

## Book Oscars

Our Alverton Book Oscars took place yesterday on World Book Day and the whole school came dressed as a book character with some magnificent costumes on display. The Book Oscars are

an important part of our school calendar and winning an Oscar is something which all children (and staff!) would love to do. The Ultimate Book Oscar was won by 'Beauty and the Beast' which was nominated by Olivia in Year 2. Thanks once again to Mrs Clive and Mrs Petty who organised the event and to the team of TAs who transformed our school hall into Hollywood!



Truro and Penwith  
**Academy Trust**

This week, we welcomed the Headteachers from Roche and Bodriggy schools for our termly School and Headteacher Improvement Partner (SHIP) visit. They came to have a look at our progress with some of our key priorities and looked at how we are developing spelling across the school. They watched some spelling sessions and talked with the children about how we are helping them with spelling and the difference this has made to their work. Once again, this was a very positive visit and a chance to have external eyes validate the work we are doing.

Yesterday, Mr Higgs and Mrs Wicks attended the termly meeting for all TPAT Headteachers. Our teachers have worked hard on innovative ways to develop our teaching and learning this year, which has been identified by Claire Fortey, TPAT's Director of Education as good practice, and Mrs Wicks was invited to the meeting to share this project with the Headteachers across the Trust.

## Online safety

Please see the next page with some excellent advice about You Tube. We will be publishing a different information page each week.





[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



## Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March

This year for Red Nose Day the house captains are organising activities. Throughout the week there will be a variety of events including selling red nose goodies at breaktimes (everything from pinwheels and cheese scones to red nose biscuits).

On **Thursday** the children will be able to take part in a variety of competitions involving strawberries and strawberry laces. There will be word searches and joke sheets to buy. All completed word searches will put in a draw for an amazing prize!

On **Friday** the children may wear their own clothes—anything but red! We would like a contribution of 50p towards the charity please. Children will have the opportunity to have their faces painted for 20p and more goodies will be for sale. We are hoping to raise lots of money so please support us in any way you can. Thank you.

*Alverton House Captains*

**COMIC  
RELIEF**

### Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings this term will be held next week and if you haven't booked your own appointment time online, one has been made for you and will have come home on paper in your child's bag. **If you cannot attend your parents meeting, please let us know either by email ([secretary@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk)) or by phoning 01736 364087.** This helps the teacher know whether to expect you or not.

If you have had or will be having a review meeting with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you won't need to book an appointment. Woodlands Nursery parents will also not need to book.

### Club cancellations

**All clubs** will be cancelled on **Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th March** due to parent consultations except Cricket Club with Greg Smith and Roller Disco on Wednesday. The last Nerf Wars club will now be held on **Monday 1st April**.

### Speed limit

A reminder once again to anyone using Toltuff Crescent that the speed limit is **20mph**. A number of parents have been seen driving at more than that recently.

**20**

### Year 6 London trip - July 2019

A reminder that ALL payments for Year 6 London trip (£310 total) need to be made by **5th April at the latest**. **Full payment is needed by the above date**. **If it is not paid in full by this date, we will cancel your child's place and refund any money you have already paid (less the deposit) with immediate effect.**



## St Piran Parade

Our Year 6 took part in the St Piran's Day Parade this week and were a credit to the school. They enjoyed dancing through the town and finished up at St John's Hall for a saffron bun.



## Spring Show success

Thank you to all the children who made entries for the West Cornwall Spring Show last weekend. A number were awarded gold and silver medals for their work. Well done to them all.

## Football report

This week our football team played two matches, one Cup and one League game. St Hilary were first to visit us for the League match and despite them having a very strong side and playing on our very muddy pitch, we drew 1-1. Our second match, against St Uny in the Cup, was a great win 1-0.

Well done to all the team who were: Rex, Liam, Arthur F, Finley L, Jacob, James, Callum, Riley D and Mason.

## Year 3&4 camp meeting

If your child is going to Bude in May please come along to a camp meeting at 3.30pm on **Wednesday 3rd April** in the hall. There will be lots of information provided and a chance to ask questions.

