

June Newsletter 2024

A very warm welcome to the June edition of our newsletter! We hope everyone enjoyed the half term break.

In this month's newsletter, we hope to have captured some of last month's highlights but also give a flavour of the exciting term ahead.

The run up to May half term was certainly busy with FOSMS community cream tea event, our first Autism Cafe, many sporting activities and Starling's fund raising event to name but a few! The next few weeks continue to be just as exciting with our Year 4 children enjoying their first residential experience with a sleep over at school followed by a water sports day in Newquay! We are also really looking forward to our Year 6 London trip that will take place later this month.

Our summer term clubs will 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 Ethan, our coach from Saints Southwest. Both his lunchtime and after school clubs have been so popular we were delighted that he could continue for a few extra weeks!

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our annual survey. Results were very pleasing. However, as mentioned previously, this is an integral part to our school improvement planning and will be used to formulate next steps for September.

Change of Date:

Due to a KS2 transition event being rescheduled, we have taken the decision to swap the Arts week beach days to allow all children to attend both events. The new dates are below.

Tuesday 9th July - KS2 Beach Day

Wednesday 10th July - KS1 Beach Day

We are really looking forward to welcoming our first set of parents to our **'Family Dining'** experience on **Wednesday 5th June**. Every class will be offered this opportunity over this half term.

We have lots of events planned for the Summer term - please see the dates below. These will be added to over the coming weeks. We have also attached our term dates for 2024/2025 for your information.

Mrs King

The 'Art of James' Show

We are very touched that a local family have 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 Wadebridge junior school 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. We can't express our thanks enough and will ensure every child benefits from this in terms of enhancing their artistic and creative ability.

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 ocean themed games to play designed by the children, 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 need packed lunch.

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



1 - We are so proud of you Year 6...What a team!



2 - Well done Sophia, Leo, Piran and Raya!!

As always, the children who have represented St Merryn School have all made us so proud – such fantastic ambassadors for the school!

Mini Tennis

Children from Years 4 and 6 represented St Merryn School at a mini tennis tournament at Wadebridge Tennis Club. They were all absolutely amazing and played brilliantly! We were particularly proud of their respectful and determined attitudes. The children really enjoyed playing with and meeting new people. Well done all of you.

Y6 Surfing Week

What a fantastic week of surf lessons the Year 6 children had! They showed so much courage and what fantastic perseverance for every single child to end up standing up! What a wonderful treat to be able to have surf lessons as part of our school term! Thank you to Windy and Bev for making the week so much fun and to all the Year 6 children for being great ambassadors for the school.

Competitive Swimming

We have attached a flyer from the Dragon's swimming Club inviting children to a free trial - we have many proficient swimmers that we know would enjoy this challenge! Do please let us know if your child is interested.

Mrs Cooper













Talents outside of school...





We always love to hear about our children's successes outside of school...However, it's not just our children achieving amazing things!

Nala and Pe'ahi are really proud of their dad who has recently won the Men's SUP Division.

Here's what was said in an article...

In the men's SUP division, Marcio Dias was outstanding from start to finish. He dominated each heat, recording the highest single wave core of the entire contest at 8.67 and the highest combined total 15.50, securing a well-earned first place finish.

FOSMS News



We hope you have enjoyed a lovely half term break. We had a great end to our Summer term, it was great to see you all at our **cream tea event**, where we raised a **total of £309.82**. Thank you to everybody's support and generosity.

Our next event will be sports day on **Wednesday 26th June**, where we will be serving Tea, Coffee, Juice and warm pastries! Any volunteers to help out with this event would be greatly appreciated.

Reminders:

Please remember when you are shopping to take a token and vote for us in the **Tesco Blue Token Scheme before 30th June!**

If you haven't yet joined our Friends of St Merryn School Facebook Page then please do, we try to post up to date information on there, as well as on the notice board by Reception.

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 derails please ask one of the FOSMS team or Vicky in the office.

Our **uniform shop** is still available to those who need it. 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.

Science Week 2024

We are very excited to be holding our annual Science Week this week from Tuesday 4th June. Every afternoon the children will be immersed in exciting, awe-inspiring science activities based around the theme of 'Time'. On Wednesday, we will also be able to have a go at science experiments in the playground, run by some of our key stage 2 children – we call this 'science busking'. Then on Thursday 6th June, we will have the fantastic Squashbox Theatre in, doing a Time themed science show. Thank you

to the Padstow Christmas Lights committee for your kind donation to the school so that we can have this:

"Come on a journey to Ancient Cornwall...

