



March Newsletter 2025

Welcome to the March Edition of Our Newsletter!

As we step into March, we reflect on an enjoyable start to the term. From the excitement of World Book Day to the adventure of Space Camp and the triumphs at various sporting events, it has been a busy and enriching time for our children. With the first signs of spring appearing, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming months filled with more activities, including the launch of our residential programme.

Staffing News

We would like to thank everyone for your support over the past few terms during Mrs. Bateman's absence.

Following her time away, Mrs. Bateman has made the difficult decision not to return to her post here at St Merryn. We want to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks for her

dedication and contributions to the school. She will be greatly missed by the entire school community, and we wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

For the remainder of the academic year, we are pleased to share that Mrs. Lewis will continue teaching Wagtails on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Additionally, we warmly welcome Mrs. Olivey, a qualified teacher and valued member of our current teaching team, who will be teaching Wagtails on Mondays and Tuesdays. Mrs. Olivey is already well known to the children, having taught in Wagtails on many occasions, ensuring a smooth transition for the class.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Daniels for all of her hard work and dedication over the past few terms in Wagtails. Her commitment to the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages over the years has been invaluable, and she has made a significant impact on our children's learning. Mrs. Daniels will be leaving us at Easter, and while we will certainly miss her, we wish her all the very best.

Miss Eke, Mrs. Udell, and Mrs. Evans will continue to be part of the Wagtails team, providing a stable and supportive environment for the children.

Safeguarding

To maintain our rigorous safeguarding procedures, the school gates will be closed at 3:30pm while after-school clubs are in session. The gates will reopen at 3:55pm for collection. During after-school club (3:30-5:00pm), the gates will remain closed, but the school office will be available for contact as needed.

Early Adopter Breakfast Club

We are excited to announce that our school has been selected as an early adopter for the government's free breakfast club scheme. We are currently in the planning phase and would like to gauge parental interest to ensure effective implementation. A survey will be sent out this week to gather your input, and we will keep you updated as the programme develops.

FOSMS (Friends of St Merryn School)

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent fundraising events. Our annual Big Breakfast was a tremendous success, bringing together staff, parents, and children for a wonderful morning. Special thanks go to Paul and Lucy for cooking over 100 breakfasts and to Padstow Farm Shop for their generous donations.

The 'Wonker Bar' sale on World Book Day was also a fantastic hit! Over the next few weeks, our 'golden ticket' winners will receive their special prizes, which may include a non-uniform day,

extra outdoor learning time, or cupcakes for the whole class. We will keep you posted on these exciting rewards!

Looking ahead, we have plenty of exciting events planned for the Spring and Summer terms. Be sure to check the dates below and mark them in your diaries!

As always, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another fantastic term ahead.

Best wishes,

Mrs. King

FOSMS News

Events

Scrumdiddlyumptious Wonka Bars

What a fun event with lots of excitement around the school, especially during the special assembly when the children found out what they had won! We are really pleased that all classes had at least one whole class prize so even if a child didn't find an actual 'golden ticket' everyone will participate in some prizes from fun Friday games to cupcakes for the class.

We would like to thank local businesses who very kindly donated some prizes, **The Tide Climbing, Padstow Book Shop, Trevoze Golf Club, Waves Surf School, Wadebridge Cinema, Wadebridge Leisure Centre, Giant Slip & Slide and Melt**. We raised **£287.05**.

Big Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our **Big Breakfast** event. Once again it was a big success with a fantastic turn out. We would like to say a huge thank you to local businesses for some very generous donations big thanks to **Padstow Farm Shop, Premier Stores St Merryn, The Farmers Arms, The Pig Hotel, Tesco Superstore, Morrisons and also to Fletcher's and Vinnie's dads**. Finally big thank you to Lucy and Paul for cooking the delicious breakfast. We raised **£478.98**.

Purchases

This term we have once again been shopping and have ordered some sports equipment: netball posts, cricket items and hurdles, more details of all the equipment arriving and pictures to follow. Hopefully also being installed this term will be new playground markings including a checkerboard for our keen lunchtime chess players!

Activities

Spring project

Continuing to make play time brilliant, over the last year we have purchased lots of items to improve the playground provisions including our trim trail, benches, games and sports equipment. To continue the improvements for spring we are wanting to give the literacy shed a refresh.

We are looking to turn it into more of a creative / performing arts shed, giving the children who don't want to play sports the opportunity to draw or dress up and perform etc.

Can you help us please?

Do you have any good quality costumes that are no longer used, that could be used at lunchtime?

Any unused colouring books or colouring pencils?

Any complete board games in a good condition needing a new home?