## Year 3/4 super swimmers

Twelve of our Year 3 and 4 pupils went to Penzance Leisure Centre this week to represent us in the annual swimming gala. They were fantastic and came back with a selection of medals and the Year 4 boys won gold overall competing against 15 other schools. Well done to them all. The team was: Levan, Kai, Cove, Molly, Annie, Cora, Agnes, Ruby R, Bea, Fred, George and Nat. Mrs Whipp and Mr Coleman who accompanied them were full of praise for their exemplary behaviour and team spirit.



# MOTHER AND DAUGHTER NETBALL CLUB

**WHEN**  
**Friday 15th March**  
**4.00pm - 5.00pm**

**WHERE**  
**Averton Community Primary**  
**School Playground**

**ALL AGES AND  
ABILITY  
WELCOME**

**FREE OF  
CHARGE**

No fee required so  
just turn up & play!

## **VENUE**

**Averton Primary  
School**

**4 Tokuff Crescent**

**Penzance**

**TR18 4QD**

## **TIME**

**4.00pm to 5.00pm**

Coffee and biscuits  
available after.

**WE LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
SEEING YOU ALL  
ON FRIDAY 15TH  
MARCH!**

## **FOAS Easter Disco**

**Thursday 4th April**

FOAS have decided that they will no longer be giving out cookies at the Disco although there will be drinks available. Instead, they will put all names of any child who attends into an Easter Egg raffle and will draw out the winners on Friday 5th April. The cost will remain at £1.50 per child.



## **Payment for Breakfast Club**

We are finding that a number of parents are accruing debts of several weeks for Breakfast Club. Please can you ensure that you pay for Breakfast Club weekly. Thank you.

## **Wanted!**

Miss Williams is keen to make a space for music in the woods - we want to make a fantastic junk band area full of home-made instruments. Do you have anything at home that we could turn from rubbish into music? Old pans, pipes, Hoover bits, etc? Would anyone like to come along and help us make a little music grove in the woods? If you can donate anything or help, please let the office know. Thank you very much.



## **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!





## STARS OF THE WEEK

Robins	Austin	for super effort & hard work in phonics
& Choughs	Scarlette	for super effort & hard work in phonics
Puffins	Kenzi	for her amazing attitude to school life and her focus for learning
Owls	Mason	for making a fantastic effort to improve his writing
Kingfishers	Rosa	for great progress in her reading
Trencrom	Jenson	for making a huge effort to improve his writing. Well done
Lanyon	Bailey B	for always being so positive and enthusiastic about his learning
Kerris	Logan	for an amazing non-chronological report about a Bengal tiger
Bodriftly	Merryn	for always working so hard and presenting her work so well
Bosigran	Eric	for such a fantastic costume for World Book Day
Kenidjack	Mason	for making fantastic progress this term
Dinnertime	Lolabelle	for always having a healthy packed lunch
PE Star	Rex	for making a huge improvement with his swimming
	Liam	for making a huge improvement with his swimming



## Twitter

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



## Advanced notice - keyboard lessons

Maria is away on **Monday 18th March** so there will be no keyboard lessons that day. There will be one on **Monday 1st April** instead.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Choughs	97.0%	5
Robins	100%	1
Puffins	98.6%	3
Owls	98.0%	4
Kingfishers	94.0%	9
Trencrom	93.8%	11
Lanyon	96.6%	8
Kerris	96.8%	7
Bodriftly	96.9%	6
Bosigran	94.0%	9
Kenidjack	99.3%	2
Overall school attendance	96.7%	

Our collective target is 96.5%

## DIARY DATES

### March

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Parent Consultations – appointment times are booked online – **no clubs this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.**

15<sup>th</sup> Red Nose Day - non uniform in aid of Comic Relief

22<sup>nd</sup> Sharing assembly for Lanyon at 2.45pm

27<sup>th</sup> Last swimming for Year 5

29<sup>th</sup> Sharing assembly for Owls at 2.45pm

29<sup>th</sup> **All clubs finish**

29<sup>th</sup> All music lessons finish

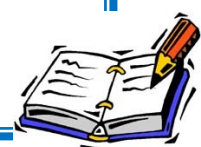
### April

3<sup>rd</sup> Year 3/4 camp meeting at 3.30pm in hall

4<sup>th</sup> FOAS Easter Disco – details to follow

**FRIDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.15pm (normal time) FOR THE EASTER HOLIDAY**

**SUMMER TERM BEGINS ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL at 9am**





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Dear Parent / Carer

**Update – School Funding Issues**

**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

I wanted to contact you to provide an update on current issues relating to school funding.

