



Spring Term 2025 Newsletter 1
Friday 24th January 2025

MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



Happy New Year! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. We were pleased to see pupils back in school ready for a productive and exciting Spring Term at Mount Charles School.

This term promises to be a busy and vibrant time, filled with new learning opportunities, exciting events, and enriching activities. We are committed to providing a supportive and a stimulating environment for all our pupils as we work together to reach our academic, social, and personal goals. To mention but a few: our Year 5 pupils have already travelled to space with the Space Dome; our KS2 choir have taken part in an amazing concert at the O2 arena in London; pupils in EYFS have fully engaged with their new theme of 'What happens when I go to sleep?' by wearing their pyjamas to school and Year 1 enjoyed their Royal banquet.

Upcoming events:

We would like to inform you about two important events coming up that focus on the well-being of our children: **Children's Mental Health Week** and **Safer Internet Day**.

Children's Mental Health Week (3rd February – 9th February) is an opportunity to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about mental health. This year's theme is "Know Yourself, Grow Yourself", which highlights the importance of self-awareness and expressing emotions. During the week, we will be engaging the children in various activities that encourage pupils to discover how getting to know who they are can help them build resilience, grow and develop.

Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 11th February) aims to promote the safe and responsible use of technology and the internet. It's crucial to equip children with the skills they need to navigate the digital world in a safe and respectful manner. We will be having discussions to help them understand topics such as online safety, digital footprints, and managing screen time.

We encourage you to talk to your children about these themes and participate in the activities at home. Together, we can support their mental health and equip them with the tools to stay safe online.

We will also be hosting **NSPCC Number Day** on **Friday 7th February**. On this day we will be joining thousands of schools and nurseries taking part in a fun-filled day of numbers. Our children will be invited to Dress Up Digit for a donation of 50p to support vital services such as Childline and Speak out Stay Safe. Please see Mr Hughes' recent letter for further details.



In addition to this, we will be celebrating **World Book Day** on Friday 7th March. World Book Day provides a fantastic opportunity to focus on reading for pleasure, supporting children's autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits. We will also be welcoming the Travelling Book Fair from Monday 3rd March when we will be inviting you into school to purchase a wide variety of books for your children to enjoy. More detail to follow – so watch this space!

Staffing Updates: We are excited to share some important staffing updates with you as we continue to build an exceptional team for our pupils and school community. As you are aware we have made some key appointments within our school staff that reflect our commitment to recognising and nurturing talent within our team.

Sarah Hildyard – Deputy Head Teacher

We are pleased to promote Sarah Hildyard to Deputy Head. She has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the school, and we are confident she will excel in this new role. She has been with us for 6 years and has been an integral part of our leadership team.

Heidi Spurgeon

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Heidi Spurgeon as our new DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead). She comes to us with a wealth of experience of Safeguarding in Education and we are confident that they will make a positive impact on our school community. She will be working closely with our pupils, staff, and families to keep them safe and supported. We believe that she will be a great addition to our team, and we are excited for you and your children to get to know her over the coming weeks.

Alex Copeland

We are thrilled to announce that Alex Copeland has been appointed as the new Phase Leader for KS1. This is an exciting development for our school, and we are confident that Mrs Copeland's experience, passion, and dedication will continue to benefit the children as she leads this important phase on their learning journey.

Emma Scotland

We are pleased to announce Emma Scotland has a new position of Operational SENDCo. With her commitment to all pupils, she is well-prepared for this new role, and we are excited to see the positive impact she will continue to make in our school.

These appointments demonstrate not only the hard work and dedication of our team members but also our commitment to providing our pupils with the best educational experience possible. We are proud to have such talented individuals in our school, and we are confident that these changes will benefit our pupils and the broader school community.

