



St Mary's News



Friday 10th January 2025

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Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a lovely, restful Christmas break. It has been so nice hearing the children share their stories about the special times they had with their families over the holiday.

This term is full of exciting opportunities for learning and exploration. Joy Class will be heading to the Maritime Museum to enrich their understanding of our local history and maritime heritage, while Trust Class will take part in the wonderful experience of raising chicks, teaching them about responsibility, life cycles, and nature.

Alongside these highlights, we have many more activities and trips planned to engage and inspire the children. Further information and updates will be shared via your Gateway App, so please check regularly to stay informed.

We're looking forward to a fun, productive, and busy term ahead with lots of exciting moments to share!

WELCOME BACK!

You're never too young to make a difference!

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Whole School Attendance

Please find below, a letter that was sent out about attendance in September 2024. If you have any questions, please let us know.

10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. We wanted to share some important information regarding changes to the law around school attendance and how they might affect you and your child.

At St. Mary's, we understand that there are times when children need to miss school, such as when they are unwell. However, the government has strict guidelines that discourage absences unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you need to request time off for your child, please make sure to fill out the 'Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances' form and submit it to the Headteacher for approval.

If your child has an unauthorised absence from school, it's important to be aware that this could be considered an offence under the Education Act 1996. In such cases, we may need to ask Cornwall Council to issue a Penalty Notice. This fine is £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid between 21 and 28 days. The fine is per parent, per child.

If unauthorised absences happen again within a 3-year period, further Penalty Notices may be issued, this time with a fine of £160, again per parent and per child. There's a limit of two fines per parent within this three-year period. After this, more serious steps, such as a parenting order or legal prosecution, may be considered.

Please remember that if a Penalty Notice isn't paid, legal action might be taken, and this could result in a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also seek to recover the legal costs of pursuing the matter. In extreme cases, it's even possible for a custodial sentence to be imposed.

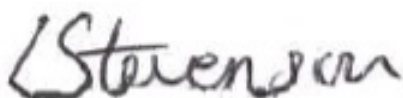
The funds raised from fines are used only to cover the costs of running the system and to help provide attendance support, with any surplus being returned to the government. The school does not receive any funds.

The term 'parent' is defined broadly under the Education Act 1996 and includes not only natural parents but also anyone who has parental responsibility or who is caring for the child.

We understand that school attendance can sometimes be difficult, and we're here to support you. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like some guidance on helping your child attend school regularly, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are committed to working with you to ensure your child gets the most out of their time at St. Mary's and reaches their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. Stevenson
Headteacher

After School Clubs

We are excited to let you know that after-school clubs will begin on **Monday 13th January**. If any clubs are still visible on your Gateway App, it means there are spaces available! Be sure to take a look and grab a spot before they're all filled.

Clubs running from next week are:

Monday:

- Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Drawing Club with Miss Shelton
- YR, Y1, Y2 Playground Games with Mr Pritchard
- Y4, Y5, Y6 Cooking Club with Miss Vowles

Tuesday:

- YR, Y1, Y2 Gymnastics with DT Coaching
- Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Coding Club with Mrs Spencer (Lunch times only)

Wednesday:

- YR, Y1, Y2 Cartoon Club with Mrs Insa-James
- Y4, Y5, Y6 Running Club with Mrs Whaley and Mr Senior
- Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Netball Club with Miss Rundle and Mrs Pill

Thursday:

- Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 Basketball Club with DT Coaching

Don't miss out on these fantastic opportunities!

Executive Function!

Executive functioning skills are essential for helping children stay organised, manage their time, focus, and solve problems. These important life skills develop gradually, and with a little support at home, children can grow more confident and independent.

One of the best ways to build these skills is through play and everyday routines. Here are some practical ways to help your child strengthen their executive functioning skills in a safe and supportive environment:

1. Encourage Turn-Taking and Playing Games

Games that involve turn-taking, sharing, and following rules are excellent for teaching patience, self-control, and how to handle winning and losing. Board games, card games, and even simple playground games allow children to manage emotions in a low-pressure setting while having fun.

2. Teach Emotional Control Through Play

Support your child in recognising and managing their emotions by encouraging them to pause, take deep breaths, and express their feelings calmly. Role-playing games and storytelling can help children explore emotions in a safe space.

