

● Friday 14th November 2025

Issue 9

NEWSLETTER

LYTHER NOWODHOW

Message from Mr Sturges

Thank you to all those who came along to the parent consultation meetings this week. It was lovely to see so many of you and to have the opportunity to discuss your children's progress. If you weren't able to attend, please don't worry, just get in touch with your child's class teacher to arrange a suitable time to catch up.

We hope that communications across the school have improved recently. However, if you are still experiencing any difficulties or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to come in and see Mrs V or myself, we're always happy to help.

A huge thank you also goes to our volunteer drivers who helped with transport to the football fixtures and the Swallows gym sessions this week. Your support makes these valuable experiences possible for our pupils.

With the Christmas play fast approaching, rehearsals are now taking place at Gweek Village Hall. Attached to this newsletter you'll find important information about which classes need to be dropped off or collected from school on rehearsal days, please take a moment to read through the details carefully.

Finally, our wonderful PTA, FROGS (Friends of Garras School), will be holding a meeting at The Black Swan in Gweek soon. They would love to see as many parents as possible, whether you can offer a little time or a lot, every bit of help is appreciated. Sadly, the number of members has reached a critically low level, and without new volunteers, FROGS may not be able to continue. I'm sure you'll agree this would be a real loss, given the tremendous support they provide through fundraising for new resources, helping with events such as the Christmas play, and providing refreshments for celebrations like Sports Day.

Thank you all for your continued support of our school community. Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing you all next week!

Warm regards,



GARRAS CP SCHOOL
SKOL GYNNA KEMENETH
GARROS



SAFEGUARDING

<https://www.qwell.io>

It is a free, anonymous online service to support adults with their wellbeing and mental health.

Tel: 01326 221653

garrassecretary@croftymat.org

Introducing Our Chair of Governors

Hello, my name is Matt Brierley. I live in Falmouth with my wife and our three children and became the Acting Chair of Governors at Garras School in June this year. I have been a trustee at Crofty for the past 2 and a half years so having the opportunity to be involved at Garras in a more personal way has been a real privilege. To see the wonderful work happening in all the various owl classes and exciting trips as well as witnessing the dedication of the staff has been a real joy! Being able to share in the children's learning journeys has given me lots of opportunity to return to Crofty with positive stories of all the things Garras school does so well.

I have found being a governor to be incredibly rewarding. It allows me to support the school by looking closely at how things are working in key areas, helping to keep the Crofty MAT informed at a local level, and hear regularly about the school's plans for the future.

As you will see from the newsletter, there are currently two vacancies for parent governors, and I would warmly encourage anyone who feels able to give a little time to the school to speak with Mr Sturges or read through the attached information to find out more about the role.

We are a friendly and engaged governing committee, and our shared aim is to ensure that every child at Garras School has the best possible opportunities to thrive. We would love to be joined by a couple more parents on this journey, working with Mr Sturges and the other staff to constantly be seeking to give every child at Garras school the best opportunities to reach their full potential at Garras and going forwards in life.



Parent Governor Election Announcement

Do you want to help improve the life chances of every child in your school?

Do you want to help make a difference?

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Can you spare some time to help us?

We are looking for two parent's to join the existing team of parents, community members and staff who work together as our Local Governance Committee.

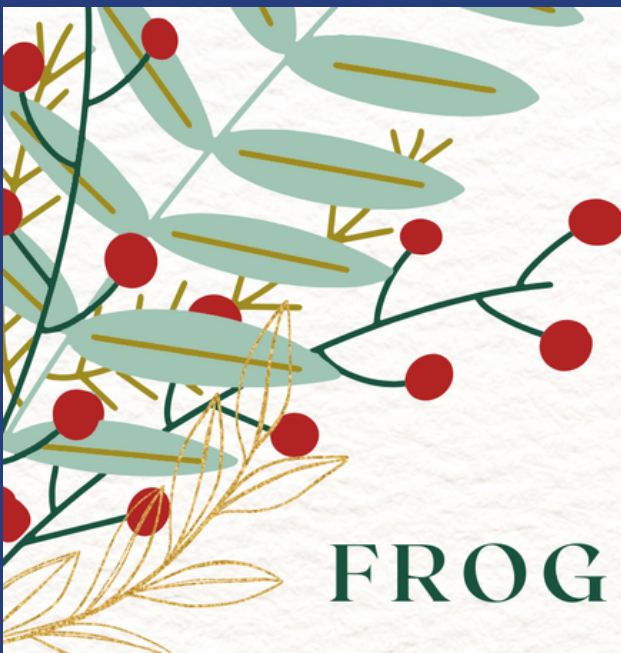
As a governor you can help make a difference to every child in the school – by being a critical friend and both supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement.

