



# December Newsletter 2025



**Welcome to the December Edition of our Newsletter!**

## **Head's Welcome**

Welcome to the December issue of our school newsletter.

We have had a wonderfully busy few weeks preparing for the Festive Season, which is now fully underway! We were incredibly fortunate to be invited to decorate both the **village and church Christmas trees** this year—our children did a fabulous job, and the trees looked beautiful for the village light switch-on.

**Lantern Club** has also been working at full speed, creating a stunning range of lanterns for the Padstow Lantern Parade. Unfortunately, as you will be aware, due to stormy weather, the

parade was cancelled. Of course, we won't let this dampen our spirits—we would still love to celebrate the children's amazing creations. As part of our Christmas Carol Service on **Friday 19th December**, we will be holding our own mini '**Lantern Parade**'. The children will be invited to carry their lanterns through the village as we walk together to the church for the service. We hope this will create a wonderfully festive atmosphere and give the children the chance to proudly showcase their hard work!

Our **Christmas performances** are now well underway. KS1, Reception and Nursery have set the bar high with their amazing performance of ***Christmas with Aliens***, a fun and energetic twist on the traditional nativity. We are very much looking forward to seeing our KS2 children take to the stage as they perform ***Oliver with a Twist!***

Even with Christmas preparations in full swing, we have still managed to fit in our annual **book fayre, sporting events** and **family dining** sessions for each class. It was fantastic to welcome so many families to share home-cooked food and spend time together in school. Due to the success of these events, we hope to offer another opportunity later in the academic year.

The next few weeks promise to be both busy and joyful as we continue to celebrate the Festive Season. We can't wait to enjoy all the upcoming events with our school community.

**We look forward to seeing everyone soon!**

Mrs King

## Our Christmas Nativity



Our KS1 and Early Years children shone brightly in this year's Christmas Nativity performance, *Christmas with the Aliens*. The hall was filled with excitement as the children brought the charming story to life, blending the traditional Nativity tale with a fun, intergalactic

twist. From confident narrators to enthusiastic singers and expressive actors, every child played their part beautifully.

The children dazzled in their colourful costumes, and their joyful singing filled the room with festive cheer. Our audiences were treated to moments of humour, heart and true Christmas spirit as the visiting aliens discovered the wonder of the Nativity.

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout rehearsals and on the day of the performance. It was a magical celebration of creativity, teamwork and the joy of the season.

Mrs Muller



## School Lantern Parade Shines Indoors Despite Weather



Our much-anticipated school lantern parade was unfortunately cancelled due to severe weather, but that didn't stop the celebration from going ahead in true creative style. Instead, the judges came into school, where the children proudly presented their spectacular space-themed lanterns. The hall was filled with glowing stars, swirling planets and even our giant rocket, which stood tall and impressive for everyone to admire.

The display was an amazing spectacle, showcasing the phenomenal effort and imagination of every child involved. We are also incredibly grateful for the many wonderful parent helpers who supported the making of these incredible creations.

Although the parade couldn't take place outside, the excitement isn't over—we are planning on 'parading' the lanterns on our walk down to the church for the carol service on the last day of term.



## News from FOSMS



Our wonderful **wreath making workshop** was enjoyed by all. Lovely wreaths, festive mulled wine and lots of Christmas spirit got us all in the Christmas mood. Special thanks to **Ella Bennison** who provided her knowledge and expertise.

**Tuesday 16th Dec – Hall for Cornwall Trip to see Aladdin.** All children from Reception to Y6 will be going to see Aladdin at the Hall for Cornwall. We are very excited to be able to fund the whole trip this year!

**Wed 17th Dec -** The children will be singing **Christmas carols** from **3:00pm** followed by a **Christmas Wake and Shake**. Mulled wine and Baileys hot chocolate will be on sale for the adults. Hot chocolate, biscuits and games for the children. We hope you will all join us!

