



13/2/26

FRIDAY NEWS

N^o. 20

Dear Parents/Carers

This week started with an assembly from Miss Atkins for Safer Internet Day. This year's theme is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' You can find out ways to support your child by using the following links:

[My Family's Digital Toolkit - online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

[Digital Literacy & Well-Being Resources for Family Engagement | Common Sense Education](#)

I have spent a lot of this week popping in and out of lessons, and I have been hugely impressed with the quality of PE lessons taking place, particularly gymnastics. The children were all so engaged in the sessions and used the equipment so sensibly - we have some budding gymnasts in the school! PE sessions change again next term, this is because Forest school classes have changed. Please look out for the new timetable.

School uniform - Early next term we will be sending you a questionnaire to gather thoughts about uniform in the school. Once we have gathered responses, we will amend the uniform policy and resend with the aim that the changes will be implemented in September.

Car parking - please look out for an email about car parking next term.

We hope everyone has a lovely, restful half term holidays and look forward to welcoming you back into school on 23rd February.

Nichola Smith
Headteacher

School closes today for the Spring half term holiday and re-opens on Monday 23rd February.

Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Nichola Smith (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at nsmith@alverton.tpacademytrust.org 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

School lunches

Don’t forget to book your child’s school lunches for after half term. You can go on anytime and book for up to several months in advance.
Please check 5th March if you’ve already booked as the menu has changed and all original bookings for that date have been cancelled.

Clubs

All clubs continue from Monday 23rd February. Construction, Gardening and Ball Skills have finished for those taking part before half term and will start for the next groups of children. Gymnastics starts for 4 weeks on Tuesday 24th February. If your child has a place you will have had a letter.

There will be no teacher led clubs from Monday 9th to Thursday 12th March due to parents evening.

THIS IS OUR

HELP YOUR SHELF

How it Works

It’s all free.

Take what you need, whenever you need it.



No Questions Asked – No Judgements Made

Give what you can if you would like to.

Donations wanted

Our Help Your Shelf is looking rather bare. If you are able to bring in any non-perishable food items, cleaning products or toiletries, we would be very grateful. These will all go to helping our families and community. Thank you very much.

Spring 2 – PE Days

	Spring 2
Kittiwakes	Thursday
Curlews	Thursday
Puffins	Tuesday
Owls	Monday
Kingfishers	Monday
Trencrom	Monday and Wednesday
Lanyon	Tuesday
Kerris	Thursday
Bodrifty	Thursday (Forest School - outdoor clothing)
Bosigran	Friday
Kenidjack	Monday

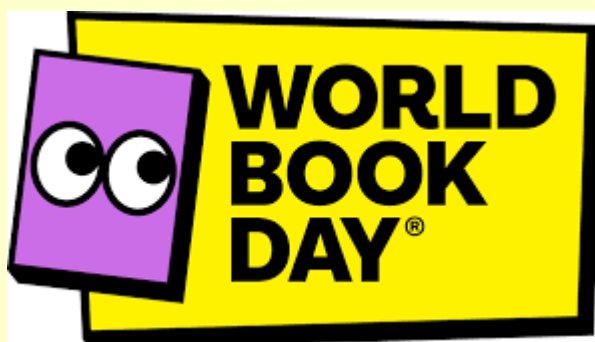
Your child will also have four dance sessions (two for Reception children) across the half term on either Tuesdays or Fridays and your child's teacher will let you know when these are so that they can come in their PE kit on those days should they wish.

World Book Day - change of date

Due to St Piran's Day falling on 5th March we have changed our celebrations for World Book Day to **Friday 6th March**.

Why not visit the World Book Day website for loads of reading ideas and inspiration, including the Sharing Stories Together page.

<https://www.worldbookday.com>



Football Success

Our Year 5/6 boys have been playing regularly in the Penwith Primary League at Mounts Bay this term and this week it was the final play-offs. Competing against 5 other local schools, we played 4 matches and won the tournament!

Congratulations to the whole team including those who were not able to take part in the play-offs and a big thank you to all the parents and Mr Holcroft for supporting them.



St Piran's Day menu

Thursday 5th March

There is a menu change for lunch on 5th March. Aspens are offering a choice of pasties (meat or cheese and onion) instead of the normal lunch. **There will be no jacket potatoes or tomato pasta that day so if your child doesn't like pasties, please send your child in with a packed lunch from home.**

If you have already made a booking for 5th March this will have been cancelled so please re-book.

