

MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

HEADTEACHERUPDATE



Wow – what a first term!

I would like to take this opportunity to say I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th January, but first, let's reflect on this busy term.

This term has been truly magical with the children and staff embracing the Christmas spirit through a heavenly host of festive events.

Children in Reception and KS1 visited Mount Charles Methodist Church to learn about Advent and the symbolism of the Christingle. They enjoyed making their own Christingle to take home to share with their families.

The choir performed beautifully at the St Austell Music Festival, where they sang 'Lean on Me' and 'Cornwall My Home'. We are very proud of them and the way in which they represented the school.

We cannot thank the PTA enough for their fantastic Christmas Fayre. As well as the exciting array of stalls to visit, they went above and beyond to create an enchanting Christmas Grotto for the children. The fayre made an incredible £1614.63, and with the Barclays Bank match funding scheme, that's a total of £2614.63 that will directly benefit our children. THANK YOU to the PTA for this record-breaking, spectacular fundraiser.

The children enjoyed eating their delicious Christmas dinner all together with their teachers; Christmas music was playing, Christmas jumpers were worn and crackers given by our PTA were being pulled – it was our own Mount Charles family Christmas!

We were very proud of the KS2 children as they performed their Christmas Concert at Penrice, re-telling the Christmas story through music and drama. Thank you Mr Barlett, for your musical expertise and making this an exquisite experience for the children involved.

During our last week, the Reception and KS1 children performed a memorable nativity with a modern twist - The Dinky Donkeys! The story is told through the eyes of 4 excitable donkeys who offer their help to Mary as she begins her journey to Bethlehem.

Today, to celebrate the end of term we came together, as a school, to sing Christmas carols and songs, including the 12 days of Christmas which had a different theme – saying goodbye to Ms Nile.



Here is a message for Ms Nile:

Ms Nile, as you prepare to leave after an incredible 22 years of dedication, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done. Your commitment to the school and the children has left an indelible mark on our community.

Your passion for education and your enthusiasm for making a difference has inspired both staff and children alike. You have been a constant source of support, wisdom, and encouragement and always leading by example. Whether it was your tireless work behind the scenes or your infectious positivity in the classroom, your presence has truly shaped the school.

While we will miss you dearly, we know that your legacy will continue to live on through the countless lives you've touched and the positive changes you've instilled.

Wishing you all the very best as you embark on your next chapter.

Ms Nile also has a few words for the school:

I have absolutely loved my 22 years at Mount Charles! I am sad to be leaving such a fantastic school community, but am also excited to be starting a new chapter.

I am incredibly proud of everything that is Mount Charles School. It has been a privilege to be a part of your children's educational journeys. Watching them grow, learn, and flourish has been very rewarding. Your support, kindness, and trust have made my time here very special. For this, I extend my heartfelt thanks.

I have wonderful memories of school events, from sports days, residential trips and celebrations; to everyday moments of joy and learning in the classroom. There have been many unforgettable moments that I will cherish for a very long time. I have been incredibly fortunate to work with a remarkable team of staff who are dedicated, passionate, and endlessly supportive. They are committed to providing the best education and nurturing environment for your children - I am very proud of them all too!

I will always hold Mount Charles close to my heart (I came to school here myself) and look forward to hearing about the many successes and milestones that lie ahead for your children and the school community.

Wishing you all the very best for the future,

Warm wishes

Rachel Nile.

We also say a fond farewell to Mrs Richards. She has been a fantastic member of our team and we wish her every success in her new role at Carclaze Primary School – we are so pleased that she continues to be part of the CELT family.

In January, Miss Hildyard will step into the Deputy Headteacher role and Mrs Scotland will work closely with Mrs Nancarrow as our new Operational SENCO. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Miss Hildyard and Mrs Scotland on their new roles.

Attendance

Our attendance for the term is 95.9% which at the moment is sitting below our target of 97%.

We have noticed a recent decline in attendance and punctuality. It is important that all children arrive at school on time to ensure that they do not miss valuable learning time. We kindly request that you make every effort to ensure your child attends school regularly, even if they may feel slightly under the weather. If your child becomes unwell during the school day we will contact you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Online Safety:

As Christmas approaches, many of our pupils may have new devices as presents. Whether it's a smartphone, tablet, or computer, it's essential to ensure these devices are used safely and responsibly. We want to provide you with some valuable tips and information on online safety and parental controls to help keep your children safe online.