**Nursery Children** will be meeting **Father Christmas on Saturday the 20th of December** at **Higher Harlyn**. This trip will be funded by FOSMS.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity throughout the year, as we come to the end of the year, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The FOSMS









## Sports Updates



### Sports News

#### Bench ball Tournament

Our **Year 4, 5 and 6 children** took part in a Bench ball Tournament where they competed against several other schools. They worked brilliantly as a team, showing fantastic skills, teamwork and determination. We are absolutely delighted to share that they won every single game, earning an impressive **1st place in the competition!** What a brilliant achievement – we are incredibly proud of everyone who participated and represented our school with such enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Well done!

#### KS2 Cross-Country

**Seventeen of our KS2 boys and girls** recently represented the school in a Cross-country event. Every runner showed amazing resilience and stamina as they tackled the long-distance course, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. A special mention goes to **Albi**, who stormed into **1st place**, and **River**, who finished an **impressive 5th** – fantastic achievements!

We are looking forward to many more exciting sporting events in the New Year!

#### Upcoming Dates

- 12.01.26 – KS2 Cross-country
- 26.01.26 – G&T Academy
- 09.02.26 – Netball Festival

Mrs Lewis PE Lead

## St Merryn School Council



This year, our School Council proudly represented our school at the parish church by helping to decorate the community Christmas tree. The children hung a wonderful collection of handmade decorations created by pupils across the school. Each ornament reflected the children's creativity and festive spirit, bringing colour, warmth and joy to the tree. We are delighted to have contributed to this special community tradition and are grateful to our School Council for their enthusiasm. We cannot wait to see the finished product when we all celebrate our Christmas Carol service together.

### Remembrance Day

Thank you to our school council members who took on the responsibility of selling poppies this year. Our Poppy Appeal raised **£138.54!** We would also like to say a **huge Thank You!** to Thea's Grandma who kindly knitted the large woollen poppies!

## Early Years Updates



Our Early Years children have taken the excitement of the festive season in their stride, adapting to the busy schedule of Christmas with real aplomb. From rehearsing for performances to creating festive crafts and joining in whole-school celebrations, they have shown enthusiasm, resilience and an eagerness to be involved in every activity. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they embrace new experiences and share the joy of Christmas together.

Our Early years children have also been busy creating beautiful Christmas decorations for the **St Merryn Village Christmas Tree**. The children crafted a wonderful selection of ornaments that reflect their excitement for the season. They took great pride in their work, carefully shaping, painting and decorating each piece. It was also lovely to see many families turn up in typically Cornish weather to decorate the tree. Mrs Clayton had the special honour of using the cherry picker to get the high branches. We are thrilled that their handmade creations will brighten the St Merryn tree and share a little of our festive cheer with the wider community.

### **We are growing our team!**

We are also delighted to share that our nursery continues to grow, welcoming new families into our St Merryn community! As our numbers are increasing, we are thrilled to be expanding our team and look forward welcoming a new staff member to our busy Early Years unit in the New Year. We will keep you posted!



## Reading For Pleasure



It's been wonderful to see so many pupils embracing reading for pleasure this term. Whether they're discovering new authors, exploring different genres, or simply enjoying a quiet moment with a good book, the enthusiasm around school has been inspiring.

A big thank you to everyone who has taken part in our **sponsored Readathon**. Your brilliant efforts are helping us raise much-needed funds for our school library, ensuring we can continue to grow our book collection and create a welcoming space for all readers.

With Christmas just around the corner, here are some festive recommended reads to enjoy over the holidays:

### **KS1 Christmas Picks:**

- The forever bear by Lu Fraiser and Pippa Curnick
- The Snowman by Raymond Briggs
- Mog's Christmas by Judith Kerr
- The Jolly Christmas Postman by Janet & Allan Ahlberg

### **KS2 Christmas Picks:**

- The Christmas Pig by J.K. Rowling
- A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig
- One-a-day Christmas stories by Enid Blyton
- The Christmasaurus by Tom Fletcher

We hope these stories add a little extra sparkle to your holiday reading. Keep turning those pages!