Sadly, I have to confirm that despite intense lobbying of the Government and Department for Education, matters remain extremely challenging. In short, schools are still not being provided with adequate funding and resource to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and that our families and children deserve.

**Current Concerns**

- Since 2010 school budgets have been reduced in real terms by 8% and by 20% at post-16.
- Class sizes are rising, and the curricular offer in many schools is being restricted.
- Increasingly, schools are being asked to support with children's emotional health and wellbeing.
- Frequently, we do not have adequate resource to meet a growing need.
- Often, the most vulnerable students in our schools – those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) – are bearing the brunt of cuts and schools are struggling to provide the levels of support that they are entitled to.

These issues are not simply affecting a few schools. They are common features across our education system up and down the country. Levels of concern are so widespread amongst headteachers that we are all working together with a united voice.

As such, we have written to the Secretary of State for Education on three separate occasions since September 2018. We are dismayed that he has chosen to ignore our communications and repeated requests to meet. On 13 December 2018, we were informed by a junior civil servant that ***"I am afraid that, on this occasion, the Secretary of State and the Minister of State must decline your offer to meet. I hope you will understand that their time is heavily pressurised and their diaries need to be prioritised according to ministerial, Parliamentary and constituency business."***

Given the seriousness of the current school funding crisis and the impact upon schools, children and families, headteacher colleagues and I believe that this approach is entirely ill-judged. On 14 January 2019, we wrote again to the Secretary of State for Education asking that he reconsider meeting with representative head teachers. Six weeks later, this request was declined once more: ***"As I'm sure you will appreciate, both their diaries are very full and they are unable to accept your kind offer at this time."*** Thousands of head teachers simply do not understand what issues could be seen as more important than the ones we are raising on behalf of schools, children and families.

In September 2018, over 2000 headteachers campaigned at Westminster in order to underline the seriousness of the current situation. This action was unprecedented.

The 'Worth Less?' campaign group now comprises 66 Local Authorities and Boroughs, covering thousands of schools and millions of families. This gives a clear indication of the levels of concern felt by reasonable and moderate headteachers and in England.

Governors of schools and academies are also very concerned, and only last week members of the National Governors' Association from across England travelled to Westminster to lobby parliament. The Association's CEO, Emma Knights stated "Governors and trustees are



committed to giving pupils in their school the best possible educational experience, but instead of deciding how they can best invest in children, they are having to decide what to take away from them. Each school has a unique experience of the effects of funding pressures but what unites governors and trustees is immediate and long-term concerns about the damage being caused to education at a time when there are more pupils than ever and when more and more is being asked of schools."

Headteachers continue to recognise that there is not a 'bottomless pit' of money and also acknowledge that many local MPs from across the political spectrum are taking a supportive approach. We must make clear, however, that the current response from the Department for Education and the Treasury is inadequate.

**Why headteachers need to meet government ministers:**

- Headteachers want to contribute constructively to overcome current funding issues.
- Headteachers want to reflect the serious concerns expressed by families regarding inadequate levels of resource and provision especially for our most vulnerable students.
- Headteachers want to ensure that schools receive a much better deal when future Government spending plans – the Comprehensive Spending Review - are drawn up over the next few months.
- Headteachers want to indicate serious and rising concerns relating to the wider pastoral and social care that schools are expected, by default, to provide against a background of severe cuts to Local Authority provision.

Headteacher colleagues across Cornwall feel fortunate that we have been so strongly supported by parents and carers as we campaign for a much improved level of funding for our schools and pupils. Our Cornish MPs have been working hard in Westminster to improve funding for our schools, and we urge you to continue to make representations to them and to the Department for Education and wider government to do everything possible to ensure that matters improve.

We will continue to inform you of the facts and to campaign vigorously over coming weeks and months. A positive starting point should come, we hope, from the Secretary of State for Education in the form of an urgent meeting.

Yours sincerely



Martin Higgs  
Headteacher