Friday 20th November 2026

NEWSLETTER



Rachel Clift

Headteacher

Pondhu Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our school community came together to mark Anti-Bullying Week, celebrating the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion. We began on Monday with Odd Socks Day, where pupils and staff proudly wore mismatched socks to celebrate individuality and remind us that our differences make us special.



On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 children took part in a valuable Stay Safe Workshop, developing their understanding of how to stay safe both online and offline, and learning strategies to help them recognise, prevent and respond to bullying. Throughout the week, children engaged in thoughtful discussions and activities that reinforced our commitment to creating a school where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.





STAR LEARNERS

Join us in celebrating children who have shone in their learning, effort and attitude this week

POTTER CLASS

MUFARO

for trying his best in all his learning this week

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

CHRISTINA

for consistently working hard and showing a love of learning

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

ARMSTRONG CLASS

KINEN

for brightening our day with his lovely smiles

MRS SCOTLAND | SB

GOODALL CLASS

JACK

for working hard in all lessons and being kind and helpful

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

OLIVER

for a fantastic effort to improve and be his best

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

JESSE

for a week of hard work and much improved focus

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

BRITISH VALUES CHAMPIONS

Join us in celebrating children who have demonstrated the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance

POTTER CLASS

AURORA

for being so kind to others and for doing all she can to help

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

MIKEY

for for being kind and respectful to everyone

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

GOODALL CLASS

SCARLETT

for being so kind, helpful and tolerant

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

RILEY

for always following the Golden Rules

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

ISLA

for being kind and respectful to everyone

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Top Class for Attendance EYFS / KS1

Kahlo



Top Class for Attendance KS2

Goodall



Most improved Attendance

Kahlo

TARGET: 96%

Whole School Attendance Snapshot

94%

Leave during term time

We understand that there are occasions when families need to request exceptional leave for their child during term time.

In such cases, it is essential to submit an absence form well in advance. These are available at the school office and on our website.

We will only authorised these requests in exceptional circumstances, and we will review each application on a case-by-case basis.

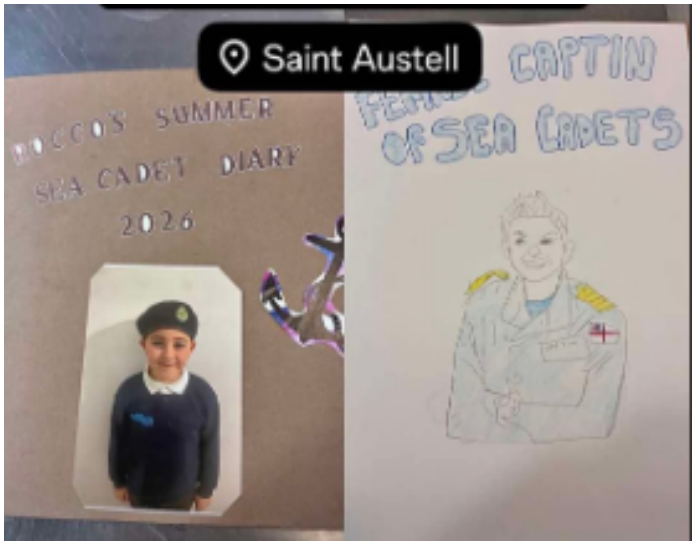
Please be aware that taking unauthorised leave may mean you become liable for a fine. To help you plan ahead, term dates are available on the school website.



SEA CADETS PRESENTATION

Well done Rocco for achieving your ‘Go Paddling’ award for learning to Kayak. This certificate was awarded to Rocco by Captain KcKenzie - the first ever female Sea Cadets Captain.

Rocco had drawn a picture of Captain McKenzie in his Sea Cadets Diary that impressed her so much that she was delighted to meet Rocco and award his certificate.



PONDHU COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Meet your Community Champions

Our school has a team of **Community Champions**: volunteers from our school community who help us understand what it's really like to be part of Pondhu. They talk to children, families, staff and local people, and share what they hear with the school and with Cornwall Education Learning Trust (CELT). Champions aren't inspectors or governors, and they don't deal with complaints. They're here to listen.

Our Champions are: Monaldo Manko, Lisa Belcham, Christine Anderson-Coborn, Wendy Gorvett, Josh Tyers and Sara Martin, and Wendy Gorvett is our Chair. You might see them at the school gate / at school events.

What we heard

In October, our Community Champions spent time with 46 children from Years 1 to 6 who don't currently go to an after-school club, to hear about clubs from their point of view. People told us:

- More children are taking part in clubs than before, including art, food technology and football.
- Children love the lunchtime activities run by our Year 6 Play Leaders.
- Because the clubs plan for the whole year is published, many children are already looking forward to clubs later in the year.

