

Happy New Year!

Welcome back as we begin Spring Term 2016 at Alverton School. I hope that everyone was able to enjoy a happy Christmas and New Year with their families and that Father Christmas managed to pay a visit to you all.



As always, we have a busy term ahead and have hit the ground running with each phase launching their projects. On Monday our Lower Key Stage 2 children had a visit from Shelterbox to begin to answer their Essential Question "How could you survive?". The visit has inspired them to try to raise enough money this term to fund at least one box. Key Stage 1 had a virtual trip to Australia to find out "What goes on Down Under?" and even managed to hold a barbeque in the pouring rain! The Early Years had an incredible day with John Brolly who brought along his magical story bag from which emerged the most amazing and unusual objects which the children used to tell stories. Upper Key Stage 2 are planning their launch day for Monday and it is sounding equally exciting.



Within Early Years there is great excitement over the first phase of the development of their outdoor space as (despite seemingly non-stop rain) the project continues to transform a rather uninspiring area into an amazing world to inspire the imaginations of our youngest pupils.



We have had really positive feedback from many parents and residents to the traffic control measures we have put in place. My thanks go to all of those parents who made a special effort to increase the volume of pedestrian and vehicular traffic for the crossing patrol survey conducted by the local authority. Whilst there is clearly a recognised need for some form of safe crossing point at the end of Toltuff Crescent, it may be an uphill struggle to convince the Local Authority to pay for any changes. We will await an outcome to the survey conducted yesterday before we plan our next move.

In the meantime, if any parents felt able to write a letter or email in support of our call for safety measures at this busy junction I would be very grateful. If a significant number of parents express a concern, we are much more likely to achieve a change; this is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate how a strong school community working together can affect positive changes. Councillor Jim McKenna has visited the site and is very supportive of our requests so I would suggest that he is the best person to write to if you felt able to do so. Councillor McKenna can be contacted at jmckenna@cornwall.gov.uk or by writing to:

Cllr. J McKenna
2 Buccannear Cottages
Brandy Lane
Rosudgeon
Penzance, Cornwall
TR20 9QB

Thank you to everyone who has ensured that their children have returned to school looking so smart in their uniforms and so eager to learn. We are looking forward to another inspirational term thanks to the hard work and creativity of our staff, and we all look forward to sharing the outcomes of this with you as the term progresses.

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

Staffing Update

We are all delighted to welcome back our lovely Mrs Jo Quick to Ducklings Nursery on Thursdays and Fridays following her return from maternity leave.

School camp payments

A reminder that the total payments for camp are due on the following dates:

Year 3/4 Bude (£80 total): **12th February**

Year 6 London (£300 total): **15th April**

Year 5 Porthpean (£150 total): **27th May**

You can pay as much or as little as you want anytime up to the final date. Don't forget you can go online to pay: schoolmoney.co.uk

Silver Sainsbury's School Games Mark Award

We are delighted to have achieved the Silver Sainsbury's School Games Mark Award. We are a fantastically sporty school who take part in many activities with great enjoyment, teamwork and success so we were very pleased that the commitment and engagement of pupils and staff in competitive school sports has been rewarded in this way. Many thanks to Mrs Daylak who co-ordinated our award and who is pictured here with our Sports and Recreation Ministers.



Parking for Breakfast Club drop offs

Happy New Year to our Breakfast Club parents and welcome back to school. As we're sure you are aware, we have made great efforts to put into place traffic control measures around the school to make it a safer environment for all. As a result, could we please ask you not to use the school car park when dropping off for Breakfast Club. It's a congested space at the best of times, but especially so from 8am with staff needing to park and cars manoeuvring into limited spaces, as well as customers of the private nursery dropping off their children. There is plenty of room to park in the road outside the school at that time of day and is a much safer option for you and your child/ren.

Reception places for 2016

If your child was born between 1st September 2011 and 31st August 2012, you need to apply for a school place for September 2016 **by 15th January 2016**. The easiest way is to apply online at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

Single Equality Scheme

The Single Equality Scheme addresses our statutory duties in relation to race, disability, gender and promoting community cohesion and covers staff, pupils and people using the services of the school such as parents. The Single Equality Scheme also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, age and sexual orientation and includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas. Each Spring, we review our Single Equality Scheme and the impact of our actions.

