

July Newsletter 2024

A very warm welcome to the July edition of our newsletter! Our final one of the academic year!

In this month's newsletter, we hope to have captured some of last month's highlights but also share some of the exciting events which will end the term.

The first few weeks of this final term have certainly been busy with our Year 4 and Year 6 Residentials, Year 5 surf week and a fabulous Sports Day to name but a few! The next few weeks continue to be just as exciting with our Arts week planned to include a beach day for all children! Nursery will be enjoying their very own arts-based week. We are really looking forward to showcasing the children's hard work with our ever popular Arts Night (Tuesday 16th July).

Our summer term clubs continue this term, with again, an increase in club offers for our children. We are pleased to share that we are able to offer a further four weeks with a new coach Owen, our coach from Arena. This new opportunity will ensure we can continue to offer both a lunchtime and after school club which as proved very popular!

Thank you to all of our parents who have attended our 'Family Dining' experience. We are really looking forward to welcoming our next set of parents.

Change of date:

To ensure we have a lovely celebratory lunch with our Year 6 children, we have decided to **combine both Kestrels and Barn Owls** for their 'Family Dining' experience. Both Kestrels and Barn Owls parents are invited to join us on **Monday 22nd July**. A letter with further information will be sent out later this week.

FOSMS

I would like to give a huge final thank you of the academic year to our amazing FOSMS team. They are a small group of parents that really go above and beyond to provide lovely community events whilst raising money for our school. Our fantastic trim trail, poly tunnel and Christmas Panto experience have all been possible due to their hard work and commitment to our school. We also thank all of our parents that have attended our events...Your support is very much appreciated and makes such a difference.

We have lots of events planned over the last few weeks - Please see the dates below. We have also attached our term dates for 2024/2025 for your information.

Mrs King

Staffing Updates

As you will now be aware, Mrs Berrington and Mrs Chandler will be leaving us at the end of this term.

Mrs Berrington has given many years of service to St Merryn School...she is definitely part of the family and community! She has ensured our children have experienced the highest quality Arts curriculum and that they have memories that will last a life time. We are fast approaching our Arts Night and busy with all the prep that comes before this, including our fantastic beach days. These are events have formed part of the 'history' of our school and it will indeed be hard to recreate the magic Mrs Berrington does! We will also miss that 'sparkle' that Mrs Berrington adds to Christmas here at St Merryn (I am panicking slightly about the scenery for our shows!! (3) Mrs Berrington doesn't want a 'fuss' as she leaves but I know everyone will want to wish her well and give a special thank you...We will all miss you so much!! xx

Mrs Chandler will also be leaving us at the end of term. I know many of you will agree that although she has only been with us for a relatively short amount of time, she has made a huge difference to many of our children and families. Her role as Autism Champion has ensured families have had a 'supportive ear' during tricky times. She has been that reassuring face at the gate for any children feeling a little wobbly and has supported further families during our Parent Hub. Again, Mrs Chandler has been an incredible part of our St Merryn family and we will truly miss her xx

The 'Art of James' Show

As you will know, we were very touched that a local family kindly donated proceedings from their art exhibition to our school.

The art exhibition was held at Bar Harlyn and was in memory of **James Edwards**, Noa's cousin, who was a keen and clever artist and tragically passed away age six, 3 years ago from a very rare brain tumour. His parents Jess and Simon held an exhibition before the Easter holidays at Higher Harlyn Park Campsite

and proceeds of sales of prints of his pictures went to raising money for art materials for the school he attended.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the family on behalf of our whole school community for their extremely **kind donation of £500** to our school for Art equipment. Below is a photo of some of the resources that have now arrived!!



Arts Week and Arts Night 2024 - Reminder



A CELEBRATION OF THE SEA

This year we are celebrating our amazing north Cornish coast and the incredible Atlantic Ocean that crashes on to our beautiful beaches. Through song, drama, dance and art, we'll be exploring the diversity of wildlife, the history, the pure joy of living in North Cornwall.