The Importance of Attendance

At Mount Charles School, we emphasize the importance of regular school attendance as a key factor in pupils' success. Consistent attendance is crucial for pupils to fully engage with the curriculum, participate in classroom activities, and build the strong foundation needed for academic growth. Every school day is an opportunity for pupils to learn, collaborate, and develop important skills, and we want to ensure all our pupils are present to make the most of these experiences.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and arrives on time. If your child is unwell or unable to attend for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. We also encourage families to avoid booking holidays or appointments during school hours, whenever possible, to minimize disruptions to your child's learning and these will be unauthorised.

Pupil Wellbeing and Support

At Mount Charles, we place great importance on the wellbeing of our pupils. The start of a new term is an opportunity to help pupils re-establish their routines, set new goals, and focus on their personal growth. Our pastoral team, teachers, and support staff are always available to help pupils with any challenges they may face.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's progress or wellbeing, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

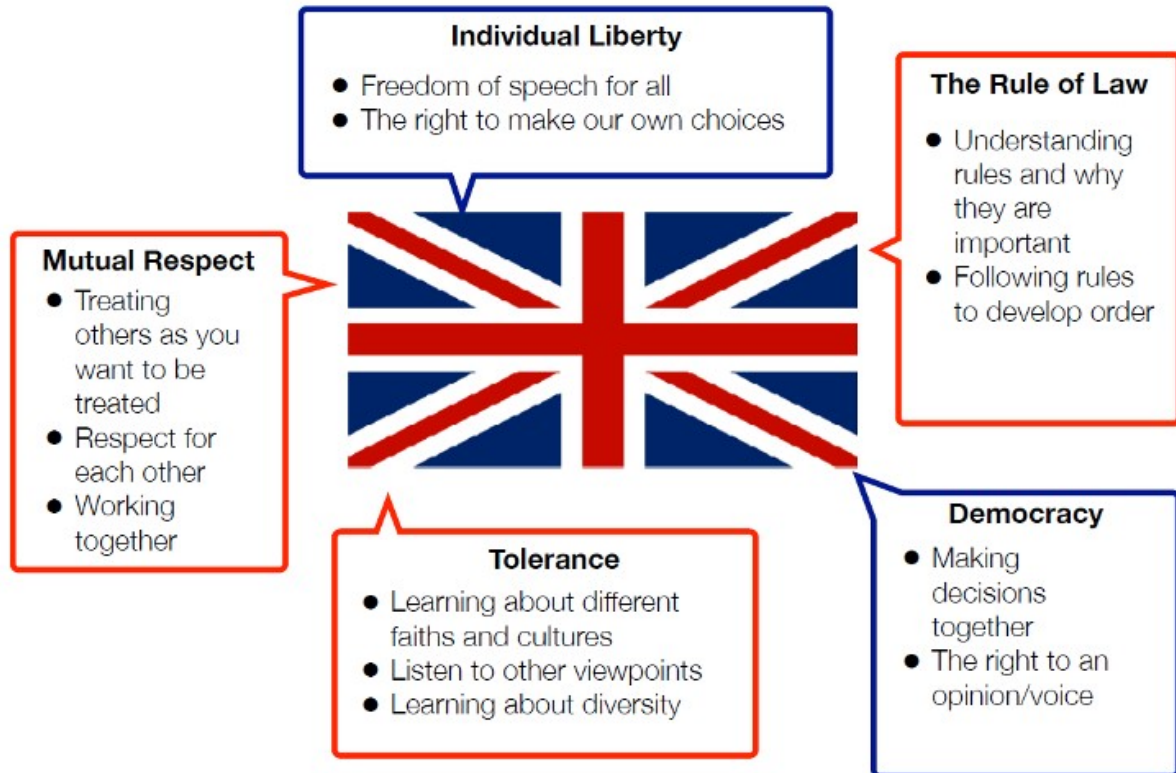
Thank You for Your Support

We want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Your partnership helps make our school community strong and positive. We look forward to working together throughout the term to ensure the success of every pupil.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please feel free to contact us. Here's to a wonderful and successful Spring Term!

