

NEWSLETTER

LYTHER NOWODHOW

Message from Mr Sturges

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school after the half-term break. The children have returned full of enthusiasm, and it has been a real pleasure hearing all about what they learned during their recent trips to the Eden Project. The experiences clearly sparked curiosity and inspired some fantastic discussions back in the classroom.

Our World Book Day tokens have already proved to be a great success at the community café. It was particularly lovely to see Iris and Nathaniel confidently helping with serving customers. They did a fantastic job representing our school and demonstrating such positive community spirit.

Next week, we look forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th. This will be another opportunity for children from our school and others in the community to visit the café and spend their tokens. We are also very excited about dressing up as characters from Roald Dahl's wonderful stories. It promises to be a fun and memorable day for everyone.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do feel free to catch me at the gate in the mornings. I am always happy to talk.

Best wishes,



GARRAS CP SCHOOL
SKOL GYNSA 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

BARN OWLS

KOWANNOW GWYNN

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic and busy week we have had in Barn Owls!

In Literacy, the children have been busy investigating some mysterious eggs left in our classroom. We carefully described what we noticed, thinking about their size, shape, colour, texture and patterns, and who they might belong to. The children impressed us with their use of adjectives and imaginative ideas. We then thought hard about how animals can look after their eggs, creating freeze frames and writing a guide for the animals using bossy verbs!

In Maths, Year 1 have been learning what an array is, recognising rows and columns and using their knowledge of equal groups to further their learning. Reception have been revisiting their knowledge of number order, the staircase pattern and the concept of 'more'.

We had an exciting trip to the Eden Project on Thursday which linked beautifully to our science learning. The children learned all about plants, how they grow, change and why different environments help different plants to grow. We enjoyed exploring the incredible biomes where the children were fascinated by the size and shapes of the tropical and Mediterranean plants from around the world. They asked very thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity throughout the day.

In Wild Tribe, we have continued developing our practical skills and linking to the topic of seasons and spring! We explored all the signs of spring that we expect to see in the next few weeks, and made colourful wind streamers using ribbons and practising their knot-tying skills to secure them, which is great for their fine motor skills. We also made more bird feeders to help care for the wildlife around our school grounds. To keep warm after our outdoor learning, we made a fire and enjoyed a cup of hot chocolate together!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Barn Owls Team 😊



HAWK OWLS

Kowannow Sparr Hok

This week we had an exciting trip to The Eden Project to take part in their workshop, 'Puzzling Plants'. Claire from the Eden Project led us around the Rainforest Biome, where we became detectives, searching for interesting and puzzling plants while collecting hidden pieces of a jigsaw. We learned so much!

We discovered that some plants live on top of others, getting all their nutrients from the air, while others have roots that grow above the ground. We also saw the world's deadliest tree, the Sandbox Tree (*Hura crepitans*), which shoots its spiky seeds out at an incredible 160 mph! Luckily, Eden carefully manages the tree and cuts it back before this happens - phew! We even found a very special plant that "plays dead" to avoid being eaten, curling up its leaves when touched, and another that doesn't like rain, so water simply runs off its leaves, leaving them completely dry. It was a wonderful day and all the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

In literacy, we explored the characters of the Old Men in our class book and began writing descriptive words about them using our inference skills. We have also started writing a set of instructions on how to live forever - the children came up with some wonderfully funny suggestions!

In maths, we have begun learning about fractions, and the children have enjoyed relating this to food. So, when you are cutting up a cake or pizza at home, they may now be able to explain numerators and denominators to you!

We hope you all had a lovely, restful half term. Over the next few weeks, we look forward to seeing you at parents' evening to celebrate your child's learning. If you haven't already done so, please book a time using Arbor.

Have a lovely weekend!



EAGLE OWLS

Kowannow Er

Eagle Owls Weekly Update 🦉

Our main focus this week has been Design and Technology, where the children have been busy designing and creating their own automata toys. They carefully planned their designs before measuring, sawing, sanding, gluing and drilling to construct sturdy frames. The class then experimented with different cams (CAM mechanisms) to adapt and refine the movement of their toppers. To complete their projects, they designed and added detailed foregrounds and backgrounds, resulting in some fantastic finished pieces.