You do not need previous experience of governance or education – just the motivation to make a difference and the willingness to commit your time and energy.

The Local Governance Committee meets every half term on a Thursday at 5:30pm.

If this sounds like **you** please contact the school office, and they will provide you with further details about the role, and a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is Monday 1st December.





FROGS MEETING

If you enjoy all things Christmas and would like to be involved in Garras School's Christmas festivities please join us for the next FROGS meeting.

THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER
7.30PM
THE BLACK SWAN, GWEEK



BARN OWLS

KOWANNOW GWYNN

This week in Barn Owls...

In phonics, the reception have been working hard on their blending. We have been using our phonics reading books to help us, using our 'sticky finger' to follow the sounds we say and put them together to make words. They have blown our socks off with how well they have adjusted to this new learning.

Year 1 have continued with their story 'Leo and the octopus'. They have been using adjectives and 'bossy verbs' also known as imperative verbs, to make their writing more interesting. Linking to the book the reception have created an aquarium, discussing what an aquarium is and what creatures we would find in one.

In year 1, we have also completed our maths unit of 'addition and subtraction up to 20' and will be moving on to 'place value' next week!

We have been creating lots of obstacle courses outside to show off our skills: jumping, weaving, balancing and even lifting a 'barbell'.

We have so much to look forward to in the coming weeks including our Christmas play practise! We are also hoping to improve and develop our outdoor space so we can get our Wild Tribe activities up and running. Please keep an eye out for emails regarding this.

As always, thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Barn Owls team



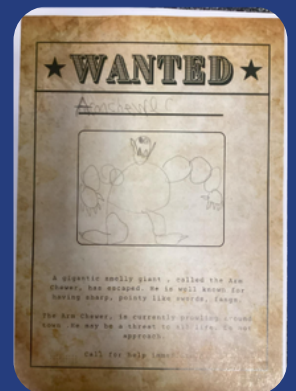
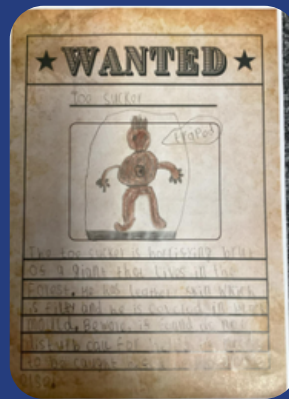
HAWK OWLS

Kowannow Sparr Hok

In Literacy, we've been getting creative by developing our own giants, inspired by The BFG! The children had great fun writing character descriptions and creating Wanted Posters to share their ideas. We also wrote revolting recipes using command sentences, and some of the ingredients the children came up with were perfectly disgusting!

In Geography, we used world maps to locate the North and South Poles and practised using a compass. After singing the Compass Points Song to remember North, East, South, and West, the children labelled their maps and discovered some fascinating facts, such as how the North Pole floats on ice, while the South Pole sits on land in Antarctica, the coldest place on Earth.

In RE this week, we started our new topic by asking, "Who was Jesus?" The children learned that Christians believe Christmas celebrates God coming to Earth as a human through Jesus. We explored beautiful Nativity artworks from around the world, shared ideas about what they show, and then created some artwork of our own.



EAGLE OWLS

Kowannow Er

What a fantastic week it's been for the Eagle Owls!

Last Friday, Garras School were incredibly well represented by our two Eco-Councillors: Barnaby and Otilie. Their contribution to the discussions and passion coming back to school to make changes has been commendable.

The class have been busy conducting hands-on science experiments all about measuring force—lots of curious minds and great teamwork on display.

We've also been rehearsing enthusiastically for our school Christmas play, which is shaping up beautifully. Please continue to practice your children's lines with them. This will help them to be even more confident and animated when up on stage.

On Thursday, we celebrated the brilliant author Michael Rosen in a special live lesson that had everyone laughing and learning. To top it all off, our football team achieved an amazing result in the recent competition - well done, everyone! 🏈🌞

Looking ahead, next week promises to be just as exciting with the KS2 Girls' Football League (Monday), a Christmas play practice at Gweek Village Hall (Tuesday), and a swimming gala (Wednesday). What a busy and brilliant bunch of Eagle Owls!



