# November Newsletter 2024

Welcome to the November edition of our Newsletter. We have had a fabulous few weeks with a trip to Pendennis castle, our Harvest festival and parent consultations to name but a few!

We would like to say a **HUGE thank you to the FOSMS team** and all parents that have helped raise funds for the school. Our FOSMS team have now purchased lots of resources for our 'Fun Friday's' which will start this half term. We have giant chess, Jenga and dominoes not to mention our new 'parachute'. These resources are really going to enhance the lunch time provision for our children.

### Congratulations!!

We would like to send a huge Congratulations to Miss East and her partner as they are expecting their first baby in the Spring. While we are so excited for this new addition to our school family, we will be sad to see Miss East temporarily leave during her maternity leave. We will ensure you are kept up to date with the temporary changes that will be in Wagtails.

We have lots to celebrate here at St Merryn School, including the academic excellence of our pupils. We are really pleased to share that we are inline or above national average at every age and stage. We are particularly pleased with our KS2 SATs results, these being some of the highest across our Trust. Well done to all of our children and staff for their hard work...You are Amazing!!

#### **Events**

On **Sunday 10th November**, St Merryn Church will be holding their Remembrance Service. We are hoping many of our families will attend as our children form an important part of the service. We will be arriving from **10:30am** with the service starting at 10:50am.

This half term is always a very busy one with the run up to Christmas. We are busy organising rehearsal times, costumes and scripts for our Christmas Performances. Please see below for dates.

We will also be running our popular Family Dining this half term. Please see the dates below.

#### **Scooters**

We are so pleased to see so many children choosing to ride their scooters to and from school. This is a great start to the day for many, being with friends and having physical exercise. As a school, we have discussed staying safe when out and about on/near the road with individual classes and during whole school assembly. We have strongly advised the use of helmets. Please can you reinforce these key safety messages with your child at home.

We have lots of exciting plans this year...watch this space for details!

Mrs King

### Attendance - Term Time Absence (Holidays)

As you will be aware, we prioritise attendance here at St Merryn School, ensuring children are 'in school, on time and learning ready.' This sharp focus ensures your child has the best chance of success both academically and emotionally, giving them opportunity to form positive long lasting friendships.

At the beginning of the term, the Government set out new legislation to support schools with the above mission. This included the introduction of penalty notices for term time absence (holidays) of 5 days or more.

During this term, we are aware that a small number of families have submitted a 'leave of absence request' form that has not covered the days of 'actual' absence.

Our Attendance policy states' Where the school has cause for concern about the actual reason for a pupil's absence, staff may seek additional information or evidence from parents/carers regarding the absence, and/or make a home visit in order to verify the reason. If the reason cannot be verified and the school has cause to believe the reason given for absence may not be genuine, parents/carers may be asked to provide satisfactory proof of the reason before the school authorises the absence. If satisfactory proof is not provided, the school may record the absence as unauthorised.'

If you wish to discuss the above in more detail, please contact Mrs Worrall in the first Instance.

# **Sporting News**

#### Clubs

We asked and we delivered! Having asked the children what clubs they would like, we have offered clubs that the children have asked for, and the uptake has been fantastic! We are delighted that almost all of our children are now signed up for our clubs — how fantastic! We have a few spaces left in our netball club and are planning on setting up a St Merryn netball team for inter-school competitions. If your child would like to learn or improve their netball, and become part of our school team, this is a really fun way of building skills, fitness as well as bonding! It is for boys and girls.

#### P.E.

We are absolutely thrilled to have ordered lots of new P.E. equipment as well as sports and play equipment for break and lunch times. A HUGE thank you to all the fund-raising by our dedicated FOSMS members who have made this possible.

On Wednesday 9th October a team of 10 girls represented St Merryn School at the Girls' Football Festival at Wadebridge Primary School. The girls had the most amazing 'can do' attitude and really got stuck in, with great teamwork and determination. The scores this year were incredibly close, and you could see a huge improvement from last year! A very well done to all of you – such great ambassadors for our school.

### Our next sports events are:

KS2 Cross-country running event on Monday 25th November

KS1 Multi-skills competition on Monday 2nd December
Year 4/5/6 Bench ball competition on Monday 9th December
Mrs Cooper





# Talents outside of school...

Not only do we see our children's amazing talents in school, we also love hearing about their achievements outside of school!

Last month, Agnes, Coco, Martha and Indi performed, and did amazingly well, in the "Pamela Darlington School of Dance Showtime '24" at the Keay Theatre in St Austell. Their performance included ballet, tap and musical theatre - a very talented group!

We are so proud of the girls...they enjoyed standing up in front of the whole school assembly to share their experience! Excellent job girls!!