ARTS NIGHT PERFORMANCE AND GALLERY DATES - TUESDAY JULY 16TH - 5PM

RESERVE (just in case of rain) -THURSDAY JULY 18TH - 5PM

We are hoping to make Arts Night a real community event this year: after the performance, as well as the hall gallery to visit, there will be food, drinks and lots of fun. So please do extend invitations to friends and family. There will be no tickets this year, but donations would be greatly appreciated.

This year our art workshops will be beach based and the children will be making giant sand sculptures, creating river installations, learning about environmental art, working with artists, painting and drawing ... on the beach!

PARENTS/CARERS WILL NEED TO DROP OFF AND COLLECT CHILDREN FOR THE BEACH WORKSHOPS

BEACH WORKSHOPS

Dates:

Tuesday 9th July – KS2 All day need packed lunch.

Wednesday 10th July - Reception/KS1 All day packed lunch provided.

Location - Porthcothan beach

Transport – Parents to drop children at Porthcothan Car park between 9 -9.15

Parents to pick up children from Porthcothan Car park between 3 -3.15

How can you help?

- We will need some volunteer helpers for our beach workshops so please let Vicky know in the office if you can.
- Helping each other out with transport would be great but anyone who has difficulty please let us know.
- FOSMS always appreciate any extra helping hands as they are such a support for our Arts Nights.
- Barn Owls are creating a 'Ghost fishing Gear' installation so would love any interesting bits of net or plastics you find on the beach There will be a collection bin for donations by the steps at the front entrance (please make sure nothing living is attached!)

Mrs.Berrington





Sporting News



District Sports

I honestly can't praise the KS2 children that went to District Sports enough! Not only did they show phenomenal sporting skills in sprints, long distance running, relay, javelin and long jump, but their kindness and support for each other was incredible. Sportsmanship (or sportspersonship!) was amazing from every single child and I could not have been prouder. What amazing ambassadors for St Merryn School. To top this all off, St Merryn School came 2nd place over all and two new time records were achieved by Finley and Raya in Year 6!

Sports Day

What a fantastic sports day we had this year! The courage it takes for all of our children to compete in front of their families is just amazing and not to be underestimated! From our youngest Nursery children through to our Year 6 children, every single child was fantastic. We saw resilience and perseverance all round, especially in the heat of the beautiful, sunny day. Again, seeing children supporting each other so kindly and enthusiastically was just wonderful. A special mention and thank you to the Year 6 helpers – you shone out to every member of staff.

The fun didn't stop there! The afternoon's sporting carousel was so much fun – from water challenges and obstacle courses to benchball and football shoot out, it really was a brilliant afternoon. I have been so proud to be part of this school for so many reasons lately!

Bodmin Netball Club

We have attached a flyer for Bodmin Netball Club as we have many talented players. Please do let us know if your child signs up as this is something we can promote at school.

Mrs Cooper













WE CURRENTLY HAVE SPACES IN OUR U12 SECTION!

Girls in Primary Year 5 - Secondary Year 7

We will be training on Wednesday nights from September 7:15-8:15 at the Dragon Leisure Centre

<u>Taster Night for our new U12 will be</u> <u>Wednesday 4th September.</u>

Skills / Drills / Fitness
Potential Cornwall League!

To register please email; bodminnetballjuniors@gmail.com



Talents outside of school...

We always love to hear about our children's successes outside of school...

This month, we are so proud of Lottie and Bryher who ran the Rainbow Run (5km) in just 35mins!! Very impressive girls!!

Ezme and Indah have also been busy competing in their first county club swimming gala. They both did an amazing job competing against over 100 children. Ezme came 4th in her two races and Indah came 4th and 3rd place in her four races. Well done girls - we are very proud!!







FOSMS News

We hope that you all enjoyed the refreshments at **Sports Day**, the pastries were most definitely a hit! Thank you to all for your support on the day, we raised **£92.10** in total.

Our current focus is now on **Arts Evening**, on the **16th July**. We will host a bar, snack shop, hot food (chilli and also hot dogs) and various other things, such as tombolas and an Olympic colour themed raffle.

We hope that you are all aware that there will be a **non-uniform day** in aid of the **Olympic raffle** on the **12th July** but more details are in the attached poster if you're not aware. All donations are greatly received for this, and if you are keen to support but struggling for ideas, there are some mood boards on the FOSMs Facebook page with ideas!