If you have anything else that you think might be useful please mention it to a FOSMS member.

Any donations will be greatly appreciated, many thanks in advance for your continued support and generosity.

Spring Clean DIY SOS

With a busy term we are postponing our spring clean until after Easter, date TBC

Just incase you missed last newsletter or as a reminder DIY SOS information below:

We have purchased lots of outdoor items over the last year with more items coming soon too. With the summer approaching we are opening the school gate to the community and hoping for an army of parents, grandparents, friends etc. to help out with some odd jobs around the school grounds.

Examples of jobs are: painting, building, creating a calm mindful space, gardening. There will be a full list of jobs on the blackboard, where you can sign up for a specific job or as a general helper. Even if you can only spare an hour it will all help. Many hands make light work, it would be really great to see lots of people!

Easter Week

Week commencing 31st March

Fun activities are getting planned, details to follow!

Reminders

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 see our facebook page.

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

Keeping up to date:

We have got lots planned for the coming months, please sign up to our facebook group and keep an eye on the blackboard for the latest information.

Meeting

Our next meeting is **Monday 17th March at 2pm**. Everyone is welcome.

Diary Dates

March:

Monday 17th: Monthly meeting

W/c 31st Easter week

April

Spring clean DIY SOS TBC






Sporting News






Exciting Term Ahead – Sports Events & Clubs

We have a busy and exciting term filled with fantastic sports opportunities for our children!

Upcoming Sports Events:

-  **Monday 10th March** – KS2 Cross-Country
-  **Wednesday 19th March** – Year 3 & 4 Boys' Football Festival
-  **Wednesday 2nd April** – Year 3 & 4 Girls' Football Festival

Swimming & Surfing Weeks:

-  **Monday 19th – Friday 23rd May** – Year 3 & 4 Swimming Week (including top-up swimmers)
-  **Monday 9th – Friday 13th June** – Year 5 Surf Week
-  **Monday 16th – Friday 20th June** – Year 6 Surf Week

Clubs Update:

Our clubs are in full swing, and it has been wonderful to see so many children taking part! From creative activities to sports, there is something for everyone to enjoy, and the enthusiasm has been fantastic.

Looking forward to a great term ahead!

Mrs. Cooper

Talents outside of school...

We love recognising the amazing talents of our children—not just in school, but in their activities outside of school too! It's always inspiring to hear about their achievements and the dedication they show.

A huge congratulations to **William** for his fantastic performance at the **Wadebridge Festival of Music and Speech**! Performing for an audience for the first time can be nerve-wracking, but William showed great courage by introducing himself and his piece before playing it note-perfect. He received wonderful feedback from the adjudicator and earned a well-deserved certificate for his efforts.

Well done, William—we are all so proud of you! 🎉



School Council



The School Council are excited to announce that on **Thursday, 21st March**, we will be celebrating **Comic Relief – Red Nose Day**, marking an incredible **40 years of Comic Relief**! This is

a fantastic opportunity for us to come together, have some fun, and raise money for a great cause.

To celebrate, the school council will be holding a **cake sale**, and would greatly appreciate any **donations of cakes**—homemade or store-bought. Please send any cake donations into school on the day.

Additionally, our **School Council children will be painting red noses** on pupils in the morning.

Any donations to Comic relief will be well received.

We encourage everyone to join in the fun and support Comic Relief in any way they can. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a fun and successful event!

Year 3 Space Camp



We are delighted to share that our Year 3 children recently enjoyed a fantastic experience at Space Camp last week. Throughout the event, they took part in a range of engaging and educational activities exploring the wonders of our universe and solar system. Students designed informative posters about planets, baked delicious planet-themed cookies, and used Oreo biscuits to learn about the phases of the moon. A highlight of the event was the special visit from Mark Godwin of the **Cornwall Astronomy Society** on Thursday evening. With his telescope, our children had the opportunity to observe celestial objects—despite the weather—making for a truly memorable experience. The excitement continued on Friday with creative activities such as origami rocket-making and crafting "galaxies in a jar." The event concluded with a wonderful assembly, where students proudly showcased their work and shared their newfound knowledge with parents. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Space Camp an inspiring and enriching experience!

Mrs Cooper - Science Lead





Year 4 Multiplication Check

As you may be aware, Year 4 children will be participating in the **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check** during the week commencing **2nd June**. This assessment will take place over a week period, during which each child will complete an on-screen test individually. The test consists of 25 multiplication questions, and students will have the opportunity to answer three practice questions before beginning the actual assessment. They will then have six seconds to respond to each question. On average, the check should take no longer than five minutes to complete.

