



Autumn Term 2023: Newsletter 7  
Friday 15th December 2023

## MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

# Christmas at Mount Charles

The children have had a busy few weeks preparing for their Christmas performances. I am sure you will agree they were all fantastic!

We would like to wish all our families a Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 8th January.



What a wonderful performance from EYFS! Their big smiles and super singing showed that they enjoyed performing just as much as we all enjoyed watching. We couldn't be prouder, well done EYFS!



Year 1 also put on an amazing performance. The children performed a rendition of the story a 'Warm and Fuzzy Christmas'. The children gave a very confident performance especially in front of such a large crowd. The children sang their hearts out and read their lines beautifully.







# YEAR 2



The children worked incredibly hard to learn their lines and the words to our songs. It was so lovely to see them beam with pride and they were full of excitement afterwards!



EYFS, KS1 and the ARB celebrated Christingle. They all made their own Christingle to our Mount Charles Church where they sang songs, listened to why Christingle is so important and then they snapped their glowsticks together to celebrate the light of the world! It was a special service, thank you so much to Mount Charles Church for hosting us.







# KEY STAGE 2



KS2 held their wonderful Christmas Concert on Tuesday. The children entertained us with singing, acting, poetry performance and instrumental pieces. The children worked so hard practising this term and produced two brilliant shows for parents to enjoy. Everyone left feeling very festive!





## ARB

The children in the ARB have enjoyed lots of wonderful Christmas activities. They visited The Tunnel of Lights, their favourite part was the snow globe; they watched the film Arthur Christmas at Brannel Cinema; baked yummy treats and made decorations. To top it all, they were very lucky to get a special visit from Father Christmas who gave all the children a lovely gift.



## SPORTS

This week a group of Year 1 children took part in a Christmas themed sports festival against other local schools. The activities included:

Dodgeball (Snowball throwing) using soft foam dodgeballs

Ice cube machine: bean bags were thrown by Poltair students, the children then had to work together to get all the bean bags back in the machine before it ran out.

The Grinch V Santa-: The children had to protect the presents (bean bags). Aim was to not let the Grinch team steal the presents.

Team building game using hoops to cross to the other side of the hall. If a child stepped out of the hoop they had to go back and start again.

They finished the afternoon with a silent disco where the children listened to Christmas music and fun songs.

A great way to round off the sporting calendar for 2023!





## Safeguarding over Christmas

We are aware that Christmas can be a time of extra stress and pressure for some families. Please see the information sheet below for support information.

**Online Safety:** Some pupils may be lucky enough to receive new devices this Christmas. Below is a link to help parents and carers know everything they need to about setting up new devices to help keep children safe online.

[https://ineqe.com/2022/12/15/guide-to-gifting-tech/?utm\\_campaign=Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=238258872&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8gapjrJVjXlvUJoy4GfASv0S](https://ineqe.com/2022/12/15/guide-to-gifting-tech/?utm_campaign=Newsletter&utm_medium=email&hsmi=238258872&hsenc=p2ANqtz-8gapjrJVjXlvUJoy4GfASv0S)

Follow this link for a great resource that can help you with keeping up to date with internet safety. It can tell you everything you need to know about Tik Tok, WhatsApp, Snapchat and more.

[Home Page - Our Safety Centre](#)

## 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](mailto:multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk)



Support for children and young people is available from

### Cornwall's Early Help Hub

(01872) 322 277

[earlyhelp@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@cornwall.gov.uk)

**NSPCC**  
0808 800 5000



Cornwall **foodbank**

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](http://www.supportincornwall.org.uk)



### YOUNGminds

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](http://kooth.com)

"It's alright to ask for help"

**SAMARITANS**

116 123

**shout**  
85258



0800 58 58 58  
Helpline for men  
[www.thecalmzone.net](http://www.thecalmzone.net)

HOPELINE247

0800 068 4141

TEXT: 07860 039 967



**Christmas Online Support**  
27 - 30 December

3pm-6pm

[youngpeoplecornwall.org](http://youngpeoplecornwall.org)

**SAFER FUTURES**

Ending Abuse in  
Cornwall &  
Isles of Scilly

0300 777 4777  
Mon-Fri 9am-9pm  
Sat- 9am-5pm

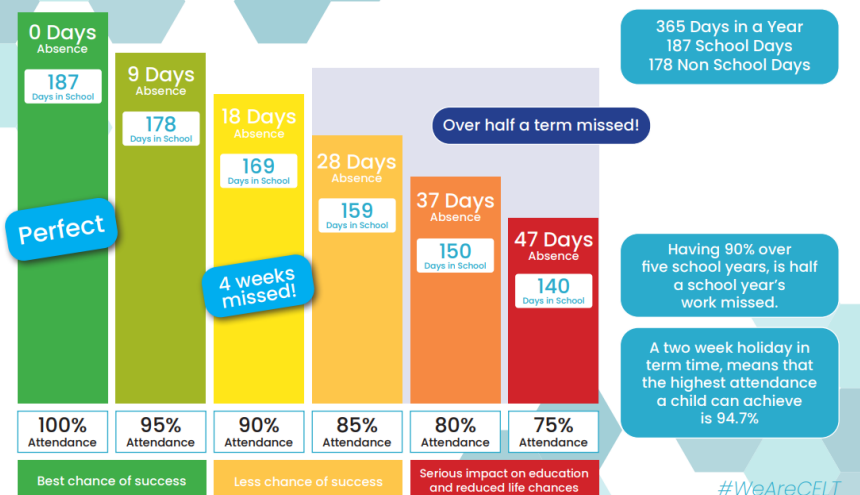


LEARNING TOGETHER  
CORNWALL EDUCATION LEARNING TRUST





## 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 2SC with 98.2%. Well done! Our whole school attendance for this term is 95.7%

