

Pensans Community Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term One: Week Beginning 28. 2. 25



PENSANS CP SCHOOL

Future ready - Ny veu kevs sew yans vyth



Mrs Ambrose's Weekly Update

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Although a chilly week isn't it great to see the sunshine out at last! There's been a spring in everyone's step as we returned to school this week and we engage in another exciting half term taking us to Easter. A big shout out and well done to our younger pupils in EYFS & Year 1 who have behaved beautifully on their trip out to Trevaskis Farm this week and also at the Penzance Gymnastics this afternoon. Also to the Yr 3/4 Swimming Group. I am very proud that the Leisure Centre staff let me know that pupils of Pensans are the best behaved group they have at the pool 😊

Our ARB playground has had another upgrade with the new climbing apparatus fitted and the children have been having a fantastic time exploring what they can do. New Accelerated Reader Books have been ordered and the ACE Emporium rewards are on their way following the great fundraising events organised by the Friends of Pensans School who have kindly funded these items.

Keeping on the theme of all things 'Books' we are all looking forward to World Book Day (WBD) next Thursday 6th March. Hopefully you have all seen the amazing brand new costumes that have been donated to the school so that each child can have one free should they wish to dress up on WBD. They come in different shapes and sizes so, if you haven't already, please pop into the office and pick up one for your child. It is on a first come first served basis 😊

A part of WBD we also welcome the incredible author Scott James. This exciting author visit will bring stories to life as Scott shares the magic behind his captivating books and his journey as an author. He'll be on hand to sell his amazing books, Jack and the Time Machine and We Wish You a Terry Christmas, for just £6.50, and each book will be personally signed by Scott himself—making it even more special! Plus, Scott will be giving us an exclusive sneak peek into his upcoming book, The Baron of St. Michaels Mount, set to be released later this year. To purchase a signed copy, please bring £6.50 in an envelope. Don't miss this chance to meet the author, ask questions, and be inspired by the creativity and passion behind these thrilling tales!

To top off the day our lovely Mrs Crummay is running a school Book Fair after school on Thursday too! All books are new and half the marked price, this ensures our families have the chance to buy good quality books at affordable prices, most books are about £3.50. There is no ordering and waiting, books are taken home on the day.

Of course next week we also celebrate St Piran. On Tuesday evening our choir will be singing at the annual St Piran's Eve Concert at St John's Hall. Please send back your consent slips children involved! On St Piran's day, Wednesday 5th March, some of the children in Y3, Y4 & Y5 will be joining the Furry Dance in the morning. (info re: timings etc to follow)

A quick reminder that children enjoy physical activities throughout the week. So, keeping a full P.E. Kit with appropriate footwear in school all week ensures that they can participate comfortably and safely. Thank you for supporting them with this.

Busy times as always - so enjoy the weekend and let's hope the sun keeps shining.

Niki Ambrose

Class Stars of the Week

Cape	Luna	For being an all round superstar!
Godrevy	Hunter	For his hard work, knowledge and determination in all areas of his learning.
Gwithian	Alfie	For reading CVC words so well. Well done!
Porthcurno	Jack	For showing so much joy and enthusiasm when reading and sharing his books.
Porthmeor	Elijah	For showing perseverance in all areas of his learning, showing so much focus and engagement, well done!
Porthminster	Lottie	For her beautiful still life, watercolour painting of daffodils for our St. David's Day activity
Polzeath	Summer	For persevering and trying out new strategies to deal with tricky situations.
Sennen	Ivy Haruki	For brilliant effort especially her understanding in Geography. For consistently being on task, trying his best and learning well.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM DATES

Spring Term Two

Ends Friday 4th April 3:10pm

Summer Term One

Starts Tuesday 22nd April 8:40am
Ends Friday 23rd May 3:10pm

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5TH MAY

SATS WEEK BEGINNING 12TH MAY

Summer Term Two

Starts Monday 2nd June 8:40pm
Ends Friday 18th July 1:00pm

Event Dates:

St. Piran's Concert
Tuesday 4th March

St. Piran's Furry Dance
Wednesday 5th March

World Book Day
Thursday 6th March
(See poster attached)

