



17th January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of the second week already. It feels like time has flown this week. It has brilliant to see the attendance so far this week. It was joint 1<sup>st</sup> place for Years 1, 3 and 5 this week, all with an attendance of 98.6% - well done! Attendance is so key to school success. I have been looking at the link between attendance and academic progress across the whole time children are in school and it is clear to see that good attendance over time leads to really good outcomes. I suppose it is obvious that the more you are in school, the more you learn. Please find an attendance update attached as part of this newsletter. It explains all the processes as well as the consequences for unauthorised absence.

We started the week with an assembly that looked towards the stars: first of all I spoke to the children about a rare planetary alignment that is happening next week. On 21st January, and if it is clear, you will be able to see 6 planets in the sky: Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. They will all be in the sky in the direction of Penzance (kind of South-East). In the assembly, I also talked about the incredible Parker Solar Probe that went 'close' to the sun (the probe got within 3.8million miles of the sun!) just before Christmas. What an amazing feat of collaboration and engineering. I can imagine the sun being a meter away from Earth. The probe got within 4cm. We talked about the importance of teamwork and kindness, one of our school values and a theme of the week. It was lovely to see so many of our own 'stars' recognised by their teachers for their kind acts. I was also thrilled to see how hard our English Experts and Maths Wizards have worked this week.

It is going to be another busy term with all sorts of visits planned and exciting activities both in and out of school. I was very proud of our table tennis players for their amazing achievements over the weekend. I was challenged to a game with Rosie at lunchtime today and can see why she is so successful as she won rather easily! iPads have now gone home to support the learning of Years 5 and 6. Thanks to all the parents who have come in to pick up the devices and sign the relevant paperwork. A big thank you also to Mr Curnow and Miss Trenoweth for being so innovative in their use of iPads in class.

This afternoon (on Friday), some of our parents held a session in school as part of the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' campaign. It was a very informative session that shared some research and recent thinking about the possible impact of smartphones on children both at primary and secondary age. Now that I am working across both phases, it has been interesting to consider the issue for both age groups. The group will be getting feedback and finding out if other parents would like to come into school to join this important discussion.

I hope you enjoy reading about what your children have been up to this week. Keep up the reading and talking to them about what they are learning. It makes such a difference. Have a great weekend and I will look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely

Jon Hall





## Attendance News.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued support in improving attendance across the school. Your commitment to ensuring that your children are present and engaged in their learning makes an enormous difference. This year, our current school attendance stands at an impressive 95.5%, which surpasses the national average of 94.5%. This is a fantastic achievement, and we appreciate your efforts in making this possible!

### Why Attendance Matters

You may be aware that students who attend school regularly are statistically more likely to succeed academically. Consistent attendance allows students to stay on track with their learning, build stronger relationships with both peers and adults, and develop essential life skills, such as responsibility and time management.

When students miss school, they lose out on valuable learning opportunities. Even if a student misses just a few days, it can have a significant impact on their understanding of key concepts and overall educational experience. We encourage all parents to be mindful of the importance of regular attendance to help our students reach their full potential.

Please remember to report all absences via ParentMail or by telephoning the school office. It is crucial to be open and honest about any absences; we need to record a reason for all missed days.

For unavoidable medical appointments, please provide appointment cards so we can account for these absences appropriately. This also includes longer periods of absence where your child may have had to visit the Doctor.

It's worth noting that children do not always need to miss school if they are feeling unwell. For guidance on whether your child is too ill for school, you can visit the NHS website at [NHS Child Illness Guidance](#). Often, we can support children in school with minor childhood illnesses. Parents are welcome to send in medicine from home to support in treating minor symptoms. Please be assured that we have your child's best interests at heart and will always make contact with you if they are struggling with the school day.

