

Thank you to everyone who came along to the parents' forum on Wednesday to talk about our attendance policy and playtimes. It was a great opportunity to hear your thoughts and share some ideas and school directions. As a summary, we started with the attendance policy and a few parents shared their concerns around the impact Covid had on attendance and children's access to school during Covid. I put forward that I very much believe that attendance is not a 'box ticking' activity but about ensuring children have the best start academically and emotionally. We looked at plans to develop pastoral support further with 'Thrive' training for staff and a whole school approach to wellbeing. We covered Professor Chris Whitty's (Chief Medical Officer) advice to parents and schools for supporting attendance with a focus on managing anxiety and illness. I also shared the Education Secretary's messages regarding the importance of attendance and the wider holistic benefits for children's wellbeing and happiness. We looked at punctuality and some parents concerns around Alverton School's earlier start time this year. I said I would bring this up with governors and get back to parents about this.

It was also helpful to talk through our developing approach to lunchtimes and I think most parents were aligned with the changes we have made this term to ensure the lunchtime experience is improving for our children. I shared how we now have zones around the school with a games zone, a calm zone, reading zone, chatting zone and woodland zone. These are all helping to build a positive playtime that supports all children's interests.

We also talked about every child having access to water in the classroom; following these comments I shared parents' thoughts with our teachers and I want to reassure all parents that children have access to water all day. Children won't generally have a water bottle on their desk as we have found children often remove lids, knock them over or squeeze them leading to major spillages across workbooks and iPads. However, there is a place in every classroom where water bottles are kept and children have free access to their water bottle without the need to put their hand up and ask for permission. Of course, if the teacher is talking to the whole class or the child is working directly with an adult they would be discouraged from going to their bottles as this would be disruptive to their learning. In all classes children are regularly reminded to access their water and in Key Stage One there are times when children have water breaks. This is increasingly the case as the weather gets warmer (I know it seems a long way off right now!) I do hope this helps reassure parents that we are very much providing easy and regular access to water for every child.

Finally, I do want to thank everyone for coming along and I really enjoyed spending time talking with you all. It was a great opportunity to share thoughts and listen to your concerns. To build on this term's meeting I hope to do a parents' forum every autumn, spring and summer term; I very much appreciate everyone taking the time to come along and be part of the discussion.

Simon Brown
Headteacher



Remember – safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

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

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

Menu change

Monday 15th January

Chicken & vegetable korma

Sweet & sour vegetables

Thursday 18th January

Cheese & tomato pizza

Chicken & sweetcorn pizza

Jacket potatoes and tomato pasta will also be available.

Clubs

All clubs start next week. Your child’s form has been sent home. If a club requires payment please ensure it is made before the start of the first club or your child will not be able to take part.

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.

Cold weather clothing

Please can all Reception children bring gloves into school while the cold weather lasts.

All children should have a warm coat in school every day please and scarf, hat and gloves if it is very cold as we are outside at lunchtime and playtime.

Calling all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents!

Please can you help?

Thursday 18th January is School Census Day and one of the things which is measured is Universal Free School Meals (all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) children who have school dinners on that day. This makes a big difference to our funding so we would like to ask for your help.

We need as many children as possible in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to have school dinners next Thursday.

Even if your child brings a packed lunch please could you encourage them to have a school dinner just on that day?

Thursday's menu will be cheese and tomato or chicken and sweetcorn pizza followed by chocolate cake.

With the increasing costs at the moment, our school budget needs all the help it can get and we would be hugely grateful for your support.

Thank you very much.



The
deadline for
applications is
**15 January
2024**

Do you have a
child born **between
1 September 2019
and 31 August 2020?**

If so, you will need to apply
for a place in a reception
class in September 2024 for
that child by the deadline
of **15 January 2024**.



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
53362 4223

Applying for a Reception place

Please note that the deadline for applications is next **Monday 15th January**.

Healthy tuck

A reminder that any tuck for breaktime should be healthy and should not be crisps, biscuits, sweets or chocolate. Suitable items are breadsticks, crackers, fruit or vegetables. All Reception and Key Stage 1 children are offered a piece of fruit or vegetables for their snack as part of the Government School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme.

