



Friday 17th January 2025

Issue number 778

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# Learning Through Landscapes

*This week, some of our Compassion Class children had the wonderful opportunity to step outdoors and explore our beautiful school grounds with Suzi Hoskins from Learning Through Landscapes.*

*Using tools such as anemometers, laser ground temperature gauges, air thermometers, and pipettes for testing permeability, the children explored the climate within our school environment.*

*They learned how nature serves as a powerful barrier to climate change and discussed the importance of focusing on local wildlife - such as snakes, butterflies, and hedgehogs - rather than distant symbols like polar bears and tigers.*

*The session also highlighted how much the climate in Cornwall has changed in the children's and Suzi's lifetimes. They reflected on how the weather on their birthdays has shifted over the years and even how seasons have evolved dramatically over a generation.*



*This hands-on experience has sparked curiosity and empowered our young learners to think critically about the environment and their role in protecting it for the future.*

**You're never too young to make a difference.**

**1 Timothy 4:12**

# 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.

10<sup>th</sup> 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.

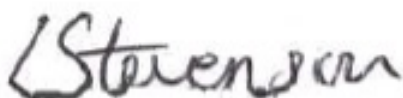
The funds raised from fines are used only to cover the costs of running the system and to help provide attendance support, with any surplus being returned to the government. The school does not receive any funds.

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



Dress up for Digits!  
on  
Friday 7th February 2025

Donate here: [https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-c-of-e-school-17?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-c-of-e-school-17?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)



# Mental Health Support

We are excited to share that we are working closely with the Cornwall Mental Health Team to enhance the wellbeing of our students. As part of this partnership, we now have a Mental Health Practitioner working in our school for half a day per week. They will provide support to children, either individually or in small groups, following a referral from either Miss Vowles or Mrs Spencer.

To help parents learn more about this important initiative, we invite you to join us for a special parent session:

Date: Tuesday 28th January 2024

Time: 2:30pm

Location: School Hall

This session is a great opportunity to:

- Meet our school's Mental Health Practitioner, who will be working with staff and students to promote mental health and wellbeing.
- Learn about the support and services available.
- Understand the referral process and how it works.
- Discuss any concerns you may have directly with our practitioner.

We will also have hot drinks and biscuits available, so please feel free to come along.

We look forward to seeing you there.



# MEET OUR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

**Tuesday 28th January**

**2:30PM**

**St. Mary's School Hall**

MEET OUR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT  
PRACTITIONER

LEARN ABOUT SUPPORT AND  
SERVICES AVAILABLE

UNDERSTAND THE REFERRAL  
PROCESS

DISCUSS ANY CONCERNS

**ALL FAMILIES WELCOME**






# SEN TEAM

*Miss Vowles and Mrs. Spencer are passionate about supporting every child at St. Mary's. They are always available to listen, offer guidance, and work together with parents to make sure each child gets the help they need to thrive.*

*To make it even easier for you to reach out, we've introduced a new dedicated email address. Whether you have a question or need support, they're here to help!*

*Contact us at:*

 [SENDCO@st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:SENDCO@st-marys-truro.cornwall.sch.uk)

# Staffing Update

We are delighted to welcome a new member of staff to St. Mary's this week. Miss Thornton joined us on Monday, and some of you may already know her as Mum to Carmen and Nathan!

Miss Thornton will be supporting across the school, with a particular focus in Sunrise Class, Joy Class, and Friendship Class. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team and know she will bring lots of energy and care to her role.

Please join us in wishing Miss Thornton all the best as she begins her journey with us at St. Mary's!

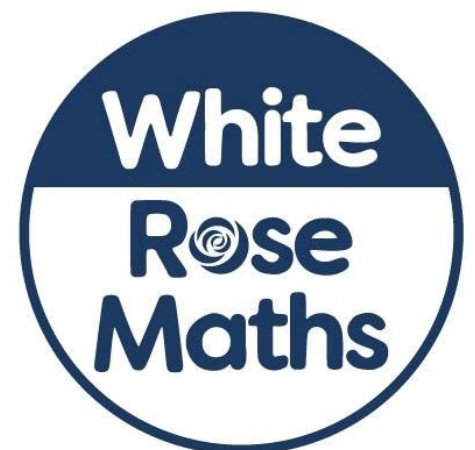


# White Rose Maths

In September, children in Years 1 to 6 were given their White Rose Maths "Maths Practice Journals" to take home and work on.

Miss Rundle and Mr. Dempsey kindly request that all children bring their maths books to school on **Monday 10th February** so they can be shared and celebrated with teachers.

Thank you for your support!



# Sporting Success!

Last Friday, children from Friendship, Compassion and Courage Classes braved the wind and rain to represent our school in the cross-country race at Penair School. A huge thank you to Mrs Whaley and Mr Dempsey for their excellent organisation and support on the day.

Despite the challenging conditions, our children demonstrated incredible enthusiasm and resilience, with some achieving impressive top 10 finishes! These fantastic results mean they have qualified for the next stage of the competition, where they will compete against children from the Penryn Partnership. Success there could see them progressing to the final, traditionally held in Newquay.

Well done to all our runners you've made us proud!





# Pupil Achievement

Last weekend, Alfred, Ethan, Finley, and Louis proudly represented Truro RFC U10s on a memorable tour to Exeter.

