

Dear Parents/Carers

What a wonderful week we have had! I loved celebrating my first Alverton World Book Day on Thursday. The costumes and outfits the children wore were wonderful, and it was so nice seeing all the book-related activities taking place. In the afternoon I got to experience The Oscars where there were some great book recommendations and awards given out. It was great to see the librarians involved in the judging of the books and there were some very deserving winners! A huge thank you to Miss Green, Miss Field & Miss Bowman for arranging the awards, Mrs Petty and her team for arranging the decorations and Mr Hammond for his great compering.



Some happy news to share - Miss Hooton is expecting her second child! We are so very happy for her and her family. She is hoping to stay until May half term and begin her maternity then. We will share information about her replacement as soon as we have it.

Over the next few weeks we are going to be reminding children about having healthy snacks at break time. A healthy snack at break time can help pupils with both concentration and behaviour in the classroom. Over the last few weeks we have noticed children eating their crisps and biscuits at break. We are going to be reinforcing that whilst these are allowed, they are to have as part of their lunchtime meal. They are welcome to bring in snacks such as all fresh fruit and vegetables including pots/bags of fruit and vegetables, raisins/sultanas (not coated), dried fruit flakes, plain bread sticks and unsalted rice cakes. There are also items to buy from our tuck shop should they want to.

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

Red Nose Day - non uniform day

Friday 21st March

We are going to be raising money for Comic Relief on Red Nose Day this year by having a non uniform day on Friday 21st March. Any amount of donation will be gratefully received.



Thank you

A big thank you to Janus Howard (Marissa's Dad) and Digital Peninsula Network for their donation of clipboards for the children to use in the playgrounds.

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.

Global Boarders Surf Club

Year 1-6

Global Boarders may run an after school surf club after Easter for 6 weeks if there is enough interest. The cost is £108 and you would need to transport your child to and from Praa Sands beach. For more information please ask at the office. Deadline is 14th March to sign up.

Please be very mindful if you drive down Toltuff Crescent and Provis Road. Some of our neighbours have reported scratched cars and inconsiderate parking over their driveways so please take care when driving and parking in these roads.

Parents Evenings

Booking has now opened for parent consultations (a ten minute phone call) which are being held in the week beginning Monday 17th March. **If you haven't yet booked your appointment time please go online and do so before the booking window closes on 12th March.**

You will 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. 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.

Club cancellations next week

Year 3/4 Reading and Wellbeing is CANCELLED next Monday 10th March. Please collect your child at 3.15pm.

Club cancellations for parents evenings

All the following clubs will be **cancelled** in the week beginning 17th March due to parents evenings:

Monday 17th - Y3-6 Football, Y3-6 Netball, Y1/2 Book club, Y3/4 Reading & Wellbeing

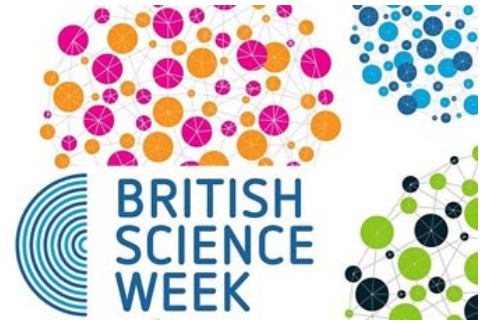
Tuesday 18th - Y5/6 Drama, Y1/2 Boys Football, Y3/4 Art

Wednesday 19th - Y3-6 Cross Country, Y5/6 Art, Y2 Arts & Crafts

If clubs are cancelled at short notice we will send you an in-app message on Arbor so please ensure you have downloaded the Arbor app so you can read these.

Science Week

To celebrate Science Week next week we would like to invite all parents from Year 1-6 into school on **Friday 14th March** from 3.15-3.30pm to pop into their child's class to have a look at what we have been creating. Please come along if you can.



Year 5 Porthpean and Year 6 London

Final payments

A reminder that all remaining payments for this year's residential trips must be paid by the following dates:

Year 5 Porthpean Friday 7th March

Year 6 London Friday 31st March

Please log into Arbor (we no longer use Schoolmoney), check how much you owe and pay by the deadline date.

Any questions, please ask at the office.

