



24/2/23

FRIDAY NEWS

N^o. 21

24 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know that I have taken the decision to retire from headship, and to leave Alverton School at the end of the current academic year in July 2023.

It has been an absolute honour to have led Alverton School since 2013; it is a fabulous school which thoroughly deserves the excellent reputation it holds both locally and across the county. Our school community makes Alverton such a special place to be as a pupil, a member of staff or a parent. The children I have worked with over the past ten years have been an absolute credit to you as parents in terms of their attitudes to learning and, equally importantly, their attitudes to one another and the world in general. This is something that is consistently commented upon by visitors to the school or when our pupils themselves go offsite for visits. It is no coincidence that these positive characteristics shown by our pupils are matched by the strong parental support that the school receives.

I am proud to say that I believe that over the past decade we have moved the school forward in many areas and, in handing over the leadership baton to a new Headteacher in September, I do so with the school in a strong and healthy position for the new Headteacher to continue the drive to provide the highest possible standards in all aspects of school life for the children in our care.

The strong position we are in is the result of the hard work, skill and dedication of our team of staff and governors. It has been a privilege to work alongside, and have the support of, so many exceptional individuals who form such a strong and united team whose synergy makes any challenge or goal achievable. From Mrs Gill and Mrs Stacey in the school office to all of the teaching assistants and teachers, to Mrs George our tireless Chair of Governors and to Mrs Wicks, who has been my right hand and hugely talented Deputy for a decade, we are lucky to have such a remarkable team and I will be forever grateful to them for their hard work and unwavering loyalty over this time.

As you can imagine, this has been a difficult decision to make having spent the last twenty three years of my career as a Headteacher. Headship is a unique, privileged and occasionally challenging role that I have thoroughly enjoyed and am proud to have been able to undertake for so long. However, I feel that the time is right both professionally and personally for me to move on to a new challenge, and I will be taking a new position within our Trust (TPAT).

In preparation for the changes in September, we are making some alterations to our internal leadership structure. This will mean that I will become Executive Headteacher until the end of the summer term and Mrs Wicks will be Head of School. In terms of the day-to-day experience of pupils, staff and parents, things will change very little but it will allow the school to prepare for the transition and for me to spend some time on my new role.

The Trust and Governing Body will be looking to recruit a new Headteacher from September 2023 with Mrs Wicks being key to this transition process given her expertise and unique understanding of the Alverton School culture and DNA, although she has made it clear that the role of Headteacher is not one to which she personally aspires.

I look forward to continuing to work with everyone at Alverton School for the remainder of the academic year and thank you all for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Higgs
Headteacher

Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact Martin Higgs (Designated Safeguarding Lead) at

head@alverton.cornwall.sch.uk 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

After school childcare

From now on the school will be providing its own after school child care.

As we have limited spaces if you need childcare it must be booked in advance with the office by emailing alverton@tpacademytrust.org or calling 01736 364087 before 3pm on the day of the booking required.

Year 4 camp meeting

Please come along to the camp meeting on **Wednesday 1st March at 3.15pm** in Kerris classroom if you can. You’ll get more information, be able to ask any questions you might have and pick up your child’s forms to complete.

Thank you

A huge thank you to everyone who so generously donated on the FOAS “Break the Rules” Day on 10th February. We raised a fantastic **£506.96** which will be split between FOAS and the DEC Appeal for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake.

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.

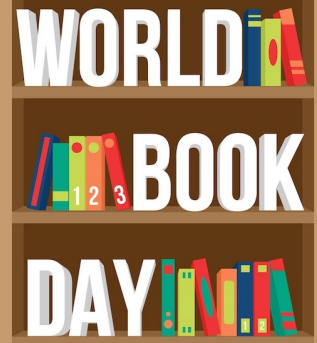


World Book Day - Wednesday 1st March

Non uniform day - dress as a book character or for the Book Oscars

This year we will be having a rail in the school entrance where anyone who has a costume that they have grown out of or no longer want can donate it to the rail. Equally, anyone who needs a costume can look on the rail and see if there is anything suitable. If you could help with this please can you send any unwanted costumes into school next Monday or Tuesday. If you need a new costume, feel free to help yourself. Any costumes that remain after 1st March will be gratefully added to the EYFS children's dressing up collection.

Some parents have requested a children's book swap and this will also be held in the entrance. Please look through your book shelves and donate any books you can bear to part with so others may enjoy them. The book swap will run from Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March.



Many thanks to our local branch of the Co-op who have given us £150 to help us grow some lovely food, some of which we are hoping is going to go on our Help Your Shelf.



Parents Evenings for Year 1-6

Our parent consultations this term will be a **ten minute phone conversation** with your child's teacher in which you will be able to discuss your child's progress.

A letter has come from your child's teacher with all the dates and times later this term.

They will take place in the week beginning Monday 13th March.

We are going to use our system for booking phone appointments through our eschools facility which is part of our school website, as we did in the Autumn.

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. 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 1st March**. It is easy and quick to use:

- Go to the school website <http://alverton.org.uk> and click on the white log in button in the red area 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 with Mrs Hughes and your child's class teacher, you don't need to book an appointment through the eschools system.