Mrs Simpson

BRITISH VALUES



We are excited to introduce a new initiative at our school: the House Point System! This initiative aims to promote a positive and supportive school community by encouraging teamwork, responsibility, and a sense of belonging among our students.

In line with this new system, we are also planning to introduce House names, which will be chosen by our very own School Council. This gives our pupils the opportunity to have a voice in shaping the identity of their House, fostering a sense of pride and ownership.

The House Point System will encourage students to display positive behaviours such as respect, teamwork, hard work, and kindness, which are key elements of British values. Through this system, we aim to promote mutual respect, democracy, individual liberty, and tolerance for those with different beliefs and cultures.

We will be launching the House Point system In the Summer Term, we look forward to seeing the positive impact this new system will have on our school community and are excited to share this journey with you and your child.

In addition to this, next week we are introducing British Values certificates for pupils who demonstrate the fundamental values. Please look out for these.

SAFEGUARDING

At Mount Charles School, the safety and well-being of all our students is our top priority. We want to ensure that every child is happy, healthy, and safe while in our care. To help us maintain a safe and supportive environment, we encourage all parents and carers to remain vigilant and work together with us.

Please remember:

- If you have any concerns regarding your child's safety or well-being, please do not hesitate to contact the school immediately. We take all concerns seriously and will take appropriate action.
- Talk to your child about staying safe, both online and offline. Encourage them to speak up if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- Ensure that any changes to contact details or emergency contacts are promptly communicated to the school.

Remind your child of the importance of speaking to a trusted adult if they are ever worried or upset.

Our school staff are always available to support your child and provide guidance. Let's continue to work together to create a safe and nurturing environment for all our children.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



Young Carers Action Day

Wednesday 12 March 2025

Give Me A Break!

Are you under 18 and looking after a family member because of illness, disability or addiction? Or does this sound like one of your friends?

Young carers have so much responsibility on their shoulders. They need a break from caring to have time for themselves - maybe for a hobby, or just hanging out with friends.

Help us **give young carers a break.**



Download our social media assets to get involved:
carers.org/ycad
#YoungCarersActionDay



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Young Carers Action Day is celebrated every year in mid-March, shining a spotlight on the invaluable contributions and challenges faced by young carers around the world. It's a day dedicated to raising awareness about the vital role young carers play in providing care and support for family members or friends who have illnesses, disabilities, or other care needs.

Here at Mount Charles we strive to support our Young Carers in every possible way.

If you need any help or support, please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.



Safeguarding Team



Mrs H Spurgeon
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs S Simpson
Headteacher & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs H Hann
Pastoral Care Manager & Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr R Cardigan
Safeguarding Governor



Ms K Chandler
Chair of Governors & Whistleblowing Governor



Miss S Hildyard
Deputy Headteacher & Lead Practitioner for Safeguarding in Early Years

At Mount Charles, we are committed to safeguarding children. The health, safety and emotional well-being of every child are our paramount concern. Our aim is that the children will thrive during their time with us in a safe and happy environment.

If you have a concern, please contact a member of the Safeguarding team on either [01726 73911](tel:0172673911) or their e-mails listed above.

If you have a concern out of school hours please contact the [Multi-Agency Referral Unit](#) - [0300 1231 116](tel:03001231116).

More information is available on the Child Protection & Safeguarding page (in the Statutory Information section of our website) at www.mount-charlessch.org