A "Single Equality Scheme Guide for Parents" is attached to this week's newsletter which includes the report on our progress towards our key objectives for 2015 – 2016. The guide also asks anyone interested in being part of our ongoing consultation to get in touch with one of the Senior Leadership Team (Mr Higgs, Mrs Wicks, Mrs Burlton, Mrs Hughes, Mrs O'Rourke or Mrs Hall).

Clubs

All clubs begin on Monday. Some clubs were oversubscribed so if your child has got a place, please ensure they attend regularly or their place will be given to the next child on the waiting list.

Boxercise & Yoga - there are still spaces available on both these clubs. Please see Mrs Gill in the office if your child would like to join either.

Advance notice of cancellation - there will be no Drama club on Tuesday 26th January.

Paying online

Please use our online payment system, Schoolmoney, if you are offered the chance. It is an efficient and secure payment collection system and will mean that you won't have to queue at the school office! You can pay for swimming, trips and camps at the moment.

Any questions, please ask at the office.



Lost Property

The lost property box in the hall is overflowing again so please come and claim anything that may belong to your child next week. We are emptying it next Friday 15th January and sending all the clothing either to the charity shop or saving it for our next Bag2School collection.

Twitter

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



Leo from Choughs class is having his very first haircut! For those of you who don't know Leo, his hair is very long and curly and down to his waist. Leo has decided now is the time to have it cut and his parents have decided to use the opportunity to raise money for Children's Hospice South West and donate his hair to the Little Princess Trust. If you would like to donate, no matter however big or small, you can find the sponsorship form at the office.. All donations gratefully received.

Headlice

Headlice have been reported in at least four classes this week. Please be vigilant and check your family's hair often and at least once each week. If you find headlice, please treat them as soon as possible to avoid spreading them to other children.

A number of parents have requested a headlice check service in school. This is a controversial issue and the school is not at present planning to take any action about it. However, we would like to canvass opinion more widely and find out if this is something which parents would welcome. A further suggestion from parents has been an educational meeting led by a medical practitioner to give advice on how to prevent and treat headlice.

Please could we ask you to complete the form below and return it to us to let us what you think.

Thank you.

I would welcome a headlice check service at school and would be happy for my child to be part of this.
Yes / No

I would attend an educational meeting about the prevention and treatment of headlice. Yes / No

Signed Date



STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins	Jowan	for being super helpful in class
Choughs	Phoebe	for always giving 100%
Puffins	The Whole Class	for their full participation, enjoyment & engagement in each activity on launch day
Owls	The Whole Class	for their full participation, enjoyment & engagement in each activity on launch day
Kingfishers	The Whole Class	for their full participation, enjoyment & engagement in each activity on launch day
Trencrom	Taylor	for having an excellent attitude towards learning
Lanyon	Annie	for amazing enthusiasm at the Jedi Maths challenge
Kerris	Charlie R	for his enthusiastic approach to everything he does
Bodrift	Oliver R	for his amazing effort at his times tables, achieving a bronze star in the Jedi Challenge
Bosigran	Oliver I	for a great attitude to his work
Kenidjack	Toby	for some great recount writing this week
Dinnertime	Sunny	for always having lovely manners
PE Star Class	Owls	for brilliant skills and technique using basketballs



Are any parents interested in joining a daytime choir?

All are welcome, no auditions and no need to read music. We have fun singing Pop/Rock/folk songs, an excellent way to start the day!

Wednesday mornings at the Newlyn Centre 10 – 11.30, only £4. For more information ring Sophie: 0777 3330393

CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	96.9%	4
Robins	93.0%	9
Puffins	94.5%	8
Owls	91.3%	10
Kingfishers	98.2%	3
Trencrom ★	98.7%	1
Lanyon	87.1%	11
Kerris ★	98.7%	1
Bodrift	96.2%	7
Bosigran	93.3%	6
Kenidjack	96.4%	5
Overall school attendance	94.9%	

Our collective target is 97.5%

DIARY DATES

January

11th Clubs start

13th Swimming starts today for Kingfishers, Owls and Puffins

February

5th Sharing assembly for Puffins at 2.45pm

11th FOAS Valentine Disco – details to follow

12th Sharing assembly for Choughs & Robins at 2.45pm

12th **School closes at normal time of 3.15pm for half term break**

Monday 15th to Friday 19th February – HALF TERM

