

# Mevagissey Primary School

Autumn Term – Week 1



## Attendance

## This week at School Headteacher's message

|            | This week |  |
|------------|-----------|--|
| Starfish   | 94%       |  |
| Dolphin    | 95.4%     |  |
| Lobster    | 95.3%     |  |
| Jellyfish  | 97%       |  |
| Seals      | 98.1%     |  |
| Seaturtles | 98.8%     |  |

Early next week, you will receive a letter providing further information about attendance and pupil absence. This letter is being circulated by all schools who are part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust.

I appreciate that we send regular communication regarding attendance. The reason for this is simple: regular attendance in school is key to a child's future life chances.

We are always searching for ways to support and develop our pupils at Mevagissey Primary School. A big part of this is understanding the barriers to learning that children face. More often than not, those children who need the most support in school with their reading, writing and core maths skills, are those pupils who have prior poor attendance. The blatant correlation between low attendance and pupil achievement (both social and academic) is so prevalent that we would not be doing our job properly if we did not talk about it. Attendance trophies, Frank the attendance armadillo, celebrating great attendance and the learning/personal development that comes because of good attendance, are all just ways to put a positive spin on a topic that can be controversial.

But I do want to be clear - the expectation has never been that a child who is unwell should attend school. There will be occasions throughout the year when a child will genuinely be too unwell to attend school. However, quite often when I am teaching, a parent might pass on that a child had a poor night's sleep and has been feeling a bit under the weather. We always keep an eye on the child, and if their condition deteriorates, we always phone home. Most of the time, with some Calpol, the child is normally sprinting around with their friends by first break.

Below I have included this year's term dates. We would encourage you to utilize the two-week October half term to avoid term time holidays.

I will be away from school Wednesday to Friday next week. Last summer, I applied to join a course called SW100. I was surprised but delighted to be offered a place after a rigorous interview process. Some colleagues of mine who have completed the course previously speak highly about the positive impact it had on their ability to lead their school. The concept behind SW100 is something I feel strongly about - improving outcomes for all pupils, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

In Devon and Cornwall, the 'disadvantage gap' is worse than the national average at all stages. In both counties, disadvantaged children start primary school more than 5 months behind their peers and end secondary nearly 21 months behind. In Plymouth, the gap is more than 24 months by the end of secondary. This is staggering and concerning. I am hopeful that what I learn across the year on SW100 will benefit the children at Mevagissey School.

In my absence next week, Mrs Bunting (former Mevagissey headteacher and current CELT lead on Cradle to Career) will be based at school to support staff and children.

Have a great weekend,  
Mr Ringrose

98.8% for our attendance winners this week. Well done to Sea Turtles class



## Upcoming events

23rd Sept - Individual School Photos  
23rd Sept - Paralympian - Jack Rutter sponsored event  
24th Sept - Nasal Flu Vaccination for all years



# Event and Dates calendar

23rd Sept - Individual School Photos  
23rd Sept - Paralympian - Jack Rutter event  
24th Sept - Nasal Flu Vaccination for all years  
17th Oct - Harvest Festival 2pm in the hall - all invited  
18th Oct - Inset Day - school closed  
21st Oct - 1st Nov - Half Term  
4th Nov - Start of Term  
12th Nov - Bags2School  
15th Nov - Children in Need  
23rd Dec - 3rd Jan - Christmas Half Term - 1.30pm finish  
6th Jan - Start of Term  
17th - 21st Feb - Half Term  
7th - 21st April - Easter Half Term - 1.30pm finish  
26th - 30th May  
20th June - Inset Day  
23rd June - Inset Day  
25th July - Break for Summer Term

## Stars and Citizens of the week





**Kindness Cup goes to Elliot  
in Jellyfish Class**



**Science Star goes to Jemima  
in Jellyfish Class**



**Wonderful Writer goes to Izzy  
in Jellyfish Class**