



November Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the November Edition of our Newsletter!

Head's Welcome

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn term! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful half-term break.

It has been a busy start to the term, with children already rehearsing for their Christmas performances – excitement is certainly in the air! Our **Lantern Club** is well underway, with over 40 children taking part. A **huge thank you to all our parent helpers** who support what has become such a popular club. We are very much looking forward to welcoming many of our families to the **Padstow Christmas Lights Lantern Parade on Friday 5th December**.

The next few weeks promise to be both busy and exciting as we move further into the Festive Season. We can't wait to share in the celebrations with our school community!

Anti-Bullying Week

As a school, we are proud to be taking part in **National Anti-Bullying Week** from **Monday 10th to Friday 15th November**. The week will begin with a **whole-school assembly**, setting the tone with key messages about kindness, respect, and standing up against bullying.

Throughout the week, these important themes will be explored further in **PSHE lessons**, giving children the opportunity to reflect on how they can help keep our school a safe and supportive place for everyone.

In addition, **KS2 pupils** will enjoy an **online theatre production titled *Hope***, which powerfully addresses issues related to friendship, empathy, and the impact of bullying.

We encourage parents and carers to continue these conversations at home. If your child shares any concerns or experiences related to bullying, please speak to their **class teacher in the first instance** so that we can work together to support them

Remembrance Day Observances

This week, we held a special Remembrance Assembly for all of our children, helping them to reflect on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed. Poppies will continue to be on sale throughout the week for those who would like to support the Poppy Appeal.

We warmly invite as many of our children as possible to join the Remembrance Service at St Merryn Church on **Sunday 9th November at 10:30**. In addition, we will be observing a **two-minute silence on Tuesday 11th November** as a mark of respect and remembrance.

Looking Ahead

We already have many exciting events planned over the next few weeks—please see the diary dates below. We look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

Mrs King

Important Staffing Updates

We would like to share some important staffing news from St Merryn School.

It is with mixed feelings that we announce that **Mrs Golay**, our Assistant Headteacher, has been offered a **secondment opportunity** within one of our Trust schools until **Easter 2026**. This is a

fantastic chance for her to share her expertise and leadership more widely across the Trust. While we are delighted for her and proud of this achievement, we know she will be greatly missed by our pupils, staff, and families here at St Merryn.

Mrs Golay's secondment begins immediately, and we have arranged a **transition period** over the coming weeks to ensure continuity and support for everyone.

During this time:

- **Mrs Cooper** will be stepping into the role of **Acting Deputy Headteacher**.
- **Miss Jane**, an experienced **SENCo** already working within the Kernow Learning family of schools, will be joining us to support our children and families in this role.

To help everyone get to know her, **Miss Jane will be hosting a welcome meeting on Monday 10th November at 9:00am**. Parents and carers are warmly invited to come along, meet her, and share any questions or thoughts they may have.

We are also working closely with the Trust to appoint a **new classroom teacher** who will continue the excellent progress being made this academic year. In the short interim period, **Mrs Olivey** will be based in the class to provide consistency and support for the children.

Please note that **Parent Consultations for Kestrels Class will go ahead as planned next week with Mrs Golay** as part of the transition process.

We will share further updates as soon as the new classroom teacher has been appointed.

Thank you for your **continued support and understanding** during this period of change. If you would like to discuss any of the above, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.



News from FOSMS

Events

Halloween

What a way to kick start our events this school year. Lots of brilliant costumes and dancing. Big thank you to DJ Gerry - the children absolutely loved it. We were also very impressed with all the pumpkin creations that entered our competition, the judges certainly had a very hard job to decide the winners. Well done to everyone's efforts. The Halloween event raised £142.77.

Christmas

Cards & Gifts

The children's designs are ready for you to purchase and this year we have more gifts available. If you haven't yet please visit our online Christmas shop to make your purchases. The ordering details went home on the last day of term. The shop closes midday 6th November.

