



October Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the October Edition of our Newsletter!

Welcome to the second newsletter of this academic year.

It has been a wonderful start to the Autumn term, with children already taking part in sporting events, music lessons and clubs. The energy, enthusiasm and smiles across school have been fantastic to see.

The next few weeks promise to be just as busy and exciting, and we look forward to sharing lots more news and celebrations with you.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended our church service—I'm sure you will agree, all of our children were amazing! For some, it was their very first time performing in church, but they rose to the occasion with confidence and joy. As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are continuing

to collect non-perishable items for our local Foodbank. If you are able to donate, please bring contributions to the school hall.

Attendance

A polite reminder that the school gates open at 8:45am with registration at 8:55am. If you arrive after this time, please sign in at the office. Our first lesson (Maths) begins promptly at 9:00am, so arriving on time helps children to settle and start the day calmly.

With the cooler, wetter weather now upon us, please ensure your child brings a coat each day. We make the most of opportunities to be outdoors for learning, play and fresh air, whatever the season.

Breakfast Club

We are delighted with the enthusiastic response to our free Breakfast Club this term! As numbers grow, we kindly ask that children arrive promptly for 8:15am. This ensures staff have time to serve breakfast and children have time to eat before lessons begin.

We also ask that children enjoy the food provided at the club, rather than bringing their own breakfast from home.

Looking Ahead

We already have many exciting events planned for the Autumn term—please see the diary dates below. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

Mrs King

News from FOSMS



Halloween

Our annual Halloween disco will be Wednesday 22nd October and this year we are really excited to announce DJ Gerry will be on the decks. Fancy dress is optional but please **no clowns**.

A few extras for this year, to help with costume costs and sustainability we are setting up a re-spook sale. Please bring any costume donations in by Friday 10th of October ready for our sale after school Wednesday 15th October.

Also new for this year our Pumpkin Carving Competition, £1 to enter. Bring your entry into school morning drop off on Wednesday 22nd October. Judging will take place during the day and the winner will be announced at the disco.

Christmas Cards & Gifts

This year we have a much larger range of gifts. Currently the children are creating their designs and we will soon be sending home details about how you can place your orders.

Panto

We have already booked our annual panto trip to the Hall For Cornwall to see Aladdin, for reception and older on Tuesday 16th December.

Father Christmas

We will confirm the details soon for the Nursery children to see Father Christmas.

Wreath Making

This will take place towards the end of November with full details to follow soon.

Other News

Pre-Love Uniform Shop has a new home and will be back open from Wednesday 15th October. If you need anything before please see Vicky in the office or Sarah Hodson who will be more than willing to help.

Annual General Meeting for FOSMS

This will take place during our monthly meeting on Monday 20th October at 18:30 in The Dog House.

Keep upto date with all things FOSMS related by joinging our Facebook group adn keep an eye on the blackboard near school reception for the latest information.

Diary Dates

October

10th: Halloween costume donations

15th: Respook sale after school

15th: Pre-loved school uniform shop opens

20th: Monthly meeting & AGM 18:30

22nd: Pumpkin Carving Competition

22nd: Halloween Disco

TBC: Christmas cards available to order.

November

TBC Wreath Making

December

TBC Father Christmas visit

16th: Panto Hall For Cornwall



Reading For Pleasure



FOSMS Book Exchange – Reading for Pleasure

At our school, we believe that reading should be a fun and exciting adventure! We're thrilled to see so many children and families already enjoying the FOSMS Book Exchange.

It's the perfect place for children to discover new books, share the ones they've loved, and dive into the wonderful world of reading for pleasure. All families are welcome to take part!

Here's how it works:

Borrow a Book: Come along, choose a book, and take it home to enjoy. Return it so others can enjoy it.

Exchange a Book: Have a book at home you've finished with? Bring it in and swap it for something new! We welcome good quality children's books in all genres to keep our shelves full and varied.

Location: In the shed by the school entrance

Opening Times: At the end of the school day.

It's a fantastic opportunity to discover new stories and grow a lifelong love of reading. So, bring a book, take a book, and let's keep the reading excitement going.

Happy reading!

A big welcome from the Early Years team

We are so proud of how well our Nursery and Reception children have settled into their new routines this term. It's been lovely to see their confidence grow each day—coming into school with smiles, getting to know their teachers, and beginning to build new friendships with peers and older children.