If your child would like lunch on that day, please don't forget to book on the Aspens Select site before 9am on the morning of 5th March. If you forget to order, we will call you to ask you to bring in a packed lunch from home.



Year 5 Porthpean and Year 6 London

Final payments

A reminder that all remaining payments for this year's residential trips must be paid by the following dates:

Year 5 Porthpean Friday 6th March

Year 6 London Friday 1st April

Please log into Arbor check how much you owe and pay by the deadline date.

Any questions, please ask at the office.



Anyone who has been in my class will know that 'The Boy at The Back of the Class' is one of my favourite books of all time - despite the fact that it makes me cry throughout! The children have loved reading this book with me and I wanted to let you all know that the theatre production is coming to Truro! It is such a fantastic, heartwarming story and I think it will be incredible on the stage.

Mrs Clemens

Friends of Alverton School



2026 Diary Dates



Early Bird
Easter Disco

26th March



April Fools
Break the Rules!

1st April



Duck Race

9th May



School Play
Refreshments

20th & 21st May



Summer Fair

17th July



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

ChildLine

0800 1111



0300 123 3393

www.mind.org.uk



for better mental health

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

If you're worried about a child:

0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk

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 Veryan 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

THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN
AGAINST
LIVING
MISERABLY
CALM

"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

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539

https://www.wcwaid.co.uk/helpline

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.01.2026

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. Your child's teacher will also always be happy to talk to you about online safety.

STARS OF THE WEEK

	Little Foxes	Frankie	for great listening & playing nicely with his friends
	Little Owls	Gus	for playing so nicely with his friends & his growing confidence
	Kittiwakes	Alessia	Enthusiasm: for showing incredible enthusiasm for everything
	Curlews	Maisie	Enthusiasm: for constant enthusiasm for all things school related
	Puffins	Rebecca	Enthusiasm: for her amazing English writing
	Owls	Ralph	Perseverance: for working so hard to make his writing the best it can be
	Kingfishers	Toby	Enthusiasm: for his amazing lower-case writing about his dragon
	Trencrom	Austin	Responsibility: for great independence, responsibility & hard work
	Lanyon	Isla W	Enthusiasm: for writing a beautiful newspaper report
	Kerris	Jessica	Perseverance: for getting stuck in will some very tricky Maths
	Bodrifty	Effy	Enthusiasm: for always being so hardworking & producing excellent work
	Bosigran	MillieTA	Kindness: for always trying her best, being thoughtful & kind
	Kenidjack	Primrose	Perseverance: for perseverance in Maths & amazing progress
	Lunchtime Star	Aliya	for always being so cheerful & following instructions



Once again as I write it's raining! Again! I feel it may never stop (I know it will at some point...surely? It's so hard socially too, because everyone is partially hidden by hoods and umbrellas plus because it's so wet nobody wants to stop and chat and say hi so we all rush by each other and scurry off to somewhere vaguely dry. The school run must be hard for this reason, as you probably all want to get your own child and

whizz off home for a cuppa. And children are often behaviourally challenging because they've been stuck inside for their playtimes (staff, parents and children, we all dread the hateful words "it's wet play" because afterwards the teaching isn't easy due to your small people having not been able to let off steam and the classrooms are not set up for the next lesson because the children have been in them and nobody gets a physical or mental break and we all feel it. Please don't be disheartened, don't feel sad and do try to make sure everyone is okay, even though we're all rushing from one place to the next. All it takes is a smile and a greeting and somebody's day can be brightened up without the need for sunshine. Which will appear again, I'm hopeful of that. Until then, I'm here as always. Ready with a hug, tissues, hot drinks, biscuits and ears which will listen but lips that can be sealed if you'd prefer. (My husband would love that but hey, he's excluded and must put up with my nagging!!!) Much soggy and damp love, Mrs D xxx