**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.







# TOP THREE!



## Biggest improvement in accuracy in last 14 days:

- 1st place:** Rhys Bayne
- 2nd place:** Sherwin Robin
- 3rd place:** Collins Kelechi

## Most correct answers given over the last 14 days:



- 1st place:** Zachary Maby
- 2nd place:** Kai Derring
- 3rd place:** Jayden-James Elliott-Moore

## Biggest improvement in studio speed over the last 14 days:

- 1st place:** Brooklyn Takura
- 2nd place:** Ebony Cavey
- 3rd place:** Bailey Kelly



# TOP THREE!

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

- 1st place:** Emily Pomeroy
- 2nd place:** Eli Baron
- 3rd place:** Esmae McCoan



## Biggest increase in correct answers in the last 14 days:

- 1st place:** Eli Baron
- 2nd place:** Emily Pomeroy
- 3rd place:** Sienna Charnock

## Highest improvement in accuracy in the last 14 days:

- 1st place:** Marley Brewer-Furze
- 2nd place:** Eliza Reynolds
- 3rd place:** Eli Baron





# REMINERS

**School Lunches:** The menus for next term are now on ParentPay. Please take a few moments over the break to make your choices with your child. Lunches must be ordered in advance, even for those entitled to free school meals and Universal Infant Free School Meals.



**Thank You:** We would like to express our thanks to Robert from **More than a Bookshop** for his very kind donation of reading books for the school. We were overwhelmed with the amount! These will make a wonderful addition to our growing library and perfect reading prizes for our children.

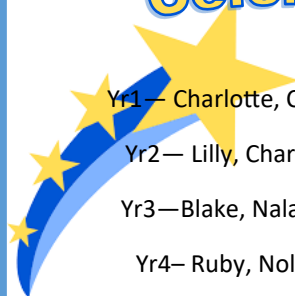


**Tesco Blue Tokens:** Over the Christmas holidays don't forget to pop your blue tokens in our collection container when you are shopping in Tesco stores in St Austell. The project with the highest number of votes across our region, will receive £1,500 which will help us greatly in improving our library.

Please spread the word to increase our chances of winning!



## Celebrating



Yr1— Charlotte, Connor, Nevaeh, Kanan

Yr2— Lilly, Charlie H, Florence, Jaxon

Yr3— Blake, Nalah, Theia, Jenson, Olly

Yr4— Ruby, Nolah-Rose, Jack, Jacob

Yr5— Bailey, Freddie, Lily, James

Yr6— Charlotte, Gaia, Lacey-May, Jacob

Sports Superstar— Harley F & Misha

## Success

Our attendance trophy was won by:

This week: 2SC 98.2%

Last week: 4HB 98.6%



## Attendance!





# Diary Dates

## January

8th Return to school 8.25am.  
 8th Year 1 Hearing Screening  
 8th Year 2 Dance @ Poltair  
 9th Football Fixture @ St Mewan  
 15th-19th 3SG swimming every day  
 16th Football/Netball fixture @ Charlestown  
 22nd-26th 3RC Swimming every day  
 30th Football/Netball fixture @ St Mewan

## February

6th Football/Netball Fixture @ St Stephen  
 9th Break up for half term  
 19th Return to School

## KEY DATES

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

## Residentials

Year 3 Thursday 2nd-Friday 3rd May  
 Year 4 Thursday 25th-Friday 26th April  
 Year 5 Thursday 9th –Friday 10th May  
 Year 6 Wednesday 5th-Friday 7th June

## 2024/2025 Residential

Year 6 Tuesday 15th-Thursday 17th October

## 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



# 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](http://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](http://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.



**National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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@nationalonlinesafety

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# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Mount Charles School deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



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## Cost of Living Support Hub

**When:** 3rd Thursday of every month exc. Dec  
**2023/24 dates:** 14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 21st Mar

**Time:** Arrive anytime between 10:00 – 12:00

**Location:** Light and Life Centre, Unit 4, Brunel  
Business Park The Sidings, St Austell PL25 4TJ

5 minute walk from St Austell bus and train station. Some parking spaces available; off street parking nearby and pay and display at Polkyth behind the centre if preferred.



### Provided

- Free Hot Drinks & Biscuits
  - Free Lunch

### Support With

- Financial Support in a crisis
- Benefits and welfare checks
  - Council tax support
  - Housing advice
- Support with Employment
- Help with cost of Utility Bills
- Debt advice and support
- Support with form filling
- Access to your local Social Prescribing team







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](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/time2move)

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

[www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk) | T: 01872 323335  
[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)





# 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/](http://www.activecornwall.org/T2MHolidayProgramme/)  
[Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:Time2Move.HolidayProgramme@cornwall.gov.uk)  
01872 324287

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