Classrooms have been full of energy and curiosity, with children busy exploring a wide range of activities—from sensory play and storytelling to building and role play. It's wonderful to see them so engaged and learning through play, while also beginning to understand how to share, take turns, and be kind to one another.

A big focus this term is on developing independence and gross motor skills. Our children have been learning to carry and access their own bags and belongings independently, using the toilet independently, dressing themselves (including coats and shoes) and moving successfully around our classroom and playground. These small but important steps help children feel more confident and capable, laying strong foundations for their learning and emotional development.

Thank you for your continued support during this settling-in period. We're excited for the term ahead and all the fun, friendships, and learning still to come!

Family Dining Day - Back by popular demand!

We are delighted to once again invite parents, carers, and family members to join us for a special ***family dining experience*** here at school. Come and enjoy a delicious lunch freshly prepared by our very own chefs, Paul and Lucy. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience

some of the tasty meals our children enjoy each day, including dishes made with ingredients home-grown in our very own polytunnel.

Save the Date!

Wed 5th Nov – Robins

Wed 12th Nov – Wagtails

Wed 19th Nov – Starlings

Wed 26th Nov – Kestrels & Barn Owls

Music at St Merryn

We are delighted to share that our school has received additional funding from the Universal Music Sound Foundation. This generous support has enabled us to purchase a brand-new digital piano, which will be a fantastic resource for both teaching and performance.

Children will now have the opportunity to learn and practise on a high-quality instrument, helping to develop their musical skills and confidence. The piano will also be used during assemblies, concerts, and special events, enriching the musical life of our school and ensuring that music continues to play an inspiring role in our community.

Mrs Muller

Sporting Headlines



1 - The

The year has got off to a fantastic start with some amazing passion being shown accross all year groups. We have seen some brilliant football skills and heard about some great results from outside of school. There has been some great basketball being played too with kindness being shown from all ages.

Gifted and Talented

We were incredibly proud of Ivy, Martha, Fred and Milo who represented St Merryn School at the Gifted and Talented Competition. They took part in a variety of challenging events that enabled them to showcase their fantastic sporting ability. They were a true credit to the school, and we wish them all the best in future competitions.(insert above photo)

Upcoming Events

We have lots of sporting events coming up with lots of fantastic opportunities for our children.....

8.10.25 - Yr 4/5/6 Girls Football Festival

20.10.25 - Yr 5/6 Gifted and Talented Academy

17.11.25 - KS2 Cross Country

1.12.25 - KS1 Multi Skills Festival

We are always so incredibly proud of our children's sporting achievements, both in and out of school, and are looking forward to a great term ahead!

Mrs Lewis

PE Lead

St Merryn School Council

Welcoming Our New School Councillors

This week, we were delighted to welcome our newly elected School Councillors during our celebration assembly. It was a proud moment as each councillor was introduced to the school community and received their official badge.

The School Council plays an important role in giving pupils a voice and helping to shape the life of our school. From sharing ideas about how we can make our school even better, to supporting events, and working on projects that benefit everyone, our councillors will represent their classmates with dedication and responsibility.

We know our councillors will bring fresh ideas, thoughtful perspectives, and a positive energy to their new role. We congratulate all of our new School Councillors and look forward to working together to continue making our school a place where every voice is valued.

Mrs Muller

E-Safety October Updates

Be smart on the internet



Childnet
International

www.childnet.com

S

SAFE

Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.



M

MEETING

Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.



A

ACCEPTING

Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!



R

RELIABLE

Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.



T

TELL

Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK
UK
KNOW
.co.uk



www.kidsmart.org.uk

KidSMART



Visit Childnet's Kidsmart website to play interactive games and test your online safety knowledge. You can also share your favourite websites and online safety tips by Joining Hands with people all around the world.



How to manage in-game spending for you and your children.

A fantastic guide has been created by the wonderful people at www.internetmatter.org¹ this week regarding what children spend when playing games. I found it very informative. The guide can be found here - <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/online-money-management-guide/in-game-spending/>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National College Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION
While the rise of 'slang' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a lack of connection, it's these phrases that carry subtle social meanings among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS
Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be interpreted the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind another example to misinterpret.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION
Inside jokes and trending terms like 'slang' or 'nerd' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM
Using online slang to stand out or gain attention, like 'lit' or 'vibe', using users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH
To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about sensitive topics – for example, saying 'swaggy' instead of 'drugs'.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT
A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job interviews or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP
Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE
Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL
Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict rules or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY
Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change rapidly.