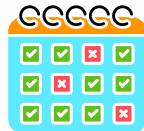
Garras Notice Board

Bord Argemynnow Garros



Please use the Absence Request form for your child absence. You can find the form on the school website

or [click here!](#)



School Communications to parents



Arbor

in-app messages and emails used for day to day communications.

Parent Pay

used for trips consents and payments.

Teachers2parents

available until the 7th July 2026 and used for reminders. After that date Crofty is moving to Arbor.

It is important that everyone sign up to Arbor app and Parent Pay website.

Any questions please contact Mrs V.

Thank you for your patience and support during our communication system transition.



A kind reminder to not park on the zig-zag yellow line by the school area and on the yellow double lines by the roundabout during school drop off and pick up hours.

An amendment for the football league

Monday 3rd November is a Crofty inset day and we have three Crofty schools due to take part. Therefore, this date is POSTPONED. The new date for the schools due to take part is on Monday 24th November 2025."



The school is selling honey kindly donated by Isaac's Dad. It's £5 a jar and the amount raised will be donated to Frogs. Thank you for your support!



We are looking for volunteers to help to rearrange our school library. If you have spare time, please contact Mrs V.



Christmas play rehearsal timetables

Tuesday 18th November: Hawks Owls and Eagle Owls please drop your children at Gweek Village Hall between 8.30 and 8.45 am.

Tuesday 25th November: Eagle Owls please drop your children at Gweek Village Hall between 8.30 and 8.45 am.

Tuesday 2nd December: Whole School please drop your children at Gweek Village Hall between 8.30 and 8.45 am.

Tuesday 9th December: Whole School please drop your children at Gweek Village Hall between 8.30 and 8.45 am.

Christmas play Friday 12th December If you are not at the evening play please pick up your child at 3.15pm Gweek Village Hall

If your children are doing Breakfast club those mornings, they will be transported by a member of the staff.

Congratulations
to Beatrice and Otilie
for participating to Camborne
Music Festival



Congratulations to:

Harvey

New member of the exclusive 22 club in
Maths

Joff

New member of the exclusive 33 club in
Maths

Brennan

New member of the exclusive 66 club in
Maths

Join the
CELEBRATION!



The pupils took part in the 2 minute silence at the memorial for Remembrance on Tuesday 11th November.



A special thank you to Jasper, Harvey and Gracie who represented Garras School and Owlets at the Remembrance ceremony Sunday morning.



Congratulations to our football team for representing Garras School in the Football Tournament on Monday. They came 3rd and qualified for the finals on Friday and were a credit to the school. They were even spotted by one of the Plymouth Argyle Academy trainers about their amazing defensive skills.



REMINDERS

KOFHEANSOVV

Cross Country Dates

Tuesday 16th September	Race 1	Reception/KS1 and KS2	Helston South Site- 4pm
Tuesday 7th October	Race 2	Reception/KS1 and KS2	Mullion- 4pm
Tuesday 4th November	Race 3	KS2	Helston North Site- 4pm
Tuesday 24th February	Race 4	KS2/Peninsula qualifier	Helston South Site 4pm
March	Peninsula Final	KS2	TBC 4-5pm
March	School Games Final	KS2	Newquay
Tuesday 28th April	Race 5	Reception/KS1 and KS2	Helston North
Tuesday 12th May	Race 6	Reception/KS1 and KS2	Helston South Site - 4pm
Tuesday 9th June	Fun Run	Reception/KS1 and KS2	Mullion 4pm

Y5/6 Football Tournament Dates

Date	Time	Year group	Venue
15.9.25	3:45-5pm	Y5/6	Helston Astro
6.10.25	3:45-5pm	Y5/6	Helston Astro
24.11.25	3:45-5pm	Y5/6	Helston Astro
17.11.25 GIRLS ONLY	3:45-5pm	Y5/6	Helston Astro
1.12.25	3:45-5pm	Y5/6	Helston Astro

