



Last week, I wrote about the importance of reading and how passionate we are about instilling a love of reading in our pupils to ensure that when they leave us at the end of their primary journey, they are fluent and confident readers.

On Thursday, we were surprised and delighted to receive a letter from the minister for schools, Damian Hinds. The letter recognizes the outstanding outcomes that the Year 1 pupils achieved in their phonics screening test last summer. 100% of children passed the check. The letter states that this puts Mevagissey Primary in the top 1% of schools in the country for this set of data outcomes.

I feel incredibly proud of the children and the staff for their exceptional hard work in making the highly ambitious aim of 100% achievement a reality. This is a remarkable and rare feat.

From the outset, the intent has been clear from the adults who lead the RWI groups and deliver daily intervention: every child, with the right support and with positive encouragement, can pass this test.

The phonics results are testament to the extraordinary efforts of the RWI team, who work with the children every single day, helping them on their first steps to becoming readers. It's hard to express in words the passion they display every day.

This achievement would not have been possible without the eagerness to learn we see from the children in each and every lesson. They are sponges for new learning. They grow in resilience every day and we all feel so fortunate to work here at Mevagissey School with them.

We need to also say a huge thank you to parents, grandparents and carers, who play a massive role in supporting children with their learning at home – listening to them read, using the RWI portal resources sent out by the teachers and encouraging them to reach their potential.

Please see the letter on the next page.

Have a great weekend,

Mr Ringrose



**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Minister for Schools

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT  
tel: 0370 000 2288 [www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe](http://www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe)

Mr Benjamin Ringrose  
Mevagissey Community Primary School  
Cornwall  
Old Road  
St Austell  
PL26 6TD

08 January 2024

*Dear Mr Ringrose*

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 100 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Mevagissey Community Primary School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 1 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

*D. Hinds*

**Damian Hinds**  
Minister for Schools

# Stars and Citizens of the week



Attendance Cup Winners this week were:

Jellyfish Class with  
98.9% attendance!

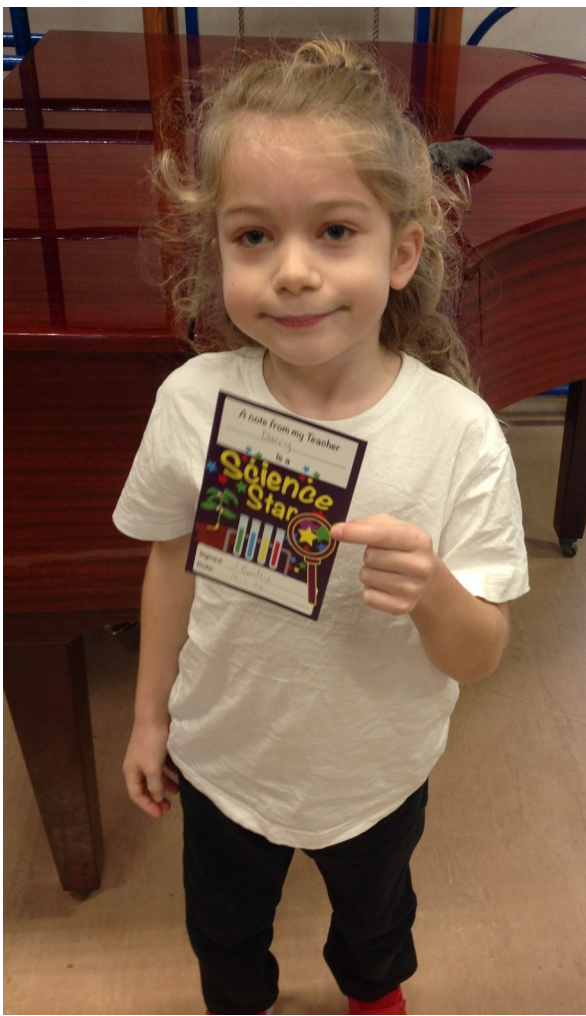
Well Done!



## Class Attendance this week

Starfish	91.8%
Dolphins	93.8%
Lobsters	91.4%
Jellyfish	98.9%
Seals	97.6%
Sea Turtles	97.3%





Science Stars of the week:

Darcy in Seals Class and Arthur in Sea Turtles Class



Kindness Cup goes to Eleanor in Starfish Class for looking after her friends in the big playground.

This week's Wonderful Writer goes to Eleanor for composing some interesting sentences in drawing club.

### Thursday 1st February - Breakfast with the SENDCo!

If you are a parent / carer of a child with Special Educational Needs at Mevagissey School and would like to come in for a light breakfast, cuppa and a chat with others who may share similar experiences to you - please join us!

This event will take place from 9-10:15am.



### Bags2school fundraiser

Please bring bags in on the morning of 6th February. We will open the hall doors for parents/carers to drop off their bags2school and the collection will be that day.