A land of fiery volcanoes and strange prehistoric creatures...

A land of myth and legend, giants and druids...

A land of ancient stone circles and mysterious monuments...

A land of Stones and Bones...

Find out all about archaeology and fossils, say hello to one of your stone-age ancestors, hear stories of giants and wizards, see a volcano erupting before your very eyes, and maybe even glimpse a dinosaur or two...

There will be thrills and spills galore, but also lots of laughs, plenty of puppets, songs, slapstick, tall tales and crazy characters – all presented in that unique Squashbox style!"

Mrs Cooper





Starlings Fundraising Event



Just before half term, Starlings class completed some amazing fundraising for a local charity - **British Divers Marine Life Rescue**. After completing a bake sale and a Run-a-thon, we managed to raise an incredible £110.30! The charity were blown away with the amount raised and the well thought out questions the children asked them when they came to visit. It was a fantastic event and the children should be very proud of themselves!

Miss Redman





Year 6 £20 Challenge!!



£20 Challenge in 20 days for Year 6 – starts 3rd June- 28th June 2024!

Barn Owls are extremely excited to be undertaking the £20 challenge to raise money for the Children's Hospice South West. The children have brainstormed many different ideas of how to use our £20 to make as much money as we can. There will be stalls, crafts and active events, we are even hoping to hold a coffee morning! The dates for all of these events will follow shortly, we look forward to having some well earned fun whilst raising money for such a worthy cause.

Mrs Golay

St Merryn Family Dining - Reminder

We are pleased to share that we will be holding a 'Family Dining' experience for each class after half-term. 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:

Robins - Wednesday 5th June

Wagtails - Wednesday 10th June

Starlings - Wednesday 3rd July

Kestrels - Wednesday 17th July

Barn Owls - Monday 22nd July



Outdoor Learning



Nursery, Robins and Starlings have been working hard on their **Royal Cornwall show** exhibits for the Garden show. If you are attending the show this year, please do look out for our entries!

Wild Tribe

All classes will be starting their Wild Tribe sessions this term. Information has been emailed to all parents about the day's and times of the sessions. Please ask your class teacher if you have any questions. We are really excited to get started this term!

Mrs Muller

Music Provision

This term, Starlings, Kestrels and Barn Owls classes have been enjoying a series of instrumental lessons. Kestrels are learning how to play the ukulele and making great progress. Barn Owls are enjoying making the school thrum with samba beats every week with our peripatetic teacher, Mrs Man.

Starlings are learning how to play simple tunes on the recorder under Mrs Redman's skilled teaching.

We are really lucky at St Merryn to be able to say each one of our children leaves school having had instrumental lessons in a wind, string and a percussion instrument - something we are really proud of!

Mrs Muller



Meet Our Governors...

Hi everyone, I'm Flic and I am the new Parent Governor. I'm mum to Arlo in Year 1 & Bodhi in Nursery. I'm in a very fortunate position to be able to learn even more about the amazing things the team here at St Merryn School & Kernow Learning do.

Alongside being mum & Governor, I work for our family business, Piran Technology Group. We're a little different to most businesses here in Cornwall, mainly due to the industry we work in. We manufacture carbon composite aerospace components & UAV's to name a few. My role is Head of HR & Finance, which is certainly a busy role but one of my passions is STEM skills & getting the next local generation interested in Aerospace & Engineering. I currently work closely with local colleges in building bespoke apprenticeships in composites & local skills networks on how we can make improvements in what we offer our students right here in Cornwall.

While being Governor is new, I'm very excited to be a part of this alongside so many other fantastic governors & teachers. They've been so welcoming & so encouraging in showing me the ropes. Each have the most admirable qualities with the children at the heart of everything they do. I too feel passionate about educational opportunities & ensuring the children given an equal path to succeed. I hope I can also help be a voice for the parents too.



Nursery and Early Years Updates



Nursery Open Afternoon

Our lovely onsite nursery is having a **Teddy Bears Picnic** for prospective parents on the 14th June from **1.30 - 2.30pm**. Please do come along to join in and enjoy the picnic fun.

Extending our Provision

The Early Years team have been researching how to extend our provision to include **2 years plus** in our nursery. Thank you to all who have filled in the survey sent via email. If anyone would like to still

comment on this, please do so via this link. https://forms.office.com/e/Przb6paKQk¹ We are now working closely with our Trust on next steps - watch this space!

Mrs Muller

Reading for Pleasure

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.

Mrs Bateman



Supporting Oracy



What is Oracy?