## **Inclusion Update**

This time of year can feel a little bit tricky for some of our pupils and coming into school can be very overwhelming. Here are some ideas for supporting morning transitions.

### **Supporting Children With Morning Anxiety**

Some children struggle at the school gate, and a calm, consistent approach really helps.

#### **What Supports Children:**

- **Validate feelings:** "I can see you're worried, and that's okay."
- **Keep it brief and calm:** "I'll be back at [time]."
- **Predictable goodbye:** One hug, then a clear handover.

#### **Stay steady during big emotions:**

- Crying → "This feels hard, but you're safe."
- Angry → "You can feel cross and still go in."
- Frozen → "I'll stand with you; we'll take one small step."

#### **Quick Handover:**

“Wobbly morning—may need quiet time.”

**Your calm presence makes the biggest difference!**

## 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.

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.

**As you will be aware, you can no longer take your child out of school for one week’s holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.**

The **Local Authority** has recently updated its guidance regarding attendance. A child must now be present for a **full session** in order to be marked as attending.

- **Morning session:** 9:00am – 12:00pm
- **Afternoon session:** 1:00pm – 3:10pm

If a child is not in school for the full duration of a session, this will be recorded as an absence.

If you have any concerns re your child's attendance, please see Mrs Worrall in the first instance.

Mrs King

## Music at St Merryn



**Music and singing** continue to be a much-loved strength of our school, supported by a long history of performance excellence. Our pupils regularly shine in concerts, assemblies and community events, demonstrating confidence, teamwork and a genuine love of the arts.

This rich musical culture is further enhanced by the wide range of **peripatetic lessons** provided by **Happy Willow Studios**, which offer children the opportunity to develop their skills with specialist tutors. These lessons will continue in the spring term, so if any new pupils would like to join, please contact Issy or James at Happy Willow Studios for more information. <https://www.happywillowstudio.co.uk/><sup>1</sup>

## Outdoor Opportunities



December is a quiet time in our gardening calendar but thanks to the polytunnel warmth, we are growing our Christmas leeks, Cabbages, lettuce, potatoes and beetroot!

We are also delighted to share that **Trelawney Garden Centre** has generously donated a huge selection of seeds to support our gardening curriculum. This wonderful contribution will help enrich our outdoor learning opportunities, giving children the chance to grow a wide variety of plants, learn new skills and deepen their understanding of nature. We are incredibly grateful for

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<sup>1</sup><https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.happywillowstudio.co.uk%2F&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|3e39a56c970f4dcef26208de35ae6935|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|639007220369922759|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbiClldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=y4Og8JVquJVkyXqUfha%2BvVE9CHjVnhY92qbs2E%2F3XqU%3D&reserved=0>

Trelawney's support and look forward to watching our garden — and our young gardeners — continue to flourish!



## E-Safety December Updates

**Be smart on the internet**

**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](http://www.thinkuknow.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.

Childnet International  
[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

THINK U KNOW

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to the risk videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Encourage your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

### CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from reacting in the same way again. But it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has caused. You should talk them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

### BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

### GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes worsened through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

### STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay calm in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have witnessed inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Coryn Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Youth Inclusion Centre of South Africa, and the co-ordinator of practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.





#WakeUpWednesday

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At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

## 10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



### 1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and show interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'biggest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

### 2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. It encourages us to change our ask twice campaign. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

### 3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without dismissing or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

### 4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are hesitant to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or how 'it's very sad that Nana has died' or 'Ted said that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

### 5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

### 6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the child is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

### 7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they share their vulnerability and share their worries.

### 8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

### 9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'manic' or 'bipolar' or other such words is derogatory and may mean teenage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

### 10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

### Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about putting prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department of Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



### Sources of Information and Support

Your GP  
Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/mental-illness-depression/>  
<https://www.actionlinechildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/parenting-tips/2016/november/>  
A simple guide to active listening for parents  
<https://www.themcs.org.uk/mental-health/>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via mobile devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is suitable for 'age-restricted' requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18, but children can still view some highly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to create content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge watching and screen addiction – especially if 'autoplay' is active. Users without accounts can browse popular videos from the last 24 hours or 'trending' for more ideas.

### RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, hate news and radical ideologies can occasionally surface to wrap themselves around more benign topics, which means they'll be recommended.

## CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to online harassment, grooming and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often feel peer pressure to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but some others may cause physical or emotional harm, challenge users with or copy them, the potential for online challenges – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of countless examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content are rife with many 'influencers' attempting to lure users into clicking on their phony links. Scammers impersonate YouTube by adopting their names and profile pictures, and using their own unique branding. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an advanced setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and gambling content, violence and sexual content) to encourage parents to prevent children from viewing explicit age-inappropriate content. In the past, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It would also turn off the autoplay feature and for recent YouTube algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

### CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to identify most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android tablets and phones. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'family' (ages 5-9) and 'older' (ages 10-12). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only recommending appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is responsible to not be hidden, if the child is responsible to not be hidden, if the child is responsible to not be hidden.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT


YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for millions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how engaged your child is with the material – and, if appropriate, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. It's important to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for The New York Times, The Guardian, The Telegraph and The New Statesman.



### WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

The poster features the Cornwall Council logo with the tagline 'one and all - one together' and the 'Together for Families' logo. A pink circular badge in the top right corner states: 'The deadline for applications is 15 January 2026'. The main text asks: 'Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?**'. Below this, it says: '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.**' A large image of a smiling child with colorful handprints on their face is on the right. At the bottom, there are three small photos of children in a classroom. A 'Please note' section explains that attending a school's nursery or pre-school does not guarantee a place. A QR code with the text 'scan me' is provided, along with the website 'www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions' and a heart icon.

**CORNWALL COUNCIL**  
one and all - one together

**Together for Families**

The deadline for applications is  
**15 January 2026**

Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?**

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.**

**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](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) for more information and to access the online application system.

scan me

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

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

The Multi Agency Referral Unit<sup>2</sup> (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.

<sup>2</sup>[https://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](https://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 Hub<sup>3</sup>, 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 Council<sup>4</sup>
- **Location:** Cornwall Council

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

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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&cs=0&sca\\_esv=f76fe1cd3d1e0b31&q=Early+Help+Hub&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjW0ZyO8bGOAxUOQEEAHT-yJZUQxccNegQIGBAB&mstk=AUTExfDRQ7TOos5Nmc4xbQacZg2J4P0VR6BM3tX8Oq9Dlrz0YnVcpfvhQRPnGFhng4e-Mfus2prDxiDA74A4FcpG9XAOZXfb9ZA8YSHKIX3KZpT9am5Tdkmdo5LguL73mM0WpPc&csui=3](https://www.google.com/search?safe=active&cs=0&sca_esv=f76fe1cd3d1e0b31&q=Early+Help+Hub&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjW0ZyO8bGOAxUOQEEAHT-yJZUQxccNegQIGBAB&mstk=AUTExfDRQ7TOos5Nmc4xbQacZg2J4P0VR6BM3tX8Oq9Dlrz0YnVcpfvhQRPnGFhng4e-Mfus2prDxiDA74A4FcpG9XAOZXfb9ZA8YSHKIX3KZpT9am5Tdkmdo5LguL73mM0WpPc&csui=3)

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

Community Events...



**St Merryn Church**  
**Nine Lessons & Carols**  
11.15am Sunday 21st December

**Midnight Service**  
11.30pm Christmas Eve

**Christmas Day**  
11.15am Family Service

**Everyone  
Welcome**

**FREE Car Park -**  
**PL28 8ND**



**ST MERRYIN  
CHURCH  
BELL TOWER**

**INVITE YOU TO  
"HAVE A GO AT  
BELL RINGING"**

**6PM  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
EVENING**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT GEORGINA  
07938 214693**

## Additional Information



**SPACE** Supporting Parents And Children Emotionally

**SPACE** is a **free** programme for **any parent or carer** who wants to better understand and support their children's emotions, as well as their own.