In PE, we have continued developing our basketball skills, focusing on control, passing, and teamwork. It's been great to see growing confidence and coordination.

In Computing, we have started our new unit on photo editing. The children have been experimenting with rotation and colour effects, learning how to edit images for a specific purpose and audience.

A wonderfully creative and hands-on week—well done, Eagle Owls! 🦉



Garras Notice Board

Bord Argemynnw 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 please signs up to the Arbor app and Parent Pay website

Any questions, please contact Mrs V.

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



Spring Parents Evening will take place during the week commencing Monday 2nd March 2026. This year, we are excited to introduce a new booking system via the Arbor parent portal and the parent app, which will allow you to easily book your consultation slot.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the booking process, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

ATTENTION

Term Dates 2026-2027

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An amendment for the football league
New dates

Monday 16th March 2026 (instead of 24/11/25)

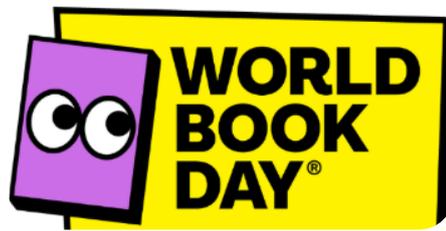


We are looking for more parents to read with the children and to help label our library's books.

Please contact Mrs V if you are interested.

Thank you for your support.





We are thrilled to announce that Garras Community Primary School is a book distributor for World Book Day this year! We have teamed up with Gather, Community Café, run by Olivia Bedford.

On Thursday 26th February, a group of volunteer pupils sold books as well as helping out in the Café. Thank you to all who attended to support.

On Thursday 5th March, the whole school will be dressing up as Roald Dahl characters to celebrate World Book Day. We will also have a rota of volunteer pupils working at the café who will be both serving food/drinks and selling books between 10am-4:30pm. These books are redeemable by any and all children within our community so please spread the word and encourage others to come along, explore the selection and share in the joy of reading. There will be vouchers available on the door for any who do not already one.

We look forward to welcoming everyone and celebrating World Book Day together! Made possible with support from The Julia Rausing Trust, Arts Council England, National Year of Reading and World of Books.



Congratulations to:

Hector

New member of the exclusive 55
club in Maths



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



INSET DAYS

Friday 8th May 2026
Monday 22nd June 2026
Thursday 23rd July 2026

2026-2027

2026/27 School Term Dates **Garras School**

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

December 2026		January 2027		February 2027	
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	4 11 18 25	Mon	1 8 15 22
Tue	8 15 22 29	Tue	5 12 19 26	Tue	2 9 16 23
Wed	9 16 23 30	Wed	6 13 20 27	Wed	3 10 17 24
Thurs	3 10 17 24 31	Thurs	7 14 21 28	Thurs	4 11 18 25
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	8 15 22 29	Fri	5 12 19 26
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	9 16 23 30	Sat	6 13 20 27
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	10 17 24 31	Sun	7 14 21 28

March 2027		April 2027		May 2027	
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	8 15 22 29
Tue	2 9 16 23 30	Tue	6 13 20 27	Tue	4 11 18 25
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	5 12 19 26
Thurs	4 11 18 25	Thurs	1 8 15 22 29	Thurs	6 13 20 27
Fri	5 12 19 26	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	7 14 21 28
Sat	6 13 20 27	Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	8 15 22 29
Sun	7 14 21 28	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	9 16 23 30

June 2027		July 2027		August 2027	
Mon	7 14 21 28	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23 30
Tue	8 15 22 29	Tue	6 13 20 27	Tue	3 10 17 24 31
Wed	9 16 23 30	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25
Thurs	3 10 17 24	Thurs	1 8 15 22 29	Thurs	5 12 19 26
Fri	4 11 18 25	Fri	2 9 16 23 30	Fri	6 13 20 27
Sat	5 12 19 26	Sat	3 10 17 24 31	Sat	7 14 21 28
Sun	6 13 20 27	Sun	4 11 18 25	Sun	8 15 22 29

School holidays

Bank holidays

Christmas Day 25 December 2026
Boxing Day 26 December 2026
New Years Day 01 January 2027
Good Friday 26 March 2027
Easter Monday 29 March 2027
May Bank Holiday 03 May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday 31 May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday 30 August 2027