The adventure began on Saturday with a tour of the Exeter Chiefs' stadium, followed by an exciting training session led by some of the Exeter squad. In the afternoon, the boys enjoyed watching Exeter face a strong Bordeaux side, featuring several French internationals. Adding to the excitement, they formed the guard of honour before the match and took part in a pitch walk at half-time.

On Sunday morning, the team competed in a tournament against Newton Abbot and Devonport Services. They displayed outstanding teamwork and skill, winning all three games and showcasing some fantastic rugby.

The boys thoroughly enjoyed the tour experience and are already looking forward to their next tour adventure!



Here they are, along with former St. Mary's pupil, Samuel, photographed with French international Matthieu Jalibert.

# Courageous Advocate

We are proud to share that our courageous advocate, Rex, will be cutting his hair to support the Paediatrics Department at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Treliske. This department has been instrumental in providing exceptional care and support for Rex, and he is undertaking this challenge as a way to give back.



If you would like to contribute to this important cause and support Rex in his admirable endeavour, donations can be made via the link below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/rexscharityhaircut?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/page/rexscharityhaircut?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL)

We thank you for your generosity and encouragement as Rex takes on this meaningful challenge to make a difference.

## Recommended Read



*Time Keys: Hunt for the Golden Scarab*

*Author: M G Leonard*

*Sim's mum is a museum caretaker and a martial arts expert. Her mantra is 'always be alert to the dangers around you', which Sim has always thought was a bit odd. Exactly what 'dangers' is he supposed to be alert to?*

*Then, whilst cleaning the museum one evening, some unwelcome after-hours visitors turn up looking for Mum. Without a word of explanation, Mum pulls out a penny whistle, plays a few notes and opens a door to the past through which she and Sim escape.*

*Confused, and more than a bit scared, Sim learns about the powerful gift that runs in his family and the sinister Council of Keys who outlaw unauthorised time travel.*

*As he, Mum, and some loyal friends strive to find the lost tomb of Nefertiti before the Council, and to solve the mystery of the golden scarab, Sim realises that the 'dangers' are very real and potentially deadly.*

*This gripping, thrill-packed, time slip adventure whisks readers away to Egypt, both ancient and modern, and is full of fascinating historical detail lived in the first person.*

*As Sim discovers, music has the power to transport us to different times and places, but in his case, quite literally!*

*Interest Age: 9-11*

*Reading Age: 9+*

# TT Rockstars!

A big congratulations to our TT Rockstars of the Week! These top performers have been smashing their times tables with speed and accuracy. Well done to everyone for their hard work and dedication. Keep practising, and let's see who will rock the charts next week!

## Hope Class

Monty

Ruby

Zak

## Friendship Class

Zane

Angel

Wilfred

## Compassion Class

Max

Prisha

Louis

## Courage Class

Isla

Isaac

Freddie P

Well done, everyone! Keep practising!



# Jigsaw Weekly Celebration

*This week, we will be celebrating people who:*

*Stay motivated when doing something  
challenging*

*Reggie Keast, Riley Halliday, Willow Thomas, Maria Filat, Isaac Bradbury, Noah Herbert, Isaac Verran, Reza Mokkaaram, Luna Alibuyog, Luna Miller, May Hannon, Daisy Adams, Jowan Pill, Tristan Baden, Luna-Rose Blaney, Sebastian Hadfield, Chloë Ituen, Regan Martin, Rosie Gray, Lox-Lowen Walton, Sam Treganowan, Arlo Taylor, Alina Paul, Aurelia Rankine, Monty Cannon, Xymon De Los Reyes, Aliyah Kanagaraj, Ralph Trevail, Ruby Whaley, Ivy Wyatt, Angel Lin, Zane Rago, Lily Walker, Kimberly Moyo, Lowenna Stevenson, Annabelle Young, Rose Perry, Isaac Andrzejuk-Allen, Isla Whaley, Carmen Hadfield, Daniel Gomez, Alice Jones, Louis Burrows, Alina Lin, Prisha Dhumane, Jack Keast, Ahdia Afshen, Eve Baker, Sophie Bostock, Poppy Hagan, Damien Gabriel-Williams, Rudo Keeler, Idris Gough, Freddie Paul, Isaac Shirley, Lily Stobbs, Olivia Stock*



# ★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

- |        |            |  |
|--------|------------|--|
| Year R | Sunrise    | Reggie Keast<br>For persevering all the time! Keep it up!  |
| Year 1 | Joy        | Luna Alibuyog<br>For challenging herself with reading in PIRA test and improving skills in handwriting   |
| Year 2 | Trust      | Lox-Lowen Walton<br>For excellent effort in reading  |
| Year 3 | Hope       | Harvey Chase<br>For focussing extremely hard with his handwriting and English work. I am so proud of you!  |
| Year 4 | Friendship | Isaac Andrzejuk-Allen<br>For perfect behaviour for learning  |
| Year 5 | Compassion | Prisha Dhumane<br>For an outstanding and well prepared show and tell (complete with photos and slides) about her visit to Bath and Cheddar Gorge |
| Year 6 | Courage    | Olivia Stock<br>For being a kind and supportive peer this week and helping others with their learning  |

# 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
Wednesday 25th 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.*