



Autumn Term 2023: Newsletter 6
Friday 1st December 2023

MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

Christmas at Mount Charles

We are really looking forward to Christmas at Mount Charles. It is great to be able to celebrate together and enjoy some festive magic!

Our children have been busy preparing. Every child has been given their own tree decoration to design and today they have been hung on our fabulous tree. We are sure you will agree the tree looks amazing this year. Thank you to Moore's of Mevagissey for donating our beautiful Christmas tree!



EYFS



EYFS have followed a recipe to make their very own squirrel winter muffins! They collected the ingredients and followed the recipe step by step to make squirrel muffins. The children enjoyed adding each ingredient into the bowl, mixing it together and spooning it into the cases. They can't wait to see the squirrels enjoying them!

YEAR 1

For the CELT Writing for Pleasure morning, Year 1 focused on the text 'Beegu'. Beegu is a yellow alien that crash landed on planet Earth. She did not have any friends and felt sad and lost. Year 1 worked hard to write a persuasive letter, inviting Beegu to visit us at Mount Charles School, where she would be surrounded with kind friends. We are hopeful that Beegu may take us up on this offer soon!



YEAR 2

Year 2 had great fun testing out the strength of different materials in science. They used different thicknesses of card and paper to make bridges and investigated how many gems each bridge could hold. The children concluded that card is definitely stronger than paper as it could hold over 300 gems!



YEAR 3

This week year 3 have been writing about monsters. They created some amazing pieces of work. They have also been busy making their Christmas decorations for the school Christmas tree. The children have also begun their own program on purple mash using the commands they have learnt!



YEAR 4



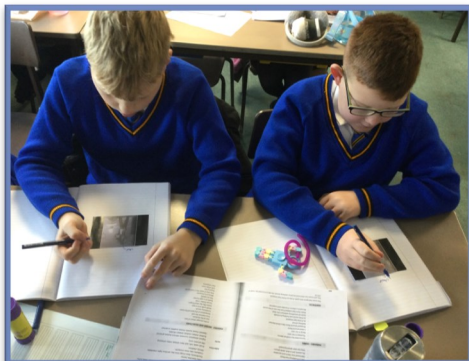
Year 4 have been thinking scientifically and experimenting with sound. They have been using decibel readers to measure the distance sound travels and recording the results.

YEAR 5

As part of the St Austell Festival of Music and Speech at St John's Methodist Church, some of our year 5 children took part in the poetry speaking competition. They all did a wonderful job, speaking so confidently. Well done to everyone who took part,



YEAR 6



Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to write their own introductions to a mystery story. To help further their understanding of suspense writing, they watched an interview with Malorie Blackman (author of 'Pig Heart Boy'). Using a range of strange images for inspiration, they devised a story outline and worked hard to create a descriptive story opening. At the end of the morning, all the children produced their own story opening that, when marking, left their teachers feeling a little bit scared!

ARB

The children in the ARB have been busy getting ready for Christmas and enjoying the change in weather. They have been baking and making sentences based on their class book, The Stick Man. The children also enjoyed a trip to the local park where they worked on their turn taking and gross motor skills. Afterwards the children soaked their cold feet in warm water and enjoyed stories.



SPORTS

Multi-Sports This week a group of KS2 and ARB children took part in a Multi-sports Inclusion event at Poltair School. The children were able to try seated hockey, giant bowling, boccia and balloon volleyball. The children had so much fun, they didn't stop smiling and enjoyed trying the new activities.

Girls Football - Mount Charles hosted our first girls football match against Roche School at Penrice. We had previously seen Roche play at recent tournament and knew they were a very good team. Unfortunately we lost the game 4-0, but the girls played an amazing game. Lily G in goal was amazing and made lots of brilliant saves. This was vital in stopping Roche from scoring more. Mount Charles never gave up, they battled hard and showed excellent team spirit and determination. The girls team will look to play some more fixtures in the new year.

Boys Football—On Tuesday we played Sandy Hill in our first away fixture of the season.

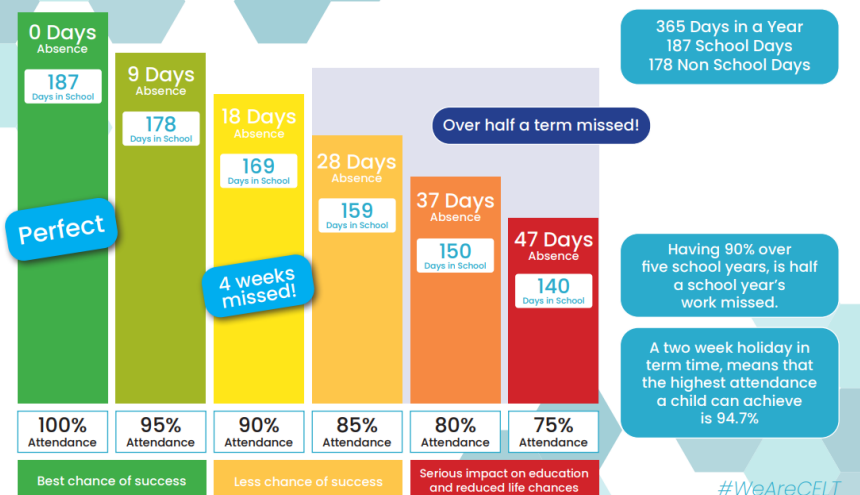
The **Year 3&4 team** played first and lost a tight game 3-2. They played some excellent football against the strongest team we have faced this year so far. Goals from Jake and Teddy.

