

16/12/22

FRIDAY NEWS

N<sup>o</sup>. 14

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move into the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our children on their hard work and innumerable successes both in and out of the classroom over this term, and of course on their excellent performances in the various nativity and seasonal performances during the past few weeks. We have had a series of lovely events from a traditional nativity from our Reception classes to the world of Strictly in Key Stage 1's "Lights, Camel, Action!" and the traditional and moving Key Stage 2 Carol Concert held in the Methodist Church on Wednesday of this week. Our children – as always – rose to the various occasions giving of their best and showing what a credit they are to you and to our school.

At Alverton, we are very fortunate to have a staff team who are so talented, and so prepared to always go above and beyond normal expectations to ensure that our children have the best experience possible at Alverton. The commitment of our whole team, including our excellent governors, cannot be overstated and I am sure that you would wish to join me in thanking them for their tireless efforts once again this term.

We all know the strongest structures are formed using triangles, and if our pupils and staff form two sides of the successful Alverton model then you as parents are the all-important third side. The ongoing support that you provide for your children and our school is key to helping to maintain the strength of the school and we are grateful for all that you do.

Remember that, if need to use the Help Your Shelf in the new year, it is there for you. Thank you very much to all the people who have donated items for it.

On behalf of the staff and governors of Alverton School, I would like to thank you for all your continued support and to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes,

Martin Higgs  
Headteacher



**The Spring Term begins on  
Wednesday 4th January as Tuesday  
3rd is a staff training day.**

## 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)

## Charity thank you

Many thanks to everyone who so generously gave a donation at each of our Christmas performances over the past two weeks. The total for the Penzance Street Food Project was an amazing **£567.28** and this will go to helping those in need in our town.

The Poppy Appeal in November raised £161.81 for the Royal British Legion so thank you for supporting this as well.

## Parent Governors

We are delighted to let you know that Maili Buckingham will be joining our governing body as a parent governor and that Louise Allan will also be continuing in this role. We look forward to working with them both in the New Year.

## 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.**



## Staffing Update

As some of you know, Mrs Dennison will be leaving at the end of term to take up a position with Active Cornwall and we know that she will be fantastic in this role. She has been a driving force in leading sport and PE at Alverton and we will miss her enthusiasm and competitive spirit!

Mrs Mabbett and Mrs Street will also be leaving at the end of term. We thank them all and wish them all the very best in the future.

We are looking forward to welcoming some new staff: Mrs Stellon will be teaching in Bosigran and Kerris and Miss Mason will be teaching in Lanyon Class. We also welcome Mrs Phillips, Miss Pearson and Miss Bennett to our TA team.





## FOAS fundraising

Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas cards and gift items through the Class Fundraising site. This raised over £600 for FOAS funds. Thanks for your support and we look forward to more fundraising in the new year.





# Christmas Holiday Reading Bingo!

Read aloud to someone! 	Read in your pyjamas! 	Read in a den that you've made! 	Read by torchlight! 
Read while wearing a funny hat! 	Read a recipe! 	Read a new book! 	Read a favourite old book! 
Listen to someone else read (a person or an audiobook!) 	Read a poem! 	Read while eating your favourite snack! 	Just read! 

Why not try the Alverton School Christmas Holiday Reading Bingo Challenge? Return your completed sheet in the New Year and you will be entered into a draw to win a prize!



Well the term has come to an end and suddenly we have 2 weeks ahead of us without the security, routine, familiarity and support of school. For those who relish in the break, that's great, but I know there are parents out there who don't and who will find the two weeks a real challenge for a variety of reasons. I'm not available for the 2 week period but I will be back

and here for anyone as soon as we return, armed with tissues, sympathy, good listening skills, tea and of course, biscuits (if you can face any more treats after the break). My sincerest soon wishes for a lovely two weeks. See you next year, Mrs Daylak.



## 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 SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).



## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

## MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.



## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.



## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about Internet safety issues.



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.

# Duchy Singers with



with

in aid of

## Handel's

music *Ability*  
musicabilitycic.uk  
music therapy

# Messiah

CONDUCTOR JENNY RAPSON  
SOLOISTS SIMONE HELLIER  
SUE LANCASTER  
RICHARD ROWE  
SIMEON ROYLE

SATURDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2022  
7.00PM AT METHODIST CHAPEL  
CHAPEL STREET, PENZANCE

**Tickets £10 at the door - Under 18s free entry**  
**Advance Sales:**  
**Morrab Studio, Morrab Road, Penzance**  
**or contact 07875 836655 for more information**



Penzance Fencing Club

is looking for new junior members, aged 8 to 11.

Learn a dynamic, tough, fast Olympic sport.

And really great fun!

Monday evenings, 7 – 8pm.

Humphry Davy School, main sports hall.

£2.50 per session, no kit needed, wear trainers/  
tracksuit bottoms.

Find us on Facebook

or email [realoldcorn@gmail.com](mailto:realoldcorn@gmail.com)