Miss Mason's Magical Moments

My what a chilly but beautiful start to our first week back! How are you? Have you enjoyed the cold? Or has it sent you back under the duvet for an extra five minutes? I love to see so many people out and about with New Year motivations and I wish all of you the best of luck. I myself have taken inspiration from nature, and if you read this poem I think it you'll understand!

Next week doing Outdoor Learning is with: Puffins, Tren Crom, Bodrifty and Kenidjack so bring your coats and wellies!

We would love some seeds for our gardening clubs so if you are clearing out and have extras you don't need we would be grateful to have them.

The world around me is
wintering.
Bare trees, dark skies, cold air.
So maybe this isn't the time to
jump up and get going.
Maybe this is the time to be
rested and rooted so that I'm
ready to bloom in
spring.





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 Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's not the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right not to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/17/text> If you have any questions, please contact us at info@nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.01.2023

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 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	Joshua	for joining in with his peers & building relationships
Little Owls	Teddy	for settling into Little Owls so well
Kittiwakes	Mason	for a fantastic attitude in all areas of learning
Curlews	Kyelan	for trying really hard to make great choices
Puffins	Alice	for a brilliant attitude towards learning this week
Owls	Riley	for absolutely amazing progress in writing
Kingfishers	Louie	for fantastic descriptive writing about dragons
Trencrom	Betsy	for a very positive approach & attitude to our trip to Geevor mine
Lanyon	Charlie	for an excellent attitude to his learning this week
Kerris	Sid	for fantastic performance poetry
	Felix	for fantastic performance poetry
Bodrift	Vivian	for fantastic effort & attitude to all his learning
Bosigran	Kieran	for fabulous effort in English this week
Kenidjack	Hope	for outstanding football in our match this week
Lunchtime Star	Amy	for her lovely manners



Another week has zoomed around, although at least this time it has been a full one with 5 school days in it and, best of all (drum roll here) it hasn't rained! I'm astonished. I'd forgotten what it felt like to be dry, though I'm rapidly learning what it feels like to be cold. However, it is winter after all, and if I honest I quite like the cold sunny days. Do they make you smile? Sunshine can be magical in many ways and one of them is the way it makes people smile, though it can also be quite stressful at this time of year, huge bills if we try to warm our homes, big food bills if we eat to keep warm and healthy, feels like it's a hard slog at times. If the sunshine isn't making you smile or you have any worries I can listen to then just ask, I'm always more than happy to help and make a cuppa xxxx

DIARY DATES

Monday 15th January

Clubs start

Monday 12th-Friday 16th February

Spring half term holiday

Monday 19th February

School opens for second half of Spring term

Disney
Aladdin JR.

16-17 February 2024
 ST JOHN'S HALL
 PENZANCE

Rising STARS
 MINACK THEATRE

Music by ALAN MENKEN
 Lyrics by HOWARD ASHMAN,
 TIM RICE & CHAD BEGUELIN
 Book by CHAD BEGUELIN
 Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements,
 John Musker, Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio
 and directed & produced by Ron Clements & John Musker

Booking opens 1 December
 01736 810
 minack.c

Disney's Aladdin JR. is presented through special arrangement with Minack Theatre International (MTI),
 www.minacktheatre.com

M
 MINACK
 THEATRE

AUDITIONS

**THE LIGHTHOUSE
 KEEPER'S LUNCH**

ARE YOU AGED 7-11 AND
 LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY
 TO PERFORM ON THE MINACK
 STAGE?

AUDITIONS
 SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY FROM 12PM
 AT THE MINACK
 TO REGISTER YOUR PLACE VISIT
 WWW.MINACK.COM/TAKE-PART
 OR EMAIL EDUCATION@MINACK.COM
 PERFORMANCES
 1ST-4TH SEPTEMBER 2024

Words and music by David Wood
 Based on the book by Ronda and David Armitage
 A Minack Theatre production