The **Year 5&6 B team** played next and drew 1-1. A great goal from Jake L equalising for Mount Charles. Goalkeeper Jacob made a crucial save late on to keep the score at 1-1. This was a great performance and positive result.

The **Year 5&6 A Team** played a strong Sandy Hill team. Josh scored the first goal from close range. Mount Charles controlled the match and went 2 goals up shortly after with Leo scoring. Goalkeeper James made a massive save preventing Sandy getting back in the game. Goals then started to flow meaning the final score was 7-0. Goals from Abe x2, Josh x2 and Leo x3. Some excellent attacking play with everyone contributing. We go into the new year with lots of confidence.

Netball: The netballers played two fantastic games against Sandy Hill school on Monday. The A team played a close match, with lots of accurate passing and great marking. They were pipped to the post in the final quarter, ending the game 3-2, but fantastic teamwork. The B team also played a brilliant match with great spacing and passing. They just missed out on a draw in the final half, ending the game 2-1. Two very close, well-played matches. Well done everyone. Great efforts!

How Does School Attendance Affect a Child's Learning?



How we celebrate good attendance: Each week, the class with the highest attendance is awarded the attendance trophy and an extra break time. This week's winners are 5CW with 99.3%. Well done! Our whole school attendance is 95.8%.

Lucky Draw Week: Next week is our Lucky Draw week, any pupil who has achieved 100% for the week will receive a treat and be put into a prize draw! There will be a KS1 and a KS2 prize.

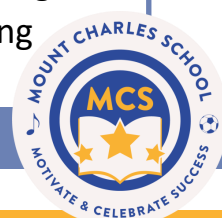
Big end of term reward: Every term we will have an attendance reward for all pupils who have achieved 96.8% or higher during that term. At the end of this autumn term, the children will be treated to a hot chocolate and Christmas film. At the start of each term (**for the purpose of the reward only**) we start every child's attendance at 100%. This means that every child has a chance to achieve 96.8% each term and enjoy the celebration.

Absence from school: 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.

Yearly attendance will continue to be monitored weekly and we will send out attendance information via Class Dojo at the start of each term for any pupils with attendance below 93%. Each week, class teachers will be made aware of pupil's attendance for the year to date and may contact you to discuss your child's attendance.

Well done and thank you to those pupils whose attendance is already improving from last term, this is fantastic. If you have any questions or queries regarding attendance, please contact Mrs Nile via the school office.



Christmas at Mount Charles

Monday 4th December Christingle service, KS1 (children only)

Tuesday 5th December Christmas Dinner KS1 & ARB (Pasties for KS2) - Our KS1 and ARB children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas accessory with their school uniform.

Wednesday 6th December PTA Christmas Craft session, KS2. There are 30 places available and the session costs £5. Places can be booked by paying via ParentPay. The session will run from 3pm—4pm, in our main hall.

Thursday 7th December Christmas Dinner KS2 (Pasties for KS1) - Our KS2 children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper or Christmas accessory with their school uniform.

Monday 11th December Christmas Celebration, EYFS. The children's first Christmas Celebration with our school will start at 2:30pm in the main hall. There are two seats allocated per child, tickets not necessary.

Tuesday 12th December KS2 Christmas Celebration, 1:30pm and 6:00pm. We are very grateful once again to Penrice Academy who have generously loaned us the use of their auditorium for our KS2 Christmas Celebrations. Information regarding tickets will be released soon.

Wednesday 13th December Christmas Celebration, Year 1. The celebration will start at 2:30pm in the main hall. There are two seats allocated per child, tickets not necessary.

Wednesday 13th December PTA Christmas Craft session, KS1. There are 30 places available and the session costs £5. Places can be booked by paying via ParentPay. The session will run from 3pm—4pm, in our main hall.

Thursday 14th December Christmas Celebration, Year 2. The celebration will start at 2:30pm in the main hall. There are two seats allocated per child, tickets not necessary.

Friday 15th December Last day of term. School finishes at 1:30pm. Charlies will not be running on this day.



TOP THREE!



Biggest improvement in accuracy in last 14 days:

1st place: Sharlet Robin

2nd place: Freddie Newcombe

3rd place: Taylor Date

Most correct answers given over the last 14 days:



1st place: Jake Lightfoot

2nd place: Lillian Kitson

3rd place: Jack Beard

Biggest improvement in studio speed over the last 14 days:

1st place: Bailey Kelly

2nd place: Charlie Brocklehurst

3rd place: Lillia-Mae Watson



TOP THREE!