AUTUMN TERM (73 days)
1 September - 18 December 2026
(HALF TERM 19 - 30 October 2026)

SPRING TERM (59 days)
4 January - 25 March 2027
(HALF TERM 15 - 19 February 2027)

SUMMER TERM (63 days)
12 April - 23 July 2027
(HALF TERM 31 May - 4 June 2027)



2025-2026

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

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

December 2025		January 2026		February 2026	
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	Mon	5 12 19 26	Mon	2 9 16 23
Tue	2 9 16 23 30	Tue	6 13 20 27	Tue	3 10 17 24
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	Wed	7 14 21 28	Wed	4 11 18 25
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Mon	2 9 16 23 30	Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	4 11 18 25
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June 2026		July 2026		August 2026	
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	Mon	6 13 20 27	Mon	3 10 17 24 31
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Thurs	4 11 18 25	Thurs	2 9 16 23 30	Thurs	6 13 20 27
Fri	5 12 19 26	Fri	3 10 17 24 31	Fri	7 14 21 28

Information Classification: CONTROLLED



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)
1 September - 18 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)

135 days are included on the school calendar. Schools will be open to pupils for 190 days. The five additional days are allocated 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.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDYANS

Barn Owls 97.62%

Hawk Owls 99.25%

Eagle Owls 98.05%

Whole school 95.24%



PE DAYS

Spring Term PE and Lesson Information

- Barn Owls will have PE on Fridays with Mr Warren.
- Hawk Owls and Eagle Owls will have PE twice a week:
- Thursdays with Mr Sturges
- Fridays with Mr Warren
- On Thursday afternoons, Hawk Owls and Eagle Owls will be taught Computing by Mrs Rayner.
- Music for Hawk Owls and Eagle Owls will continue on Fridays with Mr Sturges.

Please ensure children come to school dressed appropriately for PE on their class PE days.



DIARY DATES

DEDHYASOW DHYDHLVER

From 2 nd March to 5 th March	Parents evening
Tue 3 rd March	Y6 Bikeability
Wed 4 th March	Barn Owls Welly Wednesday Y6 Bikeability No SATS Club
Thurs 5 th March	St Piran's Day World Book Day (WBD books at Community Cafe 10am-4.30pm)
Fri 6 th March	Y6 Wild Tribe
Mon 9 th March	Y3/4 Football League Helston Astro 3.45pm to 5pm
Tue 10 th March	Y5 Bikeability
Wed 11 th March	Barn Owls Welly Wednesday Y5 Bikeability No SATS Club
Thurs 12 th March	Y5 Wild Tribe
Mon 16 th March	Y5/6 Football league Helston Astro from 3.45pm to 5pm
Wed 18 th March	Barn Owls Welly Wednesday SATS Club from 3.15pm to 4.15pm
Thurs 19 th March	Y3/4 Royal Cornwall Y2 Wild Tribe
Fri 20 th March	RNLI Water Smart Assembly
Wed 25 th March	Barn Owls Welly Wednesday SATS Club
Thurs 26 th March	Y4 Wild Tribe
Mon 30 th March	Girls Football league Helston Astro 3.45pm to 5pm
Tue 31 st March	Y3 Wild Tribe
Wed 1 st April	Barn Owls Welly Wednesday
Thurs 2 nd April	Easter service Mawgan Church 2pm Last Day of Spring Term

AGE RESTRICTION
13+



Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, Snapchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having an impact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."



What parents need to know about **SNAPCHAT**



EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat website about uploading images and videos to 'Our Story', stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choose!" When uploading to 'Our Story', your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat - today or in the future."

LENS EXPLORER

The 'Lens Studio' on Snapchat gives users the freedom to use their imagination to design their own filters for themselves and others to use. Snapchat states that the lenses users create "must comply with our Lens Studio Submission Guidelines and Community Guidelines and must be appropriate for Snappers ages 13+." The 'Lens Explorer' in the app now enables users to choose from thousands of these creations to alter their snaps. Anyone can create a lens for Snapchat, which gives opportunities for age-inappropriate content to be uploaded.

SCREENSHOTS & SAVED MESSAGES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, videos and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. They may also accidentally send an image or message to somebody who they do not trust. Simply by pressing and holding a message, the user is able to save a message they have received, which can be screenshotted or used against them at a later date.

