

We are very much into the swing of things now, the children are really engaged in their classroom learning and the school is buzzing with creativity and joy. It's been a great week and I've seen many things that have bought a smile to my face. One of my favourites was catching the drama club's first rehearsal in the hall. It was spectacular to see sixty children dancing and singing in unison to the hits of 'Frozen' the musical. It's a tiny taster of the of the wonderful things happening every day in Alverton.

Opening and closing gates to school for safety

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is **one of our key responsibilities**. We are constantly looking for ways to improve and protect children from any form of harm.

It is our responsibility to provide a safe environment for all our children. This includes reducing opportunities for children to leave school through an unsupervised open gate. It also includes ensuring that any adults on site have undergone safeguarding checks and training appropriate to our safeguarding policy. This supports our fire safety procedures, health and safety management and protects children from potential harm.

To support this we are planning to adapt how and when gates that provide public access to school premises are opened and locked.

The table overleaf shows the new timings for when school gates are opening and closing.

We want to ensure everyone has time to consider this reorganisation and so we plan to start the new timings on Monday 9th October. We'll also ensure we remind everyone in next week's newsletter.

Finally, I do appreciate that this could mean a slight change to evening and morning routines for a few parents, but I am sure we can all agree that keeping children safe from harm has to be a key focus. Thank you for your support with this.

Simon Brown
Headteacher



Time	Field Gate	Main Side Gate	Notes
7.30 to 8.45	Open	Open	Both gates open at the start of the day for ease of access and early drop off.
8.45	Closed	Closed	Both gates close as school day starts. Late arrivals for school sign in as late through the school office.
9.00	Closed	Open and Closed	The main side gate is opened briefly for parents dropping off at nursery. The gate is locked directly after parents have dropped off.
3.00	Open	Open	Gates open for home time at the end of the day.
3.30	Closed	Closed	Gates closed to ensure all after school club children are safe and secure on the school premises.
4.00	Closed	Open	For parents to collect children from 'After School Club' and any other school clubs
5.15	Closed	Closed	Closed at end of 'After School Club' - all children in nursery collected from main nursery reception door.

Remember – safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Simon Brown (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at

sbrown@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

Governor News

We are delighted to tell you that Mr Scott Randall has been elected as a parent governor. We welcome Scott to the governing body and look forward to working with him.

Clubs

Drama Club will NOT be on for Year 5 only next Wednesday 4th October or on Wednesday 11th. Only Year 6 should attend on those dates.

There will be no Dance club next Friday 6th October as Steph is away.

ALL clubs, apart from Netball, French and Tennis will be cancelled on Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October due to parent consultations. Clubs on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th

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.

We currently have lots of items on our Help Your Shelf ready for collection which are free for anyone to take at any time.

If you prefer, you can buy a reusable bag for £1 and fill this with items from the shelf. Once you've bought your bag, you can fill it with as much as you want, as many times as you want. Whichever way you choose, the Help Your Shelf is available all day and you can pop in at any time.

Wanted!

Reception would be very grateful for any recycled items suitable for junk modelling, eg egg boxes, milk bottle tops, yoghurt pots, etc. Please ensure they are clean and bring them to the office.

Do you have any old saucepans that could be used in our mud kitchen? Key Stage 1 are also keen to have any spare toy cars you have.

Thank you very much.

Calling all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents!

Please can you help?

Thursday 5th October is School Census Day and one of the things which is measured is Universal Free School Meals (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) children who have school dinners on that day. This makes a big difference to our funding so we would like to ask for your help.

We need as many children as possible in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to have school dinners next Thursday.

Even if your child brings a packed lunch please could you encourage them to have a school dinner just on that day?

Thursday's menu will be fish fingers or veggie dippers and chips followed by ice cream.

With the increasing costs at the moment, our school budget needs all the help it can get and we would be hugely grateful for your support.



Thank you very much.



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 come home this week 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 Spring.

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 4th October**. 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 a termly review meeting during the school day on the phone or in person with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you don't need to book an appointment through the eschools system.

Individual and family photos

Hatchbox Photographers will be in school on **Monday 9th October** to take individual and family photos. If you have siblings at our nursery and/or at secondary school and would like them photographed together, please come to reception and queue up in the hall from 8.30am. Children with siblings in the school will be photographed together during the day.

Please ensure your child wears their smartest uniform that day.

Menu change

Thursday 5th October

Fish fingers or veggie dippers with chips

Friday 6th October

Beef or veggie bolognaise

Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta will also be available.

Violin/Cello lessons

If your child (Year 2 and above) is interested in learning the violin or cello please ask at the office for more details.