ATTENDANCE



Week 1 Attendance 95.1%

Week 2 Attendance 96.4%

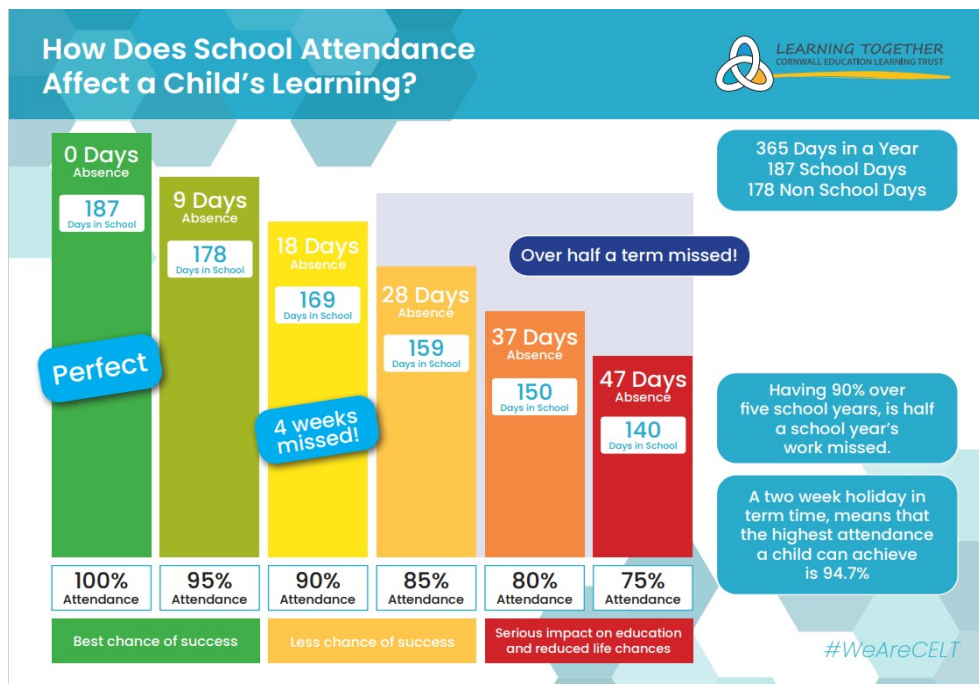
Week 3 Attendance 96.1%

We are seeing an increase in attendance which is fantastic. We would love to reach our target of 97%, we can do it!

As we enter the colder months, we know that coughs and cold and other seasonal illnesses can become more common.

If a child has a very high temperature, they should stay at home and rest, however there is no need to keep them off school with a cough or common cold. To reduce the spread of germs in school, we encourage pupils to practice good hygiene habits. Please also ensure that your child comes to school with a named coat, and hat & gloves if very cold, each day.

Please see the chart below which shows how attendance affects a child's learning.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding attendance, please contact the school office. We are here to help and support.

If your child is unable to attend school, please contact the school office via telephone **before 9am**. Please give **full details** of the reason for absence so that our admin team can code the absence appropriately. Please avoid using phrases such as **“poorly”** or **“sick”** and instead give details of symptoms.

Repeat this for **every day** of absence. If you know you may need to request leave from school for **exceptional circumstances**, such as national sports competitions or visa appointments, please complete a leave request form from the office.

ENRICHMENT



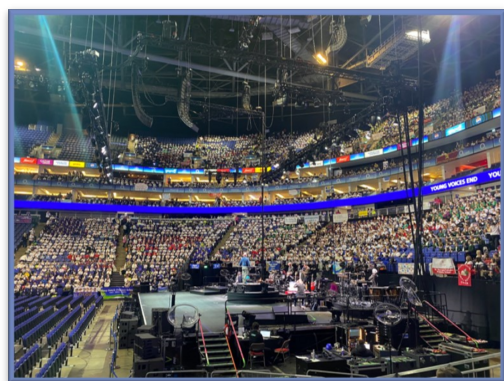
On Tuesday 26 of our children attended the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in London. Young Voices has been at the forefront in delivering an extraordinary concert experience for primary school children and this is why it isn't just any children's choir concert; it's the largest children's choir concerts in the world! This is the first year Mount Charles have attended and what an amazing experience it was for them.

I wanted to take a moment to share what an incredible experience the pupils had during the Young Voices Concert at the O2 Arena in London. It was truly a memorable day filled with music, energy, and a sense of unity as thousands of children came together to perform.