SNAPSTREAKS & ADDICTION

'Snap Streaks' are gained when snaps have been sent back and forth consecutively between friends. The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapchat rewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

SEXTING

Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one-second photo or video), Snapchat has become the chosen platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies'. Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying. It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing images, the police can choose to record that a crime has been committed, but taking formal action isn't in the public interest.

SNAP ORIGINALS

Through 'Snap Originals', users can watch content which has been created by Snapchat on the app, including comedy shows, drama, news and more. Additionally, there are new lenses and filters available, inspired by the 'snap originals' shows. This is another feature to encourage addiction.



Top Tips for Parents



THE RISKS OF SEXTING

It can be slightly awkward talking about this topic with your child, but if it helps them protect themselves, it is worth it. Talk to them about the consequences of sexting and make sure that they're aware of the risks. Ensure your child knows that 'Snaps' can be screenshotted. Teach them that if they post anything potentially embarrassing or harmful (either of themselves or someone else) it can have severe consequences as the message, image or video can be shared further.

REPORTING A STORY, LENS, FILTER, SNAP OR MESSAGE

If your child comes across inappropriate Snapchat content sent directly to them or in another person's story, advise them to report it immediately. This may include an inappropriate lens, filter, message or snap. To report an offensive lens, they should open the app and select the lens they want to report. An info button will appear above the lens. Click this, followed by the flag icon. This will send a report to Snapchat for further investigation. Reports can also be made on the Snapchat support website: support.snapchat.com.

USE 'GHOST MODE'

We highly recommend enabling 'Ghost Mode' on the app so that your child's location will no longer be visible to anyone on the 'Snap Map'. To enable this, go onto the Snap Map and tap the cog in the top-right corner. Here, change the setting to 'Ghost Mode'.

HOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

Advise your child never to send any negative messages (or images through gallery in the chat on the app) as screenshots can still be taken. You should also advise your child to screenshot any negative comments they receive as the sender can also delete them. To delete a message, simply press and hold the sent message and press delete.

TURN OFF 'QUICK ADD'

'Quick Add' helps friends find each other on the app. This is based on mutual friends or if their number is in their phone book. Explain to your child that this feature can open up their profile to strangers. We highly recommend that your child turns off the 'Quick Add' feature. This can be done in the settings.

RESTRICT STORY VIEWS

Your child can add videos and images to their 'Story' throughout the day which will last for 24 hours. By default, anyone in a user's friends list can see their story. We recommend checking the privacy settings to ensure that this has not been edited. This can simply be done in the app's settings under the 'Who Can View My Story' section. The options to choose from are 'My Friends', 'Everyone' or 'Custom' - we suggest that it is set to 'My Friends'.



National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

online talk by Jane Keyworth



Supporting a Child with ADHD

Challenging the stereotypes, offering practical support and explaining more about this condition

3rd February 10-11:30am
3rd March 7-8:30pm



Book online
facefamilyadvice.co.uk
£24 or Free with a school membership code



FEBRUARY 2026 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)

Autism - Improving Communication	2 Feb 10am
Improving Family Communication	2 Feb 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	3 Feb 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	3 Feb 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	9 Feb 10am
Anxiety Explained	16 Feb 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	16 Feb 7pm
What is ACT?	17 Feb 10am
Introduction to OCD	17 Feb 7pm
FREE - Reducing the Harm from Screens	19 Feb 7-8pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	23 Feb 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	23 Feb 7pm
Decreasing Depression	24 Feb 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	24 Feb 7pm
Understanding Anger	9 Mar 7pm
Facing Defiance	10 Mar 7pm



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

TROS AN HELLYS
BEGINNER BAND

ALTERNATE SATURDAY MORNINGS, 10:30-12
ST. MICHAELS SCHOOL, HELSTON

vwatkiss@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org
lthrusell@cornwallmusicservicetrust.org

CMST AND ASONE MUSIC

Learn The Ukulele With Us

ST. MICHAELS SCHOOL SATURDAY MORNINGS 10:30-12

LET'S LEARN AND PLAY!

LEARN:

- How to play ukulele
- Ukulele chords
- Basic strumming patterns

For more information, please contact:
SSCOTT@CMST.CO.UK OR VWATKISS@CMST.CO.UK

CMST