3. Let Them Help Plan

Involve your child in planning family activities, making shopping lists, or preparing for a trip. This gives them a chance to practice thinking ahead and problem-solving while feeling included and valued.

4. Stick to Routines

A consistent routine for meals, homework, and bedtime helps children feel secure and understand what to expect. Visual checklists and calendars can make routines easier to follow and encourage independence.

5. Stay Organised Together

Help your child create organised spaces for their belongings. Labelled bins, a tidy homework station, or a family calendar for upcoming events can teach responsibility and time management.

6. Set Small, Achievable Goals

Work with your child to set simple goals, like completing a puzzle or tidying their room, and celebrate their progress. This builds confidence and teaches persistence.

7. Talk Through Challenges

Model problem-solving by thinking out loud and breaking tasks into smaller steps. This helps your child learn how to approach challenges calmly and thoughtfully.

8. Limit Distractions

Provide a quiet, clutter-free space for homework or reading. Reducing screen time during focused activities can help children concentrate and stay on task.

By focusing on turn-taking, sharing, and emotional regulation through play and daily routines, you can help your child develop important life skills in a supportive and fun way.

If you'd like more tips or resources, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to help!

Building Executive Function Through Music

This term, Sunrise Class has been developing more than just their musical talents, they have also been strengthening their executive functioning skills!

During music lessons, the children have been following instructions carefully, staying in their assigned roles, and keeping up with the actions that accompany each song. As the songs progress, they are introduced to more actions, challenging them to remember and perform the correct sequence.

These activities are a wonderful way for Sunrise Class to build important executive functioning skills, such as:

Working Memory: Remembering and recalling the sequence of actions throughout the song.

Attention and Focus: Staying engaged and attentive to follow instructions and maintain rhythm.

Self-Control: Managing impulses to stay in role and perform actions at the right time.

Task Initiation and Persistence: Starting new actions confidently and continuing through the entire routine.

Music has provided Sunrise Class with a fun and creative way to strengthen these essential life skills, supporting their learning and development across all areas. Well done, Sunrise Class!



School Uniform Rail

Following the great success of our Christmas jumper rail, we're excited to put the rail and the generously donated hangers to good use by creating a School Uniform Rail!

This rail will now be a permanent fixture in the main foyer, offering a space where parents can donate and take any school uniform items as needed. It's a great way to recycle gently used uniforms and support one another within our school community.

If you have any outgrown or unused uniform pieces in good condition, please feel free to drop them off. Likewise, if your child needs something, you're welcome to browse and take what you need.

Thank you for helping us make this a helpful resource for all families!

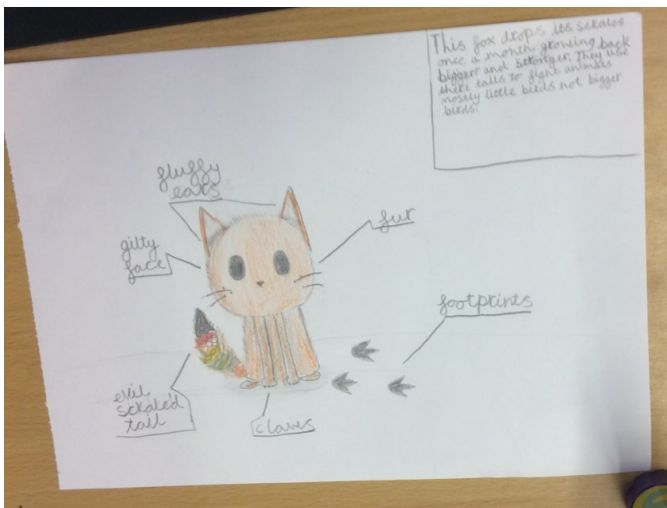
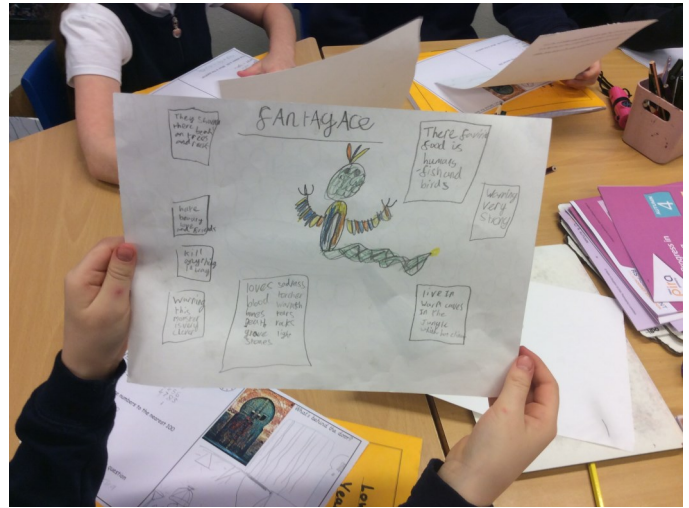


