



28/2/25

FRIDAY NEWS

N^o. 22

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has been a lovely start to the term - the brighter mornings and sunny days have made such a difference! Our week ended with a real treat. The Elmore String Quartet came in to do a performance to the whole school. The children were so inspired by what was performed - hopefully we have a few budding musicians as part of our school! Many thanks to them for providing us with this wonderful opportunity.

There have been so many sporting events this week that I thought they needed a special mention. On Tuesday we went to cross country at Cape Cornwall School. The runners all showed such amazing grit and determination, with lots of them beating their previous place. On Thursday we had a hockey tournament for years 3 & 4. The staff that went said they played really well, their defence was excellent, meaning no goals were let in - great teamwork everyone! On the same night the boys football teams went off to Truro and played their hearts out. So many opportunities to take the lead, but it just wasn't our day. On Friday we took a team to a hockey tournament, and they had the best day! The staff spoke so proudly of their great attitude and determination all day. This week was a fantastic example of the great sporting achievements - we don't have to win, but we set personal goals, give 100% and have so much fun!

Have a great weekend!

Nichola Smith
Headteacher

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

Water bottles and wellies

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school every day which is taken home to be washed.

Every child should have a pair of named wellies kept in school so that they can go on the field at lunchtimes if they wish.

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.

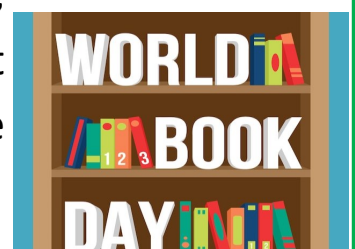
Donations wanted

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.

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March

Non uniform day - dress as a book character or for the Book Oscars

Like last year we will be asking for donations of dressing up costumes if they have been grown out of or no longer wanted which will be put onto the rails in reception with the second hand uniform. Please bring any in that you have spare. If you’d like to look for a costume, please come and help yourself. Any costumes that remain after 6th March will be gratefully added to the EYFS children’s dressing up collection.



Parents Evenings

We're delighted to say that our parent consultations this term will be a **ten minute face-to-face meeting** with your child's teacher in which you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

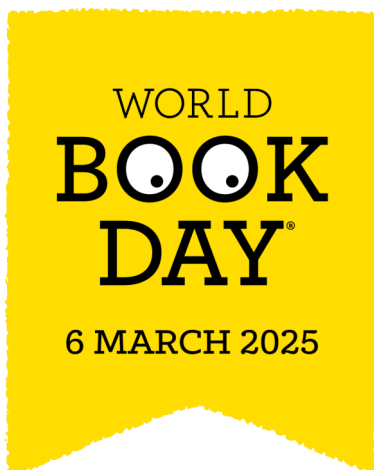
A letter has been emailed today from your child's teacher with all the dates and times later this term.

We are going to use our system for booking these appointments through our eschools facility which is part of our school website, as we did last Autumn.

You may previously have been given log in details for eschools. If you are unsure what this is, please contact the office and they will arrange for new details to be given to you. These details will be needed in order to go online and book the appointment slot that suits you best when **the booking period opens on the 5th March**. It is easy and quick to use:

- Go to the school website <http://alverton.org.uk> and click onto the and click onto the white log in button (next to the owl icon) in the red bar at the top of the screen.
- Your user name will be your first name.surname (all lower case) eg, john.smith (not your email address)
- If you have forgotten your password, please contact the office.
- Once you have logged in, the Parents Evening icon can be found in the blue bar at the top. Click on that and you'll be taken to your child's class page for you to book.

If you have had, or are due a termly SEND review meeting with your child's teacher, you may not wish to book another meeting at this time.



Why not visit the World Book Day website for loads of reading ideas and inspiration, including the **Share a Story** corner!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

SEND drop in sessions

Tuesday 4th March



Mrs Hughes
SENDCO

2:15pm - 3:15pm



Miss Atkins
Autism Champion



Alverton School

These meetings will take place across the year and offer the opportunity to pop into school for a coffee and chat with Mrs Hughes and Miss Atkins about the support your child is receiving or any concerns you might have.