Our students were a part of this amazing event, and their enthusiasm and dedication during the rehearsals and the concert itself were inspiring. The atmosphere at the O2 was electric, and we are so proud of how they represented the school.

We hope this experience has inspired a love of music and teamwork in your child, and we are grateful for your support in making this opportunity possible.

Mrs Simpson



EYFS NURSERY

Nursery have been making large scale movements with the scarves. After making patterns such as zig zags, circles and lines with the scarves, the children enjoy copying these movements with crayons onto the paper. Fantastic mark making nursery!



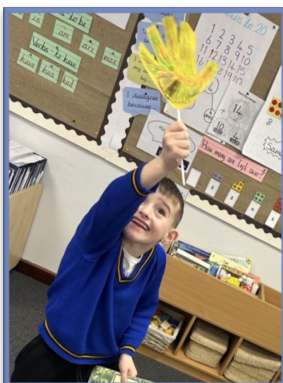
EYFS RECEPTION

EYFS ENGAGED in their new ILP 'What Happens When you Fall Asleep?' with a PJ day! The children had a great day in school wearing their pyjamas with their favourite cuddly toy. Each child practiced brushing their teeth with their own brand new toothbrush that they got to take home with them. Lots of bedtime stories were read and a hot chocolate, with a biscuit, was enjoyed to round up the fabulous day everyone had!



YEAR 1

In Year 1, our Jigsaw Piece in PSHE this term is 'Dreams and Goals'. This week, the children discussed tackling new challenges and how this might stretch their learning. To put this to practise, the children worked hard follow the learning steps to making 'stretchy flowers'.



YEAR 2

As part of our ENGAGE day, Year 2 have been practising their geographical skills during a walk of the local area. The children used their observation skills to spot any human or physical features within our local environment. They used the data they had collected to create tally charts and bar charts to show the most common features around our town. They then answered questions and explored aerial photographs together to develop a better understanding of the geography of our town.



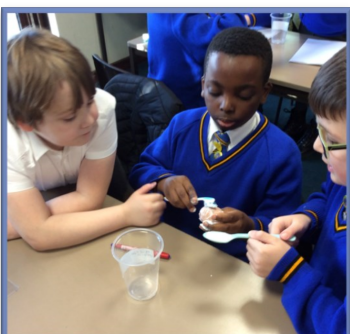
YEAR 3

Year 3 have had a great start to the term! During their first week of swimming, the children worked incredibly hard to make progress. It was brilliant to see how much they listened and enjoyed their time in the pool. To finish off our art from last term, the children painted and decorated their Greek pots. They looked at silhouette figures and added patterns to make them accurate. Their current book is, 'The Fire work Makers Daughter' and the children have been doing a lot of work around building the character. They are going to be writing their final character descriptions this week!



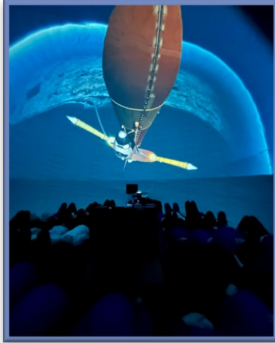
YEAR 4

Year 4 have started their Burps, Bottoms and Biles topic learning all about the digestive system and their teeth. This week they have set up an investigation to answer the question, 'Which toothpaste best protects the teeth?' They worked together to decide which variables they would keep the same, which would change and what they would measure. They used eggs to represent the calcium on our teeth and vinegar to represent the acid from the bacteria. They will be observing what happens daily and are intrigued about what they will discover.



YEAR 5

Year 5 had a totally awe-inspiring visit to space to start their 'Stargazers' topic. The space dome taught us about astronauts, space shuttles, the solar system and star constellations. The children loved asking questions and their constant gasps, 'woah!' and 'look!' was testament to how much they loved it. Megan said it was 'the most fantastic thing ever!'.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have been studying the artist Vincent van Gogh and his painting 'Starry Night'. For their independent piece they will be creating their own interpretation using the Northern Lights for inspiration. In their lesson this week, the children created a Northern Lights inspired mood board. They used a range of colours, created textures and explored how they can create perspective which will help when they create their final piece.