Please drop bags off by 9am. Please use your own plastic bags.



## Competition time

### Mevagissey Climate Action Group

Read the following riddle and reply to this Facebook post with your answer and you could win a fantastic prize!

"In the night sky I soar, not a bird, not a plane,  
With wings outstretched, I don't complain.  
No jingle bells or winter snow,  
But in Halloween's glow, I'm the star of the show.  
What am I?"

Entry Rules - answer the riddle, like our page, entrants must live in the Parish of Mevagissey/Portmellon, and the winner will be picked at random from all the correct answers, good luck! The competition will close at the end of January.

If you are not on Facebook please email your answer to:

[info@mevagisseyclimateaction.org](mailto:info@mevagisseyclimateaction.org)

## Spring Diary Dates

Tuesday 30th January	Football and Netball fixture—Home against Pondhu
Thursday 1st February	Breakfast with the SENDCo—all welcome!
Friday 2nd February	Cross Country at Poltair School
Tuesday 6th February	Bags2school collection
Tuesday 6th February	Football and Netball fixture—Away against Tywardreath
Monday 12th —Friday 16th February	Half Term
Monday 19th February	Start of Term
Monday 19th—23rd February	Yr3 swimming
Friday 23rd February	Cross Country at Poltair School
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
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 6th May	Bank Holiday
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



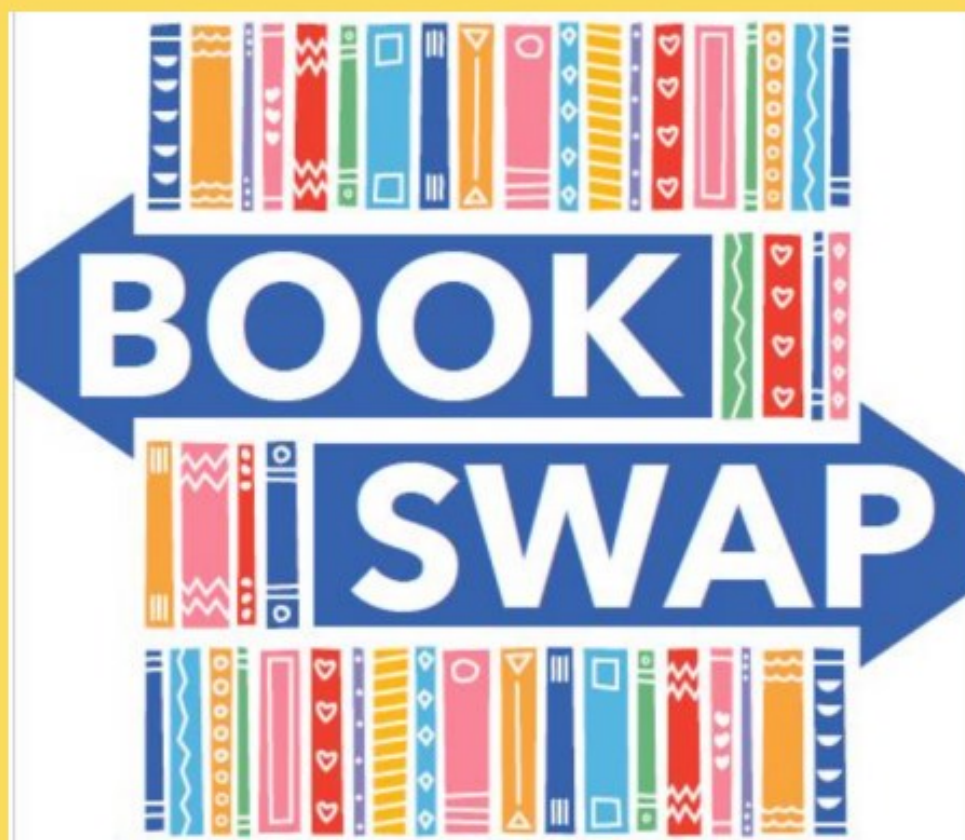


**St Austell Festival of Children's Literature  
invite you to a**

white  
river  
place  
ST. AUSTELL,  
CORNWALL

**New Year Book Swap**  
**Saturday 20th January 2024**  
in White River Place  
1.00 p.m. until 3.00 p.m.

**CHILDREN'S**



**Bring a Children's book you've read and  
swap it for a different one.**

  
CORNWALL  
SIGNS

 **Reading  
Rocks**



# PSSP NETBALL CLUB



**YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS**  
**POLTAIR SCHOOL**  
**WEDNESDAY'S 4:30PM-5:30PM**

SCAN  
HERE  
TO  
SIGN  
UP!



WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY
17TH JANUARY	24TH JANUARY	31ST JANUARY	7TH FEBRUARY



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**CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!**