Tesco Blue Token Scheme - this closed on the 30th June and we now eagerly await the outcome!! We'll keep you updated but we hope to win and will then receive £1500.

Have you joined the school lottery?

You can support us by joining our school lottery. Winners are drawn every week with the opportunity to be entered into the big draw where you can win up to £25,000! For details, please ask one of the FOSMS team or Vicky in the office.

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

Thank you for your continued support

The FOSMS team



Non school uniform day, children are invited to wear their Olympic ring colour. In exchange please bring a raffle prize in your suggested class colour, to help us make some fantastic colourful raffle hampers for arts night.

Donations can equal any value, anything you can offer will be greatly received.

Can any perishables please have a used by date after arts night and any alcohol

will need to be handed into the office by an adult.



Year 4 Residential



The fantastic children from Year 4 had such a brilliant time on their first school residential. Camp beds were set up at school then we walked down to Treyarnon Bay for a tasty dinner at the youth hostel followed by beach games. The children all settled to bed so well (the film and hot chocolate helped!) and their bravery and resilience really impressed us! The next day consisted of a full cooked breakfast, then

on to Great Western Beach, Newquay for some fun beach games, lunch and a surf lesson — every child managed to stand up! The whole thing was a huge triumph — well done to all of Year 4!

Mrs Cooper







Year 6 London Residential







It was an absolute pleasure to take our Year 6 children to London, they were all fantastic ambassadors for our school, and this was noted almost everywhere we went. They enjoyed a full and action-packed itinerary ranging from visiting the Houses of Parliament to experiencing a West End show - Matilda. This trip was a fabulous experience for the children developing their independence, enriching their cultural capital and securing friendships as they move on to the next chapter in their lives. I'm sure the children will be talking about this experience for many years to come.







Outdoor Learning - Wild Tribe

This term, all our classes have started Wild Tribe sessions and have been enjoying getting outdoors for our learning. Wagtails and Robins have been learning about how different religions have different important and special places whilst beginning to use natural resources to make buildings and creative artwork. Starlings have been working on their map skills in geography and using tools to build trails whilst Barn Owls and Kestrels have been learning about 3D shape in maths, using tools like secateurs and hack saws. It's great to see people enjoying their outside learning.

Please continue to ensure that your children have weather appropriate long legged and long sleeved clothing and old shoes/wellies even when it is dry weather.

Mrs Muller







School Council

As we approach the end of the year, we say goodbye to this year's school councillors. They have approached their leadership role with a fantastic attitude and its been wonderful to see their leadership skills used throughout the school. This year, School council members have helped to suggest different clubs for afterschool and lunchtimes, they have taken the lead at our church services. They have suggested feedback, helped to organise charity days, such as World Book day, The Great Plastic Count and Sports Day. They really have been a voice for the rest of St Merryn school. School council members have also been instrumental in guiding our outside learning improvements. Something which next year's council will also have chance to lead on...

Thank you to all our school council members! You have done a fantastic job.

Mrs Muller



1 - A well done to all of our school council members (including Finley who isn't in this picture as he is at Wadebridge School for his transition!)

Year 6 £20 Challenge!!



Thank you to everyone who has supported Barn Owls class in their challenge to raise money for 'Children's Hospice South West'. We are very proud to let you know that they have raised £330.50, and I know that this money will be put to fantastic use. The children again were fantastic ambassadors for our school and have whole heartedly joined in with all of the events. Well done, Barn Owls! We are extremely proud of all that you have achieved!

Mrs Golay











St Merryn Family Dining - Change of date

Our 'Family Dining' experience will continue over the next few weeks with our final classes. The hope is that you will be able to join us for some delicious home cooked food, spend a little time enjoying our lunch environment and importantly to us, really being involved in the daily life of our school. The children will love sharing with you part of their everyday routine.

Below are the dates for each class. Specific times and more information will follow shortly:

Starlings - Wednesday 3rd July

Kestrels & Barn Owls - Monday 22nd July



Nursery and Early Years Updates

Nursery Parent Consultations

Parents of nursery children are invited to attend parents evenings on the **8th and 10th July**. Please see Nursery staff to sign up.