Parents Evening Appointments
Week Beginning 17th March

SONGFEST Concert
Thursday 27th March

Year 5/6 Residential
Week Beginning 31st March

Attendance

Our school target for attendance is 97%

Monday 24th February 2025 - Friday 28th February 2025

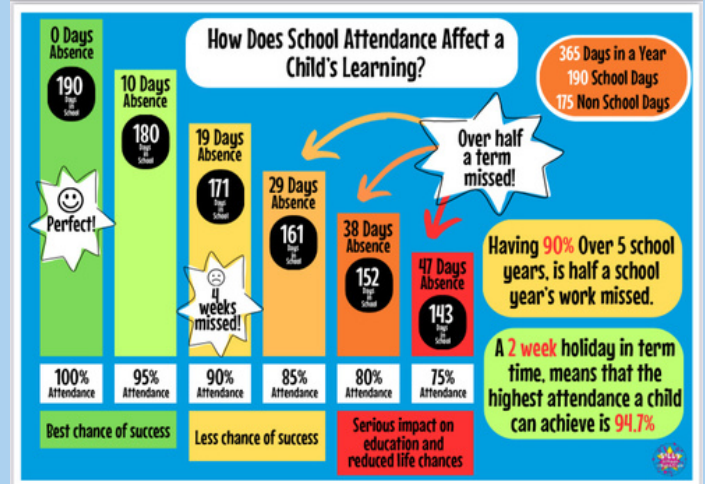
1st Place: Porthminster 100%

2nd Place: Sennen 98%

3rd Place: Porthcurno 97.6%



Attendance Matters



“If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates’ Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court.”

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is now open from 7:45am and costs £3.00 per session or £1.50 per session for Pupil Premium Children.

Any children who are on the school site unsupervised before 8:30am will join the Breakfast Club Children and you will be charged accordingly. This will happen to ensure that we are safeguarding all of your children.

Thank you. Mrs. Pellow



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

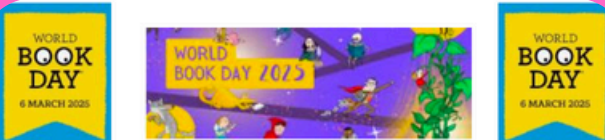
Author Visit

Get ready for an unforgettable World Book Day experience as we welcome the incredible Scott James to Porthcurno and Sennen. This exciting author visit will bring stories to life as Scott shares the magic behind his captivating books and his journey as an author.

To purchase a signed copy, please bring £6.50 in an envelope.



**Costumes
still
available in
the School
reception!**



We are extremely excited as we build up to World Book Day 2025 on Thursday 6th March! At Pensans, we have lots of exciting reading activities planned during the day and of course we will be dressing up! We will also be running two competitions. There will be one overall winner for each of these competitions who will get to go to The Edge Of The World Bookshop in town to select a book of their choice! We will also have class winners who will be able to choose a new book from our very own Book Bank Shop.

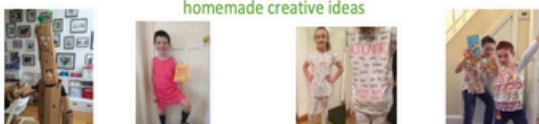
Decorate a Paper Plate Competition

Every child will bring home a paper plate. Decorate it in the theme of a book. Please write your child's name and class on the back. Winners will be announced on World Book Day. Entries to be in by Tuesday 4th March.



Best Fancy Dress

Can you come to school dressed as your favourite book character? This does not need to be a shop bought costume, in fact we are looking forward to seeing your homemade creative ideas



BOOK FAIR

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH
AFTER SCHOOL IN THE HALL
ALL BOOKS HALFPRICE!

WORLD BOOK DAY
PENSANS SCHOOL

Thursday 5th March School Dinner Choices...OGGY, OGGY, OGGY..OI OI OI!