Things that could be better:

- Some children thought clubs cost money or are already full.
- Some younger children weren't sure which clubs are on offer or what clubs such as multi-skills involve.
- For some families, the school run to a brother or sister's school clashes with after-school clubs.

What we've learned

This fits with our aim that every child takes part in at least one club this year. Cost and information came up in several year groups, so we know it isn’t a one-off.

How we’re responding

- Teachers are talking to children about the clubs on offer and what these involve.
- We have ensured that any clubs which cost money are identified on the clubs list however the majority of clubs are free.
- Emails are sent to parents when there are spaces in clubs so that parents are able to sign up.
- Play Leaders will support our younger children with activities at playtimes.
- We are looking into how we can support families who need to collect children from different schools and this restricts children being able to stay after school.

Children also suggested swimming and roller skating as new clubs. Have an idea? Tell the school office!

What happens next

Our Champions will visit again in February. If you’d like to share your views, or find out about becoming a Community Champion, speak to the school office. Parents, carers, grandparents, former pupils and local people are all welcome.

Coming up at Pondhu

View Full Calendar

24 Tuesday 24th November	Football and Netball Fixture @ Mevagissey
26 Thursday 26th November	Some Y5 Poltair music, art and drama
23 Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November	UK Parliament Week

TERM DATES 2026-2027
Autumn Term 2026

Saturday 19th December 2026 - Sunday 3rd January 2027: Christmas Holidays
Spring Term 2027
Monday 4th January 2027 - Term Begins
Saturday 13th February 2027 - Sunday 21st February 2027: Half-term
Friday 26th March 2027 (Bank Holiday) - Sunday 11th April 2027: Easter Holidays
Summer Term 2027
Monday 12th April 2027: Term Begins
Monday 3rd May 2027: Bank Holiday
Saturday 29th May 2027 - Sunday 6th June 2027: Half-term
Friday 23rd July 2027: Final Day of Term

Christmas Events 2026

Nursery Christmas Cafe - Tuesday 15th December @ 9.00 am

Reception/Year1 Christmas Cafe - Monday 14th December @ 2.15 pm

Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Cafe - Wednesday 16th December @ 2.15 pm

Specialist Base Christmas Cafe - Wednesday 16th December @ 2.15 pm

KS2 Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church Tuesday 8th December @ 2.00 pm

Mayor's Carol Concert @ St.John's Methodist Church - Friday 4th December @ 6.00 pm

Santa's on the run - Tuesday 15th December @ 1.30 pm

Christmas Dinner (Christmas jumper day) - Thursday 17th December



Virtual Classroom

Links for home practice

WB: 16.11.2026

Please use the videos below to practise the sounds your children have been learning this week with them at home. Your child will know which group they are in based on the colour books they are reading, and which adult leads the group. This will indicate which films they should be watching. If you have any questions about Virtual Classroom, please ask Mrs Vine.

Colour Group RWI Teacher	Sounds or skills	Links
Group A/B Mrs Rundle	i k c f e Fred Game	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JiQzXCLb/laGfu6tR https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qzGgnmBt/QnYJnxew https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7bLyngjm/ytbKhiQ2 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YwUdPpiT/SXLSNrNe https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Mmb4z5K5/OlEi8ORv https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/LVK7g2CG/Lxeb5DjL
Group C Mrs Rundle	i k c f e word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/JiQzXCLb/laGfu6tR https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/qzGgnmBt/QnYJnxew https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7bLyngjm/ytbKhiQ2 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/YwUdPpiT/SXLSNrNe https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Mmb4z5K5/OlEi8ORv https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GG7bqorR/vI5Fy0ay
Ditty Mrs Dell	ch th nk qu sh word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Vw9LWcb4/Wo1DQFjI https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/lwuSCQ0t/IKtYc3uX https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KjVsXntS/3zCtPHoH https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/baDTG4rT/NO3C9tPN https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/E9NscNYN/rknApaoy https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/SRyfTxCz/oRgSIKXQ
Purple Group Mrs Chappell/ Mrs Vine	air ir ar word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1DvdHjEt/tWr2bRGB https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/1A9FsV1V/q2pz64qO https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xPlIPWBi/BUHg8yW3 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Ve3vABSy/Z03W6ocP https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/jmo6bS1O/cN9ekCKg
Orange Group Mrs Hackworth	ai ew ear word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/dEEIBwZS/sTOQKmRF https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9Q1z5UeJ/n19qFj53 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/hxGTOgpk/A03TrIdx https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/480D8Y39/ysk5k22Q https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/26PfjIcl/OYgh4FNX
Yellow Group Miss Maskell	are i-e au word challenge	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/aBZxluul/fpS4aHXH https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/RItAdd98/PFVuPqad https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/DvpUyusJ/PMPYyy9Z https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/480D8Y39/ysk5k22Q https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/z2HEe7e9/mqJRGRdu

	speeding up word reading	
Blue Group Mrs Bailey	ible ious red words word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/IpfXsPzt/0sLMYIAa https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MZgfvjoi/PTO7pbzt https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2nrkauSK/13fr8mSL https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/480D8Y39/ysk5k22Q https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/bxI8z8Vi/ackn0fHS



Just one week to go until bookings are live for Christmas!