### DfE Guidelines

*If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.*

*If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.*

*Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.*

*Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.*

*Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.*

We appreciate your ongoing support in fostering a culture of regular attendance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

## THIS WEEK'S AMAZING ATTENDERS ARE:



Year 1, 3 & 5 with 98.6%



Year 2 with 98.4%



Year 6 with 95.4%

CURRENT NATIONAL ATTENDANCE % =



94.9%

ST JUST'S WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE % =



94.4%

**THE WORLD IS RUN BY THOSE WHO TURN UP.**

**ATTENDING SCHOOL EVERY DAY = 100% ATTENDANCE.**

**ATTENDING 4½ DAYS A WEEK = 90% ATTENDANCE = 4 WEEKS MISSED PER YEAR.**

**ATTENDING 4 DAYS A WEEK = 80% ATTENDANCE = MORE THAN HALF A TERM MISSED PER YEAR.**

**ATTENDING 3½ DAYS EACH WEEK = 70% ATTENDANCE = MORE THAN A QUARTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR MISSED.**

**AN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE OF 80% OR LESS ACROSS A CHILD'S SCHOOL CAREER ADDS UP TO MISSING A WHOLE 2 YEARS FROM SCHOOL.**

**BEING LATE FOR SCHOOL REDUCES LEARNING TIME.**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS 5 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY THEY WILL MISS THREE DAYS OF LEARNING EACH YEAR**

**IF YOUR CHILD IS 15 MINUTES LATE EVERY DAY THEY WILL MISS 2 WEEKS OF LEARNING EACH YEAR.**

**MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT!**





## KINDNESS



<b>Tater Du</b>	Ruby, for showing kindness but also for her all round effort this week.
<b>Longships</b>	Talia, for always showing kindness to your friends.
<b>Round Island</b>	Rebecca, for showing kindness and concern for others. A great role model.
<b>Sevenstones</b>	Millie, for showing kindness to her peers this week.
<b>Bishops Rock</b>	Aldous, for always displaying kindness to his peers and adults.
<b>Godrevy</b>	Eleanor - Thank you for always showing kindness through thoughtful gestures and for always checking in to see if I've had a good day!
<b>Wolf Rock</b>	Ayla, for always showing kindness and patience, supporting her friends and those around her in all things, quietly encouraging others to be the best they can. Well done, Ayla!

# Lunchtime Legends

<b>Key Stage 1</b>	Hollie for being kind and sharing.
<b>Key Stage 2</b>	Zelah for always being polite.

# Maths Wizard of the Week



<b>Tater Du</b>	Marnie, for her amazing 'can do' attitude this week.
<b>Longships</b>	Bethan, for showing growing confidence in your maths.
<b>Round Island</b>	Lev, for showing very clear working when solving his reasoning questions this week.
<b>Sevenstones</b>	Rupert, for using and applying his times tables well this week.
<b>Bishops Rock</b>	Alexis, for getting to grips with multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100.
<b>Godrevy</b>	Macy, for clearly explaining and presenting the steps involved in solving various fraction problems.
<b>Wolf Rock</b>	Esme is really impressing us with her positive attitude and enthusiasm for maths. Her effort and focus is admirable. Well done!

## English Expert of the Week



<b>Tater Du</b>	Hollie, for amazing the grown-ups with the progress that she is making in her reading.
<b>Longships</b>	Henry, for showing independence in your writing and using your phonic knowledge to help you.
<b>Round Island</b>	Eloise for making a fantastic effort with her reading this week - keep it up, we are all really proud of you!
<b>Sevenstones</b>	Logan, for being engaged in his diary writing well this week.
<b>Bishops Rock</b>	Lowenna, for thinking careful about vocabulary places.
<b>Godrevy</b>	Owen, for thoughtfully considering the different characters and settings in our class book and illustrating them to perfectly match their descriptions
<b>Wolf Rock</b>	Lyra, consistently contributes thoughtfully to all areas of our English learning, be it reading, writing or SPaG. She is always willing to have a go and share her thinking even when she is unsure. Well Done, Lyra!