ARB

The children in the ARB have been settling back into their daily routines following the Christmas holidays. They have been exploring the season of winter with cold frosty days, but sadly no real snow as yet! This term the children will be focusing on opposites as part of concept learning and have started with a story called 'Bringing the rain to Kapiti Plain'. Then we will be exploring some 'Jungle fun' stories. Looking forward to lots of exciting opportunities in the coming weeks.



PTA UPDATE

**Thank
You**

We at the PTA would like to say a huge thank you for all of your support since September.

Each academic year we donate £500 to each year group to contribute towards class trips and we also fund the Year 6 end of year treat day. We arrange Easter egg hunts and visits from the Easter bunny and Father Christmas.

Our fundraising also helps fund music competitions and IT resources where possible.

We hold two discos a year and two school fayres. None of this would be possible without the support of our school community... you.

This festive season we raised an amazing £1881 which Barclays Bank have very kindly offered to price match, donating a further £1000!

We would also like to thank Moores Fruit & Veg for donating our wonderful Christmas tree on which the children hung their decorations and Cedarcroft nurseries for donating the smaller tree in our reception area. The school looked very festive.

Thank you to the small businesses that kindly donated raffle prizes: Posers salon for the voucher, Treasured Makes of Par Market for the engraved Santa treat board and Glossy Nail Studio for the voucher.

Thank you to everyone that donated raffle prizes. Every one makes a difference.

**Thank
You**

If anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts you would like to donate for our next raffle, we would be very grateful . Please bring them to the school office.



We are looking for new PTA members.

We are a small group, considering the size of the school, and it doesn't need to be time consuming. Some members help at events, some help by sticking tombola tickets to prizes, before events. Some members can't make meetings but have great fundraising ideas. We have a meeting roughly every half term 1.30pm until 2.50pm.

If you would like to join us or have a chat about joining, we are holding a coffee morning 6th February in the small hall at 8.30am, we hope to see you then.

Please keep supporting us at our upcoming events.



REMINDERS

School Gates—To set the best example for our children, please refrain from smoking/vaping by the school gates. Please also refrain from using inappropriate language where children may hear.

Also a reminder that mobile phones must not be used whilst on school grounds and dogs are not permitted on site, unless they are an officially registered support dog.

School Uniform—We are seeing an increasing number of children wearing trainers to school on non-PE days. All children must wear black school shoes. If you have any concerns, please contact the school office.

Contacting the school

Our enquiries email is monitored intermittently during the school hours, 08.00-15.30 Monday to Friday. We aim to get back to you within 48 hours. If the matter is urgent, please call the school office directly.

If you have a problem you would like to discuss regarding your child, in the first instance, please contact your class teacher via Class Dojo or at collection/drop off times.

CELEBRATION

Celebrating



Yr1— Scarlett, Rudy, Ellie, Bonnie, Louella, Skylar

Yr2— Charlotte, Quinn, Marley, Jonny, Holden

Yr3— Leo B, Harlen, Freya

Yr4— Marilyn, Theo S, Lucas, Tommie, Elsie, Ethan

Yr5— Bert, Isaac, Otto, Leila, Emmie, Jasmine

Yr6— Poppy, Franky, Emily, Ellie, Chester, Annabelle.

Sports Superstar— Theo 6 6TW

Success

Our attendance trophy was won by:

6th January: 2SC

13th January: 4SG

20th January: RHM

Perfect Attendance! 



Biggest improvement in accuracy in last 14 days:



- 1st place: Ava Barrett**
- 2nd place: Lillymarie Croft**
- 3rd place: Freddy Winterbottom**

Most correct answers given over the last 14 days:



- 1st place: Brynley Gilbert**
- 2nd place: Neelah Adrien**
- 3rd place: Harley Foster**

Biggest improvement in studio speed over the last 14 days:



- 1st place: Brooklyn Takura**
- 2nd place: Wilf Moore**
- 3rd place: Matilda Siau**



TOP THREE!