Harvest Festival

We are delighted to invite you to our Harvest Festival on Friday 13th October at 9.30am.

As part of this we will be supporting the CTIPA foodbank in Penzance with donations from our school community. We will be collecting during the week beginning 9th October. They cannot distribute fresh food but anything else will be very gratefully received. Last year you were incredibly generous and we collected an enormous amount of food. This year, our help is needed as much as ever. If you would like to help, please send in your donations with your child from 9th October. Thank you.

We will also be serving coffee and cake after the service and all money donated will be given to the foodbank.

Hope to see you there!



Miss Mason's Magical Moments

Another week has flown by, quite literally! This weather feels bracing and energising, just taking a few deep breaths of the autumnal air is something I always enjoy doing. Over the last few weeks I have had many of you lovely parents wishing me well in this new role, and I feel so touched by the parents who have offered their time to volunteer and help keep our school looking so beautiful. Frankly, there are lots of odd jobs that elude both myself and Graham. So if you love the outdoors or gardening, the children and school would be grateful for any time you can give; if you speak to Mrs Gill or Mrs Stacey in the office that would be marvellous.



Coats and wellies

Now that the weather is getting cooler, please remember that your child needs to have a named coat in school every day.

If your child would like to go onto the field to play they will need a pair of named wellies in school.

Healthy tuck

We are a healthy school and would like to remind you that children should have healthy tuck at breaktimes such as breadsticks, crackers, fruit or vegetables. Crisps may be eaten at lunch but sweets and chocolate bars should not be sent in for any meals.

It's always so busy at the start of the school year, learning new routines, getting to know new faces and new ways of doing things, plus the other 'stuff' that's life - shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry, seeing family and friends, relaxing, work, homework, the list could go on and on. Is there a space in there for you? As an individual, with your own needs and stresses and worries? Do you ever make time for yourselves? Or are you too busy being a parent? I bet it's the latter and that you're too busy trying to make sure you're on top of all the many things that need doing and take up so much time. I have a dream, that one day I will reach the end of my "to-do" list. And then I realise that is never going to happen. So I smile, and it's okay. Maybe make a coffee (my 'me-time' at home) and look out the window. Ten minutes is all it takes. 10. Not much, but it'll be enough to recharge you. Come and sit with me if you fancy. I'm always keen for a cuppa. And a biscuit. Always here. Mrs Daylak xxxxxxxx





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 & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe - with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends - but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could hide anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse - so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations - creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority notifications' (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely - but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up - and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life - especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202576356932-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.teen.com/articles/01/2022/04/01/20220401-snapchat-location-sharing-changes> | <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/202204018644>



@nationalonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.05.2023

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.

STARS OF THE WEEK

	Little Foxes	Jenson	for settling in really well & finding ways to communicate
	Little Owls	Cody	for settling in so well & playing really nicely with new friends
	Kittiwakes	Ivy-Ella	for a fantastic start to school
	Curlews	Phoebe	for being very brave at lunchtimes
	Puffins	Rex	for his knowledge of Greek myths & sharing his knowledge with others
	Owls	Toni-Rose	for being so enthusiastic in all her learning
	Kingfishers	Freddie	for working hard to improve his handwriting
	Trencrom	Effy	for working hard in all lessons & always being optimistic
	Lanyon	Joshua	for excellent work in Lanyon class & exceptional work in Science
	Kerris	Sasha	for always working hard with a big smile on her face
	Bodrifty	Freya	for working exceptionally hard in all lessons
	Bosigran	Yasmin	for being a lovely friend & for her cheerful attitude this week
	Kenidjack	Flo	for simply super writing in our Roman adventure
	Lunchtime Star	Ruby H	for her lovely smile and manners

DIARY DATES

Monday 9th October	Individual & family photos <i>Family groups - please queue from 8.30am</i>
Friday 13th October 9.30am	Harvest Festival <i>Followed by coffee and cake in aid of the Foodbank</i>
Monday 16th-Wednesday 18th October 3.30-6pm	Parent consultations <i>No teacher led or hall based clubs</i>
Monday 23rd-Friday 27th October	Autumn half term holiday
Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st October	INSET Days - school closed
Friday 1st December 9.30am	Advent Service <i>Followed by coffee and mince pies</i>

Madron & St Thomas' Churches present

The **GREAT BIG**

CLOTHES



SHARE!

***Strapped
for cash?***

***Need
some new
clothes?***

All free!

***Helping our
communities***



SAT 7th OCT
10am – 12 noon

St Thomas' Church Heamoor TR18 3JD