COMMON SLANG	POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG
Sigma - Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes. Skibidi - Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Visually harmless but pervasive. Chad - The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly. Leak in - To leak, comment or get noticed (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate. Cooking - Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'messing'. Rizz - Charm or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence. Area or main farming - One's personal 'energy' or area. 'Farming' means manufacturing cloud.	Bop - An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material. Gyat or gyatt - Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance. Tyler's mistake / Bombardier en route / Lung lung lung sahur - Spooky references to AI-generated creatures with 'mystery' names. Carrying charts, denial discussion, and harass others. Slapping - Overpraising or excessively flattering to someone or celebrity. Crash out - To lose control; give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hides at self harm. Cried - Rained, sobbed or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related. Unwell - Euphemism for death or suicide, used to avoid content filters. NPC - Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

Meet Our Expert
Keith Brom is a globally renowned energy expert and the Editor in Chief of www.internetmatters.org, the world's number one energy resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Queen's School of Business and Technology.

WakeUp Wednesday
The National College

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¹<https://www.internetmatter.org>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 5 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and misuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast amounts from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content, without warnings. Children could encounter disturbing or inappropriate material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your class use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Technology at Eaton House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, wellbeing, and generative AI in education. An art director and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling, its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, it's worth considering screen protector and strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps collect as much data as desktop apps. Over 40% of the tested apps sent or sent one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being far more targeted to underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online websites, even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without management in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by parents.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds, and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with long-term development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. Set up separate purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during set times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits set daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children participate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy, which requires family sharing, ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including BBC, Forbes, Techradar, and The Verge. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



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St Merryn Gardening Society



We have been very busy with gardening this year, particularly in Robins class with lots to celebrate and plenty to look forward to.

Over the summer, the garden flourished, and we managed to harvest a bumper crop of fresh cucumbers.

Our gardening club was very pleased to taste the last cucumbers before the plants were composted for the winter. It was rewarding for everyone to see the results of their hard work and care.

This term, the children have been busy preparing the beds for the new season. Together, we have been weeding and caring for the planted squash, cabbages, potatoes, and leeks, which we are hoping will be ready to harvest in time for Christmas dinner.

The anticipation of enjoying vegetables that we have grown ourselves makes this project even more exciting. We are looking to put some new shrubs and bulbs in our planters by the front gate this term to ready ourselves for Winter and the following spring.

If you do happen to have any shrubs/plants that you are pulling out, please do let Mrs Worrall or Mrs Muller know.





Attendance at St Merryn School

Every School Day Counts

We all want the best for our children, and one simple way to support their learning and wellbeing is through regular attendance. Research shows that pupils who attend school more than 95% of the time tend to achieve significantly better outcomes in both primary and secondary school—even missing just a few extra days can make a difference.

By establishing consistent routines, keeping open communication with our school, and seeking support early if needed, we can help our children thrive. Together, we can give every child the best possible start in life through strong, regular attendance

Below is a useful reminder of current legislation regarding penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school.

A National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, has been introduced following changes to the law. These Government regulations came into effect from 19 August 2024 and now affect when penalty notices are issued in Cornwall.

What are the changes?

1. There is now a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period, at which point a penalty notice must be considered.
1. You can no longer take your child out of school for one week's holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.
1. The penalty fine is now £80 if paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid within the first 21 days, it rises to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
1. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine automatically rises to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
1. If a parent commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority must consider other enforcement options available to them. This may include prosecution.

Please see the FAQs below for more information about how the new rules affect you.

FAQs

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has unauthorised absence from school.

In education law, anyone who lives with a child and has day-to-day care of the child is considered a parent, whether they are the biological parent or not. This includes step-parents and partners.

Do the rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No. They apply to all unauthorised absence from school, including holidays. Unauthorised absence also includes other absence that has not been agreed, such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed, and failing to provide reasons for absence.

How do I request leave for my child during term time?

You must submit an Exceptional Circumstances / Absence Request form before the proposed absence (see your school's policy for the required notice period). The Head Teacher decides whether there are exceptional circumstances that allow them to grant the time off. Do not assume the absence is granted until you receive written confirmation from the school.

Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued?

