

# MOUSEHOLE NEWS

Friday 10th January 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

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Firstly, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

The children have returned excited to start their new topics and learning, there is a real buzz around the school which is lovely to see!

We had the auditions for the Youth Speak Competition on at the end of the Autumn Term. We were introduced to varied and interesting topics. All of the competitors had taken time to think carefully about their topic and presented them with clarity and confidence, it made the judging very tricky. Ava, Elizabeth, Iona and Alina were successful and are now working as a team to create the best performance they can for the competition later in the term.

Year 4 woodland skills enjoyed their first woodland skills this week with Mr Ansell and Miss Hook using our senses, trust & fantastic team to meet a tree!

Congratulations to Arlo Bee for achieving her Silver Blue Peter Badge for her work towards the environment cleaning and upgrading the Mousehole Rockpool with her family and local community. She received video messages from Steve Backshall and Helen Glover for her commitment and support which we shared with the whole school in assembly. Well deserved recognition, keep up the good work Arlo.

Our Spring Mental Health Ambassadors are Alfie B, Suki, Caleb, C, Kerra, Meadow and Margot. They will be working with Ms Munday this term to support children, lead new initiatives and report back in weekly assemblies.

A big thank you to Chris Yacoubian for taking the beautiful photographs at our Christmas Carol Concert. There are a few below for you to look at.

A reminder that your child should be wearing the correct uniform to school this includes black shoes. Trainers are only to be worn on PE days. We have lots of uniform on the rails in the school for you to access at any time.

Please take time to read the Whole School Attendance letter attached as it explains the penalty notices and consequences of being capped with 2 penalties in a 3 year period.

The after school clubs start next week.

A quick reminder to be in school at 8.45am promptly for the register and we finish at 3.15pm.

Hope you have a restful weekend!

Sarah Trow

HOUSE POINTS:



**PORTHCHAPEL:230**

**GWYNVER: 259**

**SENNEN:308**

**PRAA SANDS: 226**



**WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:**

94.2%

SKIFF-96.52%

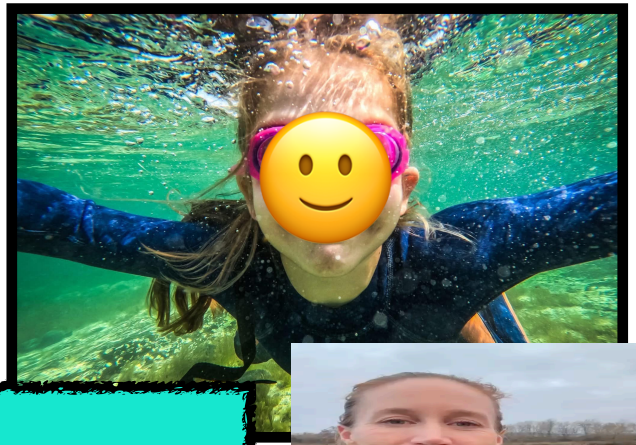
LUGGER- 88.85%

SCHOONER-98.57%

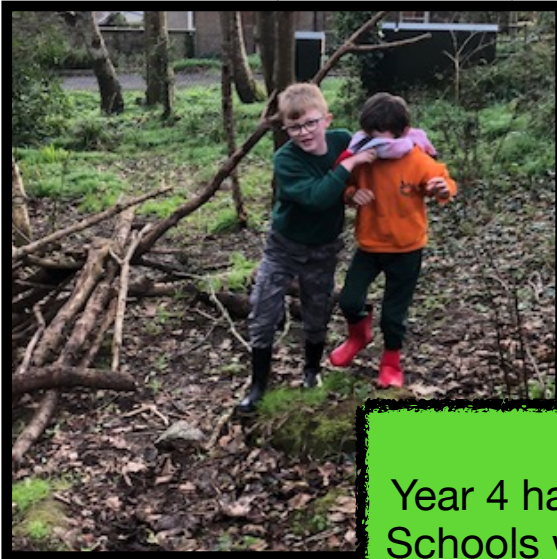
Well done to all of these children who have received head teacher awards in the last week and first week of the new term for their hard work in maths, writing, geography, and DT. Amazing effort with great outcomes-keep it up!