# Wagtails Pendennis Castle Trip



Wagtails class recently had a fantastic trip to visit Pendennis Castle as part of their topic, 'Why don't we live in castles anymore?'

We saw lots of the amazing features that we have been learning about, including a moat and battlements, as well as learning all about the different people who used to live in the castle. The spiral staircase and cannons were very popular!

We would like to thank Cornwall Heritage Trust for their generous grant towards our travel costs.

## Mrs Daniels









### **FOSMS News**



#### **FOSMS News**

We have had another great month planning events for the year ahead and also buying more items for the children to use.

### **Playtime**

Now that the weather has started to turn and not able to use the grass daily, having things for the children to do at lunchtime is important. We have bought general items that they can use every lunchtime like balls, hoops etc we will post the items on Facebook once they all arrive.

We have also bought games that they can use weekly on 'Fun Fridays', these include large chess, dominoes, tumble towers, 4 in a row and more!

Time is running out for free money...

We Need Your Help Please:

**Asda Cashpot For Schools.** 

Have you downloaded the app yet?

Even if you don't shop at Asda please download and register. Every time someone signs up to the cashpot for schools scheme, Asda donates £1 to us and the good news it doesn't affect your personal rewards. If everyone linked to the school was able to do this we could make a few hundred pounds, it all helps.

Deadline 30th November 2024

### **Spooky Autumn Term Disco**

Starting the Autumn term back with our disco...

**Wednesday 6th November** 5-6pm for reception and older.

Entrance fee is £2.50 which includes drink, snack and tattoo.

Fancy dress is optional but please no clowns or costumes that may scare our younger children.

### **Polytunnel supplies**

We have been very kindly donated lots of seeds from Thompson & Morgan and compost from Homebase which we really appreciate.

This term we are looking forward to our **Panto trip** for the whole school (reception and older) to see Jack & beanstalk at Hall of Cornwall. More details to follow.

Nursery treat, details to follow.

**Christmas Cards** are currently getting made, hopefully we can distribute towards the end of November. Thank you to everyone who placed an order.

#### Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday 14th November at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome.

### **Reminders**

### Have you joined the school lottery?

You can support us by joining our school

lottery. Winners are drawn every week with

the opportunity to be entered into the big draw where you can win up to £25,000! For details, please ask one of the FOSMS team or see our facebook page.

Our **uniform shop** is still available to all. If you require anything then please see Vicky in the office or Sarah Hodson who will be more than willing to help.

#### Dates for your diary

#### **November**

Wednesday 6th: Spooky Autumn Term Disco

Thursday 14th: Monthly meeting

Thursday 28th: Wreath making

Saturday 30th: Deadline Asda Cashpot for schools

#### December

TBC: Nursery treat

Tuesday 17th: FOSMS panto trip

# Outdoor Learning - Wild Tribe

We have had such an amazing start to our outdoor learning this year. With our polytunnel up and ready, we have been taking care of the plants, moving soil, preparing the ground and planting over wintering crops. If you are a keen gardener and would like to help in anyway with our polytunnel, please do let me know.

Our children have been getting into our Wild Tribe sessions and absolutely loving their learning outdoors. From making musical instruments and composing a piece of music with them, to learning about materials, creating dens, fires and team work games they have been having so much fun and learning a lot as well.

As we head into another busy term of Wild Tribe learning, we are looking forward to the children getting out in all weathers to learn both team work, self confidence and forest school skills as well as enjoying the mud. Please ensure that your child has weather appropriate clothing to change into as well as wellies in school for their Wild Tribe sessions. As we use tools and light fires in our sessions, children must have long sleeved and long legged clothing to wear.

Mrs Muller



### Music Provision

It has been lovely to see so many children take advantage of our peripatetic music teacher this term. We have children learning piano, ukulele, recorder and guitar within the school day. Thank you to all the families who have been supporting this.

If your child is not currently learning an instrument but is interested in taking part in paid music lessons, please do let Mrs Worrall or Mrs Muller know.

Mrs Muller



### **School Council**

What a fantastic start to the new year! With our new school councillors already thinking of some fantastic ideas to improve our school and help the community, we have been working on what playground designs we would like to add to our school as well as working on putting more planter boxes around the school. The school council have also been instrumental in helping teachers to work on different after school clubs this term.

Mrs Muller



# Christmas Shoebox Appeal



Every year, St Merryn families surpass our expectations and give generously to the Christmas Shoebox appeal organised by St Petrocs Church. Donations are needed before the 13th November as they are being picked up to be sent off overseas from the 14th November.

More information can be found online at How to Pack a Shoebox | Samaritans Purse<sup>1</sup>

If you would like any further information, please pop over to Robin's Class.

