



October Newsletter 2026

Headteacher's Welcome

As we move further into the autumn term, I continue to be incredibly proud of the positive start our children have made to the year. Across the school, classrooms are busy, purposeful and full of enthusiasm, with children embracing new learning opportunities and demonstrating our values of Kindness, Courage and Curiosity each day.

This term has been particularly special as we celebrate 150 years of St Merryn School. It has been wonderful to reflect on the rich history of our school and its place at the heart of the community for generations. Our Victorian Day provided a fantastic opportunity for children to step back in time, bringing history to life through learning, costumes and experiences that helped them appreciate how education and childhood have changed over the years. Thank you to everyone who supported these celebrations and helped make them such memorable occasions.

I would also like to thank families for their continued support as I begin my new role across both St Merryn and Trevisker School. Although my time is shared between the two schools, St Merryn remains very much at the heart of my work, and I am delighted by the warmth, positivity and sense of community that continues to make our school such a special place.

As always, I welcome opportunities to speak with our families. Whether you have a question, concern or a success to share, please do catch me on the gate or make an appointment via Mrs Worrall. Working together is key to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive and achieve their very best!

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to another exciting and successful half term ahead.

Kyja King

Headteacher

St Merryn School – 150 Year Celebration

Celebrating 150 Years of St Merryn School

What an incredible way to celebrate 150 years of St Merryn School! Our anniversary celebrations have been truly special, bringing together children, families, past pupils, former staff and the wider St Merryn community.

The children had a wonderful time stepping back in time during our Victorian-themed day. They looked absolutely amazing in their costumes and thoroughly enjoyed discovering what school life was like 150 years ago. From Victorian lessons to experiencing some of the rules and routines of the past, it was a fantastic opportunity to bring our school's history to life.

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration Day on Saturday 19th September was a particularly memorable occasion. The school was filled with wonderful photographs and memories from across the decades, giving visitors the opportunity to reminisce about their own school days, remember old teachers and Headteachers, and reconnect with friends and former members of staff.

There was something for everyone, including a bar, fantastic raffles, delicious food trucks and bouncy castles. A huge thank you goes to our amazing FOSMS PTA and all the staff who worked so hard to make the event possible.

It was a truly wonderful celebration of 150 years of memories, friendship and community at St Merryn School - and one we will remember for many years to come!







PGL Residential 2026

PGL Residential – September 2026

We had a fantastic three days away at Barton Hall for our Year 5/6 school residential! It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to step outside their comfort zones, try new experiences and create some very special memories together.

Throughout the trip, the children demonstrated **courage, perseverance and resilience**, particularly when faced with new and challenging activities. They showed a fantastic willingness to have a go, even when something felt difficult or unfamiliar, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as the trip progressed.

The children also showed great **teamwork and kindness**, encouraging and supporting one another throughout the activities. They celebrated each other's successes, helped each other when things became challenging and demonstrated what it means to be a positive and supportive member of a team.

From taking on exciting challenges to spending time together in the evenings, the children embraced every aspect of the residential with enthusiasm and a fantastic attitude. We are incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves and the maturity they showed throughout the three days.

A huge well done to all of our Year 5 and 6 children for making the residential such a memorable and enjoyable experience. We hope they returned home feeling proud of themselves and their achievements — and with plenty of stories to share!







Staffing update

We would like to thank Mrs Whittle for her continued support in Wagtails Class while we recruit a permanent class teacher. Her care, consistency and commitment have helped to provide stability for the children during this period. We will continue to keep families updated as the recruitment process progresses.

We are delighted with the positive start made by Mrs Olivey in Starlings Class and Mrs Lewis in Kestrels Class. Both have embraced their new roles with enthusiasm, quickly establishing positive relationships with our children and making significant contributions to school life. It is a pleasure spending time in both classes.

To further strengthen our inclusive approach, a small number of staffing adjustments have also been made across the school. These changes ensure that support is deployed where it is needed most, enabling us to provide targeted interventions and bespoke support so that all pupils can achieve success and thrive within our school community.

School Council

Welcoming Our New School Councillors

We are delighted to introduce our new School Councillors for this year!