Hello there and how are you all? Coping? Doing really well? Hanging in by your finger tips? All are fine and I know for a fact that I've been through all of those and more quite a few times as a primary school parent. Have I told you before how much I hated (yup, my feelings were that strong sometimes) the school run. I never once felt really at ease and if my one and only buddy wasn't there at the start and end of a school day I was so uncomfortable I couldn't wait to leave - drop and go or pick up and run away. Spare a thought for those parents and carers who, like me, may be feeling really nervous, worried or lonely at the school gate, it's more common than you may think because, to be honest, I never showed it (I don't think so anyway). I put on this brave face and smiled my way through the ordeal until I could leave. Anyway, that's all part of the bigger picture of how hard parenting can be, whether we are parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings or carers in any shape or form; it isn't easy. Never has been, never will be.



Want to chat, want to be listened to? I'm good at that and I can very be sympathetic. I can make a decent cuppa too. So, much love, be kind to yourselves, be gentle, don't be judgemental of others or yourselves and say hi to that lone parent at the school gate. It's impossible to be perfect so don't even try. And if it's all too much come and unburden. You know the drill my lovelies. Mrs D
xxxxxxxxxx



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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College®

@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: 05.03.2025

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 | Eloise | for her enthusiasm during the police visit | |
|  | Little Owls | Elsie | for being really helpful, being brave & trying new things | |
|  | Kittiwakes | Jimmy | Enthusiasm: for showing incredible enthusiasm towards phonics & reading |  |
|  | Curlews | Aliya | Enthusiasm: for being enthusiastic even when work isn't easy |  |
|  | Puffins | Isaac | Perseverance: for giving his best effort to all his learning |  |
|  | Owls | Tilly | Perseverance: for making super progress in reading |  |
|  | Kingfishers | Ameya | Enthusiasm: for trying so hard to improve her reading |  |
|  | Trencrom | Millie | Kindness: for always working hard & never giving up & being a wonderful friend |  |
|  | Lanyon | Kiera | Enthusiasm: for absolutely fantastic Geography work |  |
|  | Kerris | Immy | Enthusiasm: for working especially hard in Maths this week |  |
|  | Bodrifty | Lowan | Enthusiasm: for working extremely hard in English |  |
|  | Bosigran | Noah G | Enthusiasm: for his hard work, participation & super approach to learning |  |
|  | Kenidjack | Vivian | Enthusiasm: for super determination & great results in his Marths tests |  |
|  | Lunchtime Star | Danielius | for lovely manners and behaviour in the lunch hall |  |

DIARY DATES

| | |
|---|--|
| Monday 17th-19th March 3.30-6pm | Parents evenings <i>Please book online from 5th March</i> |
| Monday 17th-19th March | All clubs cancelled due to parents evening |
| Friday 21st March | Red Nose Day <i>Non uniform day - bring a voluntary donation</i> |
| Friday 28th March | All clubs finish |
| Friday 4th April 3.15pm | School closes for Easter holidays (normal time) |
| Tuesday 22nd April 8.30am | School re-opens for Summer term |



CAPE CORNWALL SCHOOL

SUPER! SATURDAY

Years 4, 5 & 6

Saturday 22nd March 2025 | 10.00 - 12.30

SCIENCE - THE INVISIBLE WORLD

Investigate all things microscopic that can't be seen by the human eye! Magnify tiny biological specimens using a microscope, learn about cells and explore the live microscopic world of pond water... who knows what you will find!

FUN FRENCH

Take part in competitive code breaking games - who will be our languages legends?

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - PNEUMATIC MONSTERS

Get ready to bring your monster to life! You will design and build your very own creature using an exciting pneumatic system - making it move, growl, or even roar! Learn the magic of air-powered mechanics while unleashing your creativity. Are you ready to create something monstrously cool?

DRAMA - PHYSICAL THEATRE

Do you enjoy being creative and active? Come on join Drama for the morning where you will work in small groups responding to fun creative tasks, use your body to create various objects and why not try some jumps, turns, rolls, balances, and lifts! A great choice for individuals who like to keep moving!

FOOD - EASTER FAIRY CAKE FUN

Hop into the kitchen for a sprinkle of Easter fun! Bakers will whip up delicious fairy cakes but with a Easter inspired twist. Get ready to mix, bake, and decorate your own sweet Easter creations.





Join Newlyn Theatre Troupe @ Old School Studio

Weekly Musical Theatre classes.
Held every Saturday.

First Troupe (ages 5-9)
12-1:30 pm.

Second Troupe (ages 10-15)
1:45-3:15pm

No term fees. Pay per session.
£10 at sign in.

Scan the QR code to visit our
website and book your class.
Free trial on first class.

Email:
admin@newlyntheatretroupe.com
Call us: 07742039467