**This 5 week online programme will cover:**

- Understanding what is meant by a Trauma Informed approach
- Understanding toxic stress and the flight/fight response
- Practical approaches to support children to regulate their emotions
- Healthy coping strategies for dealing with stress
- Managing different emotions
- Understanding behaviour
- Building resilience in ourselves and our children
- Adopting appropriate expectations of children
- Enhancing your ability to provide nurturing care

MHST has an upcoming online programme with sessions starting on:

**Monday 12 January 2026 at 9.30am**  
**Monday 12 January 2026 at 11.30am**  
**Thursday 15 January at 9.30am**  
**Thursday 15 January at 1.30pm**

These sessions will be running for 5 weeks, please ensure you are able to attend each week for the duration of the programme

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided: <https://forms.office.com/e/mX4A6KKfwv>



**These courses are for parents/carers of children 5-11 yrs only**  
**Spaces are limited, if you cannot attend, please notify us ASAP - 01726 873204**

HEADSTART KERNOW    SPACE POOL    CORNWALL COUNCIL    Together for Families    COMMUNITY FUND



## LOVE RUGBY SERIES

A nationwide series of **girls-only** festivals, joining up girls new to rugby with those already playing for a fun, friendly and positive experience

**Key Information**

- Girls in U9-U11s (Year 4-6)
- All abilities welcome
- Mega fest style game play

**Your local event details:**

Date	Location	Time
30/11 /2025	St Austell RFC	13:00-16:00



**Love Rugby freebies!**

Sign-up to your local event here !

**Want to join in?**

1. Sign up as a club, individual, school or community group using the link below
2. Show up on the day ready to try some rugby in a fun, inclusive environment
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming events on [findrugby.com](http://findrugby.com)

1 - If you are interested, please let us know and we will pass your details on!

**NHS** **CORNWALL & DEVON**  
School Age Immunisation Service  
Provided by Kernow Health CIC

**School aged vaccinations**

**Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?**

- ✓ **FLU** - Reception - Year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - Catch-up
- ✓ **HPV** - Year 8 - Year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - Year 9 - Year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - Year 9 - Year 11

**Did you miss us?**  
We also have community clinics across Cornwall for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

**Call us on**  
**01872 221105**

Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net

## Dates for the Diary



**Save the Date:**

**December**

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)

Wed 17th – Christmas Lunch Day & **Christmas Jumper Day**

Wed 17th – FOSMS Christmas Games afternoon 3:00pm (Singing, wake & shake and plenty of festive fun!)

Thurs 18th – Christmas Party Day

Fri 19th – Christmas Church Service & **Lantern Parade (Leave school at 1:45pm, Church service to begin 2:15pm)**

**Fri 19th – Last Day of term**

Sat 20th - Nursery Visit to Father Christmas (Higher Harlyn)

**January:**

**Mon 5th - First Day of Term**

St Merryn  
School

Kernow Learning

# School Terms and Holidays 2025/26

St Merryn School

<b>September 2025</b>				<b>October 2025</b>				<b>November 2025</b>							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	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	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	
<b>December 2025</b>				<b>January 2026</b>				<b>February 2026</b>							
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	Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	2	9	16	23	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	3	10	17	24	Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	
<b>March 2026</b>				<b>April 2026</b>				<b>May 2026</b>							
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	4	11	18	25
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	5	12	19	26
Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	Wed	6	13	20	27	
Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	Thu	7	14	21	28	
Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	Fri	1	8	15	22	
Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	2	9	16	23	
Sun	1	8	15	22	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	3	10	17	24	
<b>June 2026</b>				<b>July 2026</b>				<b>August 2026</b>							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25
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	
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	

## Key:

School Holiday

Bank Holiday

INSET Day

School open

## Term dates summary:

### 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 2025
New Years Day	1st January 2026	Spring Bank Holiday	25th May 2026
Good Friday	3rd April 2026	Summer Bank Holiday	31st August 2026

*2 - Term Dates 2025-2026*