No. A penalty fine can be issued for any combination of unauthorised absences over a 10-week rolling period. They may be consecutive or non-consecutive and may span across two terms (including between academic years).

What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under S444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine gives you the opportunity to settle out of court. If you do not pay, you can be prosecuted for failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

You should contact your child's school (Mrs King) and ask for advice on how they can support you to improve the situation.

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School Uniform

Below is a brief reminder of our school uniform expectations. Please can you support your child by ensuring they are in the correct uniform every day.

Our policy is based on the notion that a school uniform:

- promotes a sense of pride in the school
- engenders a feeling of community and belonging
- is practical and smart
- identifies the children with the school
- is not distracting in class
- makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance
- is regarded as suitable, and good value for money, by most parents
- has been designed with health and safety in mind

School Uniform:

- Red school jumper, a red cardigan or red school fleece (available from the school office)
- White polo shirt
- Suitable outdoor coat or anorak
- During the summer months, please ensure your child attends school with a suitable summer hat. It is recommended, to avoid sunstroke, that they wear one with a back neck cover.
- Jewellery and visible body piercing are not permitted in school for reasons of loss, damage and safety. One pair of earrings, which are small studs and a wristwatch, may be worn.
- We ask that all hair that can be, is appropriately tied back and natural looking (no extreme colours or styles). We ask that novelty hair accessories are kept for non-school uniform days and all headbands are flat and in the school colours (black, red or white please).
- No make up is allowed in school.
- No skinny trousers or black jeans may be worn

- Footwear - Black sensible functional shoes - No flashing lights. All black shoes/boots or all black trainers with black laces and soles (toes must be covered for health and safety reasons)
- Socks/tights must be plain and black, grey or white in colour (red tights are also permissible)
- Black or grey trousers/culottes/skirts/dresses/shorts (just above the knee)
- Red/white summer dresses (just above the knee)

All children may wear their school PE kit on for the whole day when they have a PE lesson or an after school PE club.

- The school black PE shirt (available from the school office) or a plain white t-shirt
- A pair of black shorts and, during the winter months all black trousers/tracksuit bottoms can be worn
- A pair of trainers (not plimsolls)

Pre-loved quality uniform is available to parents via the office and every Friday via our FOSMS pre-loved uniform shop.

Do you have a child for a place in reception class of 2026?



If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2026 for your child by the deadline of **15 January 2026**.



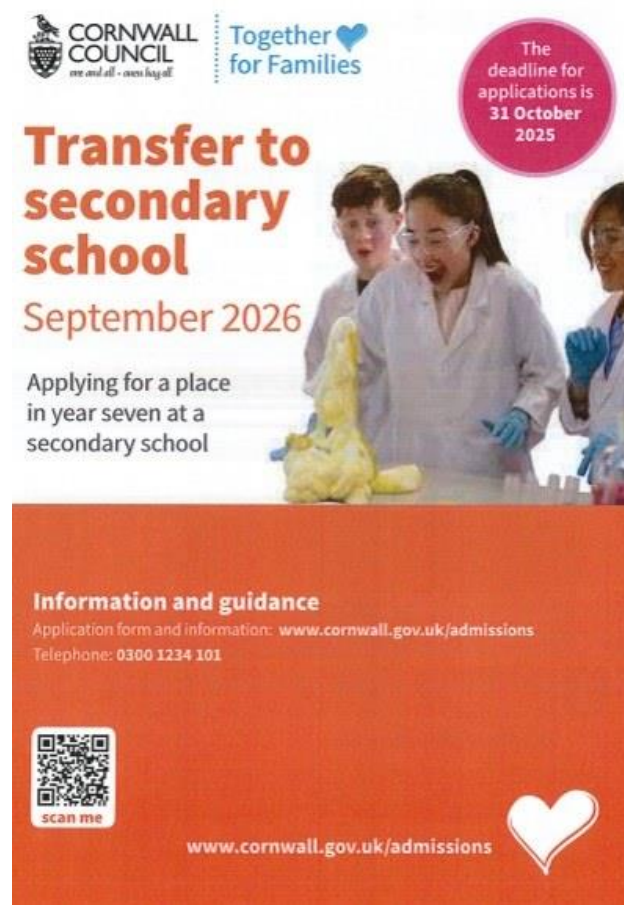
Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions



Or secondary school in 2026?