Monster Makers!

This week, Friendship Class took on the role of detectives to solve a mysterious crime in Forest School! The scene was left in chaos, with footprints, feathers, and plenty of clues scattered around.

As part of their "Infographics" topic, the children were challenged to decide who might have ransacked the area. They designed their own imaginative monsters and brought them to life by labelling their creations, giving them unique names, and imagining their habitats, favourite activities, diets, and much more!

The creativity and enthusiasm on display were incredible. Well done, Friendship Class, for using your imagination and detective skills to solve the case!



Reading Eggs

We are thrilled to share some exciting changes to our school's reading provision that will help inspire a lifelong love of reading in our children.

After carefully reviewing the impact of Reading Eggs, we have decided to end our subscription on Tuesday 14th January 2025. While Reading Eggs has been a valuable tool, we are now focusing on enhancing our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 libraries with a wide range of new and engaging books. This investment will give our children even more opportunities to explore different genres, spark their imaginations, and develop a love for reading.

To make sure we select books that truly excite and challenge our pupils, we would love to hear from you! If you have any book suggestions or author recommendations that you think our children would enjoy, please email your ideas to parents@st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk.

We also encourage families to continue supporting reading at home by setting aside time for daily reading. Whether it's sharing a bedtime story or encouraging independent reading, these moments can make a big difference in developing reading confidence and enjoyment.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make reading an exciting and enriching part of every child's learning journey. We can't wait to see our libraries grow and our children's love of reading flourish!



Pupil Achievement

A huge well done to Isla, Lacie, and everyone who took part in the Cornwall Dance School Christmas Show! We are very proud of their hard work and dedication as they performed in a wonderful adaptation of the famous Christmas classic, "The Nutcracker." Well done, girls!



Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st January 2025	Parent Group - 2pm
Friday 7th February 2025	NSPCC Numbers Day
Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 11th March 2025	Year 1 Trip to Royal Cornwall Museum
Tuesday 11th March 2025	Parent Group - 2pm
Tuesday 1st April 2025	Easter Service at Kenwyn Church - 1.45pm
Monday 7th - Thursday 17th April 2025	Easter Break
Friday 18th April 2025	Good Friday Bank Holiday
Monday 21st April 2025	Easter Monday Bank Holiday
Monday 5th May 2025	May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 14th May 2025	Year 3 Trip to Royal Cornwall Museum
Monday 26th May 2025	Spring Bank Holiday
Tuesday 27th May - Friday 30th May 2025	Half Term
Tuesday 10th June 2025	Parent Group - 2pm
Wednesday 11th June 2025	Year 3 Trip to Heligan Gardens
Thursday 26th June 2025	Year 5 & 6 Surf Day
Tuesday 8th July 2025	Year 2 Trip to Woodland Valley Farm
Tuesday 15th July 2025	Year 4 Trip to Geevor Tin Mine
Wednesday 23rd July 2025	Inset Day
Thursday 24th July 2025	Summer Break Begins

Please note that the above dates may be subject to change however, we will always endeavour to give parents and carers as much notice as possible of any changes.

Truro Nursery Community Pantry



Truro Nursery has recently set up a community pantry in their cloakroom, stocked with a variety of non-perishable food items and toiletries. The aim of this pantry is to support families in need within the local community, and they would love for as many people as possible to benefit from this resource.

If you or someone you know could make use of the pantry, please feel free to visit and help yourself. The

nursery is committed to providing support to those who need it most, and spreading the word is key to reaching as many families as possible.