Please be assured that this is a routine assessment, and your child has been regularly practising their times tables in class, as well as completing mock-style tests. The purpose of this check is to assess their ability to recall multiplication facts fluently up to 12, a fundamental skill for future mathematical success. Additionally, the results will help us identify any areas where further support may be required.

Any additional practice at home would be highly beneficial. Your child has login details recorded in their reading record, which can be used to access Times Table Rock Stars online.

Multiplication tables check: information for parents - GOV.UK¹

Last week, Robin Class dove into their six-week swimming lessons with excitement and enthusiasm! The children were buzzing with anticipation as they prepared for their very first session, and we certainly saw some tired but happy faces at the end of the day! They all demonstrated remarkable courage and determination, and we have no doubt they will make fantastic progress over the term. With their positive attitudes, it's sure to be an amazing experience!

Nursery has an exciting term ahead as we explore "**Transport on Earth and in Space!**" The children have already been busy building fantastic space rockets and watching a fascinating video of an astronaut on the International Space Station. We even got to see Earth from space! A little bit of **Space Yoga** added to the fun, and there's so much more to come.

We can't wait for all the adventures ahead! 🚀🌍🌟

1 <https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fmultiplication-tables-check-information-for-parents&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|8e718faa3aca4508304608dd5a577813|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638766053894269497|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDEwMCIiOiAiOiJXaW4zMilscFkiOiIjoIjTWFpbGlzIldUoiJoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=KwvIE4Q4DyKYcV9ulebSMuF1qrWSJzg5zyckl%2FfEwqE%3D&reserved=0>





Outdoor Learning



We are incredibly grateful to the **St Merryn Gardening Society** for their generous donation towards our gardening curriculum. Thanks to their support, we have been able to purchase a range of new tools, including spades, trowels, rakes, forks, and hoes, as well as fresh soil and even mini greenhouses to help our seedlings thrive. In addition, as part of their AGM, the society kindly donated a fantastic selection of seeds for us to grow.

We're also excited to share that the **Gardening Society Show** will take place on **19th July**, ensuring school children can attend and get inspired. In the meantime, we've already started 'chitting' our potatoes in preparation for the much-anticipated **annual potato-growing competition!**

Wild Tribe and Forest School

Our school-based Forest School and Wild Tribe lessons, every week, continue to provide new adventures, where the children engage in activities like building shelters, exploring ecosystems, crafting with natural materials and even cooking over an open fire. These experiences are not just fun, they are rich learning opportunities that teach our children invaluable lessons. They are also many children's favourite lessons of the week!!

Mrs Muller





Reading for Pleasure



World Book Day

The children had an absolutely amazing time celebrating World Book Day and it was wonderful to see all of their fabulous Roald Dahl inspired costumes. After taking part in special World Book Day themed literacy lessons, excitement levels rose as our wonderful FOSMS team opened their Wonka bar shop after school on Wednesday. Congratulations to everyone who won a golden ticket, and thank you to all who purchased some chocolate, raising extra funds for our school. The week was topped off with a visit from **Padstow Bookseller**, where all children were able to choose a World Book Day special edition book to take home with them.

Mrs Daniels



Computing



Podcasts are an excellent medium for adults, but they can also be highly beneficial for children. Whether watched or listened to, they serve as valuable tools for learning or simply for entertainment. Below are a few recommended podcasts that are suitable for children...

- **Greeking Out from National Geographic Kids**
- **Fun Kids Science Weekly Armchair Adventures: A Join-In Story Podcast for Kids**
- **Curious Kid Podcast**
- **Creature Preacher**

Miss Redman

Inclusion - Neurodiversity Hub

The Neurodiversity Hub, part of the Parents and Carers Cornwall website, offers a wealth of valuable information on a variety of neurodivergent needs. Designed to align with the Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Neurodevelopmental Profiling Tool, the Hub is a resource open to everyone. It plays a key role in providing early support for children, young people, and their families. The content is shaped by a diverse range of contributors, including professionals and individuals with lived experience. Explore the available advice by following the link below.

Neurodiversity Hub - Parent Careers Cornwall²

²<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fparentcarerscornwall.org.uk%2Fneurodiversity%2F&data=05|02|kking%40kernowlearning.co.uk|f725dae61d7941e25c8d08dd5f1530df|4069dd172dda44348f72fc516948a319|0|0|638771266812471399|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLj>



Additional Information



**STUDY
SMART**
Free Online Courses



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Education**



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**Education & Skills
Funding Agency**

**Fully Funded
School
Support
Course**



**6 Week
Course
Mon - Fri**

**Available
in Levels
1, 2 & 3**

*Please go to our website
for more detailed
information.

Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

We are looking to fill 150+ School Support vacancies in local schools (e.g. SEN Support, Behaviour Mentors, 1-1 Classroom Support, Cover Supervisors etc). These roles are available in both full time and part time positions.

Please go to our website address given above, or scan the QR code for more information.

This is a 6 week course, full time, intensive course, with online guided learning sessions within school hours.
If you are earning less than £23,500 per annum or are in receipt of any benefits, you will be eligible for a fully funded place with us.



[AuMDAwMCIsIIAiOiJXaW4zMilsIkFOljoITWFpbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0| |&sdata=FWzILBwtp%2FEow%2BKVfr5DRKYHhPCc6POLWLu%2BxcKUcHs%3D&reserved=0](https://www.studysmartuk.online/?sdata=FWzILBwtp%2FEow%2BKVfr5DRKYHhPCc6POLWLu%2BxcKUcHs%3D&reserved=0)



The Mental Health Support Team warmly invite you to attend...

Wild Wellbeing

During the Easter holidays MHST, in collaboration with Natural England, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and ..., would like you to join us on a **FREE Wild Wellbeing session** at various locations across Cornwall.

This is for parents and their primary aged children (5-11) in Cornwall to help understand and support emotional and mental wellbeing.

Please book **EACH** child on to a session below:

Morning and afternoon sessions available:
Tuesday 8 April 2025 at Golitha Falls
Thursday 10 April at Tehidy Woods
Tuesday 15 April at The Dipping Pond, Gossmoor
Tuesday 15 April at Widemouth Bay, Bude

Each session will last approx. 2 hours

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/1cVmDjXF5E>

Please note: Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. If you are allocated a place and cannot attend, please let us know so we can allocate your space to someone else

Follow us on Facebook for updates and upcoming events:
Cornwall Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Dates for the Diary



March

Friday 21st - Comic Relief (Cake Sale)

April

Friday 4th - **Last Day of term**, Church service 2:15pm

Wednesday 23rd- Friday 25th - Year 5 PGL Residential

Wk beg 28th - Bikeability begins for Year 5

May

Thursday 1st - Inset Day (school closed)

Monday 12th - Thursday 15th - Year 6 SATs week

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd - Year 3 and Year 4 Swimming Week

HALF TERM Monday 26th - Friday 30th

June

Tuesday 3rd - Sports Day 9:15am-12:00pm

Wednesday 4th - Reserve Sports Day

Thursday 5th - Friday 6th - Year 4 Residential

Wk beg 9th - Year 5 Surf Week

Wk beg 16th - Year 6 Surf Week

Thursday 26th - Year 5 Junior Life Skills trip

Wk beg 30th June - Year 6 Transition Week (Mon-Wed)

July

Thursday 3rd - Saturday 5th July - Year 6 London Residential

Wk beg Mon 7th: Arts Week

Monday 14th - Reports out to parents

Tuesday 15th - Parent Consultations

Wednesday 16th - Parent Consultations

Friday 18th - Arts/Community Night

Wednesday 23rd - Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2:00pm



School Terms and Holidays 2024/25





St Merryn School

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<div><div>Key:</div><div><div>School Holiday</div><div>Bank Holiday</div><div>Term Time</div><div>Inset Day</div></div></div>																<div><div>Term dates summary:</div><div>Autumn Term 1: 3rd September - 25th October 2024</div><div>Autumn Term 2: 4th November - 20th December 2024</div><div>Spring Term 1: 6th January - 14th February 2025</div><div>Spring Term 2: 24th February - 4th April 2025</div><div>Summer Term 1: 22nd April - 23rd May 2025</div><div>Summer Term 2: 2nd June - 23rd July 2025</div><div>TOTAL: 195</div></div>															
<div><div>Bank and Public Holidays 2024/25</div><div><div>Christmas Day</div><div>25th December 2024</div><div>Easter Monday</div><div>21st April 2025</div><div>Boxing Day</div><div>26th December 2024</div><div>May Bank Holiday</div><div>5th May 2025</div><div>New Years Day</div><div>1st January 2025</div><div>Spring Bank Holiday</div><div>26th May 2025</div><div>Good Friday</div><div>18th April 2025</div><div>Summer Bank Holiday</div><div>25th August 2025</div></div></div>																															



School Terms and Holidays 2025/26

St Merryn School

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Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	5	12	19	26	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
Key:			Term dates summary:													
 School Holiday			Autumn Term (74 days)													
 Bank Holiday			2nd September 2025 - 19th December 2025 (Half term: 27th-31st October 2025)													
 INSET Day			Spring Term (59 days)													
 School open			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)													
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