1. The Importance of Online Safety

Online safety is crucial in today's digital age. Children have access to a vast amount of information and interactive content. While this can be educational and entertaining, it also comes with risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and privacy concerns. Here are some steps you can take to enhance your child's online safety:

- **Talk Openly**: Have regular conversations with your children about the importance of online safety. Discuss the potential dangers and encourage them to come to you if they encounter anything uncomfortable or suspicious online.
- **Set Boundaries**: Establish clear rules for internet use, including which sites they can visit, how much time they can spend online, and what they are allowed to share.

Educate About Privacy: Teach your children not to share personal information such as their full name, address, phone number, or school name online.

2. Parental Controls for New Devices

Modern devices come equipped with various parental controls that can help you monitor and limit your child's online activities. Here are some tips on setting up these controls:

- **Device Settings**: Most devices have built-in parental control settings. You can set age-appropriate content restrictions, limit screen time, and control app installations.
- o For iPhones/iPads: Go to Settings > Screen Time to set up restrictions.
- o For Android devices: Use the Google Family Link app to manage content and screen time.
- o **Internet Filters**: Use internet filtering software to block inappropriate websites and content. Many routers also offer parental controls that allow you to manage internet access for all devices connected to your home network.
- o **App Permissions**: Review the permissions for each app your child wants to download. Ensure they are appropriate and do not require unnecessary access to personal information.

Safe Search Settings: Enable safe search settings on search engines and video platforms like Google and YouTube to filter out explicit content.

Online Safety resources for parents:

We understand that keeping up with technology can be challenging. Here are some resources that may help:

Common Sense Media: Provides reviews and advice on apps, games, and media, helping parents make informed choices. Common Sense Media: Age-Based Media Reviews for Families | Common Sense Media

Common Sense Media: Age-Based Media Reviews for Families

Common Sense Media is the leading source of entertainment and technology recommendations for families. Parents trust our expert reviews and objective advice.

National Online Safety: Offers guides and courses on various aspects of online safety for parents and children. <u>Library | The National College</u>



<u>Library | The National College</u>

Browse and filter through thousands of titles to drill down and find the professional development you need, for the right role, in the right area.

nationalcollege.com

Internet Matters: Provides tools and resources to help parents keep their children safe online. Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters



Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters

Working with online safety experts, we're here to provide parents & carers with guidance, advice and support to keep children safe online | Internet Matters

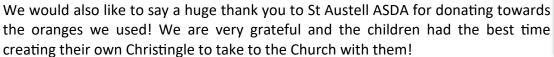
www.internetmatters.org

We hope you find these tips and resources helpful as you navigate the digital world with your children. By working together, we can ensure that our students enjoy their new devices safely and responsibly.

Christmas at Mount Charles

Christingle

We would like to say a massive thank you to Mount Charles Church for yet another wonderful Christingle service, the children really enjoyed understanding why we celebrate Christingle and what each feature represents. During the service, we sang some of our nativity songs, snapped our glowsticks to celebrate Jesus being the light of our world and then finished with a prayer.





Christmas Lunch 🐄

On Thursday the children, and staff, got to enjoy a wonderful Christmas dinner in the hall. With Christmas music playing and everyone wearing Christmas jumpers this really got us ready for Christmas. Thank you to the PTA for providing crackers for all the children.





















Attendance

Week 4 Attendance = 95.5%

Week 5 Attendance—95.5%

Week 6 Attendance — 93.1%

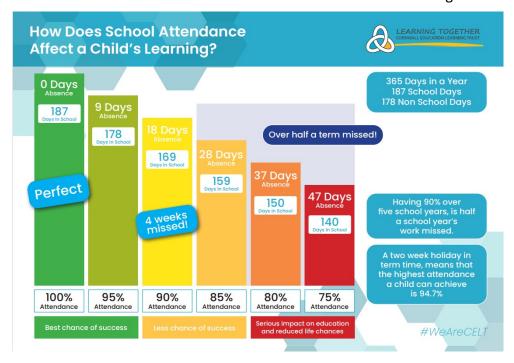
Week 7 Attendance — 92.9%

The attendance has been dropping slightly each week. We would love to see our attendance above 97% again - we did so well in the first half term.

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 Mrs Nile via 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.





Nursery finished their term of cooking busy groups by baking mince pies! The children cut out circles in the pastry, scooped the mince meat mixture into the pastry cases and added a pastry holly leaf on top. They were very proud of themselves when the mince pies came out of the oven!









The children in reception enjoyed making Winter Squirrel Muffins to EXPRESS their learning of their ILP 'Where Do Squirrels Hide Their Nuts?' They used squirrels' favourite food to make yummy muffins to keep their tummies happy this Winter. The children are going to place these in our gardens or outdoor areas ready for the squirrels to enjoy a delicious treat! We hope we spot some squirrels!











