



What a smashing final week. Staff and children alike were delighted to welcome Mrs Rees back to school and we are all so pleased she is feeling better. There have been some great moments to enjoy this week. The Mevagissey Football and Netball team put in some brilliant performances in our away fixtures against Tywardreath. While the skills shown on the pitch/court were impressive, the thing that stood out to me was the exceptional team work and sportsmanship of the Mevagissey pupils. This was never more evident than when we were leaving the school to get back on the coach. There was a bit of goading from the opposition team about their victory, aimed at some of our footballers. It was fantastic to see our pupils totally ignore these comments - they certainly showed the Mevagissey Way when it may have been easier to react negatively. A massive well done to the sports teams - you always represent the school impeccably. Another highlight for me was watching some of the Year 3 pupils play in their first competitive match for the school. They showed no fear and it was a joy watching them dash around the pitch, making tackles and getting stuck in. Netball and Football Club will continue in Spring 2, despite our competitive fixture schedule now coming to an end. Miss Gibson and I hope to arrange some friendly matches, so if your child would like to give football or netball a try, please add them to our club list. We are trying to encourage more children to take part in our after school clubs, especially netball!

Gardening club enjoyed a trip down to the village to plant trees and wildflower sowing on Tuesday. Not only did they work their green fingers, the children were very excited to tell me that their hard work was rewarded with tea, coffee (decaf) and biscuits... I'm hoping to get an invite down next time! Councillor James Mustoe attended the event and he emailed me immediately after, praising the children and describing them as 'a credit to the school'.

The week ended with an exciting day for Year 6. They enjoyed a World War 2 day as part of their topic. Dressed as evacuees, the children took part in a range of activities, including air raid drills! They explored a 'topic box' from the museum, full of exciting historical artefacts, one of which was a handwritten letter from a child who had been evacuated from the city to her parents.

Lobsters have been focusing on animals including humans. They have learnt about nutrients and nutrition, skeletons (including why they are important), bones and also about muscles that work in pairs. Enjoy the great photos.

Thank you for your all support in what has been a short but busy half term. Have a great week and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Mr Ringrose



## SCHOOL LUNCHES

Parentpay have been having some technical issues and have had to re-upload the lunch menu. Please can you re-order your child's lunches from 5th Feb onwards, as all previous lunch bookings will be lost.

If you pay for your lunch it will be credited back onto your account and once you re-order you will be charged for the new lunch booking.

St Piran's Day on Tuesday 5th March now states the Pasty options - please place your order for a pasty via Parentpay in the usual way.

Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

# Stars and Citizens of the week



Attendance Cup Winners this week were:

Seals Class with 98.8% attendance!

Well Done!



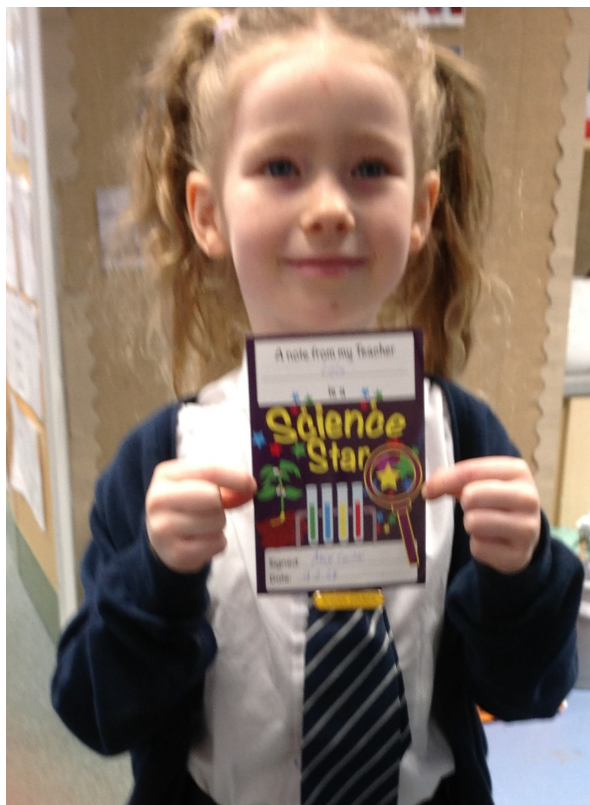
## Class Attendance this week

Starfish	86.4%
Dolphins	95.7%
Lobsters	95.7%
Jellyfish	88.9%
Seals	98.8%
Sea Turtles	95.4%

Kindness Cup goes to Harry in Sea Turtles Class for supporting the Yr3s in the football match at Tywardreath.