Congratulations to all of the pupils who put themselves forward for election. Taking part in the democratic process showed great commitment to making our school an even better place for everyone.

Our School Council plays an important role in representing the views and ideas of pupils across the school. Throughout the year, councillors will gather suggestions from their classmates, discuss ways to improve school life, help organise events and work closely with staff to make a positive difference within our school community.

We would like to say a special well done to those who were successfully elected. We know they will be excellent role models. Well done, councillors, and thank you for stepping up to serve our school community!



Family Dining

Back by popular demand! We are delighted to once again invite parents, carers, and family members to join us for a special *family dining experience* here at school. 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 4th Nov – Robins

Wed 11th Nov – Wagtails

Wed 18th Nov – Starlings

Wed 25th Nov – Kestrels

Wed 2nd Dec - Barn Owls



Outdoor Learning



Gardening

Our school garden has been an exciting place over the past few weeks. We were delighted to harvest apples, tomatoes and cucumbers. The garden continues to thrive, and we are eagerly watching our squash and pumpkins develop. There is great excitement as we wait for them to grow bigger and ripen ready for harvesting. The children have been making predictions about how large the pumpkins will become and discussing what we might be able to make with them once they are ready.

Our Gardening Club has also been hard at work on a new project. The children are looking forward to creating a outdoor garden and have been busy clearing and preparing the area next to the polytunnel ready for planting. We can't wait to see this space transformed into a thriving garden filled with wonderful plants and we are looking forward to harvesting squash and pumpkin soon.

Early Years



Autumn in EYFS

What a wonderful start to the new school year we have had in Nursery and Reception! The children have settled into their new classes brilliantly and are growing in confidence every day. We are so proud of how quickly they have adapted to new routines, formed friendships and embraced all the exciting learning opportunities around them.

This half term, the children have enjoyed exploring our indoor and outdoor learning environments, developing their independence and curiosity through play-based learning. They have been busy creating, building, investigating and sharing their ideas with their friends.

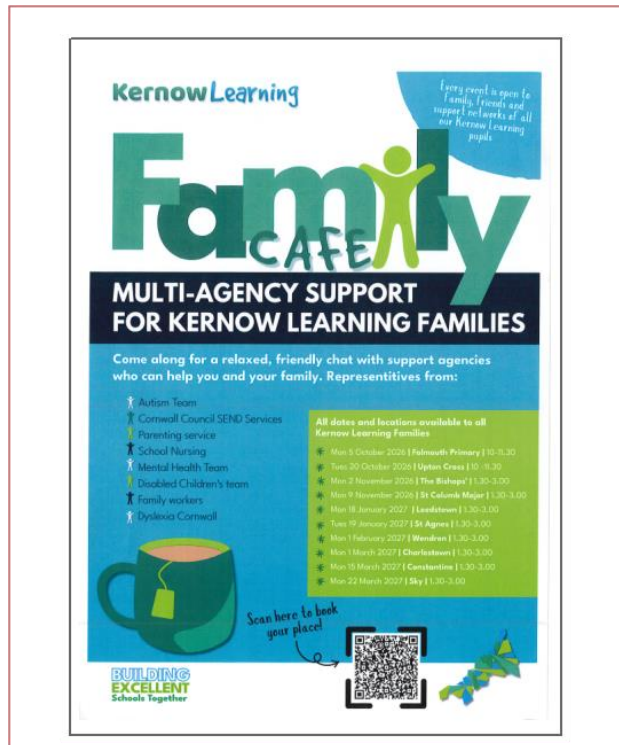
We are particularly pleased with the fantastic progress the children are making in their early reading. Reception children have been working hard to learn their phonics sounds and are becoming increasingly confident in recognising letters and hearing sounds in words. Many of the children are already beginning to blend sounds together and it has been wonderful to see their excitement as they discover that they can read independently. Thank you to families for supporting reading and phonics practice at home, as this makes a huge difference to children's progress.

In maths, the children have been exploring numbers through practical activities, singing number rhymes and investigating patterns and shapes. They have also enjoyed plenty of opportunities to develop their fine motor skills through mark-making, threading, cutting and creative activities.

