

1/7/22

FRIDAY NEWS

Nº 36

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was absolutely brilliant to see so many of you on Saturday in the Mazey parade. Thank you all so much for coming along and showing everyone what a happy and supportive community Alverton is! Lots of people have commented on how great we looked – and the mischievous orangutan is featuring prominently on social media!

Whilst thinking about the weekend, we'd also like to celebrate that we have three world record holders amongst the staff! Mrs Hall, Mrs Harman and Daisy were all part of the record-breaking synchronised swim on Sunday at the Jubilee Pool. This raised £14,000 for the Swim for Ukraine / Unicef appeal. Congratulations to them and to everyone else who took part.



At this time of year, we often have to say goodbye to some of our staff and this year is no exception.

As some of you may know, Mrs Hall will be leaving us at the end of term to pursue new avenues and to have time for new interests, including a grandchild! It is safe to say that it won't be the same without her humour, knowledge and passion for the EYFS and she will be very much missed by everyone at school. We have appointed Mrs Laura Simpson, who joins us from a school in Wiltshire, to be our EYFS Lead and we look forward to welcoming her to Alverton.

We are also pleased to tell you that Mrs Mabbett will be part of the Alverton team next term and will be teaching in Lanyon Class alongside Mrs Dennison.

Mrs Leiworthy and Mrs May, who have both worked here as TAs for a number of years are also leaving at the end of term. The staff, and all the children who have worked with them, are very grateful for their dedication and hard work and are sad to see them go but wish them all the very best for the future.

Letters will be coming home next week to let you know which class your child(ren) will be in next year and to give you more information about the organisation of the class as well as the staff who work there. Teachers are always more than happy to meet with parents and talk through any worries your child may have so please do not hesitate to arrange an appointment or a phone call if you feel that this would be useful. The children will all have the opportunity to spend time in their new classes before the end of term and you will have a chance to meet your child's new teacher(s) in September.

In the meanwhile, I hope you enjoy the Summer Fair and have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,

Cathryn Wicks
Deputy Headteacher

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - FINES

Over the years, we have tried to take a common sense approach to term-time holidays, being mindful of the fact that the travel industry charge a premium rate during the school holiday period. We are also aware that, for many families, holidays to certain destinations during these peak times are simply unaffordable.

However, as stated in previous newsletters, we are simply unable to authorise term-time holidays.

Our overall school attendance figures for this year are well below those expected by the DfE. This is in large part due to the number of holidays that have been taken in term time during this year. This is certainly linked to Covid with families either taking holidays that were postponed due to the pandemic, or wishing to take a holiday after a long and difficult period.

Please be aware that as a result of:

- a) our poor attendance figures this year, and,
- b) revised Government guidance on school attendance in the wake of Covid 19 and the detrimental impact that it has had on pupil attendance nationally

Parents who take unauthorised holidays in term-time will face a fine from the Local Authority. Please do not book term time holidays for next year (details below).

We are issuing this information now by way of providing fair notice as we absolutely do not want to see our families fined, particularly as the economic situation at the moment is difficult for everyone.

In addition, the Educational Welfare Service and the school will be monitoring pupil attendance very closely from September and, again, the focus will be on pupils who have patterns of poor attendance and unauthorised absences.

Daisy's Diary

Broke two world records in a week! Largest Synchronised Swim and Most Marshmallows Toasted In An Hour... Kitties and Curlies came out for a fire and not sure how many there are altogether but probably about 300 and they all wanted two rounds of toasted marshmallows on a biscuit. And two wees each. Luckily the delightful Fred and Ricky saved the day by solidly toasting marshmallows and having a production line of biscuits to stick them to. Much less sticky than usual due to Mrs Hall's new technique of using a biscuit as a spoon, brilliant and also meant that when the spoon broke every six marshmallows you have to eat the spoon.

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 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

Covid 19

Please see the link below for updated Covid 19 guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>

Lost property

All the un-named lost property remaining in the lost property box on 21st July will be taken to the charity shop so please come and check the box before then if you are missing something. All named items will be returned to your child. The box can be found outside the side hall door by the table tennis tables.

Clubs

All clubs have now finished until September with the exception of Rugby club which will be on **Friday 8th July** and Dance club which will be on **Thursday 7th July from 3.30-4.30pm (please note new time just for that date)**.

Wild Explorers

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays;
Throughout summer holidays



10-3
7-11yr olds



Booking @ www.heartofthewoods.org
Book a T2M space @
www.activecornwall.org/T2M





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



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 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** 🌐 **THECALMZONE.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

WCWAid

West Cornwall Women's Aid

01736 367539

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting 'Creative' or 'Peaceful' mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

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.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.08.2022

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.

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 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.

New email address for school

Our email address has changed! If you need to contact us in the office please email:
alverton@tpacademytrust.org

Water bottles

We are finding that many children don't have a water bottle in school. Please remember that your child should have a named, refillable water bottle in school every day which should be filled with **water only** (not squash or juice) and can then be refilled during the day.



Diary Dates

5th July	Year 6 transition day
6th-8th July	Year 6 London trip
22nd July	Year 6 Leavers assembly
22nd July	School finishes at 3.15pm for the summer holidays

School begins again for the Autumn term on **Tuesday 6th September.**

After school childcare provision

Any queries or to book please contact Mr Timmons direct on 07843 126833 or by emailing him on alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com

As I write this I'm thinking of those of you out there who read my messages and then think that I don't have time for you, or your worries aren't something I will listen to or any other reason you care to choose for wondering about coming in and talking but not doing it. I can assure you I do have time and I will listen and whatever your concerns, worries or queries are, they may well feel better by sharing them. So don't feel shy, I won't judge and I will listen. I may not do anything and I certainly won't say anything to anyone unless you want me to; if you want confidentiality then you have it. No member of staff ever asks if I'm spotted chatting to someone, they just wouldn't. And I chat with lots of people about lots of things so nobody will even wonder. I even know some hidden places where we can chat undisturbed, share a cuppa and a biscuit plus I have endless tissues for sobbing and a large shoulder if it helps. We can talk on the phone or email too if you prefer. Pop over to the nursery and ring the bell, call the office or send an email with contact details and we can take it from there - that's all it takes. Other than that, have a super weekend, best wishes, stay safe, Mrs Daylak