Year 1 have started their Design & Technology project for Autumn Term 2. The children will design and create their own fruit and vegetable smoothies. They started the project by learning that all fruits have seeds - the children were amazed that peppers are actually a fruit with seeds! The children are looking forward to designing and creating a smoothie through taste testing of different fruits and vegetables.









Year 2 have been learning about pirates from the past including Edward Teach and Jack Rackham and have been exploring their pirate flags. The children developed their sketching skills to draw a skull and used different techniques to add detail. They then etched their designs into polystyrene sheets and used rollers and ink to create a mono-print design. They included lots of different symbols and chose the colours red or black to make sure their designs were fearsome just like a real pirate flag!













In Science, Year 3 have been looking at different forces and magnets. They have explored how magnets are attracted to some metals and how a magnetic field works. They also learnt that some magnets are much stronger than others! The children have also started their own brilliant Greek pottery. They have explored how malleable clay is and how they can mold it into shapes. Their next task will be adding their own designs with paint and then evaluating.











Year 4 researched different forms of catapults throughout history, looked at what made them successful and what made them difficult to use. They then used the design of the Roman onager to make their own. First, they drew a 'flay lay' of the pieces they would need so that they could ensure they cut everything correctly. Then, they carefully measured the wood and used junior hacksaws to cut it, before working with an adult to glue the pieces together.

When they were all made, the children tested them out with paper ammunition. Some stayed together really well, whilst other frames weren't as stable. The children learnt that they needed to measure carefully and cut accurately in order to make the frame sturdy and strong.







Year 5 had an exciting end to their Alchemy Island topic with a Harry Potter dress up day. They wrote a diary entry from the perspective of Harry, did quizzes to test their knowledge and had a lesson from the illustrator to learn how to draw Hogwarts. What a superb magical day!







Year 6 came to the end of their 'A Child's War' topic by exploring structures used during WW2 to keep people safe from bomb attacks. They learnt about the properties of materials and which shelters were best depending on where you live. To finish, the children designed, created and evaluated their own Anderson Shelters.









Christmas in the ARB has been most memorable this year! The children have been amazing in all they have achieved and experienced.

Parents were invited to come in to to watch the children perform Makaton Christmas songs, enjoy mince pies and jam tarts followed by making a Christmas bauble, Christmas pudding biscuit and paper chains. The children have also been busy creating lots of Christmas crafts and we were also invited to Mount Charles Christingle, which some of us attended last Monday.

Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day was a huge winner and on Thursday the children were able to go to the cinema to watch a Christmas film. Thank you to all who have helped to make our Christmas so far incredibly special.









Don't forget there is still time to donate for our Christmas tree in support of Children's Hospice South West's, *Care for a Christmas Tree* Competition. <u>Mount Charles School is fundraising for Children's</u> Hospice South West

CALLING ALL BUSINESS OWNERS

Would you be interested in sponsoring our school football team? Please contact the school office if you are interested in supporting our team.

School Lunches—Lunches are available to order on ParentPay. Please take time over the holidays to sit down with your child to order meals they would enjoy.

What should my child bring every day?

A waterproof, warm coat. If the weather is particularly cold, please bring in gloves & a hat! Please don't forget to put your child's name in them.

A water bottle

A healthy snack for break time for KS2 children. KS1 children have fruit provided.



Our attendance trophy was won by:

29th Nov: 3EW 6th Dec: 5BW

13th Dec: 2CD

20th Dec: 2CD







Biggest improvement in accuracy in last 14 days:



2nd place: Obafemi Olabode

3rd place: Willow Abbott

Most correct answers given over the last 14 days:

1st place: Neelah Adrien 2nd place: Harley Foster 3rd place: Blake Foster

Biggest improvement in studio speed over the last 14 days:

1st place: Scarlett Abbott **2nd place: Tommie Williams**

3rd place: Blake Foster





TOP THREE!