Mrs Muller

# Early Years Updates

In both our nursery and reception, we love watching the children become more confident and successful in all their learning. One particular area our children are learning about at the moment is how to be both a more confident talker and an active listener. We thought you might like some techniques to help your child be a more confident communicator, in school and at home.

### 1. Read aloud to your child

¹https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsamaritans-purse.org.uk%2Fwhat-wedo%2Foperation-christmas-child%2Fhow-to-pack-a-shoebox%23gift-

 $<sup>\</sup>frac{suggestions\&data=05|02|kking\%40kernowlearning.co.uk|9767f984835940118a9c08dcfdd11f93|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638664321895913915|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsllYiOilwLjAuMDAwMClsllAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=Cp2%2F0Al5OJolrPMBZ3g%2FCMw5EqGBYtzkoeXx5jGsow0%3D&reserved=0$ 

'Reading aloud to your child, well beyond the age they can read for themselves<sup>2</sup>, combines the benefits of talking, listening and storytelling within one activity that helps children build their vocabulary, learn to express their thoughts, and understand the structure of language,' says Billie.

### 2.Play word games

Games like 20 Questions, Guess Who? and I Spy are great for helping children use descriptive language and think critically about what they're saying.

### 3. Talk about their day

Ask your child, 'What did you do today?' and they'll often claim they can't remember, so find different ways to talk about what they've been up to. Eating your evening meal as a family is a good way to encourage conversation, while older kids are often more chatty in the car, where they feel less like they're being interrogated.

### 4. Phone a friend (or relative)

Persuade your child to take a break from text and WhatsApp and develop their speaking skills by making an actual phone call. 'Encouraging them to speak to different family members on the phone or on a video call will build confidence,' says Billie.

#### 5. Go on a nature walk

This is a great pre-phonics activity for young children, who can be encouraged to listen carefully to the sounds they hear – from traffic to birdsong – and describe them. They can also describe the natural sights they see, such as trees, animals and birds and the sky.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theschoolrun.com%2Freasons-to-read-bedtime-

stories&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|9767f984835940118a9c08dcfdd11f93|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638664321895937114|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsllYiOilwLjAuMDAwMClsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilsIkFOIjoiTWFpbClsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=BRVIicwWuzXQp%2F2WK8qBGEUT2Wh1fwQUxKg3QdnXntA%3D&reserved=0

## Nursery



Nursery are excited for the new term. Our theme this term is 'Seasons and Celebrations'. The children will explore the changing seasons allowing the introduction of cultural celebrations associated with each season. We will also be making the Christmas decorations for the village tree, which we will also need help decorating(dates to follow) We will soon start rehearsals for the Christmas play too!

Finally we would like to say a big thank you to **T H Sandry and Son** for their kind donation of gravel for our new construction area and sand for our sandpit. Thank you Josh Sandry for all of your hard work!

Mrs Williams and Mrs Clayton





# Reading for Pleasure



















November 2024









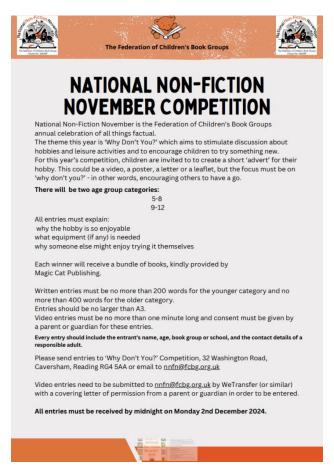












Would you like the opportunity to win a bundle of new books?

National Non-Fiction November is the Federation of Children's Book Groups' annual celebration of all things factual. It offers the perfect opportunity to investigate the amazing variety of information books on offer to children and young people. The theme for NNFN 2024 is 'Why Don't You?' (hobbies and leisure activities). With so many interests to try, this is the perfect theme to encourage children to share the things they love to do - and to try something new! For this year's competition, children are invited to create a short 'advert' for their hobby. This could be a video, a poster, a letter or a leaflet, but the focus must be on 'why don't you?' – in other words, encouraging others to have a go.

If you get involved with this exciting competition, make sure you show your teacher! For more information visit: National Non-Fiction November – The Federation of Children's Book Groups<sup>3</sup>

Miss East

<sup>3</sup>https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ffcbg.org.uk%2Fnnfn%2F&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|08a25af9dd3b4def0a4b08dcf988d67c|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638659613329469954|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTil6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D|0|||&sdata=siN6%2FRUkbES9WnH845UiLrXXgrW3iD%2BBZdTdeKR81XI%3D&reserved=0

# **Inclusion Update...Information for Parents**

A massive thank you to Kirsty Battison, our MHST (Mental Health Support Team) for supporting us during our parent consultations, spending time talking to parents and sharing information about the services she can offer in school to support children and their families. The feedback we have had from families who have engaged with these services has been overwhelmingly positive. If you feel that you would like to talk to Kirsty, please contact school and we can arrange an appointment. As a reminder of the services, she is able to offer in school please see the attached leaflet.