Transition from Nursery to Reception

Nursery children are getting ready to start school. We have several dates in the diary for children to come for 'Stay and play' sessions as below:

4th July: 2 - 3pm

11th July: 2 - 3pm

19th July: 9am - 1pm

Mrs Muller

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. It is also known to improve children's wellbeing and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.

Below are some recently released books that we think you will love.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a national scheme that takes places every year in the Summer holidays.

It is open to all primary school aged children and is for all reading abilities. It encourages reading and supports literacy skills over the Summer months.

Children can sign up at their local library. To complete the challenge children need to finish 6 books of their choice and can choose from a wide selection of books including fiction, poetry, joke books and graphic novels.

It was great to see a few of our children completed this last year but would be wonderful to see many more of you complete this over this Summer. It starts on the **6th July 2024** this year.

Reading Scrapbooks

We have loved all your reading scrapbook entries! If you have written any more book reviews, we would love to see them.

Miss East









Bobby Bains Plays a Blinder

Author: Ball Rai Illustrator: Daniel Duncar
Bobby wants his nana-ji and Trevor to be
friends because they both love football. A
heart-warming story of community and
kindness — and football Dyslexia friendly,



Skylar and the K-Pop Headteacher Author: Luan Goldie This funny, engaging, body-swap adventure explores tandom, friendship and empathy via an unmissable dance competition, viral videor and throwing away the school rule book.



Transcendent

Author: Patrick Gallagher

Genius twins Kira and Jacob must pass a

series of trials to join a top-secret organisation
known as Transcendent. If chosen, they will

be sent to outer space on a mission to save

Inclusion Update...Information for Parents

Element Creative Therapy - Nurturing Connections

Some of our parents may remember Ellie Cudmore from working at St Merryn School a few years ago. She now runs successful therapeutic programmes across Cornwall as well as delivering training across our Trust. Her most recent session is outlined below and available to our parents.

Here is a little information from Ellie....

'In my 1:1 work I have so many similar parent conversations, and have found the work with parents and children around The Window of Tolerance so impactful, considering behaviour from a nervous system perspective, and offering strategies and language to support emotional regulation for the whole family.

'Nurturing Connections' will equip caregivers with language and tools to support children in navigating emotional challenges, whilst considering the vital importance of nurturing their own needs in order to nurture those of their children.

The 2 hour workshop will be held at The Point, Polzeath on Monday 15th July, 6:30-8:30pm, tickets £22. Come with a partner or a group of friends.

Here is the link to my website for further information and a link to buy tickets.'

https://elementscreativetherapy.com/nurturing-connections-masterclass/1

Mental Health Support Team

Please find attached below several information sessions for parents that may be of interest.

¹https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Felementscreativetherapy.com%2Fnurturing -connections-

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The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Decider Skills Workshop

Decider Skills are a set of life skills based on cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT). The skills are aimed at helping young people to recognise and understand their emotions, and promote positive mental health. They also include basic problem solving and conflict de-escalation skills, and have a strong focus on supporting children in regulating their own emotions.

<u>Upcoming Sessions Online:</u> Wedneday 24th July - 11am -12pm

This workshop is open to parents/carers of children enrolled in Reception to Yr6 in a Mid Cornwall school.

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided: https://forms.office.com/e/G
NSeyHZAb8



Sign up will close on Wednesday 17th July

The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Introduction to Resilience Workshop

This is a single, hour-long session aimed at parents. The online session covers how to encourage young people to develop greater resilience, and provides psychoeducation around what mental health and resilience is.

When young people are resilient, they are more able to cope with challenges and stress, and can therefore be more curious, adaptable and able to extend their reach into the world.

Upcoming Sessions Online

Wednesday 17th July - 11am

This workshop is open to parents/carers of children enrolled in Reception to Yr6 in a Mid Cornwall school.

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided: https://forms.office.com/e/h 4vDr95tEY



Sign up will close on Wednesday 10th July

The Mental Health Support Team invites you to book your place on our Worry Workshop

This 45 minute online workshop introduces the concepts of worry and anxiety in children and young people, and highlights some reasons children might worry.