DIARY DATES

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February	Spring half term holiday
Thursday 5th March	St Piran's Parade - Year 6
Friday 6th March	World Book Day– please note new date
Monday 9th March - Thursday 12th March	Parents evenings <i>Teacher led clubs cancelled</i>
Friday 13th March	No Dance Club - Steph away
Thursday 26th March EYFS/KS1 4.30-5.30pm KS2 6-7pm	FOAS Easter Disco
Wednesday 1st April	FOAS Break The Rules Day <i>More information to follow</i>
Thursday 2nd April 3.15pm	School closes for Easter holiday (normal time)
Friday 3rd - Friday 17th April	Easter holidays
Monday 20th April 8.30am	School opens for Summer term
Monday 27th April	Clubs start
Monday 4th May	Early May Bank Holiday - school & nursery closed
Saturday 9th May 11am	FOAS Duck Race at Wherrytown Boating Pool
Monday 11th - Friday 15th May	Year 6 SATs

**Rising
STARS**

SUPPORTED BY THE
MINACK
THEATRE

Disney
MOANA
JR.

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
LIN-MANUEL
MIRANDA,
OPETAIA FOA'I &
MARK MANCINA

20 - 21 February 2026
St John's Hall, Penzance

3.30pm and 7pm

Booking essential

01736 810181

minack.com

MOANA JR IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI).
ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI.
WWW.MTISHOWS.COM



Leach Pottery
St Ives

Families & Young People

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Creative free and bookable workshops for children, teenagers and families with the Leach Pottery. Free opportunities for residents of Cornwall. More information & booking on our website.

2026



leachpottery.com

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Join us this February Half-Term for hand-building workshops aimed at children, but suitable for all generations. Hand-build and decorate your own z bowl with iron oxide or take inspiration from our kilns to pinch, sculpt and form a kiln tealight holder.

Z Bowls

Hand-build and decorate your own Z bowl with iron oxide. The Z bowl gets its name from the decorative lines on the side of the bowl... do you see a Z, or a bird on a branch?

Free for Cornish residents. Drop in - no need to book your place.

When:

Monday 16 February, 11-1pm
Monday 16 February, 2-4pm
Wednesday 18 February, 11-1pm
Wednesday 18 February, 2-4pm
Where: The Core, St Ives Community Orchard

Cost: Free to residents of Cornwall
£8 per participant, for non Cornish postcodes

Kiln Tealight Holders

Hand-build a tealight holder taking inspiration from the shape of a Leach Pottery kiln.

Pinch and form local clay into a kiln tealight holder, then add details such as bricks, chimneys and pots! Please book your place via the Camborne Library's website.

When: Tuesday 17 February, 1.30-2.30pm 3.00-4.00pm
Where: Camborne Library
Cost: Free for TR14

Pots made during the workshops will be ready for collection from the Leach Pottery within 12 weeks of making



leachpottery.com



ARGYLE COMMUNITY TRUST

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE FOOTBALL ROADSHOW

FIRST EVER HUMPHRY DAVY ROADSHOW
WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY



SCAN HERE TO BOOK!

USE THE QR CODE OR LINK BELOW TO BOOK

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT
harry.hounsome@argylecommunitytrust.co.uk






MBFDC FOOTBALL CAMPS

FEB HALF TERM

All children welcome to attend 🏆
Have fun, score goals & play football!

TUES 17TH FEB 2026

- ✓ UEFA/FA Qualified Staff & DBS Checked
- ✓ Skills & ball techniques
- ✓ Fun activities, matches & tournaments
- ✓ Penalty shootouts, prizes & more!

TIMES / AGES:
School Years 2 - 8
U7s - U13s
10am - 3pm
£18 (1 day)

PLAYERS NEED:
Packed lunch & drinks
Wet weather clothing & spares!
Football boots & shin pads
Indoor Trainers (in case of poor weather!)

MOUNTS BAY ACADEMY 3G PITCH
Boscathoe Lane, Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3JT

[Online Registration Link](http://www.mbfdc.co.uk)

Visit the MBFDC website for further details

Bike Library



crosscountry 



Hire a bike (in Penzance) for FREE
24 hrs or a whole week!



Free basic bicycle service and safety check to
get your own bike road worthy



Cycling tips and confidence building sessions
available - just ask



Come and see us **TUESDAYS**
9:00 - 10:30am & 3.00 - 4.00pm



TRELYA

The Luscudjack Centre, Penmere Close, Penzance TR18 3PE
Contact - Dave
ridewithus@thecornwallbicycleproject.co.uk
07749 474 118

active
CORNWALL