Wreath Making

Nearly time for you to make your very own handmade Christmas wreath. We are very excited that once again you will be guided by florist Ella Bennison, while enjoying a glass of mulled wine. Thursday 27th November tickets available from the school office £20 pp or via the sumup link: <https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q4O0FBAW>

Panto

Our annual panto trip is booked to see Aladdin at the Hall For Cornwall, for reception and older on Tuesday 16th December.

Father Christmas

Nursery children will see Father Christmas Saturday 20th December.

Other News

Pre-Love Uniform Shop

Have you seen our new shop? If you haven't pop into the old nursery where there is a big selection of pre-loved school uniform.

Keeping up to date

Join our Facebook group and keep an eye on the blackboard for the latest information.

Monthly meeting

Tuesday 11th November 6:30 The Farmers Arms - All welcome

Diary Dates

November

- 6th Christmas card shop closes at noon
- 11th Monthly meeting
- 27th Wreath making

December

- 2nd EYFS & KS1 performance bar & raffle
- 3rd EYFS & KS1 performance bar & raffle
- 9th KS2 performance bar & raffle
- 10th KS2 performance bar & raffle
- 11th KS2 performance bar & raffle
- 16th Panto trip
- 17th Carols & fun
- 20th Father Christmas nursery visit



Sports Updates

Sports News

A group of our talented girls from Years 4, 5, and 6 recently travelled to Wadebridge Primary School to take part in a Girls' Football Festival. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to develop and practise their football skills before enjoying a series of friendly matches against other schools.

The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship throughout the event supporting one another and representing our school with pride. We are incredibly proud of their effort, attitude, and achievements – well done, everyone!

Upcoming Sporting Events

We have an exciting line-up of sporting events taking place this half-term:

- 10.11.25 – Years 4, 5 & 6: Benchball
- 17.11.25 – Key Stage 2: Cross Country

· 01.12.25 – Key Stage 1: Multi-Skills Festival

We are always proud of the children who represent our school at these events and look forward to seeing their continued enthusiasm and sportsmanship in action.

Exploding Words Festival

Exploding Words Festival

The Year 6 children had such a fun, inspiring and engaging trip to the Exploding Words literary festival at Callywith College. They learnt exciting ways to plan stories, how writers became authors and listened to some brilliant and very funny poetry! As always, they were fantastic ambassadors for the school.

Mrs Cooper



Y5 & Y6 Residential Trip 2026

We are thrilled to announce that a provisional booking has now been made for our much-anticipated London Residential, taking place from Monday 1st to Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

This exciting trip will be open to all Year 5 and Year 6 children, giving them the chance to explore some of London's most famous landmarks and attractions. During our three days in the capital, we are hoping to visit The Science Museum, The Imperial War Museum, The London Eye, and even enjoy a magical evening at a West End theatre show.

Alongside these main highlights, children will also take part in a variety of fun and educational activities that bring their learning to life.

Combining both year groups allows us to make the trip more affordable for families while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to take part in this unforgettable experience.

To find out more, families are warmly invited to an information meeting on Thursday 6th November at 2:30pm, where we will share further details and next steps. We can't wait to give our pupils this fantastic opportunity to learn, explore, and make lifelong memories in our capital city!

Mrs Cooper





Back by popular demand!

Thank you to all of our Robins Parents who attended our first Family Dining experience of the term - It was lovely to see so many smiling faces enjoying a delicious home cooked meal together.

We hope that all of our other classes 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 12th Nov – Wagtails

Wed 19th Nov – Starlings

Wed 26th Nov – Kestrels & Barn Owls

Science Ambassadors

We are really proud of the children that have been selected as our St Merryn School Science Ambassadors this year. They are fantastic role models for what it is to be a great scientist –

curious, engaged and excited about science! In lessons they have a special role in leading experiments and reporting back to me on what great science has been going on across the school.

