at the Lamp and Whistle for holding a charity Quiz Night at the popular local pub last night (Thursday). The event hosted by Jim attracted a full house whose generosity and support raised over £300 for the creation of a Key Stage 1 wildlife area. The school was well represented with three staff teams battling it out with locals, inevitably the main focus for staff quickly turned to beating one another. In the end, the team captained by Mrs Harman (for some reason called 'Leeds Nil') narrowly beat teams led by Mrs Knowles and Mr Dawe. Thanks to everyone involved, in particular Jim McKenna and our hosts at the Lamp & Whistle.

## Clubs

There will be no Hockey Club next **Thursday 28th March** as Mrs Dennison is away. This is the last one this year.

ALL clubs (except Nerf Games - last one on Monday 1st April) finish next **Friday 29th March**. A new clubs list for next term will come home just before Easter. The next set of clubs will start on **Monday 29th April** (the second week back after Easter).

## LKS2 Exhibition

The LKS2 Exhibition will be held on **Wednesday 3rd April** in the hall from 2-4pm. Please come along and see the wonderful work the children have been doing.

## Red Nose Day - Thank you!

Thank you again to everyone who donated to Comic Relief last week. We raised a fantastic **£295**. Prizes for the following were awarded to:

Crossword: Kenzi in Puffins

Spot the Difference: Millie in Woodlands

Word Search: Josh in Kerris

Guess the length of the laces: Jasmine in Kerris

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

## 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.**

## Goodbye

This week we have said goodbye to Miss Chapman and Miss Ranger who have been working in Kingfishers class as part of their teaching practice for their PGCE. They have been a fantastic addition and help to Mr Dawe and we have really enjoyed having them. We would like to wish them every success with their next placement and their future teaching careers.

## Wanted for the Little Mermaid!

Our very talented set builder, Mrs Knowles, needs some old pallets to make something amazing for our show in May. If you have any or know where we can get some, please let the office know. Thank you.



## Wanted for Reception

Next term our Reception children are keen to incubate some duck eggs and watch as they hatch and grow. If you have any duck eggs or know anyone who does, please could we have some (between 6-12 would be perfect). Thank you.



## Mindfulness taster sessions

If you are interested in learning about Mindfulness, please see the attached information about free taster sessions with the Mindfulness in schools project.

## New summer menu

Caterlink's new menu for the summer term is attached and on the school website. Paper copies will be sent home when we receive them.

### Easter competitions

Don't forget the deadline for entries for the Easter competitions is **Wednesday 3rd April in the morning.**

The categories are as follows:

EYFS – Woodland, Choughs and Robins

#### Decorate an Easter bonnet

KS1 – Y1 and Y2 in Puffins, Owls and Kingfishers

#### Create a nest for an Easter chick

KS2— Tren Crom, Lanyon, Kerris, Bodrifty, Bosigran and Kenidjack

#### Decorate a real egg inspired by somebody famous or a book character

### 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	94.0%	8
Robins	97.4%	3
Puffins	97.5%	2
Owls	91.7%	11
Kingfishers	96.7%	6
Tren Crom	96.6%	7
Lanyon	93.8%	9
Kerris	98.7%	1
Bodrifty	96.5%	4
Bosigran	92.7%	10
Kenidjack	96.3%	5
Overall school attendance	95.6%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

### Lost property

A reminder that we will be emptying the lost property box again on **Friday 5th April** and sending all un-named items to the charity shop. If you're missing anything please come in after school to check in the box which is situated in the hall. Each half term we send at least 2 bin liners full of clothes to charity, mostly consisting of red cardigans and jumpers.

### 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!



### DIARY DATES

#### March

- 27<sup>th</sup> Last swimming for Year 5
- 29<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> **All clubs finish**
- 29<sup>th</sup> All music lessons finish

#### April

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 3/4 camp meeting at 3.30pm in hall
- 4<sup>th</sup> FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm (normal time) FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY**

**SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL at 9am**



# EASTER HOLIDAY MULTI-SPORTS CAMPS



5-14 YEARS OLD

8-11<sup>th</sup> April    15-18<sup>th</sup> April

8:30am – 6pm

£16 per child per day

- Multiple sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Pick individual days to suit you



BOOK ONLINE

[WWW.PENZANCETENNISCLUB.CO.UK/COACHING/HOLIDAY-CAMPS](http://WWW.PENZANCETENNISCLUB.CO.UK/COACHING/HOLIDAY-CAMPS)

First month FREE!!!

CRB / DBS Checked

First month FREE!!!

Gain Confidence

First Aid Qualified

Improve Fitness



## Newlyn

# Taekwondo



St Peters Church Hall Newlyn (Next to the Meadery)

Thursday:

6-12 years 6.15pm-7.15pm

13 years + 7.15pm-8.15pm

Barney\_tkd@hotmail.co.uk

@Newlyntkd

Learn a martial art

Self defence

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First month FREE!!!