Christmas activities go live for bookings on Monday 23rd November!

Eligibility Changes

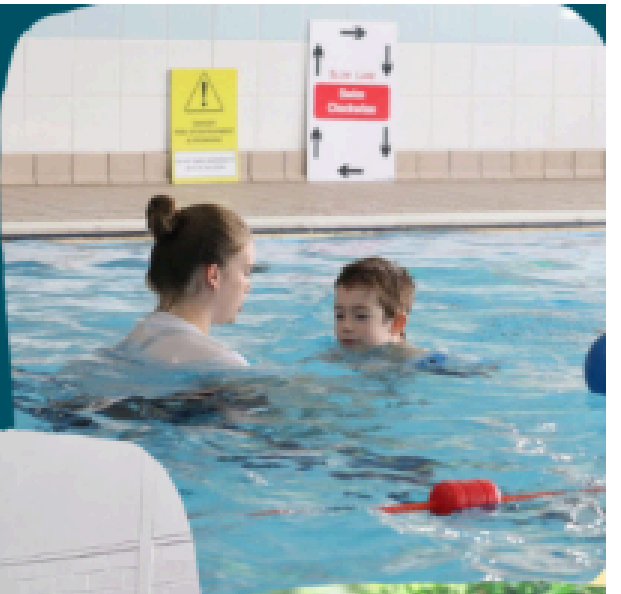
The Department for Education (DfE) recently changed eligibility criteria for the programme and you should have received guidance direct from DfE outlining any changes to your eligibility.

There are more details on our website at: https://www.activecornwall.org/t2mholidayprogramme/ to try and help explain these eligibility changes in terms of targeted and expanded Free School Meals (FSM).

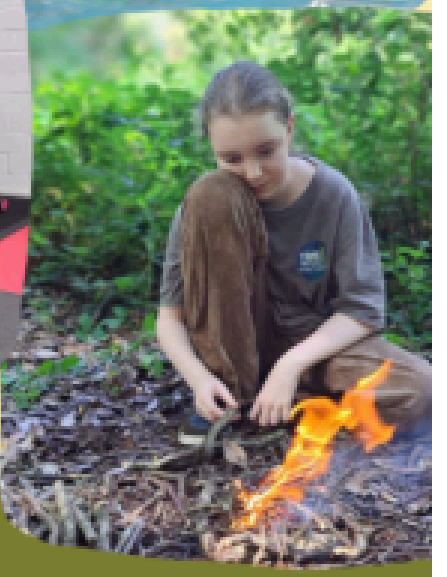
If your eligibility has changed, you may no longer be able to access the programme on a fully funded basis in future. However, we're pleased to have secured some additional funding which ensures that everyone who was previously eligible for Time2Move funded provision, remains able to access our programme over the Christmas period.

We are also working hard to find a longer term solution to these national changes for families in Cornwall.

TIME 2 MOVE Holiday Programme







CHRISTMAS 2026

- Activities including dance, outdoor activities, nerf, laser tag, day trips and lots more - for children aged 5 to 16
- Every session includes a healthy meal for all children
- Funded places for ALL children eligible for targeted free school meals

Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the Christmas holidays from 21st - 31st December

Scan here to book!

www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme

www.activecornwall.org.uk/Time2Move

Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk

Funded by
Department for Education

Free Entry!

St Austell Library Winter Craft Fayre



Sat 21st Nov, 10am–1pm

Local crafters and makers with stalls full of fun, creative and affordable festive gifts!

Plus:

★ SALSA Pre-Loved Stall

★ Refreshments ★ Meet ponies in the garden

For more information, come to the Help Desk,
e: staustell.library@liscornwall.org.uk/t: 0300 1234 111
FB: StAustellLibrary IG: staustell.library

FREE

WINTER WONDERLAND

SATURDAY 28th NOVEMBER

2 - 4:30pm



HOLY TRINITY ST AUSTELL

For more info, scan QR code or visit:

FUN-FILLED EVENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY

BRANNEL SCHOOL

ASPIRATION | RESPECT | RESILIENCE

BASKETBALL CLUB



YEAR 5 & 6

FREE!

TUESDAYS

4:00 - 5:00PM

BRANNEL SCHOOL

JOIN BRANNEL BASKETBALL CLUB, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CORNWALL COUGARS AND SARACENS BASKETBALL, TO DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS, BUILD CONFIDENCE, HAVE FUN AND ENJOY PLAYING BASKETBALL!

BOOK HERE



