

## CARS AND CHILDREN DON'T MIX

School Ministers lead the latest call for parents to keep cars away from the school.



When our school was designed and built in the mid 1950s, I doubt that the planners ever considered a world where so many families would own a motor car or that more than a handful of children would arrive at school under anything but their own steam. The truth is that even given the well-documented environmental impact of modern cars and the high cost of fuel, we seem to have more children than ever arriving to school on four wheels.

Over the years, we've tried all kinds of ways to limit the volume of traffic coming into Toltuff Crescent from asking politely in newsletters to standing in the road to create a human barrier. The fact of the matter is that so far nothing seems to work. In fact, I'm rapidly reaching the conclusion that it might take an awful accident to affect any sort of change.

We understand that some people, those with disabilities or mums who are heavily pregnant for example, need to drive as close to the school gates as possible. The question being asked by our school Ministers is 'Why do you need to continue put us at risk?'. Our elected pupil Ministers led by Rosa and John, who have responsibility for the Environment, are taking up the case and will be contacting the local council and the police in order to try to improve the situation before the inevitable happens and a child or parent is seriously hurt.

Pupils will be gathering traffic data outside the school at the start and end of some school days and will be recording the all too frequent 'near misses' in order to build a case to take to the County Council representatives and local highway enforcement officers.

We are very grateful to the vast majority of parents who don't drive into Toltuff Crescent.

This week gave us a glimpse of what would happen if even more people chose to drive to the school gates. On Wednesday evening, as the monsoon-like rains fell, the roads around the school were gridlocked with parents on their way to and from the Halloween Discos. The costumes were terrifying but the real horror was outside of the school, as drivers lost patience with one another and cars, including those of some residents, were damaged as people tried to squeeze past one another down roads that simply can't cope with that volume of traffic. At least no children were harmed. This time.

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](mailto: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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)

## **Safeguarding Newsletter - Autumn Term 2022**

All children have a right to be safe and we believe that keeping children safe is everyone’s responsibility. This term, our safeguarding newsletter provides information about Bullying. Please can we ask you to take a few minutes to read this as it is very important and we hope that you will find it informative and useful. Please follow this link and download the newsletter.

<http://www.alverton.org.uk/web/safeguarding/85998>

## **After School provision**

Mr T is continuing to run after school childcare every evening until 5.15pm. He now works for DT Sports Coaching but the arrangements remain the same. Please see the attached letter and form for more information. To contact him please ring 07843 126833

or email

[clubs@dtcoaching.co.uk](mailto:clubs@dtcoaching.co.uk)

## **Staffing Update**

At the end of last half term, we said goodbye to Mrs Ward and Mrs Woodcock. We would like to thank them for their hard work here at Alverton and wish them all the best in their new roles. This term, we welcome Mrs Jones, Mrs Smith and Mrs Street who will be working mainly with the children in Reception and Years 3 and 4.

## **Thank you**

FOAS would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported both the non-uniform day and the Halloween Disco recently. The total from both was a fantastic **£439.18**. Thanks also to the FOAS volunteers and staff that helped out with the Disco.

## **Christmas cards**

Proofs of your child’s Christmas cards will come home today or early next week. All the instructions are on the proof. Ordering and payment is done online with cards returned to school. A percentage of the profits will go to FOAS who would be very grateful if you could support this. Many thanks.

## **Healthy tuck**

As we are a healthy school, please provide your child with healthy snacks for tuck such as fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, crackers or rice cakes. No crisps, sweets or chocolate please. A packet of crisps is allowed as part of their packed lunch eaten at lunchtime. We also ask that water bottles are filled with water only and not squash or juice. Thank you for your support.

## **Clubs**

All clubs continue until Friday 2nd December. A new list will come out for the Spring term after Christmas.



## 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 & Carers Need to Know about

# AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

#### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

#### LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

#### REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'intimacy levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

#### RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

#### BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

#### ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

#### 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

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 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

Curlews

Puffins

Owls

Kingfishers

Trencrom

Lanyon

Kerris

Bodrifty

Bosigran

Kenidjack

Lunchtime Star

## TO BE ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY

Well, I'm damp and soggy with this constant rain, a bit grumpy as the days get shorter and feeling less in love with my bike than I am when the days are warm and sunny. It's hard to always feel joyous and full of happiness and for me there are triggers that make me a bit sad, lots of rain and the onset of winter are definitely top of the list for me. As I always say though, I am incredibly fortunate to have a lovely family and some great friends who put up with my blues, cheer me up, look after me and are always there when I need them. Hopefully I do the same for them. If, like me, the weather is getting you down, the dark mornings and evenings are making you feel fed up or you are worried, stressed, cross or generally out of sorts, come and find me. You'll benefit from my superb tea and coffee making skills as well as give me an excuse to raid the biscuit cupboard. You don't even really need to have a worry, sometimes it's just nice to take half an hour out of a busy day and chat. It works for me, come and try it for yourself. Mrs Daylak.

### Diary Dates

- |          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st Dec  | Advent Service at 9.30am              |
| 7th Dec  | EYFS Christmas production time TBC    |
| 8th Dec  | KS1 Christmas production at 2pm & 6pm |
| 9th Dec  | Pupils Christmas lunch                |
| 14th Dec | KS2 Carol Concert at 6.30pm at        |

### LOST

Dylan in Kerris has lost his red PE bag with his school uniform & school shoes in it.  
Kitty in Kerris has lost her black, lightweight waterproof coat, Cape brand. Please check at home and hand in if found.



Nov 28



## Neurodiversity event

Help us to design a different way of helping neurodiverse children in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health care.

By NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Follow

General Admission - 1 +

Free ⓘ 43 Remaining

Reserve a spot

### When and where



#### Date and time

Mon, 28 November 2022,  
10:00 – 15:00 GMT



#### Location

Queens Hotel Promenade Penzance  
TR18 4HG

Hide map ↕

## About this event



5 hours



Mobile eTicket

We want you to help us design a different way of helping neurodiverse children who currently wait for assessments, such as autism and ADHD in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

\*Please note parking will be paid for and lunch will be provided.

To book Bodmin click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodiversity-event-tickets-453875372457>

To book Penzance click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodiversity-event-tickets-453906826537>

To book Truro click here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neurodiversity-event-tickets-453908421307>