We look forward to another exciting half term of learning, discovery and growth. Well done to all our Nursery and Reception children!

Inclusion - Advice from our SENCO





Royal Cornwall Hospital Charity

We raised £83 for our Non School Uniform day! Thank you to everyone who sent in a donation.



Reading at home

Helping Your Child Thrive as a Reader

Reading opens the door to a lifetime of learning, imagination and opportunity. We love working in partnership with families to help children develop confidence and enjoyment in reading. It was wonderful to see so many Reception parents at our recent Read Write Inc. meeting and live lesson. Thank you for your support and engagement.

To help you learn more about Read Write Inc. Phonics and how to support your child with reading at home, we have included a link to the Ruth Miskin Parents' Page below. This provides a range of helpful resources, including videos and practical advice, to support your child on their reading journey and help make reading at home both enjoyable and successful.

Read Write Inc. Parents' Page

Learning to read at home - Ruth Miskin Literacy¹

Other useful websites

Oxford Owl

Create a free account to access a wide range of free eBooks and reading resources suitable for children aged 3-11.

Free eBook library – practise reading with phonics eBooks - Oxford Owl²

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading. Together, we can help every child become a confident and enthusiastic reader. Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading. Together, we can help every child become a confident and enthusiastic reader.

Mrs Olivey

Book Fair

We are delighted to announce that our annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place from Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November. The fair will be held in the school hall after school each day.

Children will have the opportunity to browse a fantastic selection of books and discover their next favourite read. Families are warmly invited to come along and explore the fair together.

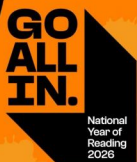
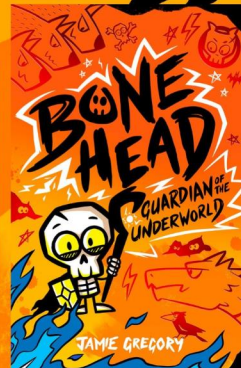
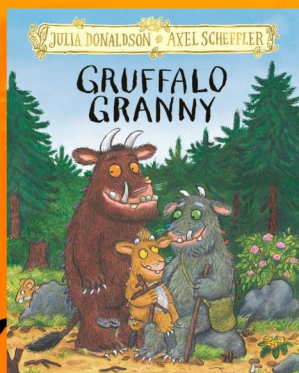
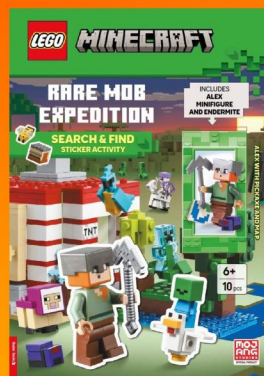
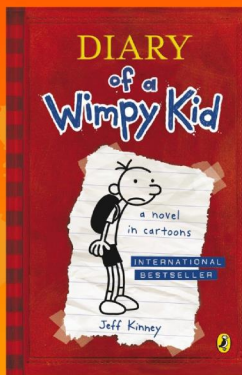
¹<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>

²<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!

you buy earns
FREE BOOKS
for our school*



DATE:

TIME:

LOCATION:

Scan to pay
securely online!



Attendance

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.
2. You can no longer take your child out of school for one week's holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

If you have any **Safeguarding Concerns**, here are some important contacts for you to use.

A message from Cornwall Council...

As part of our commitment to keeping you informed about local services, we want to share an important update regarding children's support and safeguarding in Cornwall. The Cornwall

Council Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU) and the Early Help Hub have officially merged. They are now working together as a single, unified service called the Multi-Agency Support and Safeguarding Hub (MASSH).

What does this change mean?

This merger creates a simpler "single front door" for families. Whether you need early support, parenting advice, or have a worry about a child's well-being, everything is now handled by one integrated team. The goal is to make it much easier and faster for families to get the right help at the right time.

