

I thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas 'lighting the tree' today. It was lovely to meet so many of you again and celebrate a very special time of year. I am sure everyone would agree that Alverton Primary know how to put on a really good show and I am very much looking forward to all the other Christmas events organised over the next two weeks – let the Christmas season begin!

## Policy Spotlight - Attendance Policy

I'd like to share our new Attendance Policy with you all. There is a link to our website where you'll be able to read the full policy.

Alverton School Attendance Policy

<http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/attendance/617469>

As part of the Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT), our policy is a used in all TPAT schools. It shares what to do if your child is unwell and how to report absences. It outlines the procedures and processes the school is legally required to take if a child is absent regularly. It clarifies persistent absence as when a child misses 10% or more of their schooling across the school year for any reason. It also outlines a tiered approach to supporting high attendance.

I think it is going to help support our children to reach their full potential as it recognises that regular full time attendance has a very significant positive effect on the motivation, social development and attainment of our children.

If you wish to find out more, I have organised an attendance meeting in the new year for parents on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 in school. It is a good opportunity to ask questions and learn more about how we can work together to ensure good attendance.

Simon Brown  
Headteacher



## Christmas lunch and wear something Christmassy - Friday 15th December

Bookings for Christmas lunch on 15th December have now closed. If you did not return a slip, 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)**

## Christmas tree

A huge thank you to Mole Valley Farmers for their kind donation of our beautiful Christmas and thank you to all the children who made a decoration for it.



## Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

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

[sbrown@alverton.tpacademytrust.org](mailto: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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

## FOAS Christmas Jumper Swap

Save money and help the environment by taking part in the FOAS Christmas Jumper Swap.

From Monday 4th December: Bring preloved kids Christmas jumpers to the uniform rail in reception.

From Monday 11th December: Help yourself to a preloved jumper from the uniform rail in reception.

## 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.

## Equality Information


Every year we write to all parents about the Equality Plan and Equality Action Plan. This addresses our statutory duties in relation to race, disability, gender and promoting community cohesion and covers staff, pupils and people using the services of the school such as parents. It also addresses the legislation relating to religion or belief, age and sexual orientation and includes our priorities and actions to eliminate discrimination and harassment for these equality areas.

We are required to produce an annual report on our progress, looking at the impact of our actions. Please click on the link below to find out more about this, including our Parent Guide which can be downloaded from this page and which includes the report on our progress towards our key objectives this year. The guide also asks anyone interested in being part of our ongoing consultation to get in touch with either Mr Brown or Mrs Wicks – if you are interested, we would be delighted to hear from you.

[http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/equality\\_information/85312](http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/equality_information/85312)

The Christmas holidays are fast approaching and that means it's time for **Christmas Holiday Reading Bingo!** Just complete all the challenges, get them signed off by a grown up and you could be in with a chance of winning a voucher for the fantastic Edge of the World Bookshop! You'll find the bingo sheet attached to this newsletter or just ask at the office if you'd like a paper copy. Happy reading! Mrs Clive.

 **Christmas Holiday Reading Bingo!** 

Read aloud to someone! 	Read in your pyjamas! 	Read in a den that you've made! 	Read by torchlight! 
Read while wearing a funny hat! 	Read a recipe! 	Read a new book! 	Read a favourite old book! 
Listen to someone else read (a person or an audiobook!) 	Read a poem! 	Read while eating your favourite snack! 	Just read! 

## Clubs

All clubs have now finished apart from after school childcare which must be pre-booked. A new clubs list will come home when term starts in January.



**DT Sports**  
COACHING SERVICES



Information Classification: CONTROLLED  
**Healthy Cornwall**

## FREE Kids Activity Club

**Encouraging Primary School children to be more active!**

**Do you have a child that wants to try something new and get more active?**

Activity for children should be **FUN!**

In partnership with DT Coaching, Healthy Cornwall are delivering a range of fun, different and exciting activities every week during term.