Mrs Golay



# What support can the MHST offer?

Our aim is to build resilience and empower children and young people (and the adults in their lives) to get the help they need, when they need it.

- Supporting staff to offer emotional wellbeing sessions within a class or to a smaller group of young people

#### Why is early mental health support important?



#### Did you know?

- In Cornwall there are many services offering mental health support to families and young people. We aim to get and offer early help.

- about conditions such as AUHU and ASU.

  Specialist services can be accessed through talking to your own GP or through a referral to the Early Help Hong do nilme self-with the Early Help Hong do nilme self-with the Support services available to support young people and families.

  Our services aim to make a difference by offering support early when possible mental entitled to the support services may be emerging for children.

### Mental Health Practitioners can help children displaying mild to moderate signs of:

#### You're not alone

If you have any further questions or concerns, or you'd like more information...

# Safeguarding - Online Safety



### Interface podcast on Spotify

If you are a parent who enjoys listening to podcasts, I would like to recommend SWGfL's (South West Grid for Learning) podcast, titled 'Interface'. This podcast covers some of the most current and widely discussed topics related to online safety and safeguarding, relevant to today's digital landscape. Each episode features special guest speakers who provide expert insights. The podcast offers valuable discussions and answers to some of the most confusing or challenging issues in the digital world. You can download and listen to the episodes via the Spotify app or access them directly online at: https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/online-safety-podcast/4.

Miss Redman

# Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a nationwide campaign set up by a group of parents due to growing concerns about online safety and the impact of social media on children's mental health. The group is

<sup>4</sup>https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fswgfl.org.uk%2Fresources%2Fonline-safety-podcast%2F&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|dcb1795fc38d4d87013308dcf42a6260|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638653710081807015|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQljoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCl6Mn0%3D|0|||&sdata=CidXoapic%2Fh10K%2BvfQy%2FKevWw%2Fv9FNPO6Rhbi5ioyls%3D&reserved=0

encouraging parents across the UK to delay giving their children smartphones, especially while they are still in primary school.

So far, parents at over 130 schools in Cornwall, including St Merryn, have signed the online pact.

You can find more details and view the results for individual year groups, schools and regions by visiting their website: https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/



# Additional Information

St. Merryn Parish Church

Christmas Bazaar

in the Church Hall

2.15pm Saturday 30th November

Father Christmas

arrives at 2.45pm

produce

produce

Christmas Gifts galore





Bring your own beverage!
Tickets £15 (Including Pasty)
Available from St Merryn Garage

or call Elizabeth: 07714 075039

# Dates for the Diary



#### **November**

Tuesday 5th November - Children return to school

Wednesday 6th - Family Dining (Robins)

Thursday 14th - Family Dining (Wagtails)

Thursday 14th - London Trip Parent Meeting 3:15 (Barn Owls)

Thursday 14th - FOSMS meeting 2:00pm (all welcome)

Thursday 21st - Family Dining (Starlings)

Monday 25th - KS2 Cross Country

Thursday 28th - Family Dining (Kestrels)

#### December

Monday 2nd - KS1 Multi-skills event

Wednesday 4th - Nursery/KS1 Nativity (2:00pm)

Thursday 5th - Nursery/KS1 Nativity (6:00pm)

Thursday 5th - Family Dining (BarnOwls)

Monday 9th - Y4/5/6 Benchball Competition

Monday 9th - KS2 Dress Rehearsal (limited space for Parents who are unable to attend the evening performance)

Tuesday 10th - KS2 Christmas Performance - 6:00pm

Wednesday 11th - KS2 Christmas Performance - 6:00pm

Thursday 12th - KS2 Christmas Performance - 6:00pm

Tuesday 17th - Whole School Trip to The Hall for Cornwall (Panto)

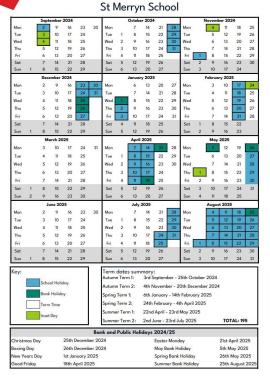
Wednesday 18th - Christmas Lunch

Thursday 19th - Christmas Class Parties

Friday 20th - Carol Service (2:15pm at the Church)



# School Terms and Holidays 2024/25



1 - Term Dates 2024-2025