Come and try our

ST PIRAN'S MENU

Your paragraph text

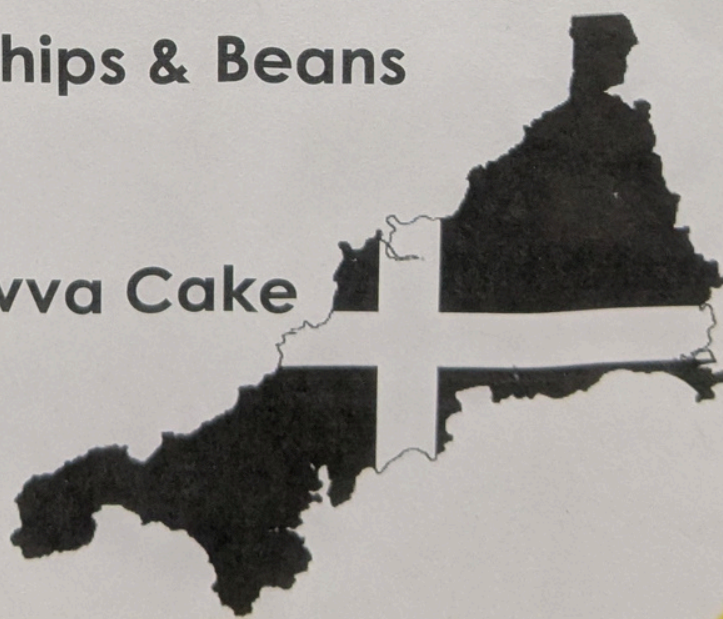
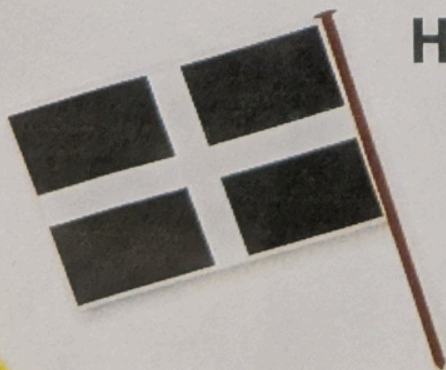
5th March

Steak Pasty
or

Cheese and Onion Pasty

With Chips & Beans

Hevva Cake



Cape Class visited Ludgvan School farm on Wednesday. We had a fantastic time feeding sheep and goats, stroking soft, furry rabbits and Guinea pigs, and collecting eggs from the chicken. A massive thank you to Mr Richards for taking the time to show us his wonderful farm and being great with our nursery children.





JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

**... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING
SERIES!**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH**

[APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](https://applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk)



The impact of smartphones



There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here:

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

Potential Risks of AI?

- **Chat apps** - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here:

<https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

TikTok

You must be over 13 years of age to use TikTok. TikTok is a social media platform for sharing and watching short video clips. Some of the videos may not be appropriate for your child to view and there is also the risk of strangers contacting your child. If your child is using TikTok then make sure appropriate security/privacy settings are applied.



Account set up

It is important that when setting up an account, your child enters their real date of birth as accounts are tailored by age e.g., Direct Messaging is disabled for accounts aged 13-15. In addition, advertisements are tailored by age. By default, accounts for people under 16 are set to private and we would recommend keeping it as this. This means your child must approve follower requests. You can read more about the other settings available, such as switching off comments and restricted mode here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/privacy-and-safety-settings-for-users-under-age-18>

Family Pairing

This allows you to link your own account to your child's account. You can then set controls such as restricted mode. You can find out more here: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety/family-pairing>

Inappropriate content, themes and challenges on TikTok

Whilst against TikTok's guidelines, explicit and inappropriate content can be found on this platform, for example nudity/sexual content and hate speech. Some of the songs available to lip sync to may contain inappropriate lyrics or adult themes. We often see viral challenges on social media, some of which can be dangerous. If your child is using TikTok, chat to them regularly about what they are viewing.

Stranger contact

Talk to your child about who is following them online and ensure that they understand that people may not be who they say they are when online. It is important that children understand not to share personal information.

Refresh your feed

You can refresh your "For You" feed to update the content recommended: <https://support.tiktok.com/en/account-and-privacy/account-privacy-settings/refresh-your-for-you-feed>

Blocking and Reporting

Ensure your child knows how to use the safety features available to them, including how to report comments, direct messages and another user.

Further information

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/tiktok>
- <https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/factsheets-and-briefings/child-safety-tiktok-parent-factsheet/>

Talk PANTS with the NSPCC

Talk PANTS was developed to help you have conversations with your child to help them understand that their body belongs to them.

You can find out more here as well as a further link to helpful questions:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

LEGO Arcade

Are you looking for games for your child to play online? LEGO have a selection of fun games including Lego Ninjago and Lego Friends:

<https://kids.lego.com/en-gb/arcade>

Stars Messenger App

The Stars Messenger App is rated as 4+ on the App store. It is a free messaging and video app designed for children to use. Users need their friend's username as well as their unique private Friend Code to add each other. There is also an optional Parent View available for a monthly charge.

South West Grid for Learning provide a full guide to staying safe on this app as well as safety considerations:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/a-guide-to-staying-safe-with-the-stars-messaging-app/>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger *does* connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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LEISURE CENTRE

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Programme



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