

## Sporting news

### Tennis tournament

Last week four of our children went to Penzance Tennis Club to take part in the Penwith Schools Games tournament. All four of them won the majority of their games and came first overall. Thank you to Mr Allcock who took the children. Congratulations on our first gold medals of the year to Agnes, Jacob, Nat and Annie.



### Gold Award

We're delighted to say that once again we have been awarded the Schools Games Gold Award for our commitment to, and provision of, PE in school and our participation in competitions throughout the year. Many thanks to the staff and parents who help and support us with this.



### Netball

Well done to our netball team who played their first match last week against Marazion drawing 4-4. Well done to Nelly, George, Rex, Maisie, Esme, Poppy V and Agnes.

## Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held next **Tuesday 8th October** at 9.30am and you are all very welcome to join us. Robins and Choughs will not be taking part in this assembly although of course all parents are invited to come along.

Once again, we are particularly thinking about people who do not have enough to eat and we would be grateful for any donations of dried or canned food that the children bring in as these will be going to the local food bank. Sadly, after a very busy summer, the foodbank shelves are looking very empty. They are especially short of tinned vegetables and fruit, tinned rice pudding, meat soups, pasta sauces, fruit juice & biscuits. Please do not send in fresh food as the food bank is unable to accept these items. Donations are welcome from **Monday 7th October**. Many thanks for anything you can contribute.



Please join us for coffee and cake afterwards with donations going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT

## Online safety

Please see the information below 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**

**AGE RESTRICTION 10+**

### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

#### 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.wiki/en-us/article/minecraft-multiplayer-server-safety>  
<https://parentinfo.org/articles/starting-safe-online-minecraft>  
<https://www.2br.co.uk/news/uk-website-2324216>  
<https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-one/safety/can-i-change-my-privacy-settings>  
<https://lifehacker.com/en-parents-a-guide-to-playing-minecraft-with-your-kids-178822798>  
<https://www.4mat.co.uk/tech/how-minecraft-game-needs-caution-11251242>  
<https://www.4mat.co.uk/news/uk-press/parental-controls-using-online-computer-games-1023356>  
<https://minecraft.org.uk/en/minecraft-dangers-for-kids-a-parents-guide>  
<https://www.facebook.com/4matnews-fantasy-minecraft-server/>  
<https://www.howtogeek.com/289985/how-to-set-up-minecraft-so-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 MOJANG.

© National Online Safety Ltd  
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)

Are **you** part of our Reading Revolution?! Remember that regular reading at home increases your child's chance of academic success!



## Jedi badges

Our Jedi badges are our way of encouraging as many children as possible to learn their number bonds, times tables and more! Please support your child by helping them to practice at home and encourage them to try out for their badges with Mr Higgs on the appropriate day at 12.45pm.

Monday	Yellow, green and blue
Tuesday	Red
Wednesday	Yellow, green and blue
Thursday	Red
Friday	Bronze, silver, gold and ultimate

 **CAN YOU BECOME  
A JEDI MATHS  
MASTER?** 

 <b>RED 1 JEDI</b> BONDS TO 10	 <b>RED 2 JEDI</b> BONDS TO 20	 <b>RED 3 JEDI</b> BONDS TO 100
 <b>YELLOW JEDI</b> 2, 5 & 10X	 <b>GREEN JEDI</b> 2, 3, 4, 5 & 10X	 <b>BLUE JEDI</b> 0 TO 12X
 <b>BRONZE JEDI</b> TABLES CHALLENGE	 <b>SILVER JEDI</b> TABLES CHALLENGE	 <b>GOLD JEDI</b> TABLES CHALLENGE
 <b>ULTIMATE JEDI AWARD</b>		 <b>THE FORCE</b>

## **BAG 2 SCHOOL - please start saving your donations**

Having a pre-Christmas clear-out? The Friends of Alverton School has organised another fundraising Bag2School collection. Please help the school by donating good quality clothing for re-use in Eastern Europe or Africa. Bags will be coming home next week. You can bring your filled bags in to school on the morning of **Thursday 14th November** - why not start collecting now? The more we donate, the more money we earn for the school!

Yes please: clothing, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves & ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels, bedding.

No thanks: duvets, blankets, pillows, cushions, carpets, rugs and mats, soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing, school uniforms, corporate clothing and workwear, textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material.

**Please bring them to school on the morning of Thursday 14th November** (not before, please, as we have nowhere to store them).

Thank you very much for your support.