**These include – Multi-Sports, Archery, Kin Ball, NERF Battles, Laser Tag, Ultimate Frisbee, and much more!**

**Times /Venues** (beginning week commencing 4th September 2023)

- Redruth School, Wednesdays, 17:00-18:00
- St Meriadoc CE Junior School, Fridays, 15.45-16.45
- Humphry Davy, Thursdays, 17:00-18:00

Contact Healthy Cornwall to book your place  
Phone : 01209 615600 or Email [Healthy.cornwall@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Healthy.cornwall@cornwall.gov.uk)

**Booking is essential**



healthycornwall.org.uk  
healthycornwall@cornwall.gov.uk  
01209 615600





**Christmas at**  
**(PK) PORTHCURNO**  
FREE TO ALL, INCLUDES PARKING & MUSEUM ENTRY!  
**FRIDAY 08 DECEMBER**  
18:30 - 20:30

**MAIN EVENT**  
**WINTER WINDOWS LIGHT UP & CORNISH CAROLS BY BOILERHOUSE**

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS SWITCH-ON FEATURING FESTIVE ARTWORK CREATED BY OUR LOCAL SCHOOL CHILDREN & COMMUNITY.

**THERE'S ALSO...**  
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES  
FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK  
LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Just a little reminder about our fabulous Book Swap boxes just inside the door in the school (just look for the sign!) A great way to refresh your home reading selection and good for our planet too!





## 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

Part of our Social Media & Live Streaming Series



Brought to you by



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

What you need to know about...

# MUSIC STREAMING APPS & SITES

Download the App

Search Artists

## What are they? 'Music Streaming Apps & Sites'

Music streaming apps allow people to listen to music on their devices. It gives users access to millions of songs and artists from around the world. Popular music streaming apps and sites include Spotify, Soundcloud, Apple music, Amazon Prime and Deezer. Music streaming allows children to listen to songs from around the world in a much easier and cheaper way. This enables them to showcase their talent which would have been very hard to do many years back.

## Know the Risks

### Explicit content

Explicit content is everywhere online, including in popular music. Children can easily access songs on Spotify, for example, that may have explicit or inappropriate language not suitable for children. It is also easy to erase searches so you can't see what a child has been listening to.

### Adult themed podcasts

Many music streaming apps also offer the ability to listen to podcasts which can vary across any kind of topic, from business and health to comedy and relationships. Again, children could be exposed to content which is more adult themed or contains age-inappropriate language.

### Chatting to strangers

Some music apps, like Playlist, want to make music a more social experience by finding others who share the same musical tastes and will allow users to join group chats where they listen to a playlist together in real time. This could open up your child to talking to strangers online.

## Safety Tips

### Use child friendly apps

Many music streaming services are made just for children. For instance, the Spotify kids app provides parents with control over what their children listen to and all the content is family friendly and fun for children to explore.

### Turn off explicit content

Most of the major music streaming apps will provide the option to turn off explicit material to make sure the music is completely clean. Some services even offer an option to lock the content censoring settings with a password, so your child can't switch it back.

### Implement privacy controls

Check the privacy setting of your child's app. Ensure that whichever app or site they choose to stream music, the settings are set to be private. This way they can only share the music they are listening too with friends and family and can't engage in conversation with strangers.

## Offering Support

### Explore apps yourself

If your child insists on wanting to use a music streaming app then be part of the journey with them. Take the time to understand which apps they prefer to use and why they want to use it. Find out how to use the app yourself and understand what they could be exposed to and how to ensure they get the most of it in a safe manner.

### Regularly check-in

Have regular conversations with your child about what they are listening to and how they are feeling. If they do hear explicit music or content that makes them feel uncomfortable, let them know that they can always talk to you and discuss what they've heard and what it means.

## Our Expert Parven Kaur



Parven Kaur is social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks; a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

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.

## 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](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.

## DIARY DATES

Wednesday 6th December 9.30am and 4pm	Reception Christmas performance - school hall
Friday 8th December 2pm	Nursery Nativity - main school hall
Monday 11th December - <b>PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE</b> 6.30pm	KS2 Carol Service at Chapel Street Methodist Chapel
Wednesday 13th December	Nursery pupils Christmas lunch
Thursday 14th December 9am at the Savoy Cinema	Year 5/6 cinema trip <i>Letters have come home. Please return the permission slip &amp; pay online asap</i>
Thursday 14th December 2pm and 6pm	KS1 Christmas performance - school hall <i>Details to follow for KS1 parents</i> <i>Please can children attend <b>both</b> performances</i>
Friday 15th December	Pupils Christmas lunch (main school)
Monday 18th December 9am at the Savoy Cinema	Year 3/4 cinema trip <i>Letters have come home. Please return the permission slip &amp; pay online asap</i>
Tuesday 19th December 3.15pm	Last day of term for main school and Woodland Nursery
Thursday 4th January 8.25am	First day of Spring term for main school and Woodland Nursery
Monday 15th January	Clubs start