The poster is for Cornwall Council's 'Transfer to secondary school' campaign. At the top left is the Cornwall Council logo with the tagline 'one and all - one by all'. To its right is the 'Together for Families' logo. A pink circular badge in the top right corner states 'The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025'. The main title 'Transfer to secondary school' is in large orange letters, with 'September 2026' below it. A photograph of three children in lab coats is on the right. Below the title, it says 'Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school'. The bottom half of the poster is orange and contains the text 'Information and guidance', the website 'www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions', the telephone number '0300 1234 101', a QR code with 'scan me' text, and another instance of the website 'www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions' next to a white heart icon.

CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all - one by all

Together for Families

The deadline for applications is
31 October 2025

Transfer to secondary school
September 2026

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

Information and guidance
Application form and information: www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
Telephone: 0300 1234 101

scan me

www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

If you have any **Safeguarding Concerns**, here are some important contacts for you to use.

The Multi Agency Referral Unit² (MARU) is a service in Cornwall that provides support and advice to families and professionals regarding the welfare and safety of children. MARU acts as a central point of contact for concerns about children and young people, helping to connect them with the most appropriate services. Key functions of MARU:

- **Referral and Assessment:** MARU receives referrals about children who may be at risk and can initiate assessments to determine the appropriate level of support.

²https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&cs=0&sca_esv=f76fe1cd3d1e0b31&q=Multi+Agency+Referral+Unit&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewjW0ZyO8bGOAxUOQEEAHT-yJZUQxccNegQIAhAB&mstk=AUtExfDRQ7TOos5Nmc4xbQacZg2J4P0VR6BM3tX8Oq9Dlrz0YnVcpfvhQRpNGFhng4e-Mfus2prDxiDA74A4FcpG9XAOZXfb9ZA8YSHKIX3KZpT9am5Tdkmdo5LguL73mM0WpPc&csui=3

- **Multi-Agency Collaboration:** MARU works with various agencies, including social services, health professionals, and educational institutions, to ensure a coordinated response.
- **Signposting and Advice:** MARU provides information and guidance to families and professionals on how to access relevant support services, including Early Help services.
- **Early Help:** MARU may refer families to the Early Help Hub³, which offers a range of support services to address identified needs and prevent escalation to more serious interventions.

When to contact MARU:

- **Concerns about a child's safety or well-being:** If you are worried about a child's safety or have concerns about their welfare, you can contact MARU.
- **Seeking advice about child protection:** Professionals can contact MARU for advice on how to respond to specific situations or to discuss whether a referral to children's social care is necessary.

Contact information:

- **Telephone:** 0300 123 1116
- **Email:** multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk according to Cornwall Council⁴
- **Location:** Cornwall Council

Important Note: If a child is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.

Inclusion at St Merryn

At our school, we believe that every child is unique and deserves to feel included, supported, and celebrated for who they are.

If at any point you'd like to chat about your child's learning or any extra support you feel they might need, please feel free to arrange a meeting with Mrs Golay.

³https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&cs=0&sca_esv=f76fe1cd3d1e0b31&q=Early+Help+Hub&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjW0ZyO8bGOAxUOQEEAHT-yJZUQxccNegQIGBAB&mstk=AUTExfDRQ7TOos5Nmc4xbQacZg2J4P0VR6BM3tX8Oq9Dlrz0YnVcpfvhQRPnGFhng4e-Mfus2prDxiDA74A4FcpG9XAOZXfb9ZA8YSHKIX3KZpT9am5Tdkmdo5LguL73mMOWpPc&csui=3

⁴<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-services/child-protection-and-safeguarding/>



NHS
Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers -
please join us at our
1hr online
Behaviour Workshop

Monday 22 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Tuesday 23 September - 11am & 4pm
Wednesday 24 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Thursday 25 September - 10.00am & 4pm

This workshop provides parents with
practical strategies to foster positive
behaviour and communication at
home.

To book a place please complete
the online form
<https://forms.office.com/e/gA2jNGbZ4F> or scan the QR code



This workshop is open to parents/carers of
school aged children enrolled in Reception
to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

 **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST**

 Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Resilience Workshop

Monday 15 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Tuesday 16 September - 10am & 4pm
Wednesday 17 September - 11am & 1pm
Thursday 18 September - 9.30am & 4pm

 This workshops aims to talk about the meaning of resilience, explore building resilience and look at how and when a young person should ask for help.