I am very proud of Sophia from Wagtails Class who is the first Science Ambassador this year, to have a go at an experiment at home. Sophia and Izzy made a “lava lamp” in a glass using bicarbonate of soda, oil, vinegar, and food colouring. When Izzy accidentally knocked it over, they added coloured vinegar to the remaining bicarbonate and watched what happened.

They learned about cause and effect by seeing how vinegar reacts with bicarbonate of soda to produce carbon dioxide, which forms the bubbles that rise through the oil. They observed how the bubbles move and carry the coloured vinegar with them, and they experimented with adding different amounts of vinegar to see how it changes the reaction.

What fantastic science! Well done Sophia.

Mrs Cooper





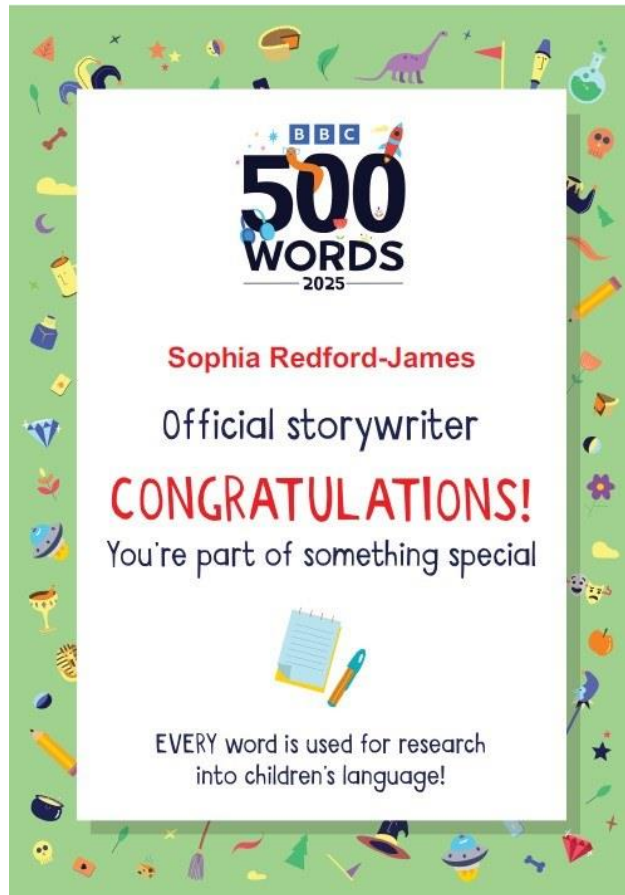
Successes outside of the classroom



1 - Arlo - Man of the Match

🎉 Celebrations Corner! 🎉

A huge *congratulations* to **Arlo**, who was named *Man of the Match* for his local team – a true Lion in the making! 🐘 Well done also to **Sophia** for her wonderful storytelling skills; she entered the *500 Words* storytelling competition and became part of something really special – amazing work, Sophia! ✨ Last month, **Ivy** shone at the *South West Championships*, earning *Silver Medallist* on floor – what an incredible achievement! 🏆 And a big cheer for **Indi**, who also competed at the championships and finished *4th on floor*! 🌟 We are so proud of all of you and your fantastic accomplishments – keep up the great work! 🙌



2 - Sophia - our Storywriter!



3 - Ivy - our amazing gymnast!



4 - Indi - our amazing gymnast!

Helping Local Families This Christmas

As the festive season approaches, our local **Wadebridge Foodbank** is reaching out to support families in need. While Christmas is a time of joy for many, it can also be a difficult period for those struggling with the rising cost of living.

The Foodbank is preparing a limited number of **Christmas Food Boxes**, packed with festive treats and essentials to help make the season a little brighter. These boxes are available **on a first come, first served basis** for local individuals or families who could use some extra help this year — even if they don't qualify for free school meals.

If you know someone who has had a particularly tough year and deserves a little extra support this Christmas, please ask them to pop into the school office or see Mrs King.

All nominations need to be completed by **Sunday, 24th November**.