# CLASS NEWS

## **TATER DU NEWS!**

What an amazing couple of weeks it's been. We are so proud of the way in which the children have settled back into the routines of school life and they have all really impressed us with their learning so far.

This term's over arching topic is 'Amazing Animals'

- Our focus books have been 'Leaf' by Sandra Dieckmann and 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse' ; by Charlie Mackesy.
- We have been talking in depth about these stories and thinking about what the stories are teaching us. We have been so astounded by the children's amazing comments during these sessions, such as "We are all important', 'We are all special', 'The book teaches us to be brave' - Wow!
- We have been looking at how the theme of kindness runs through both of these stories this will continue throughout our topic, as we look at ways in which we can spread happiness to the people within and outside our school and home communities.
- We have been looking at the illustrations of Charlie Mackesy. We have used watercolour paints to add colour to some of his existing illustrations and next week, we will be having a go at using black ink and watercolour paints to create our own.

We are really excited to have lots of plans in the pipeline for the Spring Term. We will be having visits by The Farm and Country Road Show, as well as Cormac, who will be coming in to carry out some wonderful construction activities with us. We are also hoping to link up with the Cornwall Air Ambulance and will be planning a few trips and outings to really enhance our learning. Watch this space for further details.

# CLASS NEWS

## LONGSHIPS

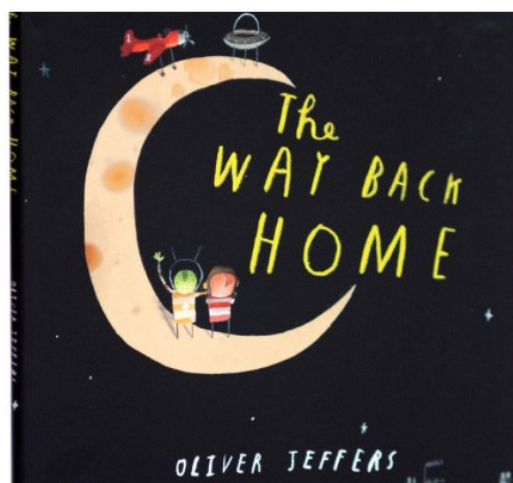
It has been lovely to see everyone again after the Christmas break. Which now seems a distant memory.

We have started our new English book 'The Way Back Home.' This has been a great hit as this is the second Oliver Jeffers book we have read. The children have proved they are masters at shape and have confidently completed the unit of work this week.

We have started all of our other subjects with a trip to the Church in a couple of weeks, some science experiments to plan. We need rain for this so hopefully we will not be disappointed. The children are looking forward to their end of term art piece as we get to print owls.

The children continue to blow us away with their reading and the improvements they are making weekly and their ability to talk about the story and make predictions. This is having a positive impact on their writing with some amazing sentences, and the children embracing all the new SPAG they are learning. We have mastered adjectives and verbs this week.

We look forward to the next couple of weeks as yet again we have a lot planned.



# CLASS NEWS

## Round Island

Happy New Year! I hope you all had an amazing break and are ready for the year ahead.

So, how have Round Island been getting on?

History: We have started our new topic all about the 'Great Fire of London' and I hope your children have been regaling you with facts about the key events and also about King Charles ii who was on the throne at the time. \_Linked to this, Year 2 will be going to the Minack Theatre on Thursday 6th February for the morning to do a workshop all about this.

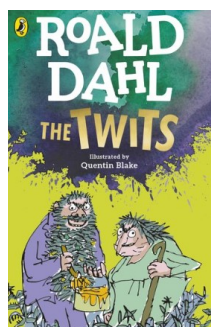
English writing: Linked to History, the children have been writing diary entries as if they were there at the time of the fire. It has been wonderful to see the children using their 'writing checklists' to ensure they have written the very best piece that they can.