To book a place please complete the online form
<https://forms.office.com/e/260T74xF2v> or scan the QR code



This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Worry Workshop

Monday 8 September - 9:30am & 1pm
Tuesday 9 September - 10am & 4pm
Wednesday 10 September - 9:30am & 1pm
Thursday 11 September - 11am & 4pm

This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on "What is worry?" and "Why does my child worry?" Also includes practical strategies for helping children manage their worries.

To book a place please complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/hkyaFeuY1Z> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

NHS
Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers -
please join us at our
1hr online
Sleep Workshop

Monday 29 September - 11am & 4pm
Tuesday 30 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Wednesday 1 October - 9.30am & 1pm
Thursday 2 October - 10am & 4pm

This workshop aims to provide
psychoeducation on sleep hygiene
and sleep routines. Also includes
practical strategies for helping
children

To book a place please complete
the online form
<https://forms.office.com/e/6cJiu8PArV> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of
school aged children enrolled in Reception
to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall




WALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH
WALK FOR TERMINAL ILLNESS
WALK FOR HOPE

Raise money to support families affected by mental health and families affected by the terminal illness of a parent

Sunday September 7th
11am Start
Tehidy Country Park, Camborne, TR14 0TS

Adults £6 plus one child free
 Additional Children £3 Each
 Prizes for the highest sponsorship and best fancy dress!





Register Today: <https://www.givengain.com/event/steps-for-hope>

MONTHLY DROP-INS

AT

St Austell Library

Third Friday of every month 10am to 12pm.
 Refreshments provided.

Open to families looking for support or anyone wishing to find out more about our services.
 For families with children when a parent/carer has a terminal illness



gunnerskids.org





Dates for the Diary



October

Wed 8th – KS2 Girls Football Festival

Mon 20th – FOSMS AGM 6:30 pm (venue to be confirmed)

Wed 22nd – FOSMS Halloween Disco 5:30-6:30

Thurs 23rd – Year 6 Exploding Words Festival

HALF TERM Monday 27th-Friday 31st

November

Mon 3rd - Inset Day (school closed)

Tues 4th – Children return to school

Wed 5th – Family Dining (Robins)

Wk beg 10th – Anti-Bullying week

Mon 10th – Parent Consultations

Tues 11th – Parent Consultations

Wed 12th – Parent Consultations

Wed 12th - Family Dining (Wagtails)

Wed 19th - Family Dining (Starlings)

Wed 26th – Family Dining (Kestrels & Barn Owls)

December

Mon 1st – Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Afternoon Christmas Performance

Tues 2nd - Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Evening Christmas Performance

Wed 3rd - Nursery/Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Evening Christmas Performance

Fri 5th – Padstow Lantern Parade (All welcome)

Tues 9th – KS2 Christmas Performance

Wed 10th – KS2 Christmas Performance

Thurs 11th – KS2 Christmas Performance

Tues 16th – Panto trip to the Hall for Cornwall (Reception – Year 6) Nursery will have a separate 'Christmas experience'

Wed 17th – Christmas Lunch Day

Thurs 18th – Christmas Party Day

Fri 19th – Christmas Church Service

Fri 19th – Last Day of term



School Terms and Holidays 2025/26

St Merryn School

September 2025			October 2025			November 2025										
Mon	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tue	2	9	16	23	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	5	12	19	26		
Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	Thu	6	13	20	27		
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	3	10	17	24	Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
December 2025			January 2026			February 2026										
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22		
March 2026			April 2026			May 2026										
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	4	11	18	25	
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	5	12	19	26	
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	3	10	17	24	31
June 2026			July 2026			August 2026										
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
Key:			Term dates summary:													
School Holiday Bank Holiday INSET Day School open			Autumn Term (74 days) 2nd September 2025 - 19th December 2025 (Half term: 27th-31st October 2025) Spring Term (59 days) 5th January 2026 - 2nd April 2026 (Half term: 16th - 20th February 2026) Summer Term (62 days) 20th April 2026 - 22nd July 2026 (Half term: 25th-29th May 2026)													
Bank and Public Holidays 2025/26																
Christmas Day	25th December 2025				Easter Monday					6th April 2026						
Boxing Day	26th December 2025				May Bank Holiday					4th May 2026						
New Years Day	1st January 2026				Spring Bank Holiday					25th May 2026						
Good Friday	3rd April 2026				Summer Bank Holiday					31st August 2026						