



Dear Parents/Carers

This week we looked at the American festival of Thanksgiving and its origins. We talked about the idea of gratitude and little things we could be thankful for each day. The children had some very good ideas of things to be thankful for - our food, our family and friends and our homes were some good examples. We are going to keep building on this idea over the coming weeks as we lead up to a very busy time of year!

Speaking of busy time of year...our Christmas festivities begin next week with our Advent service on Monday 1st December at 9.30am. The tree is up so if anyone has a decoration that their child has made to hang on it, please send it in so that we can make sure it is on there - it certainly is looking amazing!

As you may know, Alverton takes part in the Advantage project involving the use of technology to support teaching and learning. We understand that parents can have concerns around screen time and use of technology, so we are inviting you to a parent workshop on Tuesday 2nd December at 2.00pm so that we can explain a little more about its advantages in school.

Finally, with the Christmas period approaching and energy levels high, we are taking time to remind the children of our school rules - be ready, be respectful and be safe. We need to make sure that our school continues to be a nice place for all to be and so will be reinforcing these expectations in the coming weeks.

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](mailto: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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

## Clubs

All clubs have now finished **except Dance** the last one of which is on Friday 5th December. New club lists will come home at the start of next term.

## 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.

## FOAS Christmas card fundraising

A reminder that if you'd like to order any items with your child's Christmas design on it, the booking window is open now until **1st December**. All items raise funds for FOAS. Thank you.

## After school childcare - Friday 19th December

There will be no after school childcare club for any children on the last day of term, Friday 19th December. Please collect your child at 3.15pm.

## **Christmas lunch and wear something Christmassy**

### **Friday 19th December**

If your child would like Christmas lunch on 19th December you must book it in advance via Aspens Select before the date. The choices are roast turkey or a vegetarian option. **There will be no jacket potatoes or tomato pasta option on that day.**

If you do not book you must send your child in with a packed lunch from home as there will not be any spare meals available on the day.

**If they would like to, your child may wear something Christmassy with their school uniform (hat/decoration/Christmas jumper etc).**

### **Menu change**

#### **Wednesday 17th December**

Due to the Christmas lunch on Friday, Wednesday's lunch will be fish fingers and chips or cheesy bean wrap and chips **not** roast chicken or vegetarian strudel. Aspens are unable to change this online so if your child would like fish fingers please book the meat option and if they would like cheesy bean wrap please book the vegetarian option. Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta can be ordered as usual.

### **Emails via Arbor**

You may have noticed that emails from us via Arbor are going straight into your Junk or Spam folder. Apologies but this is an issue Trust-wide with Arbor not with us. If you are able to go into your email provider's settings you should be able to choose to mark all Arbor emails as not Junk/Spam which will hopefully solve the problem.

## Reception visit to the Gardeners' House

### Dragonflies session 3!

On Tuesday 21st November the second group of Reception children visited The Gardeners' House for the next part of the Dragonfly project (session 3) – learning about changes...

The weather was good! Not even that cold! Everyone was excited. We had a lovely sunny walk down the prom, with the sea all calm and shiny, and into the Morrab Gardens and The Gardeners' House. We had a drink and a snack, a Small Animal Calm



Down and then Rich started enthusing them about their dragonfly garden they will be helping to design for nursery. Everyone drew a dragonfly! Then we went to the Grove and looked for insects, mini beasts, spiders and slugs... the children were engaged and excited and loved popping their finds in pots to show each other, and we



found a fly cocoon! Which I used to talk about different stages in a flies development (even though at first I got it wrong and said it was an egg and then had to say– hang on – it's not – it's a cocoon!) After lunch we did different activities to 'be' dragonflies, with some children being mummy dragonflies...and some being hungry tadpoles. The dragonflies tried laying eggs in different ways - all over the place very fast – the tadpoles ate loads of them really easily. Hiding

them in the leaves and logs – tadpoles found lots but quite a few stayed safe. And (with adult help) stashing them up safely out of the tadpoles reach – in bags in the trees. Then we went into the dried up pond and the children were dragonfly nymphs – lovely. Then there was some crawling out of the pond and wrapping themselves in yoga mats – their dragonfly nymph skin – and squeezing out, letting their little crumpled up wings dry out and flying around the grove as adult dragonflies. Zoom! Back at The House Rich read us a dragonfly story – which was great and made lots of sense now the children had been dragonflies! Unfortunately their wings couldn't fly them back to school but luckily Mr Coleman came in the minibus just in case so that was fine. Lovely day, lovely children and LOTS of fun!



Daisy



As a special festive treat for the children, the Friends of Alverton School have organised for Squashbox Theatre to come to school and perform *The Christmassy Christmas Show of Christmassy Christmasness!* Full of songs, laughs and silliness, it is a 'celebration of everything Christmassy, from fir trees, fairy lights, sleigh bells and snowflakes to crackers, carols, presents and puddings!'

The performance will take place within the school day on 15th December and is a Christmas gift from the Friends of Alverton School, funded entirely by the proceeds of our events. Thank you for all your support!



Squashbox Theatre



15th December



Christmas Gifts

There's still time...