How to contact MASSH

If you need advice, want to request support for your child, or need to report a safeguarding concern, please use the updated contact details below:

-  Main Phone Line: 0300 123 1116 (*Open Monday to Friday, 8:45 AM – 5:00 PM*)
-  Out of Hours & Weekends: 01208 251300 (*For urgent issues outside of normal office hours*)
-  Email: multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk
-  Online Portal: You can also securely request support online by visiting the official Cornwall Council MASSH webpage.
-  Isles of Scilly Residents: Please use the dedicated line at 0300 1234 105 (*Option 5*).

Please note: If your family is already working directly with an assigned social worker or Family Help Worker, you should continue to contact them directly rather than reaching out to the new hub. Our school team is always here to support you as well. If you have any questions about these changes or need assistance connecting with local services, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Other News



Together  for Families

The
deadline for
applications is
**15 January
2027**

Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?**

If so, you will need to apply
for a place in a reception
class in September 2027 for
your child by the deadline
of **15 January 2027**.



Please note: you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



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www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions



Together 
for Families

The
deadline for
applications is
31 October
2026

Transfer to secondary school

September 2027

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



www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions



St Merryn Church
Harvest Festival
Songs of Praise Service
11.15am Sunday 25th October

Service followed by
refreshments 

 Dogs welcome

 Free car park
PL28 8ND

Donations of tinned and dry foods,
household cleaning supplies etc
will be donated to our local
Food Bank


Including: Bodmin,
Carnelford, Padstow
& surrounding areas

Dates for your diary

October

Wed 21st – Harvest Festival Church Service 2:15

Thurs 22nd – Inset Day (School closed for children)

Fri 23rd – Inset Day (School closed for children)

HALF TERM Monday 26th-Friday 30th

November

Mon 2nd – Children return to school

Wed 4th Nov – Robins Family Dining

Mon 9th – Parent Consultations

Tues 10th – Parent Consultations

Wed 11th – Parent Consultations

Wed 11th Nov – Wagtails Family Dining

Wed 18th Nov – Starlings Family Dining

Wed 25th Nov – Kestrels Family Dining

Wed 2nd Dec - Barn Owls Family Dining

December

Wed 2nd - Nursery/KS1 Nativity Performance 5:00-6:00

Thurs 3rd - Nursery/KS1 Nativity Performance 5:00-6:00

Fri 4th - Nursery/KS1 Nativity Performance 2:15-3:00

Fri 4th - Padstow Christmas Lights - Lantern Parade (time tbc)

Tues 8th - KS2 Christmas Performance 6:00

Wed 9th - KS2 Christmas Performance 6:00

Thurs 10th - KS2 Christmas Performance 6:00

Wed 16th - Christmas Lunch

Thurs 17th - Christmas class parties

Fri 18th – Christmas Church Service 2:15

Fri 18th – Last Day of term



School Terms and Holidays 2026/27

St Merryn School

September 2026			October 2026			November 2026										
Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thu	3	10	17	24	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	
December 2026			January 2027			February 2027										
Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	3	10	17	24	31	Thu	7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	31
Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	31
Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28	31
March 2027			April 2027			May 2027										
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	4	11	18	25	31
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	5	12	19	26	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	6	13	20	27	31
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	7	14	21	28	31
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	2	9	16	23	30	
June 2027			July 2027			August 2027										
Mon	7	14	21	28	Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	31
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	31
Thu	3	10	17	24	Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	31
Sat	5	12	19	26	Sat	3	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	31
Sun	6	13	20	27	Sun	4	11	18	25	Sun	1	8	15	22	29	
Key:																
School Holiday Bank Holiday INSET Day School open																
Term dates summary:																
Autumn Term (72 days)																
3 September 2026 - 18 December 2026 (Half term: 26 - 30 Oct 2026)																
Spring Term (54 days)																
4 January 2027 - 25 March 2027 (Half term: 15 - 19 February 2027)																
Summer Term (62 days)																
12 April 2027 - 23 July 2027 (Half term: 31 May - 4 June 2027)																
Bank and Public Holidays 2026/27																
Christmas Day	25th December 2026				Easter Monday					29th March 2027						
Boxing Day	28th December 2026				May Bank Holiday					3rd May 2027						
New Years Day	1st January 2027				Spring Bank Holiday					31st May 2027						
Good Friday	26th March 2027				Summer Bank Holiday					30th August 2027						