Congratulations Arlo Bee for achieving your Silver Blue Peter badge for work on The Mousehole Rockpool. With messages from Steve Backshall and Helen Glover for all her commitment.



Year 4 having fun at Forest Schools with Mr Ansell and Ms Munday using our senses, trust & fantastic team to meet a tree!



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Spring Term:

Fridays-Schooners swimming

Jumping Mice weekly on Tuesdays 10.30-11.30am

Clubs begin w/b13.1.25

Thursday 16th January- School Census Day

Friday 17th Jan Year 1 hearing screening

W/b 3.2.25 Mental Health Week

Friday 7th Feb Luggers Cake Stall 3.15pm

Friday 14th Feb Valentine Disco-5.30-7pm

Half Term 17th-21st February

Tue 4th March St Piran Concert 7pm St Johns Hall

Wed 5th March St Piran Parade 10am

Thurs 6th March World Book Day

Wed 12th March Parent Consultations

Wed 26th March Tempest whole school photos

Thurs 27th March Songfest 3.30-8.45pm St Johns Hall

W/B 31st March No Clubs

Friday 4th April Easter egg Raffle

Friday 4th April- Last Day of Term

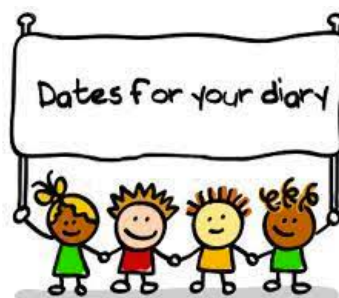
**Summer Term Begins 22.4.25**

**2024-2025 INSET Days:**

Monday 21st July 2025

Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Wednesday 23rd July 2025







Some of the lovely photos of our Christmas Carol Concert- thank you to Chris Yacoubian for taking them.







# Online Safety Newsletter

Jan 2025

## Social Media Influencers

### What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account.

### What should I be concerned about?

Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share content that is for example, misogynistic, racist or misleading. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact, so it is important to talk to your child and encourage them to fact check and critically analyse what they see and hear online.

### What we see on social media

What we see is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, creating an echo chamber and therefore we do not see a balanced picture. Find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

### What can I do to help my child?

Talk to your child about social media and who they follow. If there is anybody that you are unsure of, then check their feed and discuss with your child if you find anything worrying.

### Further information

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/social-media/>

## Fortnite Battle Royale



Fortnite Battle Royale is rated PEGI 12 due to moderate violence, meaning it is not suitable for children under the age of 12.

### What is Fortnite?

There are different versions of Fortnite, including Fortnite Battle Royale, which is free to play (although it contains in-app purchases). In Battle Royale, up to one hundred players compete against each other until one winner remains.

### What do I need to be aware of?

- **Chatting and inappropriate language:** Fortnite includes voice and text chat, which may mean your child encounters strangers and may hear inappropriate language. Ensure your child knows how to report/block any players that make them feel uncomfortable.
- **In app purchases:** Players can purchase V-Bucks so make sure you restrict purchases and do not store your card details.

### Parental Controls

Fortnite provides several parental controls in your child's Epic account to help you create a safer environment for your child. The controls allow you to:

- disable voice chat
- filter language
- manage which experiences your child can access based on their age
- set a PIN to add friends
- set a PIN for purchases
- set time limits
- set appropriate privacy settings.

**Also, remember to set up age-appropriate parental controls on the device your child is playing on.**

### Reporting/Blocking Features

As always, ensure your child knows how to use the reporting and blocking features and that they know they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

### Further information

You can find out more here:

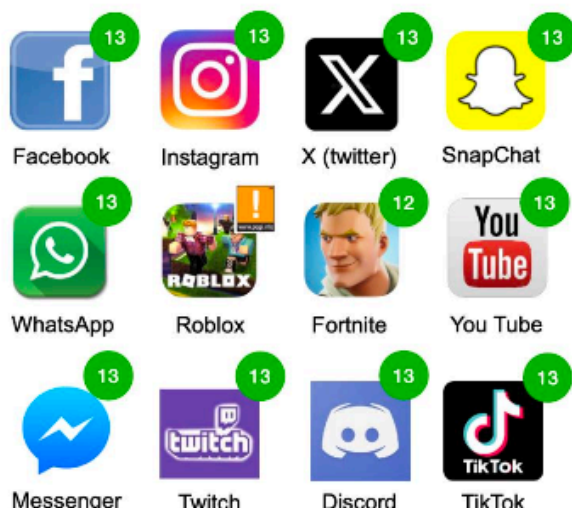
- <https://safety.epicgames.com/en-US/parental-controls>
- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.  
Current as of the date released 01.01.25.