Highest number of minutes played in the last 14 days:

1st place: Mia Uren

2nd place: Cerys Hudson

3rd place: Lily McFarlane



Highest number of correct answers in the last 14 days:

1st place: Lily McFarlane

2nd place: Jasper Bolt

3rd place: Jack Richards

Highest accuracy in the last 14 days:

1st place: Connor Bellamy

2nd place: Lily McFarlane

3rd place: Rose Westaway



REMINDERS

Coats: With the changeable weather, please ensure your child brings a coat to school, every day. This **MUST** be labelled with your child's name.

Sickness and Diarrhoea: The new guidance states that if you child has **either** sickness **or** diarrhoea they will need to remain off school for 24 hours. If they have **both** then it will need to be 48 hours.

Tesco Blue Tokens: Our library is at the heart of our school and we are keen to develop it further. Our application to the Tesco Stronger Starts Scheme has been successful. The project with the highest number of votes across our region, will receive £1,500. Don't forget to pop your blue tokens in our collection container when you are shopping in Tesco stores in St Austell. Please spread the word to increase our chances of winning!

TESCO
Community Grants



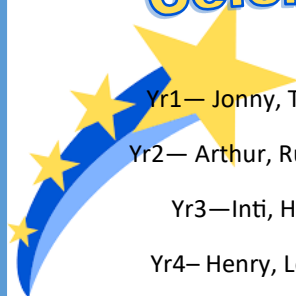
Attendance Lucky Draw week: Next Week is our lucky draw week. Any pupil who has achieved 100% for the week will receive a treat and be put into a prize draw! There will be a KS1 and a KS2 prize.

100%

Collection arrangements: Please remember to contact the office before 3pm if you wish for your child to be collected by a different adult.

Consent for Events: If you receive an letter inviting your child to attend a sport or music event, please click on the link to give or refuse consent. This will help staff in having to chase for responses.

Celebrating



Yr1— Jonny, Teddy, Jack, Holden

Yr2— Arthur, Rupert, Blake, Matilda

Yr3— Inti, Harley, Toby, Ollie

Yr4— Henry, Lewis, Ben, Sherwin

Yr5— Imogen, Bruce, Sophia

Yr6— Tyler S, Josh, Sharlet, Lily G

Sports Superstar— Tommie, Libby

Success

Our attendance trophy was won by:

This week: 5CW with 99.3%

Last week: 2HM & 2SC with 100%



Attendance!



Diary Dates

December

4th-8th 4HB Swimming every day
 4th Year 5 & 6 Basketball @ Poltair
 4th Christingle service, KS1
 5th Christmas Dinner KS1 (Pasties for KS2)
 6th PTA Christmas Craft session, KS2
 7th Christmas Dinner KS2 (Pasties for KS1)
 7th Stay & play sessions (2024 intake)
 8th Stay & play sessions (2024 intake)
 8th Last day of Autumn after school clubs
 8th Year 4,5,6 Cross Country @ Poltair
 11th Year 1&2 Christmas Festival @ Poltair
 11th Christmas Celebration, EYFS
 12th KS2 Christmas Celebration, 1:30pm
 KS2 Christmas Celebration, 6:00pm
 13th Christmas Celebration, Year 1
 14th Christmas Celebration, Year 2
 15th End of term. School finishes 1.30pm.
Charlies Wraparound Club will not be running.

January

8th Return to school 8.25am.
 15th-19th 3SG swimming every day
 16th Football/netball fixture @ Charlestown
 22nd-26th 3RC Swimming every day
 30th Football/netball fixture @ St Mewan

KEY DATES

13th-16th May - **SATS Week** ALL Year 6 must be in school this week.

TERM DATES

Spring term 1 2024: Monday 8th January 2024 - Friday 9th February 2024

Spring term 2 2024: Monday 19th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer term 1 2024: Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024

Summer term 2 2024: Monday 3rd June 2024 - Friday 26th July 2024

Autumn term 1 2024: Thursday 5th September 2024 - Thursday 17th October 2024

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





Dear Parent/Guardian,

Funded Holiday Activity – Christmas 2023

It is with great pleasure that we can inform you that the **Time2Move Holiday Programme for Christmas 2023 is live.**

The programme offers fun physical activities, games and wider activities plus a funded meal for every child. 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



CHRISTMAS 2023

Activities are taking place across Cornwall
during the Christmas holidays!

Scan here to book!



- Activities including multi sports, circus skills, arts and crafts and lots more
- For children aged 5 to 16
- Every session includes a healthy meal for all children
- Funded places for ALL children eligible for benefits related free school meals

www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/
Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk
01872 324287

Funded by
Department
for Education



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

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Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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#WakeUpWednesday



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