The Foodbank team will be packing and distributing the boxes during the first two weeks of December. Each nominated family will receive both a regular food box and a special Christmas hamper.

Let's come together as a community to share kindness and help make Christmas special for everyone.

The Wadebridge Foodbank Team



Early Help Hub Drop-In Sessions

We are really pleased to share that our school will be hosting a number of Early Help Drop-ins. The first session will take place on Thursday 20th November.

Alison Gill offers support in a variety of areas to help make family life a little easier. Alison is here to listen, offer guidance, and connect you with helpful resources if needed. These sessions are informal and confidential, giving you a safe space to ask questions, seek advice, or just have a chat.

Some examples of the support available during drop-in sessions include:

- **Parenting Advice**— Support with managing routines, setting boundaries, and positive discipline strategies.
- **Child Behaviour Support** – Guidance on dealing with tantrums, sibling rivalry, anxiety, or other behavioural challenges.
- **Emotional Wellbeing** – A listening ear for parents who may be feeling overwhelmed, stressed, or in need of encouragement.
- **School & Education Support** – Advice on attendance, school concerns, or helping children with learning at home.
- **Access to Services**— Help with finding and connecting to local resources such as childcare, financial support, housing advice, or mental health services.
- **Building Stronger Relationships** – Support with improving family communication and strengthening parent-child relationships.

These sessions are flexible and tailored to what you need, providing a safe and supportive space to talk things through.

If you are interested in booking a **30 minute session** that will take place in school in a confidential space, please contact Mrs Worrall in the school Office or talk to Mrs King.

North Cornwall Family Worker Drop-Ins

at St Merryn School



Drop In Sessions:
On: Thursday 20th November
At: 9:00
In: Nursery

To Book at 30 minute slot, contact:
Mrs Worrall in the Office

St Merryn School Council

Our School Council have a very busy term ahead of them, working hard to support our school and wider community.

The councillors have been helping to organise several exciting projects, including our **Children in Need Day Bake Sale**. Some of our older councillors have also been **selling Remembrance poppies** to support the **Royal British Legion**, showing their respect and gratitude for those who have served.

The council have also supported a **fantastic collection for the Wadebridge Food Bank**, helping to gather a wonderful donation that will make a real difference to local families in need. In addition, they are assisting with our **Shoebox Appeal**, collecting gifts to bring joy to children this Christmas.

Looking ahead, the councillors will be turning their attention to spreading festive cheer by helping to plan our **Christmas Carol Service** and **getting the school ready for the Christmas season**.

We are so proud of our School Council members for their enthusiasm, teamwork, and community spirit — they are truly helping to make a difference!

Early Years Updates

It's hard to believe our Early Years children have only been with us for half a term — they have settled in so beautifully and made such wonderful progress already! We are so proud of all our Early Years children and how far they've come already. Across both Nursery and Reception, children have been developing their confidence, independence, and social skills through the Personal, Social and Emotional Development curriculum. They have been working hard on their motor skills in PE, Art and play.

They are learning to share, take turns, show kindness, and build positive relationships — all while having lots of fun along the way. We've also welcoming some new friends into our Early Years family this term, and we are excited to welcome them to our setting. If you would like to have your child to join our nursery, please do contact the office in the first instance.

Parents who would like to continue supporting their child's development at home can find lots of great ideas and guidance on the Best Start in Life website:

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>. It's full of helpful tips on early learning, play, and supporting children's wellbeing.

Reading For Pleasure



It's been wonderful to see so many children working hard to meet their reading targets and enjoying books from our school library. Well done to everyone who has been reading regularly and challenging themselves!

We'd also like to remind everyone that reading for pleasure is just as important. Children can enjoy books that aren't on Accelerated Reader too— the best kind of reading is the one that makes you want to keep turning the pages!

Earlier this term, we had a fantastic assembly about reading for pleasure, where we shared our favourite stories and what we love about them. For half term, we'll be launching a Sponsored Readathon to celebrate the joy of reading and raise money for new library books.