Science Star of the week:  
Lola In Dolphin Class

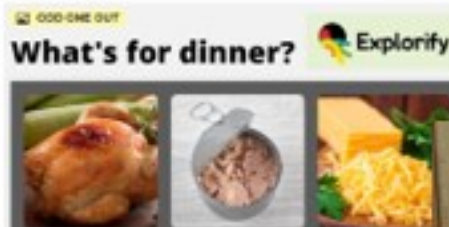


Wonderful Writer  
Tor in Jellyfish Class



## Lobster Year 3 learning fun this half term...

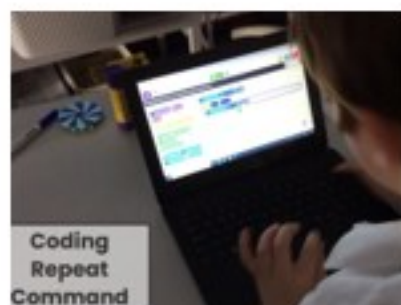
In Science we have been focusing on Animals including humans. We have learnt about nutrients and nutrition, skeletons including why they are important, bones and also about our muscles that work in pairs.



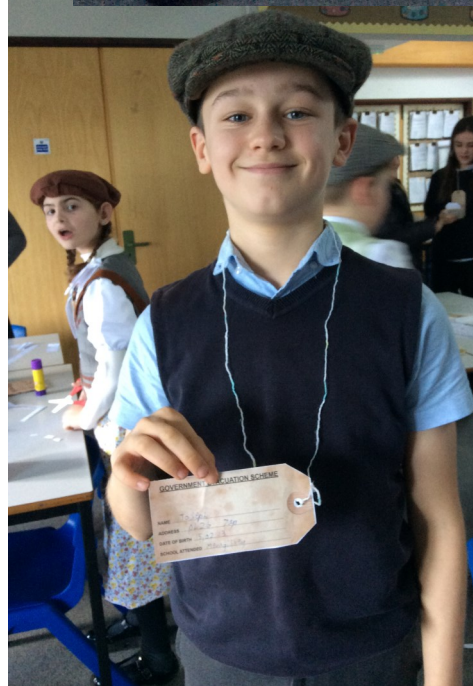
In Art and Design, we have been learning about the drawing and painting that prehistoric Stone Age people used to record their lives.



In computing we have been Coding



Coding  
Repeat  
Command



The Yr6 children dressed up as evacuees as part of their learning about World War 2





These night gowns belonged to Laura Hicks nee Over. She was married to Thomas on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1876 in Mevagsissey. Sadly Thomas died when he was only 30 from smallpox, it was thought he contracted it in Mevagsissey after it was brought in on a fishing boat. He was buried in St. Wenn graveyard in an unmarked grave due to the smallpox. The burial took place at midnight with only three people present, one of them being his wife Laura.

Laura had five children and lived with them in a cottage behind St. Peters Church. The children were; John (Jack) who moved to New York, Agnes, Margaret, Edith and Samuel. Samuel married Mary Hunkin and they lived happily in Valley View Mevagsissey (which he built for her) they had three children; Mary, Dorothy and Thomas.





The Gardening Club were invited by Cormac to plant some bulbs and wild seeds in Mevagissey.



Some of the children visited Penrice School Farm this afternoon. They all had a wonderful time stroking and feeding the animals.



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Snapchat is an instant messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to people in their friends list. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures and messages 'disappear' 24 hours after they've been viewed; however, this content isn't as temporary as many believe – with some users saving screenshots or using another device to take a photo of their screen. This year, Snapchat added 'My AI': a customisable chatbot with which people can chat and share secrets, as well as asking for advice and suggestions of places to visit.

### CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

### EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

### ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beauty' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

### VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

### CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

### DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.

### CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.

### KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.

### BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutcliffe is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>, <https://www.snapchat.com/en/gb/parents>

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We continue to deliver a robust PSHE and Computing Curriculum with a heavy focus on online safety. It's important that we all speak regularly with the children about their experiences online and remind them that the things they write and post can be hurtful to help prepare them for the present and future. Thank you for your support.

# Science Spectacular

10-18 Feb



**Calling all budding scientists, engineers and tech wizzes - we need your help to build a better future!**

Packed with amazing experiments, a genius exhibition from Kids Invent Stuff, plus explosive science shows and workshops from the Ministry of Science, join us in Eden's laboratories this half-term (10-18 Feb) to explore the weird, wacky and wonderful worlds of science and technology.

HAVE AN EXPLOSIVE HALF-TERM

## Kids go free this half-term



Epic news! We're extending our usual free entry for children under five to all children aged 16 or under as part of our February half-term programme, meaning that every adult visitor can bring one child for free\*!

FIND OUT MORE



### Enjoy Eden this half-term...



Try your hand at making new materials, taste a salt and vinegar cricket and try our friction challenge.

WHAT'S ON



Watch free live shows, presented with a bang by Ministry of Science, and take part in their workshops\*\*!

BOOK WORKSHOPS



Be wowed by our kinetic, science-inspired sculpture, Infinity Blue.