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

1st place: Diley-James Harris 2nd place: Madeline Grant 3rd place: Darko Mataija

Biggest increase in correct answers in the last 14 days:

1st place: Piley-James Harris **2nd place: Madeline Grant** 3rd place: Darko Mataija

Highest improvement in accuracy in the last 14 days:

1st place: Jacob Caddy 2nd place: James Keast

3rd place: Diley-James Harris









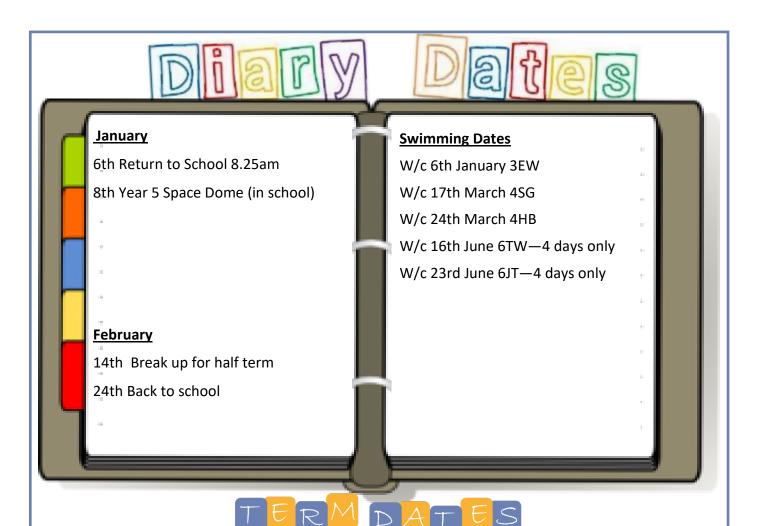












Autumn term 2 2024: Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 20th December 2024

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



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

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropri conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and then For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASO

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

MONITOR DIGITAL



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set cleave boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to

4) BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

nontacy fleats often involve many bods after may contain allegens. Cross contain allegens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hyglene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.





STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD 6



MAINTAIN SAFE **DECORATIONS**



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce

SET BOUNDARIES **FOR GIFTS**



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

9



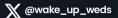
Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

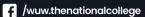
10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



The **National** College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season









Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.12.2024

Support Organisations



In an emergency, call 999



Worried about a child?

Multi-agency Referral Unit (MARU) 0300 123 1116

Out-of-hours number 01208 251300 multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk





Support for children and young people is available from

Cornwall's Early Help Hub

(01872) 322 277 earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk







Citizens Advice Cornwall who will be able to issue you with a food bank voucher - call 0800 144 8848

Financial support or advice on care and support services for families

0808 208 2138

www.supportincornwall.org.uk



Support young people with the tools to look after their mental health

Parents helpline -0808 802 5544

Young person -Text SHOUT to 85258



free, safe & anonymous advice at kooth.com

shout





0800 58 58 58 Helpline for men www.thecalmzone.net



Ending Abuse in Cornwall & Isles of Scilly



0800 068 4141 TEXT: 07860 039 967





Support for young poeple aged 11 to 25

youngpeoplecornwall.org









Dear Parent/Guardian,

Time2Move Holiday Programme - Christmas 2024

It is with great pleasure that we can inform you that the Time2Move Holiday Programme for Christmas 2024 is live.

The programme offers fun physical activities, games and wider activities plus a funded meal for every child. This Christmas we also have a fully funded swimming offer and access to county wide attractions like the Eden Project, Lost Gardens of Heligan and Rogue Theatre.

All children are welcome to attend, and it is completely **funded** for children that are eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

As a parent or guardian of a child eligible for benefits related free school meals you will need your child's unique code in order to access the activities for free. You can access your child's code quickly and easily at:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/time2move

Once you have this code you can search and book on activities here:

www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme

The activities are all delivered by approved providers with the main focus on fun and enjoyment. So please search for activities near you, book your child's place and we look forward to seeing your child over the Christmas holidays.

For any questions regarding the Time2Move Holiday Programme please email Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk or phone 01872 324287.

Yours faithfully

The Time2Move Holiday Programme Team

Cornwall Council | Konsel Kernow

New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, Cornwall TR1 3AY

E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk | T: 01872 324287

www.cornwall.gov.uk



Activities are taking place across Cornwall during the school Christmas holidays

- Multi sports, dancing, forest schools, reindeer feeding, horse riding and lots more!
- For children aged 5 to 16.
- . A hot, healthy meal available for all children.
- Funded places for children eligible for benefitsrelated free school meals.

















This Christmas the Time2Move Holiday Programme, in partnership with pool providers in Cornwall, is offering fully funded swimming sessions.

This is for children eligible for benefits related free school meals along with their parent/guardian and siblings!





Scan here for more information and to find out which centres are included!





Take part in family experience days this Christmas!

This Christmas there will be activities, trips and experiences available for families to access together.

You will be able to access sites such as The Eden Project,
Heligan, Rogue Theatre and many more!





Scan here to find out more information on our website and see what is available.



w: www.activecornwall.org/12mHolidayProgramme E: Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk T: 01872 324287

active X

















Studio 4 Festive Morning 23rd December 2024