Here are some great book recommendations to try at home:

Picture Books (EYFS & KS1):

How to find a yeti by Matt Hunt

How to Catch a Star by Oliver Jeffers

The turtle who turned the tide by Rachel Bright and Jim field

Early Chapter Books (KS1 & Lower KS2):

Isadora Moon series by Harriet Muncaster

Claude series by Alex T. Smith

The Naughtiest Unicorn by Pip Bird

Nellie choc-Ice series by Jeremy Strong

For Years 4, 5 and 6:

Impossible creatures by Katherine Rundell

Land of Roar series by Lottie Brooks series

Unfairies by Hue Aaron

The house at the end of magic by Amy Sparks

E-Safety November 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.



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 live 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.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. For example, for teenagers, is hugely popular with young people but is regularly best down for clips featuring sexualised content or pornography. Some social media sites also contain hate speech which promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually adult) users often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms can't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content, usually gambling and nudity of partial nudity. Although adverts are displayed or targeted to you, they are also common. Some adverts are also targeted to you based on your search history, so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, chances are that the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

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 to tell 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. But it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has caused. You should tell 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

Corynne Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Youth Inclusion Centre of South Africa, and the co-ordinator of the 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.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com
[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)
[NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)
[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

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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 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 'safest 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. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk> is a great 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 years are difficult 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 Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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All 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 Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](#).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to any device, it also pays to know which systems an individual device has installed. To be clear, this doesn't mean the filtering, unwatchable videos, while Instagram lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of being open to the device's safety measures. Can you use a phone and laptop anywhere? Can you use a phone and laptop anywhere? Can you use a phone and laptop anywhere? Can you use a phone and laptop anywhere?

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that it's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for shared devices that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that untrusted laptops, phones and tablets are password-locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but they're right enough to fully disrupt sleep, which is a major factor in mental health. When parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or requiring the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransaction purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement this fairly, some companies are using it to encourage children into paying for additional features or content, which can add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some important content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these features isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in your young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover Wi-Fi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many undesirable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and not be able to discuss them. It's important to ensure that the parents do to these settings remain children to discuss, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. For this reason, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a set-and-forget-one, but only your general awareness of what your child is doing online. If you're not sure what your child is doing online, it's a good idea to check in with them. If you're not sure what your child is doing online, it's a good idea to check in with them. If you're not sure what your child is doing online, it's a good idea to check in with them.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a 10-year-old probably won't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, it's important the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without all the training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website [Digital Spy](#). However, he has contributed articles to publications including [The Independent](#), [CNN](#), [The Evening Standard](#), [Wired](#), [Rock Paper Shotgun](#), [Diamonds](#), [Pocket Gamer](#), [Stuff](#), [TV](#), [PC Pro](#), [Macworld](#), [Techradar](#) and [Trusted Reviews](#).



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St Merryn Gardening Club

Our Gardening Club has been very busy this term, getting the garden ready for the winter season. The children have been **weeding, pruning the apple trees**, and preparing the beds for new growth. Together, we have been **planting lettuces, pak choi, beetroot, and spinach**, and we're looking forward to seeing how they grow over the coming weeks. The anticipation of enjoying vegetables that we have grown ourselves makes this project even more exciting! We are also planning to add some herbs to the planters by the poly tunnel to make a sensory herb garden for us to explore and to brighten up our school for the colder months and the coming spring. If you happen to have any **shrubs or plants** that you are removing from your garden, please let **Mrs Worrall or Mrs Muller** know — they would be delighted to give them a new home in our school garden.

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?

