

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



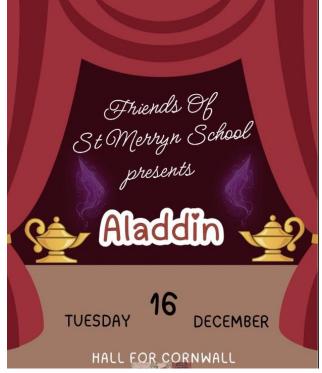












Sports Updates



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

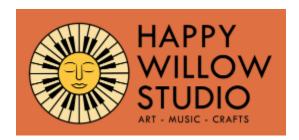
• Afternoon session: 1:00pm – 3:10pm

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/¹

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

¹https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.happywillowstudio.co.uk%2F&data=0 5|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|3e39a56c970f4dcef26208de35ae6935|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a31 9|0|0|639007220369922759|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsllYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsllAiOiJXaW4zMilsIkFOIjoiTWFpbClsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D|0|||&sdata=y4Og8JVquJVkyXqUfha%2BvVE9CHjVnhY92qbs2E%2F3XqU%3D&reserved=0

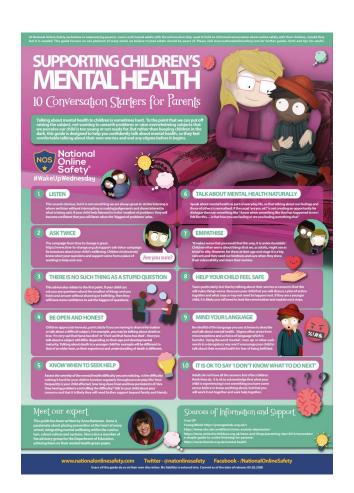
Trelawney's support and look forward to watching our garden — and our young gardeners — continue to flourish!



E-Safety December Updates











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



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-

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- 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.

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

<u>vJZUQxccNegQIGBAB&mstk=AUtExfDRQ7TOos5Nmc4xbQacZg2J4P0VR6BM3tX8Oq9Dlrz0YnVcpfvhQRPnGFhnq4e-Mfus2prDxiDA74A4FcpG9XAOZXFb9ZA8YSHKIX3KZpT9am5Tdkmdo5LguL73mM0WpPc&csui=3</u>

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





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

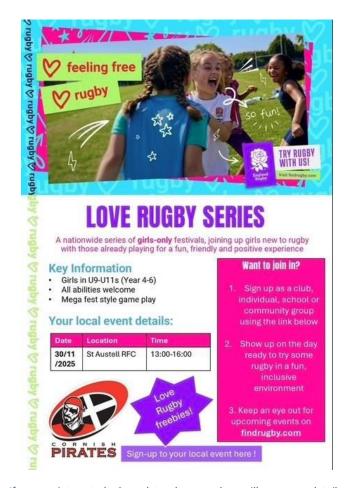












1 - If you are interested, please let us know and we will pass your details on!



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