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDYANS

Barn Owls 100%

Hawk Owls 97.78%

Eagle Owls 96.76%

Whole school 96.42%

INSET DAYS

Monday 5th January 2026

Mon 23rd February 2026

Friday 8th May 2026

Monday 22nd June 2026

Thursday 23rd July 2026

PE & GYM DAYS

Barn Owls

Gymnastics - Thursday

PE - Friday

Hawk Owls

Gymnastics - Thursday

PE - Friday

Eagle Owls

Gymnastics - Monday

PE - Friday



DIARY DATES

DEDHYASOW DHYDHLVER

Mon 17 th November	Eagle Owls Gymnastics Football Tournament Y5/6 Girls only 3.45pm to 5pm
Tue 18 th November	Christmas Play rehearsal
Wed 19 th November	Swim Gala Helston pool KS2 9am to 12pm SATS Club 3.15pm to 4.15pm
Thurs 20 th November	Barn Owls and Hawk Owls Gymnastics Mr Sturges out all day Frogs meeting time 7.30pm Black Swan Gweek
Mon 24 th November	Eagle Owls Gymnastics Football Tournament Y5/6 3.45pm to 5pm
Tue 25 th November	Hawks Owls Tate St.Ives visit Christmas Play rehearsal
Wed 26 th November	<u>NO SATS Club</u>
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Play Matinee 2pm Evening 6pm
Wed 17 th December	School Christmas lunch Recreation Hall
Friday 19 th December	Christingle Last day of Term

Cornwall Council 2025/2026 School Term Dates for Community and Voluntary-Controlled Schools

September 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thurs	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

October 2025						
Mon	6	13	20	27		
Tue	7	14	21	28		
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

November 2025						
Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tue	4	11	18	25		
Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thurs	6	13	20	27		
Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	



School holidays

Bank holidays

Christmas Day	25 December 2025
Boxing Day	26 December 2025
New Years Day	01 January 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026
Easter Monday	06 April 2026
May Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

AUTUMN TERM (73 days)

3 September - 19 December 2025
(HALF TERM 27 - 31 October 2025)

SPRING TERM (59 days)

5 January - 2 April 2026
(HALF TERM 16 - 20 February 2026)

SUMMER TERM (63 days)

20 April - 23 July 2026
(HALF TERM 25 - 29 May 2026)

195 days are included on the school calendar.
Schools will be open to pupils for 190 days. The five additional days are allotted for In-Service Training (INSET). Schools allocate their own INSET days.

Academy, trust and voluntary-aided schools set their own term dates and INSET days.

June 2026						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thurs	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

July 2026						
Mon	6	13	20	27		
Tue	7	14	21	28		
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

August 2026						
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	
Tue	4	11	18	25		
Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thurs	6	13	20	27		
Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	



ROBLOX
Powering Imagination

According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play.' For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

What parents need to know about **ROBLOX**

ROBLOX STUDIO

The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.

CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS

Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.

ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS

When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux', which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux'. Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



**National
Online
Safety**

Top Tips for Parents

ALERT!

Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There are a lot of phishing scams that advertise free Robux etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION

In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2-STEP VERIFICATION

Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT

Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat.

IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

 **FACE**
 Are you struggling with a defiant child?



Facing Defiance

A six part online course for parents that you can complete in your own time. A step by step guide through a specific strategy aimed to support parents of children aged between 5 to 12 who are displaying very challenging behaviour, including children with ADHD, ODD and PDA.

go to facefamilyadvice.co.uk
 Book online £48
 on the **Online Parenting Courses** page

 **Merry Christmas!** 

December Timetable
 All sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
 Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
 Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm

 In aid of Garra's Owlets pre-school, fundraising to provide vital resources, trips and outdoor equipment for the children



Silent Auction 25th of November

Come and join us at The Ship Inn Mawgan from 7:30pm, pasty supper, great atmosphere and amazing lots to win



CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



Gather Community Cafe
MAWGAN, TR12 6AX

Thursday 27th November

Drop in 10 till 2 pm
 £15 pp

Christmas Family Photoshoot
 Saturday 22nd November

at
 St Keverne Preschool

- Choice of 2 Backgrounds
- 15 Minute session
- Digital files included

ONLY £20 ~ Limited spaces left

Contact: stkevernepreschool@hotmail.com to book your session.

HELSTON TOWN BAND
THE SNOWMAN
The Film, The Music, The Magic - Live!



A FESTIVE FIRST HALF OF SEASONAL FAVOURITES, WITH GUEST PERFORMANCES FROM CHARLOTTE LAITY

FOLLOWED BY THE SNOWMAN ON THE BIG SCREEN, WITH LIVE MUSIC FROM HELSTON TOWN BAND

2PM & 6PM TUES 23 DECEMBER 2025
PRINCESS PAVILION, FALMOUTH
 TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE | WWW.HELSTONTOWNBAND.CO.UK

HELSTON RAILWAY

Christmas Trains




Santa Train Dates (December 2025)
 6th, 7th, 13th, 14th, 20th, 21st, 22nd

Santa Train Times
 10:00, 11:30, 15:00

Train of Light Time
 17:30

Ticket Prices
 Adult £10
 Child £11.50
 Under 5 years £5

Child and under 5 prices include present from Santa!

visit www.helstonrailway.co.uk