### **Camp**

If your child would like to go to Eden (Year 3), Bude (Year 4) or London (Year 6) next year, please pay the deposit by the date stated to ensure a place is booked for them:

Year 3 - £20 deposit by **Friday 11th October**

Year 4 - £20 deposit by **Friday 18th October**

Year 6 - £50 deposit by **Friday 11th October**

**Unfortunately if we don't get enough interest and confirmed deposits by those dates, the camps will have to be cancelled.**

### **Cancellation of club - advance notice**

**Drama club** on **Tuesday 15th October** will be for Year 6 only. Year 5 should be collected at 3.15pm.

There will be no Dance Club on **Thursday 17th October** as the hall is being set up for the FOAS Halloween Disco.

### **Date reminder**

Please note school is closed on Monday 28th October and Tuesday 29th October for INSET days so the first day back after half term will be **Wednesday 30th October**. Half term is 21st to 25th October.

### **Guitar lesson**

A reminder from Julian that as he is away next week there will be no lesson. He'll be back in on 17th October.

### **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!



**Friends of Alverton School (FOAS)**

**AGM**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 30th October at 6pm  
at Alverton School**



**Why not come along  
to our AGM and find  
out about what we  
do and how you can  
get involved?**

**We are always  
looking for new  
members and  
would love to see  
you there.**



**Everyone is welcome!**

### Lost property

The lost property box is overflowing again. All un-named items will be given to the charity shop or Bag2School after half term. If you are missing anything, please come and check the box after school before **Friday 18th October**. If you name your child's clothing it will get returned to them.

### Wellies and coats!

Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies in school at all times and a coat so that they can use the field at breaktimes and lunchtimes.

### 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	94.2%	10
Robins	98.0%	6
Puffins	98.6%	3
Owls	93.0%	11
Kingfishers ★	99.3%	1
Trencrom	95.5%	9
Lanyon ★	99.3%	1
Kerris	98.0%	6
Bodrifty	97.6%	8
Bosigran	96.4%	5
Kenidjack	98.6%	3
Overall school attendance	97.2%	

**Our collective target is 96.5%**

### Wanted!

We would be very grateful for any good quality card games or board games for ages 4-11 years that we can use all over the school when we have wet play time. Please drop them into the office. Thank you very much.

### LOST

Eliza in Lanyon has lost her black school shoes. They are Clarks black patent with a bow on the strap and are named. Please check and hand in if found.

### DIARY DATES

#### OCTOBER

- 8<sup>th</sup> Harvest Festival at 9.30am followed by coffee & cake in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
- 14<sup>th</sup> Individual and Family photographs – details to follow
- 17<sup>th</sup> FOAS Halloween Disco – details to follow
- 18<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly – Bodrifty at 2.45pm

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – HALF TERM**

**28<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

**29<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

30<sup>th</sup> FOAS AGM at 6pm

#### NOVEMBER

- 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation evenings - **Choughs & Robins only** – details to follow about how to book
- 8<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly – Kenidjack at 2.45pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly – Lanyon at 2.45pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultation evenings – **Year 1-6** – details of how to book to follow
- 25<sup>th</sup> M & M Theatre Production of Jack & the Beanstalk – details to follow
- 27<sup>th</sup> Last swimming for Kerris, Lanyon and Trencrom
- 29<sup>th</sup> Non uniform day in aid of the FOAS Christmas Fair – details to follow
- 29<sup>th</sup> ALL CLUBS FINISH TODAY





## October Half Term Soccer Camp

Tuesday 22nd Thursday 24th Friday 25th  
Juniors (7-12 year olds) 10-4pm  
Seniors (12-16 year olds) 1-4pm  
Penwith College 3G

Book your place now:  
[endorsedacademyoct2019.eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/endorsed-academy-oct2019)



## Penzance AFC Adult & Youth DisAbility



### Training at Mount's Bay Academy Sports Centre, Indoor Hall

Mondays 6.30pm-8pm for  
Adults (16 & Over)  
Sundays 11.00am-12.15pm  
For Youth (Under 12s, & 16s)

For more information, contact:  
Pete Coombes 07850 557577  
Caroline Bruce 07734 599602  
[www.cornwallfa.com](http://www.cornwallfa.com)

\*Cornwall DisAbility League is on  
Facebook

Did you know that Penzance AFC has a disability Adult and a disability Youth Section. If you have any kind of disability and want to join our teams, we meet once a week to train and play football. We also compete in the Cornwall DisAbility League\* once a month at various venues. Come and give it a try. You can....  
PLAY FOOTBALL  
PLAY IN COMPETITIONS  
HAVE FUN  
MAKE NEW FRIENDS  
IMPROVE SKILLS &  
IMPROVE FITNESS

**WE ARE  
RECRUITING  
NOW!!!**