LEARN MORE



Test the laws of physics and enjoy amazing outdoor play at Nature's Playground.

PREPARE TO PLAY



It's your last chance this winter to go for a glide on our glittering ice rink\*\*.

BOOK NOW



Explore the world in a day throughout our stunning Outdoor Gardens and Biomes.

START PLANNING



Book



Join



Learn



\* T&Cs apply

\*\* Pre-booking essential. Additional charge applies.

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ChatHealth  
Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

## ChatHealth Parent Line 5-19

School Nursing messaging service for parents and carers of children  
and young people 5-19 years in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

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We might inform someone if we were concerned about your safety but we would usually speak to you first. Messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We aim to reply within 48 hours and you should get an immediate reply to confirm we have received your text. **Texts will not be seen outside working hours.** If you need help before you hear back from us contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or MMS picture messages. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (not including messages from landlines, international numbers and some mobile apps). To prevent Chat Health from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages charged at your usual rates.

Diary Dates	
Monday 12th —Friday 16th February	Half Term
Monday 19th February	Start of Term
Tuesday 20th February	Pancake Day races—please bring in a named frying pan
Thursday 22nd February	Yr5 and Yr6 London Residential information meeting for parents — 3.15pm
Monday 19th—23rd February	Yr3 swimming
Friday 23rd February	Cross Country at Poltair School
Monday 26th February	Parent Consultations please book via eschools —clubs will be cancelled due to parent consultations taking place
Monday 26th February	KS1 Cross Country at Poltair
Monday 4th—8th March	Yr4 and Yr5 swimming
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day—come dressed as your favourite book character
Monday 18th March	Last week of clubs
Tuesday 19th March	Rocksteady Concert
Monday 18th—Friday 22nd March	Yr1 and Yr2 swimming
Wednesday 20th March	Yr3 & Yr4 Farm and Country Discovery Day — Royal Cornwall Show-ground
Friday 22nd March	Yr5 to Penrice for MFL day
Thursday 28th March	Last day of term 1.30pm finish
Thurs 28th March—Fri 12th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 15th April	Start of Term
Monday 22nd April	Start of Clubs
Monday 22nd April	Yr5/6 Meet the Lifeguards RNLI
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May	Yr6 SATs
Wednesday 15th May	Yr5 Junior Life Skills event at St Austell Fire Station
Monday 27th—31st May	Half Term
Monday 3rd June	Start of term
Tuesday 4th June	Class/Sport Photographs
Tuesday 11th—Thursday 13th June	Yr5 & Yr6 Residential to London
Monday 24th — Friday 28th June	Mevagissey Feast Week
Monday 1st July	Community Cohesion Day off in lieu
Monday 15th—Friday 19th July	Yr6 swimming
Monday 15th July	Last week of clubs
Friday 26th July	Last day of term—1.30pm finish

## **Term Dates**

### **2023—2024 Term Dates**

Autumn Term 1 2023: Tuesday 5th September— Friday 13th October

Autumn Term 2 2023: Monday 30th October —Friday 15th December

Spring Term 1 2024: Monday 8th January—Friday 9th February

Spring Term 2 2024: Monday 19th February—Thursday 28th March

Summer Term 1 2024: Monday 15th April—Friday 24th May

Summer Term 2 2024: Monday 3rd June—Friday 26th July

#### **INSET DAYS**

Friday 1st and Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 16th Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th and Friday 20th October 2023

## **Term Dates**

### **2024- 2025 Term Dates**

Autumn Term 1 2024: Thursday 5th September— Thursday 17th October

Autumn Term 2 2024: Monday 4th November —Friday 20th December

Spring Term 1 2025: Monday 6th January—Friday 14th February

Spring Term 2 2025: Monday 24th February—Friday 4th April

Summer Term 1 2025: Tuesday 22nd April —Friday 23rd May

Summer Term 2 2025: Monday 2nd June—Friday 25th July

#### **INSET DAYS**

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Friday 18th October 2024

Monday 28th, Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st October and Friday 1st November 2024

Friday 20th June

Monday 23rd June



# POLTAIR HOLIDAY CLUB FEBRUARY 2024

**Monday, 12th - Friday, 16th February**  
**10am - 2pm**



A week of free sports activities for  
Year 6's!

Children must bring a packed lunch &  
refillable bottle.

**SCAN  
ME!**



# Half Term Holiday Camps



## Softball

For school years 1 to 4  
Tuesday 13th February  
10am to 3pm  
£15



## Hardball

For school years 5 to 8  
Wednesday 14th February  
10am to 3pm  
£20



## U13 Indoor Comp

Thursday 15th February  
10am to 3pm  
Team of 6  
£30



## At Cornwall Cricket Centre

Truro College Campus  
Truro  
TR1 3XX



*To book scan the QR Code or use the link in the text*

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