Biggest increase in number of minutes played in the last 14 days:



- 1st place: Rudy Lochrie**
- 2nd place: Edith Everington**
- 3rd place: Skylar Gordon**



Biggest increase in correct answers in the last 14 days:



- 1st place: Edith Everington**
- 2nd place: Skylar Gordon**
- 3rd place: Rudy Lochrie**



Highest improvement in accuracy in the last 14 days:

- 1st place: Skylar Gordon**
- 2nd place: Rudy Lochrie**
- 3rd place: Darko Ma**



Diary Dates

January

27th Year 4 Dodgeball Festival (invite only)
28th Football/Netball fixture v Charlestown
30th CLUBS CANCELLED

February

3rd –9th Children’s Mental Health Week
5th No Charlies or Girls Football Club
7th Screech Owl Sanctuary Year 3 & EYFS
7th NSPCC Number Day
10th KS1 Cross Country @Poltair
11th Safer Internet Day
13th PTA Spring Disco
W/C 17th School closed for half term

February

25th National Child Measurement EYFS & Year 6

March

3rd-7th Scholastics Book Fair
6th World Book Day
12th Young Carers Action Day
25th & 26th March Reception Parents Evening
28th Reports going home to parents

Swimming Dates

W/c 17th March 4SG
W/c 24th March 4HB
W/c 16th June 6TW—4 days only
W/c 23rd June 6JT—4 days only

TERM DATES

Spring term 1 2025: Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 14th February 2025

Spring term 2 2025: Monday 24th February 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025

Summer term 1 2025: Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - Friday 23rd May 2025

Summer term 2 2025: Monday 2nd June 2025 - Friday 25th July 2025

INSET DAYS: Friday 20th June 2025 Monday 23rd June 2025

2025-2026

Autumn term 1 2025: Thursday 4th September 2025 - Thursday 16th October 2025

Autumn term 2 2025: Monday 3rd November 2025 - Friday 19th December 2025

Spring term 1 2026: Monday 5th January 2026 - Friday 13th February 2026

Spring term 2 2026: Monday 23rd February 2026 - Thursday 2nd April 2026

Summer term 1 2026: Monday 20th April 2026 - Friday 22nd May 2026

Summer term 2 2026: Monday 1st June 2026 - Friday 24th July 2026

SCHOLASTIC

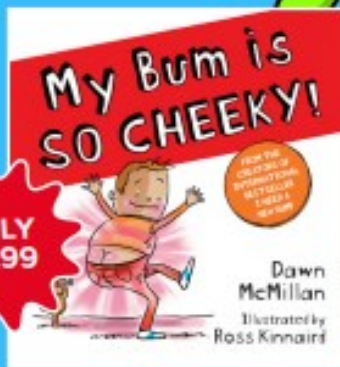
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From
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presenter
George
Webster

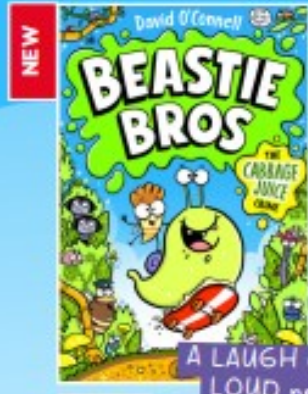


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IN
CINEMAS
FEBRUARY
2025

Date:

Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th,
Thursday 6th, Friday 7th March

3.15 - 4pm in our Main Hall

Scan the QR code
to pay online!



Illustrations from Beasdale Bros © David O'Connell, 2025.

We are excited to announce that Saints Cornwall, a well-established and successful netball club based in Truro, will be running a junior netball club starting in September at Poltair School.

We are inviting expressions of interest from girls who are U11 & U12 (ages 10-11) and U14 & U15 (ages 13-14), to join this fantastic opportunity to develop their netball skills and be part of our thriving club.