# Get to know age ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing.



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media – make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence or bad language.

## What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

## What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and as always, remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

## Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://eegamesmart.co.uk/articles/how-age-ratings-help-families/>

## Smartphone Free Childhood



Smartphone Free Childhood is a parent-led movement whose mission is to protect children from the dangers of using smartphones too young.

The premise behind this movement is that all parents/carers of a class all agree not to give their children smartphones (therefore the level of peer pressure is reduced) for a set time or until a specific age. Are you ready to join? Find out more here:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

## Digital differences between men and women revealed

Ofcom have released their annual report into our daily habits. The findings show that women and teenage girls are more worried about online harms. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/online-habits/digital-differences-between-men-and-women-revealed/>

## X (Twitter) Checklist

You should be at least 13 years of age to have a Twitter account. The SWGfL have created a free Privacy and Security checklist for you to download. The resource is available here:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/introducing-the-x-checklist-keeping-your-profile-under-control/>

**NHS** Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online **Sleep Workshop**

Monday 3rd February - 11am & 4pm  
 Tuesday 4th February - 9.30am & 2pm  
 Wednesday 5th February - 9.30am & 1.30pm  
 Thursday 6th February - 11am & 1.30pm

This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on sleep hygiene and sleep routines. Also includes practical strategies for helping children

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/7ac7qHLPhc) <https://forms.office.com/e/7ac7qHLPhc> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall

**NHS** Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

# MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online **Behaviour Workshop**

Monday 27th January - 9.30am & 2pm  
 Tuesday 28th January - 11.30 am & 4pm  
 Wednesday 29th January - 9.30am & 1.30pm  
 Thursday 30th January - 11.00am & 4pm

This workshop provides parents with practical strategies to foster positive behaviour and communication at home.

To book a place please complete the online form [HERE](https://forms.office.com/e/1PwGDXSQ40) <https://forms.office.com/e/1PwGDXSQ40> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of primary aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 6 in any school in Cornwall

# Mousehole School

## Reception Applications for Sept 2025

Don't forget to sign up by 15th Jan 2025




**Starting school September 2025**

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2025

**Attending a nursery or pre-school**  
 You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

**Information and guidance**  
 Website and application form: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)  
 Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)  
 Post: School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY  
 Telephone: 0390 1234 101

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)










## Early Help - Family Support Worker

I need some support with my child's behaviours.

My family really struggles with routines.

I wonder if there is any support out there for dealing with my child's school worries/anxiety.

I wonder if my child is suffering from trauma because of what we have been through as a family.

Where can I find help for me so that I can be a parent more effectively?

I don't know what support I need, I just need some advice.



Hello my name is

**Sophie**

I am the Family Support Link Worker  
for your school

If you need some advice or support for your family,  
please talk to the school to find out when the next  
Early Help drop in/coffee morning will be.

If you are really struggling and feel you need some support sooner,  
please ask the school to pass on your details and I will be happy to  
contact you.

## Are you worried about your child's mental health?

It can be difficult to know how best to support your child  
and what support is available for them.

Drop into Penzance Family Hub (in St John's Hall) on Monday  
20th January 9:30-11:30.

CAMHS and Primary Mental Health practitioners will be  
available to answer your questions and advise you on the  
best course of action for your child.

Family workers from Early Help and SEND System Navigator will  
also be available to offer advice and signposting.

**No need to book – please drop in on 20<sup>th</sup>  
January.**



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Dear Parent/Carer

Here at Mousehole School we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under '*exceptional circumstances*'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Headteacher using the school's '*Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances*' request form.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to

include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. Mousehole School is committed to enabling every child to reach their full potential and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely  
Sarah Trow  
Headteacher