Next drop in session:
Wednesday 7th May 9am



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 7th March

Year 6 London Friday 31st March

Please log into Arbor (we no longer use Schoolmoney), check how much you owe and pay by the deadline date.

Any questions, please ask at the office.

Clubs

Dance club has now finished for this school year. Please collect your child on Fridays after half term at 3.15pm.

If clubs are cancelled at short notice we will send you an in-app message on Arbor so please ensure you have downloaded the Arbor app so you can read these.

Advance notice of cancellations

Tuesday 4th March - Year 3/4 Art Club is cancelled as Miss Green has training.

Wednesday 5th March - **all clubs cancelled due to staff training** - Cross Country, Year 5/6 Art and Year 2 Art. Please collect your child at 3.15pm.

All clubs will be cancelled on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th March due to parents evening.

St Piran's Day menu

Wednesday 5th March

There is a menu change for lunch on 5th March. Aspens are offering a choice of pasties instead of the usual roast meal. Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta will also be available.

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 book, your child will only be offered tomato pasta.

FOOD FESTIVAL
by Aspens

Come and try our

ST PIRAN'S MENU

Wednesday 5th March

Traditional Cornish Steak Pasty served with Chips and Beans

+

Cheese and Onion Pasty served with Chips and Salad

+

Hevva Cake (Heavy)

Delicious food every day



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



0800 1111

0300 123 3393
www.mind.org.uk
mind
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 MARVEL RIVALS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a \$10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



@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: 26.02.2025

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 Simpson 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:

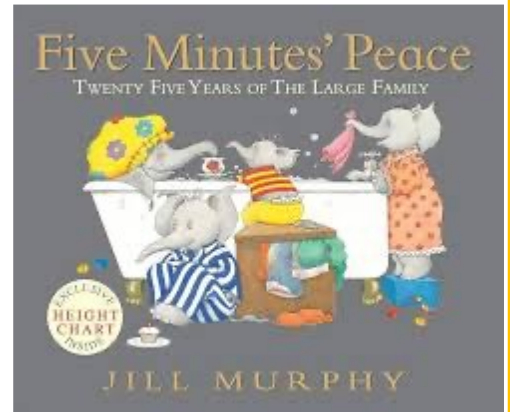
- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and / or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance

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.

How was half term? Did you find it easy? Challenging? Mine was stress-free, the rest of the family were out most days so I was really able to relax and unwind at home. Which was pretty perfect as the weather wasn't the best. All of which is fine and dandy if you are alone with no small children wanting your time and attention, but let's face it, the fact that you're reading this rather suggests you have at least one young person needing your support. I remember wondering if I would ever be able to go to the bathroom without somebody knocking to come in and chat!



Have you ever read the story '5 Minutes' Peace' by Jill Murphy? Basically mum wants a quiet bath but doesn't get it. Sound familiar? Here is a link to the CBeebies Bedtime Story which is adorable but really illustrates the point. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HtRmp5KZqBU> Maybe snuggle down with your small family and watch it. You won't have time to yourself but it lasts for about five minutes so could sort of work in your favour. 5 Minutes' Peace by Jill Murphy - enjoy. If you want some adult time, a cuppa and a chat, come and say hi. Much love Mrs D xxx



DIARY DATES

Wednesday 5th March 10am	St Piran's parade - Year 6 <i>Letter has come home</i>
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day <i>Dress as your favourite book character or Oscar winner</i>
Monday 17th-19th March 3.30-6pm	Parents evenings <i>Please book online from 5th March</i>
Monday 17th-19th March	All clubs cancelled due to parents evening
Friday 28th March	All clubs finish
Friday 4th April 3.15pm	School closes for Easter holidays (normal time)
Tuesday 22nd April 8.30am	School re-opens for Summer term

PENZANCE
LEISURE CENTRE

LEARN TO SWIM

Scan the QR code



Working in Partnership
with your Local Authority



Learn to Swim
Programme



LeisureCentre.com