Orders are still being taken for bespoke Christmas gifts made from your child's design until Monday 1st December. You can find your code on the flyer that came home a few weeks ago.

Delivery is free to school and the company estimates that items will be delivered in the last week of term – just in time for Christmas!

A commission raised from every sale goes to the Friends of Alverton School.

@ [friendsofalvertonschool@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofalvertonschool@gmail.com)

@ You can also follow us on Instagram...  
[alverton\\_school\\_foas](https://www.instagram.com/alverton_school_foas)



## 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

ChildLine

0800 1111



0300 123 3393

www.mind.org.uk



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 TRACKING DEVICES

Bluetooth tracking devices like Apple's AirTag and Samsung's SmartTags have exploded in popularity, with millions sold each year. These small tools help people locate their lost items, but their discreet design has also made them attractive for more sinister purposes. From stalking to bullying, tracking devices present unique risks that trusted adults need to understand and address.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

### TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

### FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

### INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

### DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

### CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

### USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

### HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



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](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.

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Little Foxes	Harper	for her wonderful enthusiasm & always willing to try new things
Little Owls	Zinnia	for showing fantastic bravery & courage
Kittiwakes	Wilbur	Enthusiasm: for showing brilliant enthusiasm towards everything
Curlews	Noah P	Enthusiasm: for boundless enthusiasm, especially in phonics
Puffins	Sol	Respect: for being polite & respectful to everyone
Owls	Morvah	Enthusiasm: for exceptional enthusiasm in our Christmas play practices
Kingfishers	Rosa	Perseverance: for amazing effort & perseverance in her reading
Trencrom	Bella	Responsibility: for always being responsible & persevering in her learning
Lanyon	Florrie	Enthusiasm: for always being the most diligent assistant helping in class
Kerris	Freya	Enthusiasm: for incredible Maths work this week
Bodrifty	Iris	Perseverance: for working very hard in her English & Maths
Bosigran	Jude	Kindness: for being such a helpful & hardworking member of class
Kenidjack	Izzy	Perseverance: for her fabulous work in English this week
Lunchtime Star	Ashton	for being such a great help at lunchtime

Last week I dug out the cold weather gear, and put my summery clothes away...this week I got my sunglasses out again. Then I put them away. Then I found my umbrella. Then I put my waterproof trousers on. My clothes must feel like the textile equivalent of a yo-yo. And so do I! I don't know what to wear so at the moment all of the above gear is in my rucksack. Totally bonkers but as my class will tell you....it's STILL autumn! So it's only going to get colder and darker (and wetter too?) They love this when we talk about the day of the week and the date and month - they'll have a shock on Monday won't they, when it actually changes to December and we can change the season too. So, apart from not knowing what to wear and having to take a whole range of clothing with me everywhere I go, I'm fine...getting used to the weather, getting used to always being wet, damp, soggy, mouldy and any other words you can think of for not being warm, snuggly and dry. I'm feeling great, having begun to get my head around the seasonal change (those of you who've been with me as I write will know I struggle with all of this). Which leads me to the question...how are you? And I'm not just saying that as a 'hi' greeting. I do mean, actually, how are you? Really? Coping? Feeling bluesy? Needing a chat? A moan? A cuppa? A chocolate biscuit? I'm here my lovelies, be you parent, carer, aunt, uncle, grandparent, no matter what your role here at school, come and find me....much love, Mrs Daylak xx



## DIARY DATES

<b>Friday 28th November</b>	Clubs finish
<b>Monday 1st December</b> 9.30am	Advent Service <i>Followed by coffee &amp; mince pies</i>
<b>Tuesday 2nd December</b> 2pm	Parents workshop with Digital Inclusion Lead
<b>Tuesday 9th December</b> 9.30am and 2pm	Reception Christmas performances
<b>Wednesday 10th December</b> 2pm and 6pm	KS1 Christmas performances
<b>Thursday 11th - Friday 12th December</b>	Year 4 Christmas sleepover at St Ives
<b>Friday 12th December</b> 2pm	Nursery Nativity
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b> 6.30pm	KS2 Christmas Carol Concert at Chapel Street Methodist Chapel
<b>Friday 19th December</b>	Pupils Christmas lunch <i>Wear something Christmassy with uniform</i>
<b>Friday 19th December</b> 3.15pm	School and Nursery close for Christmas holidays (normal time)
<b>Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January</b>	School and Nursery closed for Christmas holidays
<b>Monday 5th January</b> 8.30am	School and Nursery open for Spring term
<b>Monday 26th January</b>	INSET Day - school closed



# TIME 2 MOVE

Holiday Programme



## CHRISTMAS 2025

- Activities including water sports, forest schools, circus skills, day trips and lots more – for children aged 5 to 16
- Every session includes a healthy meal for all children
- Funded places for ALL children eligible for benefits related free school meals

Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the Christmas holidays on 22nd Dec, 23rd, 29th, 30th, 2nd Jan

Scan here  
to book!



[www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme](http://www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme)

[Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk)

active  
CORNWALL

Funded by  
Department  
for Education

CORNWALL  
COUNCIL