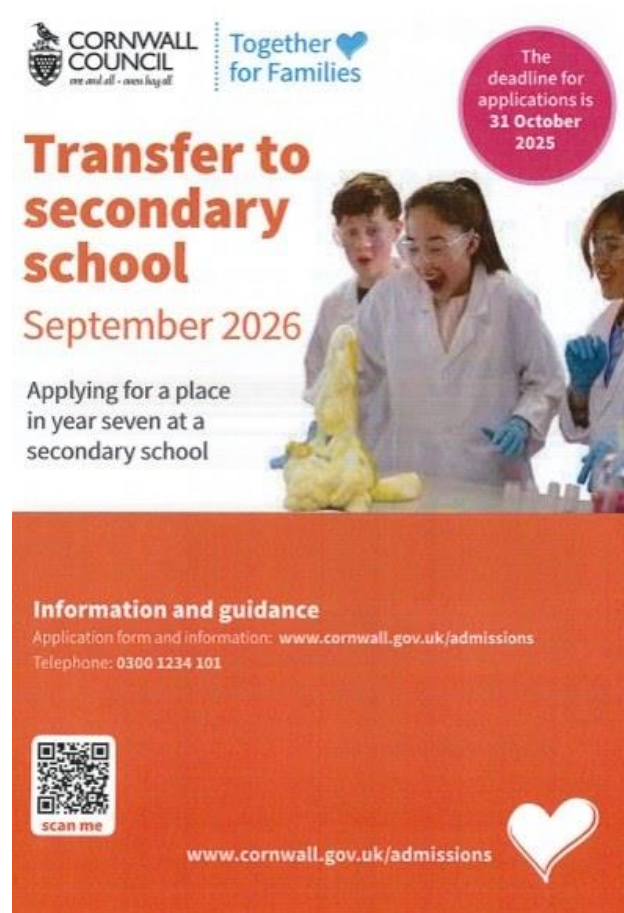
Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under S444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine gives you the opportunity to settle out of court. If you do not pay, you can be prosecuted for failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

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.

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 motto 'one and all - oves hag 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 shows three children in white lab coats and gloves working with a yellow stuffed animal. Below the photo, the text reads 'Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school'. The bottom section has an orange background with the heading 'Information and guidance', the website 'www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions', and the phone number '0300 1234 101'. A QR code with 'scan me' text is on the left, and a white heart icon is on the right next to the website URL.

CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all - oves hag 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 Unit¹ (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.

¹https://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 Hub², 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 Council³
- **Location:** Cornwall Council

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

²https://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

³<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**

ST MERRYNN CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

IN THE CHURCH HALL 2.00PM

Saturday 22nd November



MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS
and receive a gift
ONLY £5.00 PER CHILD

Raffle - Tombola - bric-à-brac - toys
Cake Stall - Veg Stall - Mince Pies

FREE ENTRY
FREE CAR PARK PL28 8ND



St. Merryn Parish Church

Johnny Cowling *Christmas Concert*



7.30pm

Sunday

30th November

St. Merryn Church

Bring your own beverage!

Tickets £15 (Including Pasty)

Available from St Merryn Garage
or call Elizabeth: 07714 075039

Additional Information



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

gunners kids



SilverCloud

Interactive cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) programmes to help support and make you feel better

SilverCloud offers a number of programmes including:

- Supporting an Anxious Child
- Supporting an Anxious Teen
- Supporting a Child with ADHD

For more information and to sign up please use the link below:
<https://cornwallcyp.silvercloudhealth.com/signup/>

Dates for the Diary



Save the Date:

November

Sun 9th - Remembrance Service at St Merryn Church (all welcome) 10:30 for an 10:50 start

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)

Fri 21st - Robins Trip to The Eden Project - (more information to follow)

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

Thursday 27th – Nursery Children to decorate the village Christmas Tree

Thursday 27th – FOSMS Wreath Making Workshop

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)

Wed 17th – Christmas Lunch Day

Wed 17th – FOSMS Christmas Games afternoon

Thurs 18th – Christmas Party Day

Fri 19th – Christmas Church Service

Fri 19th – Last Day of term

Sat 20th - Nursery Visit to Father Christmas - more information to follow

St Merryn
School





Kernow Learning

School Terms and Holidays 2025/26

St Merryn School

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

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