Training Sessions:

- **U11 & U12:** Mondays, 18:00 - 19:30
- **U14 & U15:** Mondays, 19:30 - 21:00
- **Location:** Poltair School, St Austell

To ensure we have enough spaces and support, please complete the attached link to submit your expression of interest by **February 28th**.

There will be a fee to join the club, which will cover affiliation with England Netball and Southwest Netball, as well as a membership fee.

The total cost for the 2025-26 season will be approximately **£100**, which can be paid in instalments to make it more manageable.

Please note this is a reduced rate for 2025-26, due to there being no match play opportunities until the hub is established and we can enter leagues. At this point, the membership will increase to cover these costs.

We look forward to welcoming new players to Saints Cornwall and providing them with a fun and competitive environment to develop their netball skills!

For more details or to express your interest, please follow the link below:

[Saints In St Austell - Expression of Interest](#)

If you have any further questions/enquires please do not hesitate to email us at saintsinstaustell@yahoo.com



COMMUNITY EVENTS

You are invited to Sticker Pantomime's 40th Anniversary production, and world premiere, *The Great Turnip Robbery*.

This specially written script tells the story of local Sticker bakery, Niall Martins, who have their pasty production put at risk due to local rival, Dick Shein stealing their turnips- who will save the day and will Proper Cornish Pasties be saved?

Taking place between 11- 15 February, support this local pantomime by watching one of their evening performances or kick off your half term Saturday with 2.5 hours of entertainment and laughter! Tickets on sale now in Sticker village Stores or online at Ticket Source.

Sticker Village Players
present a special
40th Anniversary
Pantomime



An original script, especially written by
Rob Warin & Brian Teague

The Great Turnip Robbery

A unique & very Cornish Pantomime

Tues 11th Feb - Sat 15th Feb 2025

STICKER VILLAGE HALL

Eve 7.30pm. / Sat. Matinee 2.30pm

Doors Open 7.00pm & 2.00pm

Permit FREE Parking in
Village Car Park During Performances

Tickets from Sticker PO & Stores and online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/stickervillage players

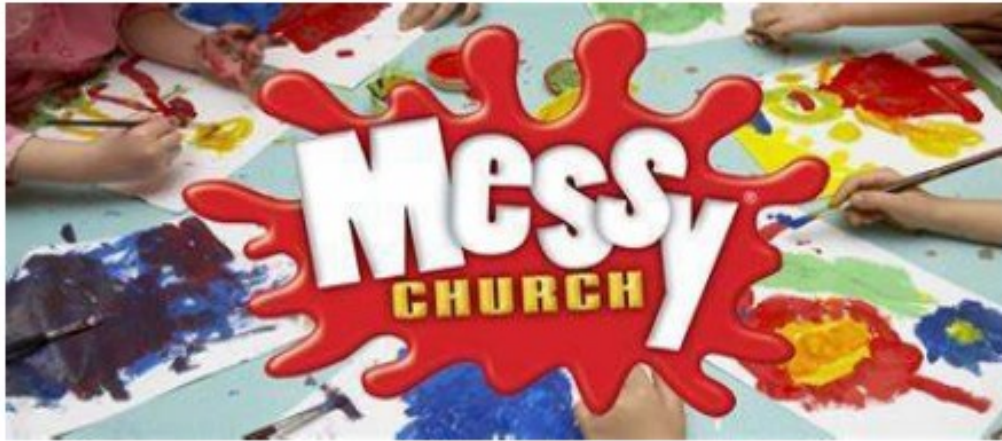


Tues-Thurs eve (& Sat.mat) :
Adults £6 Children £4



Fri and Sat eve:
All tickets £7





@

**Mount Charles Methodist Church
Victoria Road, St Austell, PL25 4QF**

Thursday 30th January

3 15pm – 5 15pm

Come and
join us for:



All ages welcome.

methodistsatmountcharles-families@gmx.com

www.mountcharleschurch.com