Please ensure that we have your up-to-date phone number so that your child's teacher can contact you for your appointment.

Menu Change

Wednesday 1st March - World Book Day

Cheese & tomato pizza or veggie bites with wedges

Friday 3rd March - St Piran's Day

Steak or cheese & onion pasty

Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta will also be available on both days.



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

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 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) SOLUTIONS

AI solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Trained on vast datasets of text (such as books, articles and websites) in order to learn patterns and relationships, AI solutions can generate text, images, audio, video, code or synthetic data, and can be used for things such as crafting poems or books, creating digital imagery or delivering video content. Recently there's been significant discussion in relation to the benefits and risks of AI solutions, with many undecided on whether it will be a force for good or potentially reduce the need for some job roles.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ROOM FOR INACCURACY

AI solutions, such as language models, generate their responses purely based on the data they've been trained on, which often comes from sources on the internet. Whilst questions will often illicit relevant responses, if some of the information they've been 'fed' is incorrect, it follows that the answers too may contain factual errors or inaccuracies.

REINFORCING BIAS

AI solutions, such as those generating content or images, can perpetuate existing biases present in the data they were trained, whether through the algorithms written by humans or the content taken from the web. This could easily lead to biased responses and potentially reinforce existing stereotypes, such as those around gender, race or disability.

IRRELEVANT INFORMATION

AI solutions don't have the ability to understand the context or meaning behind a question or a user request. Although highly advanced, the AI relies entirely on the data it's been exposed to and is devoid of independent thought or reasoning, which could lead to irrelevant or even nonsensical responses to queries.

LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Fundamentally, AI solutions are machines or technology programmes that don't have the ability to take responsibility for the responses they generate. This could lead to confusion or misunderstandings in certain cases if the answers are taken as given. For instance, image-generative AIs can lead to output clearly derived from other peoples' content but without any attribution to the original source artist's work.

STIFLING CREATIVITY

One of the potential risks of children and young people continually using AI solutions for things (such as their homework) is that eventually, they might become reliant on it. In the long term, this could potentially impact their development and hamper their ability to think creatively or solve problems independently without the aid of an AI tool.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If possible, try to be around when your child uses any type of AI solution and employ content filters to try and reduce the chance of profanity or age-inappropriate subjects appearing in responses. As with any kind of technology, it's important to ensure that children are using AI solutions responsibly and to be there to enable opportunities to discuss their use as part of a safe environment.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Explain to your child that AI solutions can be used as one of many tools to help them research and learn, but that they shouldn't simply accept the responses they receive as the truth. Encourage them to question, verify and think critically about the information they get back – all of which apply equally to any website or platform they use.

DISCUSS BIAS

Talk to your child about the potential biases that may be present in the data that AI solutions are trained on, and how these viewpoints might find their way into the responses that AI generates. Again, with many things children might read online, it's healthy for them to consider whether the information is factual and presented fairly.

ENCOURAGE HUMAN INTERACTION

Not only should children supplement any use of software like AI with additional resources such as books and reputable internet sites, but they also should remember what they can learn from interaction with other people. Discussing things with teachers, relatives and friends isn't just an important and often invaluable aspect of learning – it's an essential part of life, too.

CHECK SCHOOL RULES

Make yourself aware of any rules or guidance your child's school might have about the use of AI solutions. Most software is still extremely new, so many schools may not yet have a policy, however, it's important to make sure your child is aware of how to use it appropriately and will be using it for the right reasons.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://openai.com/blog/chatgpt/> | <https://generativeai.net/> | <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/mckinsey-explainers/what-is-generative-ai>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com [@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.02.2023

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 O'Rourke 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



- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| Kittiwakes | Isaac | for super engagement in our hot seat character activity |
| Curlews | Toni-Rose | for really helping me this week with knowing all the songs |
| Puffins | Ruby | for all her hard work in all subjects & being a super friend |
| Owls | Jessica | for such super progress in her reading |
| Kingfishers | Esme | for trying so hard in everything she does & doing it with a smile |
| Trencrom | Sienna | for being a bright & enthusiastic member of our class |
| Lanyon | Eve | for working hard in the first week back & always smiling |
| Kerris | Reuben | for always working hard & being such a lovely member of our class |
| Bodriftly | Emilis | for excellent enthusiasm in everything & brilliant work in French |
| Bosigran | Freddie | for excellent Geography work on biomes. You are a star! |
| Kenidjack | Daniel | for making such a great effort to work in preparation for SATs |
| Lunchtime Star | Jemima J | for always being so polite & well mannered |

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 1st March	<i>World Book Day - dress as a book character or for the Book Oscars Ceremony</i>
Wednesday 1st March 3.15pm	Year 4 camp meeting in Kerris class
Friday 3rd March am	Year 6 St Piran's Day Parade <i>Letters have come home with details</i>
Monday 13th-Thursday 16th March	Parents evening (by phone call) <i>Please book online by 8th March to secure a convenient time. Full details in letter that has come home.</i>
Wednesday 29th March	FOAS Easter Disco <i>Information to follow</i>
Friday 31st March 3.15pm	Last day of term