English reading: We have been reading a class book called 'The Twits'. It is a brilliantly funny book and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about Mr and Mrs Twit's awful schemes. The aim this term is to get the children more confident with discussing what they have read and to locate key information from the text.

Maths: This week, we have finished looking at the four main operations and next week we will be starting fractions.

PE: The children have been loving having the climbing frame out to work on their balances– they are braver than I am!

Finally, thank you to those who came and collected some of the old SAT's papers to practice at home. There are still some left, so please feel free to pop in for more if you want. They are a fantastic opportunity for your child to put into practice what they now understand in both Maths and Reading.





# CLASS NEWS

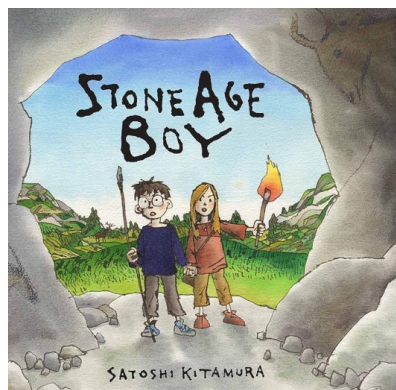
## SEVENSTONES

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas (doesn't it seem so far away now?!) and have settled into 2025.

What have we been up to?

- Last week we began our new book 'Stone Age Boy'. We have been looking a lot at sentence structure and writing about events from the book. This week we have also been creating diaries in the style of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' that all of the children have thoroughly enjoyed.
- In maths, we have been learning our 8x tables. We learnt the song and have been looking at patterns of jotting the tables down and thinking about linking it to division as well.
- In history, we have begun our new Stone Age to Iron Age topic. We have been finding out about all the things the Stone Age people invented and looking at houses and how they changed through the ages.
- In science, we began our Light topic by initially looking at light sources.
- In art, we looked at the amazing Cave Paintings from the Stone Age and have started firstly, by line drawing different animals.

We have also watched parts of 'Digging for Britain', a BBC series which shows archaeologists digging in sites around Britain and unearthing Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age sites.



# CLASS NEWS

## Bishop Rock News – Y4

It's been a busy start to the Spring term, with Year 4 launching into our new geography topic: How are the United Kingdom and Iceland the same and different? In lesson one, we recapped the location and order of the seven continents and five oceans learning to recognise continent shapes as well as learning interesting facts such as how many countries each continent is divided up into. In lesson two, we zoomed in to focus on the continent of Europe, home to both the UK and Iceland where we looked at the four geographic regions of Europe as well as learning about the seas and oceans that surround the continent. In lesson three next week, we will be learning about the four main landforms of Europe.

In history, we have continued to learn about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings in Britain, focussing on the events leading up to the year 1066. Particular attention has been paid to the achievements of Alfred the Great and also the wider Anglo-Saxon and Viking achievements examining whether they had a 'National' or 'International' impact.

In religious education, we have gone back to study Hinduism focussing on how Hindu's worship in their daily lives.

In gymnastics this week, we revised key body shapes and linking shapes together with fluidity and control. The children will be working towards developing a short gymnastics sequence with a partner over the coming weeks.

# CLASS NEWS

## GODREVV

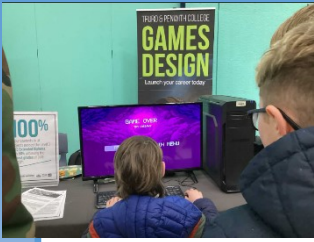
Over the past couple of weeks, Godrevy class have been immersed in our exciting new project, "Schools Across the Ocean," which has seen us twinning with a school in Dubai. The children have been exploring this connection using Padlet and have been hard at work creating video presentations to share with our twinned school during a Zoom meeting next week.

Alongside this, our class read, 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief', has brought Greek mythology to life as we've gotten to know the different Greek gods and goddesses. The children have been drawing characters like Mrs. Dodds and the Minotaur, as well as key locations such as Camp Half-Blood.