It will give parents/carers some practical strategies for supporting their child with managing worries and signpost to further support that might be helpful.

This workshop is open to parents/carers of children enrolled in Reception to Yr6 in a Mid Cornwall school.

Upcoming Sessions: Wednesday 3rd July 11am

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:



https://forms.office.com/ e/CSm8FGX274

Sign up will close on Wednesday 26th June





Attendance - Important Changes

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

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

What are the changes?

- 1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
- 2. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.
- 3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
- 4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
- 5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them. This could include prosecution.

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

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in making sure that children do not miss any valuable learning time.

FAQs

If I have been issued with a penalty notice before 19 August 2024, will this be counted if I am issued with another penalty notice from September onwards?

No, the new limits come into effect from 19 August 2024.

If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

Yes, if the absence has not been authorised by the Head Teacher of your child's school. Remember, only a Head Teacher can agree whether an absence can be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

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

• In education law, anyone who lives with a child and who has day-to-day care of the child is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. This will include stepparents and partners.

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence
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 for my child to have leave granted during term time?

You must submit an Exceptional Circumstances / Absence Request form before the proposed
absence (see your school's policy for the expectation of the number of days before the proposed
leave date by which school must have received the form). It will be for your child's Head Teacher
to make a decision as to whether there are exceptional circumstances that will allow them to
grant the time off. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received
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 absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over 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 is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

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

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

Safeguarding - Online Safety



Online safety for the youngest children in our school

Children are growing up in a time where screens are everywhere and the internet plays a big part in their lives, even from a very young age. This can be beneficial, they can learn new things, connect with friends and family and have fun but it's important to have conversations on how to explore the online world safely.

The NSPCC have created a deliverable pack of activities to complete with your child.

They've named it the **Techosaurus Activity Pack** that includes:

- Four Techosaurus activities designed to teach them about online safety
- An Online Safety Family agreement to complete together
- · A digital certificate to celebrate your little ones completion of the training
- A parents guide to the activities, and how to talk about staying safe online

Please click on the link below to find out more about this helpful resource.

Help keep children safe online with Techosaurus! | NSPCC²

Miss Redman

²https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nspcc.org.uk%2Fkeeping-children-safe%2Fsupport-for-parents%2Ftechosaurus%2F%23who-is-

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Summer Camp Information



Dates for the Diary



July

Wk beg: 8th July - Arts Week

Tuesday 8th July - Nursery Parents Evening

Tuesday 9th July - KS2 Beach Day

Wednesday 10th July - Reception/KS1 Beach Day

Wednesday 10th July - Nursery Parents Evening

Friday 12th July - Non-school uniform Day (Olympic themed) in aid of Arts Night raffle

Tuesday 16th July - Arts Night

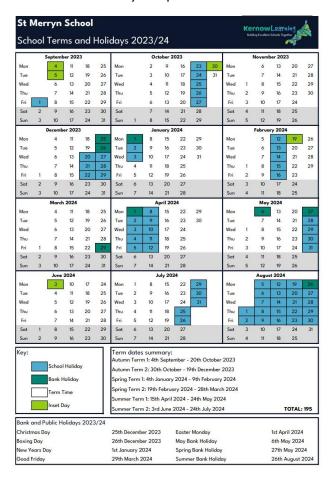
Thursday 18th July - Arts Night Reserve

Monday 22nd July - Kestrels and Barn Owls Family Dining

Tuesday 23rd July - Nursery Graduation Ceremony 2:15pm

Tuesday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers meal/Disco

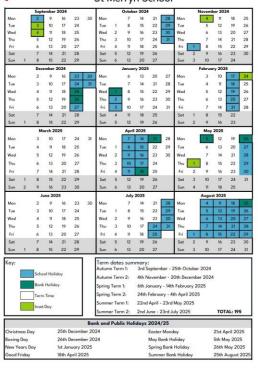
Wednesday 24th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2:00pm



2 - Term Dates 2023-2024



School Terms and Holidays 2024/25 St Merryn School



3 - Term Dates 2024-2025