

Dear Parents and Carers

This week began with an assembly all about the importance of inclusion at Alverton. We talked about the fact that everyone's needs are different and that, as a school, we would do our very best to give them the tools they need to be successful. We decided that this would not always be equal, and that's ok. We ended with the reflection that:

"Fairness is not giving everyone
the same thing.

Fairness is giving each person
what they need to succeed"



This week, it has been lovely to see parents of our pupils on the SEND register in school reviewing their children's individual learning plans. All teachers said it was very positive and felt a real collaboration in working together. Parents' evening for everyone else will take place in a few weeks time and we are very much looking forward to opening our doors and welcoming you in.

Thanks to the weather, we managed to get in another 2 glorious Forest School sessions this week. We had fire lighting, den building, potion making and woodland craft all on the go (as well as biscuits and marshmallows of course), and we all had such a lovely time together. Next week it is the turn of Lanyon class. It has been scheduled for Friday, but I will look at the weather early next week and make the best decision.

Lastly, as you know, a new behaviour policy was brought in last spring. We are still following the policy in school and will be reviewing it over the next few terms and adapting it as needed to suit the school. There is a brief parent overview attached to this newsletter explaining the rewards and sanctions process. There are also leaflets in the foyer in case you should want a hard copy. As we make changes, we will keep you updated.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

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

Clubs

Advance notice

Drama Club will NOT be on for Year 5 on Tuesday 8th or on Tuesday 15th October. Only Year 6 should attend on those dates.
All teacher-led and hall based clubs will be cancelled on Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October due to parents evening. After school childcare will still run as normal.

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.

Individual and family photos

Hatchbox Photographers will be in school on **Tuesday 8th 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. Children in Year 1 and 2 should bring their PE kit in to change into after lunch.

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 9th 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, or are due a termly SEND review meeting with your child's teacher, you may not wish to book another meeting at this time.

Fluoride Varnish for Reception and Year 1

A letter and information was emailed to all parents of Reception and Year 1 this week. If you would like to your child to have the fluoride varnish on 7th November, please click on the link and sign the consent form. **This is an opt in programme so your child will not be given the fluoride treatment unless you have consented.**

<https://forms.microsoft.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=0pu0GBTS4kaBhm1AEuWwp9mp2q1h-6tDgsUtd46YOPZURDRTWVIyV1VJVk1QQzFONUcwVTQ0NjBVQyQIQCN0PWcu>

Important information about school lunches

We have been advised by TPAT that we must change the way we ask you to book and pay for school lunches. This will now be online via the Aspens site 'Select'. To give us enough time to implement this, this will start after half term on **Wednesday 6th November**.

All parents will need to register on the Aspens Select site and will need to book and pay (if applicable) for lunches up to 9am on the day of the lunch. You will be able to book in advance for the day, week or month and add money if you need to, in advance, onto the Select site.

After half term, the children will no longer be asked for their order in the mornings in class, nor will you be able to pay online using the Schoolmoney system. Please do not add any money for school lunches in advance after half term to the Schoolmoney system.

All parents, including those with children on free school meals and in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (Universal Free School Meals), will need to book even if their child's meal will be free.

We will be sending an individual letter out soon with the school code and child's code on it which you will need to register on the Select site. Please register as soon as possible but only book lunches from 6th November. If both parents need to be able to book lunches, you will both need to register but the child's details will be the same. Please ask at the office if you need an additional copy of this information.

Until half term all ordering and paying will carry on in exactly the same way.

If you have any questions please ask Mrs Gill or Mrs Stacey at the office.

Thank you for your support with this.



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 IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College®

Sources: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

@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: 02.10.2024

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	Zinnia	for playing really nicely with her peers
	Little Owls	Lilly	for being a really kind friend & being really chatty
	Kittiwakes	Vinnie	Enthusiasm: for amazing enthusiasm in all learning
	Curlews	Morvah	Enthusiasm: for a lovely attitude to school & always giving her best
	Puffins	Ava-Grace	Enthusiasm: for an amazing attitude towards learning
	Owls	Adrianas	Perseverance: for keeping on trying even when things seem a bit tricky
	Kingfishers	Arty	Perseverance: for trying so hard in our writing lessons
	Trencrom	Elliot	Enthusiasm: for some absolutely brilliant writing in English this week
	Lanyon	Louie	Enthusiasm: for always having a fantastic attitude towards learning
	Kerris	Kitto	Enthusiasm: for always working so hard in everything he does
	Bodrifty	Elsie-Rae	Enthusiasm: for always working so hard and being a fantastic role model
	Bosigran	Felix	Enthusiasm: for great speaking & listening in our class discussions
	Kenidjack	Finley	Responsibility: for the mature & responsible attitude Finley has
	Lunchtime Star	Danielius	for being a very kind friend

Hello again, another week has come to an end and suddenly the half term seems to be getting closer. How is that for you? Great? Exciting? Stressful? All of these or something different? I am always willing to listen, share ideas and advice, talk things over with you if that helps. I know it always helps me, I just need to choose the right person and I consider myself really fortunate because I have a selection of friends, family and colleagues who I can (and do) turn to for advice, a hug, a chat about any worries or problems I have. Or even all three. Sometimes tea is involved, sometimes a walk, sometimes a glass of wine. I can offer the first two options - my personal favourite is what we at home call "walk and talk" where we tend to pack a flask and a packet of biscuits and head off for a stroll. Mostly I come back feeling better than when I left. I can do that with you too if you like - tea, coffee, biscuits and if you do fancy a short stroll I can manage that too. I will listen and respond in positive and non-judgmental ways, and keep what you say to myself unless you ask me to discuss it further. But that's your decision because if you want confidentiality that is exactly what you will get. Much love, Mrs D xxxx PS - I had a peep at this Australian website because I liked the title and it looks interesting. It's about supporting parents to be parents - acknowledging that it's really not an easy job at all, which is reassuring in itself -

it's called raisingchildren.net.au. Maybe give it a go if you have five minutes? You're probably all laughing at the thought of having 5 minutes to yourselves now, aren't you? Make some time for you, that's crucial - even just have a cuppa.



The deadline for applications is **15 January 2025**

Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021?**

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2025 for your child by the deadline of **15 January 2025**.



Please note: you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Photos © iStockphoto.com, Adobe Stock, iStockphoto.com

The deadline for applications is **31 October 2024**

Transfer to secondary school

September 2025

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school



Information and guidance

Website and application form: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 101



www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 8th October

Hatchbox individual & family photos (main school)

Thursday 17th October

Harvest Festival in the hall

9.30am

Followed by coffee & cake in aid of the Foodbank

Monday 21st - Wednesday 23rd October

Parents evening meetings

3.30-6pm

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

Autumn half term holiday

Monday 4th - Tuesday 5th November

INSET days - school closed

Wednesday 6th November

School opens

NEW SCHOOL LUNCH BOOKINGS BEGIN

All clubs continue