The importance of oracy in language development cannot be emphasised enough. Discussion is central to all aspects of the curriculum including areas such as grammar development. If the conditions are set up correctly with the right sort of tools, children can have purposeful discussions about the possibilities, effects and meaning of the curriculum. Oracy can be described as learning to talk and learning through talk.

Enabling children to understand the different types of discussion roles available to them broadens their repertoire of classroom talk. As well as being a tool of communication, effective oracy skills enable pupils to participate in deep learning activities where they can exchange ideas, explore new areas and challenge assumptions. Thus being a life skill which will help children throughout their time in school and beyond.

We are now part of **Voice 21** and not only have champion staff who are currently training in Oracy practice, but we are already beginning to embed language development as a core skill into our curriculum.

As part of our oracy development, we will be supporting all of our children to become confident 'speakers' and to take part in quality discussions. To teach these skills, we are using the terms 'Agree, Build and Challenge' with our children. A question or statement is posed to all children, they are then given time to consider their thoughts before showing showing one of the 'actions' below. Maybe you could pose a fun question to discuss during tea time...It can be as simple or creative as you like e.g. Spaghetti bolognaise is my favourite meal or We should have ice-cream every day.

Mrs King

Inclusion Update...Information for Parents

Thank you to all those who were able to attend our SEND café with Lindsay Chandler last month. We hope you found it beneficial and will let you know when the next one will take place as soon as this is organised.

As we near the end of another school year we will be supporting and preparing children for moments of transition. Within school we will ensure that children have the opportunity to get to know new teachers and classrooms if they are moving but we also know our Year 6 children are getting ready to move to different schools. They will enjoy many transition experiences in the next few weeks but knowing how to support them with this can be challenging. The following workshops are available to help parents support their children with this.

Mrs Bateman



Attendance - Term Time Absence

As you will be aware, here at St Merryn School, we do all that we can to support families to ensure all children are in school, every day, learning ready. We ensure that our curriculum design is fun and engaging encouraging all children to love coming to school.

If you are planning to take your child out of school for any period of time e.g. on holiday, you will need to complete the 'application for leave of absence' paperwork in line with our new Trust Strategy. This can be collected from the main office. Please discuss requests for 'leave of absence' with myself in the first instance.

Mrs King

Safeguarding - Online Safety (iPads)



iPads can be a fun and interactive way to take pictures, use the Internet, play downloaded games and lots more but they can come with certain risks if used inappropriately. By referring to the article attached, it will provide a range of helpful advice and state some of the risks involved with iPads that you can avoid if the correct settings are applied to your child's device.

Miss Redman

Dates for the Diary



June

Monday 3rd June - Inset Day

Tuesday 4th June - Children return to school

Wk beg: 4th June - Science Week

Wednesday 5th June - Robins Family Dining

Wk beg: 10th June - Year 5 Surf Week

Wednesday 12th June - Wagtails Family Dining

Thursday/Fri 13th/14th June - Year 4 Residential

Friday 14th June - Nursery Open Afternoon

Mon 17th, Tues 18th & Wed 19th - Year 6 London Residential

Wednesday 26th June - Sports Day (am)

Thursday 27th June - Sports Day reserve (am)

July

Wednesday 3rd July - Starlings Family Dining

Thursday 4th July - Whole School transition day

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

Tuesday 16th July - Arts Night

Wednesday 17th July - Kestrels Family Dining

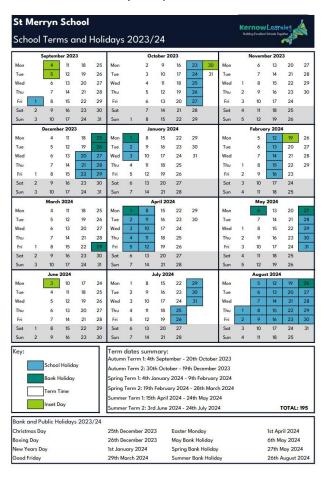
Thursday 18th July - Arts Night Reserve

Monday 22nd July - Barn Owls Family Dining

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

Tuesday 23rd July - Year 6 Leavers meal/Disco

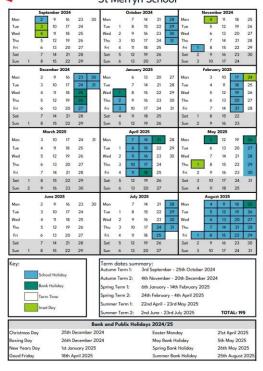
Wednesday 24th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2:00pm



3 - Term Dates 2023-2024



School Terms and Holidays 2024/25 St Merryn School



4 - Term Dates 2024-2025