In line with our topic on the ancient Greeks, we've also been exploring Greek cuisine, sampling dishes, and preparing to make our own!

In the coming weeks, we look forward to deepening our connection with our twinned school, creating clay Grecian pots, and embarking on a Minack Theatre trip to expand our knowledge of ancient Greek mythology and history.



# CLASS NEWS



## WOLF ROCK



Wolf Rock have made a super start to the new term. We have moved our start of day maths buster from paper sheets onto the iPads (through Socra-tive) and have noticed much improved engagement and eagerness across the class. We delighted that the iPads are now available to the children at home as well as in the classroom, and it's wonderful to see the children using the video resources on them to get ahead for the next day's learning. We have gradually been putting the video of Beth Leigh FM on all the children's devices, so you can watch it back together. You are welcome to move it on to a home device, but please don't share it publically.

We've been across to Cape Cornwall School for a Career's fair. Again the children used their iPads to take photos and record things they were interested in, so please get them to show you and talk to you about it. The opportunity to have their hair and nails done distracted a number of our class as did further education opportunities in e-game design. Please see some of the photos around.

In the classroom...

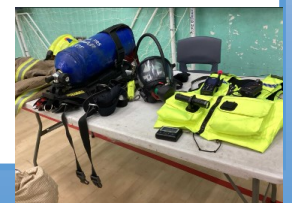
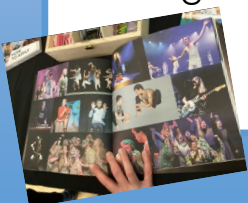
The children have been exploring books for younger children with Mr Matthews, and have now started developing their own characters in a quest to write their own.

Our new topic 'Your time or Mayan?' has caught the imagination of the class and they are loving learning all about the Mayan civilisation.

Our new book 'Secrets of a Sun King' has us all locked into a new adventure, exploring London, post World War 1, and the mystery surrounding Howard Carter's search for King Tutankamun's tomb – including suggestions for what played out in King Tut's final days.

Fractions have been the focus of our maths learning so far – we are all growing in confidence with numerators and denominators and how we add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers.

Adverbials, prepositions, determiners and the subject and object of a sentence are all punctuation and grammar disciplines we've also been getting to grips with.





Molly, Sophia and Rosie.

## TABLE TENNIS

On Sunday, 3 of our year 6s represented our school and Cape Table Tennis club in the south West U11s competition.

They narrowly missed going through to the next round but, all played superbly.

Well done to them and thanks to Mr May for his coaching and encouragement to all.

What a feast!

Miss Matthews & Mrs Mackie pulled out all the stops and the children enjoyed a wonderful Lunar New Year Feast!



## Payments of Outstanding Bills

We kindly request that any outstanding monies for school dinners, breakfast club, swimming activities, and trips be settled at your earliest convenience. Please ensure that payments are made via ParentMail or directly to the school office. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

## Clubs List Spring 2025

	Club	Year Groups	Teacher	Location	Time
Monday	Netball	4/5/6	Mrs Bird and Shelley	Sports Hall	3:10-4:15pm
	Art	1/2	Mrs Earley	Y1 Classroom	3:10-4pm
	Debate Club	5/6	Miss Trenoweth	Y5 Classroom	3:10-4pm
	SPACE		Mr Matthews and Miss Downing <u>Clubs List Spring 2024</u>	Y6 Classroom	3:10-4:15pm
Tuesday	Library	4/5/6	Mr Curnow	St Just Library	12-12:30pm
	Football	4/5/6	Mrs Parsons	School Field	3:10-4pm
	Spanish	R/1/2	Kids Lingo	Hall	3:10-4:00pm
Wednesday	Stay and Play	2/3	Miss Steele	Y2 Classroom	3:10-4pm
Thursday	Tag Rugby	4/5/6	Mr Kevern	School Field	3:10-4pm