



20/9/24

FRIDAY NEWS

N^o. 3

Dear Parents and Carers

The return of sunny weather has been the icing on the cake for the children (and staff!) in school this week. In assembly on Monday, we looked at the importance of Teamwork. We talked about how we can use the support of our friends to help us achieve more than we can by ourselves and decided Together Everyone Achieves More.

Teamwork was the focus for our first Forest School session this week. Kennijack had a great time together helping each other light fires and build dens. It was so lovely watching them play together in such a special space, and it was also lovely for the staff to see the class in a different environment and watch their relationships develop.

In other news, it is that time of year again where our year 6 families are thinking about the next stage in their educational journey. We strongly encourage our year 6 pupils to go to as many of the open days and evenings as possible to help them make their choice. Pupil's attendance will be taken for the day, and it is classed as an educational visit. The open days (in the order that they are taking place) for the secondary schools are:

Cape Cornwall School - Wednesday 25th September, day and evening - [Home - Cape Cornwall School](#)

Humphry Davy School - Tuesday 1st October, evening only - <https://www.humphry-davy.cornwall.sch.uk/>

Mounts Bay Academy - Thursday 3rd October, day and evening - [Home - Mounts Bay Academy](#)

The children are so lucky to have great schools to choose from, and I hope everyone takes the opportunity to pick the school that's just right for them.

Have a great weekend!

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

Wanted

We are very short of girls pants so if you have any your daughter has grown out of we would be very grateful for them. All sizes are needed from ages 4-11 years. Please drop them into the office. Thank you.

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.

Flu immunisation - all years

A letter about this was emailed home today to all parents. This is an **opt in** system so if you do not wish your child to be immunised you don't need to do anything. They will not be asked for this on the day if you haven't booked.

If you would like your child immunised this year, please go online by midday on Wednesday 23rd October. **Your child will not be given the nasal spray without your consent so if you do not wish them to have it done, you do not need to do anything.**

Date of Visit: Friday 25th October

School Code: EE142240

Link: <https://www.kernowimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

Parent visits for Reception September 2025

If you have a child who will be going into Reception next September and would like to look around our school, we have visits arranged for the following dates:

Thursday 24th October at 2pm

Tuesday 26th November at 2pm

Monday 9th December at 2pm

Thursday 9th January at 2pm

Mrs Simpson, our Early Years Lead and Deputy Head will show you around the Reception classrooms, outdoor learning space and the school and can answer any questions you may have.

To book a place, please contact the school office on 01736 364087 or by email alverton@tpacademytrust.org

Absence from school

If your child is unwell or will not be attending school it is your responsibility to contact the school on the first day of absence no later than 9.30am (there is an answering machine if you wish to leave a message before 8am). If we have not heard from you by this time we will need to telephone home to ascertain the nature of your child's absence. This is in line with the Government's policy on attendance. Please note that any child who is ill with sickness or an upset stomach should remain away from school for 48 hours after the last episode of illness.

Clubs

Advance notice

Drama Club will NOT be on for Year 5 on Wednesday 8th or on Wednesday 15th October. Only Year 6 should attend on those dates.

Don't forget.....

Your child will need:

Named wellies (left in school)

Filled named water bottle (taken home every day)

PE kit (left in school all week)

Please label everything with your child's name and it will be returned if it gets lost.



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
mind
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

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS AND BLACKMAIL

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages feature by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them (regardless of whether it is true or not) and will share them online unless they send them money. Teens then (understandably) panic and worry about the long-term consequences. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – either on this app or others.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight'. It claims the content shown here is relevant to each user, but it could also be seen as an easy way to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore,

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

A feature called 'SnapMaps' highlights your device's exact position on a virtual map, which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, selected friends or just you. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to help friends keep track of each other – but it could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CONTROLS VIA FAMILY CENTRE

Snapchat has parental controls called 'Family Centre'. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. This allows you to view their friends list, see who they have chatted with in the last 7 days (but not to view the specific messages) and report any concerns.



TALK ABOUT REAL LIFE SCAMS

If a young person is mature enough to have Snapchat, then they are mature enough to have a conversation about scams, nudes and blackmail. Have this discussion before you let them join. Share some real-life examples. Discuss the importance of never adding strangers and discourage them from sharing nudes. If they are lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately, then block and delete the predator and screenshot any evidence.



DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage children to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind children that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some 'challenges' which become popular on the platform may have harmful consequences.



KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone a user adds unless they change their settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled. It's safest for a child to avoid adding people they don't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows people to see where users regularly visit.



BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can select the three dots on their person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.



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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

@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. Release date: 17.05.2023 Last reviewed: 31.05.2024

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	Ava	for being super chatty & a really kind friend
Little Owls	Guoste	for settling in so well & making new friends
Kittiwakes	Erikk	Enthusiasm: for brilliant effort & great contribution in Maths
Curlews	Rex	Kindness: for always being happy, keen to help & a friend to all
Puffins	AJ	Perseverance: for keeping going even when it gets tough
Owls	Cammie-Ray	Perseverance: for trying his best & making great progress
Kingfishers	Elijah	Enthusiasm: for enthusiasm for learning & always doing his best
Trencrom	Amy	Enthusiasm: for always trying your best & always going above & beyond
Lanyon	Danielius	Perseverance: for trying so hard in Maths this week
Kerris	Darcy	Enthusiasm: for trying so hard with her Maths
Bodrifty	Jemima	Enthusiasm: for working hard in all she does
Bosigran	Cody	Responsibility: for making a great start as a Year 6 role model
Kenidjack	Jack	Kindness: for always being kind, friendly & inclusive with everyone
Lunchtime Star	Eva-Grace	for being so kind & helpful with our younger members of the school

Welcome back after what must surely be one of the soggiest summers in my memory? I almost developed webbed feet as I squelched around and I genuinely felt for you all as I can still vividly recall a rainy summer as a parent, having to work really hard in my role as entertainments manager - how to maintain the interest of a 5 year old when the rain was constantly falling and there's only so much time you can spend on the beach when it's wet. I do hope you were all okay, though I appreciate that some may have found it easier than others. Well, it's over now, we're back to school and wouldn't you know it, as I sit and type the sun is beaming outside making me feel guilty about being indoors. So, welcome back. How are you feeling? Great? Free? Lost without the young members of your family? Wondering where it all went? And how is the return to school going? For you and your children? Remember we are all here for you and will always make the time to listen if you need us. No worries are too small, we can listen and will help as much as we can. Especially at this early time in the school year, it's what we're here for, to support your children and their parents and carers too. Plus I can be an extra support, so if you feel you would like to come and chat, about anything, in total confidence unless you say otherwise, you know where to find me. And I'm always happy to see you. Best wishes, Mrs D xxxxx



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 1st October	Year 6 taster day at Humphry Davy
Thursday 3rd October	Year 6 taster day at Mounts Bay
Tuesday 8th October	Hatchbox individual & family photos (main school)
Thursday 17th October 9.30am	Harvest Festival in the hall <i>Followed by coffee & cake in aid of the Foodbank</i>
Monday 21st - Wednesday 23rd October 3.30-6pm	Parents evening meetings
Monday 28th October -	