MOUSEHOLE NEWSLETTER

What's Been Happening This Week - 20.11.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dydh da,

What a busy and exciting week it has been at Mousehole School. Although it seems hard to believe, we are already beginning to build up to the festive season, with lots of wonderful events and opportunities for our children and families to enjoy.

A huge congratulations goes to Luna J, who was chosen as the winner of the Majors Christmas Card Competition for Mousehole School. Every child took part, and the standard of entries was so impressive that Andy Law has arranged for all of the children's cards to be displayed at the Wharfside Art Gallery in Penzance. We are incredibly proud of everyone who participated, particularly our talented members of Schooner Class.

Preparations are also underway for our annual Christmas School Fayre, which takes place on Monday 7th December at 2.00pm. We would be grateful for donations of raffle prizes and jolly jam jars, which can be left in the collection box at Reception. Thank you for your continued generosity and support in helping us make this much-loved community event a success.

On Wednesday 2nd December, Billy Wynter will be working with Schooner Class to create the Humphry Davy lanterns for this year's parade on Friday 11th December at 5.00pm. If any parents or family members are available to help with the workshop, please contact Mrs Freeman in the school office.

Well done to Lugger Class for hosting our half-termly cake stall. The delicious range of cakes proved extremely popular and helped raise valuable funds for school projects and resources. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and supported the event.

We were delighted to receive a special delivery of books from Queen Camilla this week as part of the National Year of Reading 2026. Every Year 6 child has been gifted a copy of Impossible Creatures by Katherine Rundell. This initiative celebrates the joy of reading and aims to inspire children across the country to develop a lifelong love of books. We encourage our Year 6 pupils to enjoy this wonderful gift and make time for reading over the coming weeks.

Our Dinghy Class children have been learning about healthy lifestyles and were fortunate to welcome Emma Marment from Smarter Smiles. Emma demonstrated effective tooth-brushing techniques and shared important messages about oral health. The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and gained valuable knowledge about keeping their teeth healthy.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported our recent Fix It Friday event with Mark Hayward. It was fantastic to see so many bicycles repaired and back on the road. Initiatives like this not only support families but also encourage healthier, greener ways to travel within our community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It is wonderful to see our school community coming together to provide such rich experiences for our children as we approach the Christmas season.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you on Monday.
With best wishes,
Mrs Sarah Trow

STARS OF THE WEEK



This week's Star of the Week goes to Arthur, Raphi, Jude and Henry R. For fabulous writing, being a multiplication maestro, a super role model to others and showing great kindness to their peers and for always putting 100% into all that they do.
Well done to you all! ⭐🏆

Housepoints

Gwynver: 237

Praa Sands: 274

Sennen: 232

Porth Chapel: 295

Marvellous Mouse

Oliver.B
For his amazing shape recognition on our shape hunt through the village and at the beach with Dinghy Class.

Wellbeing Ambassador Report

Being a good friend: Zennor

Trying hard at swimming: Charlie S

Being a good role model: Alma

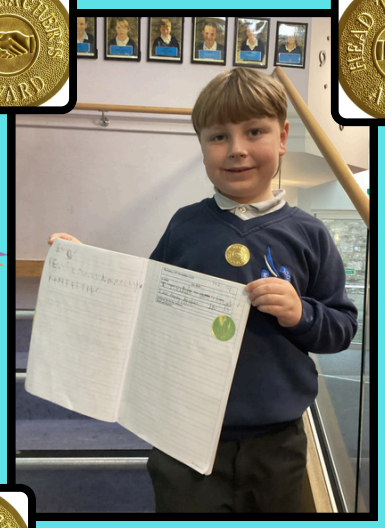
Always being kind: Jude and Ezra

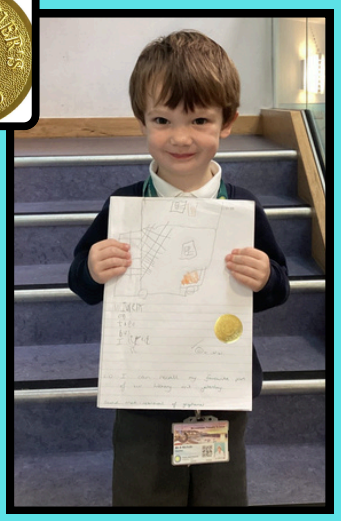


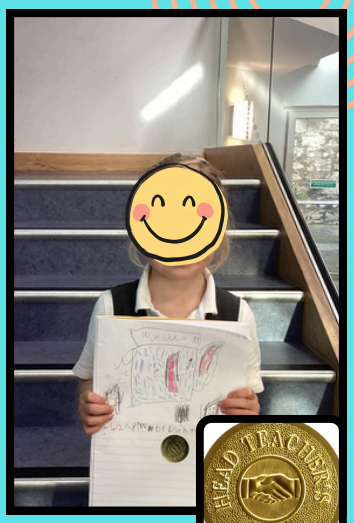
Congratulations to Alfie, Jocelyn, Frank and Lil for showcasing their work. We are working hard to produce our best work at all times by demonstrating our school values of respect, hard working, confidence and kindness.



A big thank you to Mark Hayward for coming in and fixing our bikes today to ensure that they were raod worthy! It was lovely to welcome you to Mousehole.









Headteachers awards this week go to Rupert for joining his handwriting, Henry T and Gigi for their independent sentence writing and Luna, Arthur and Alfie for their suspense writing. Brilliant work.





Dinghy and Mousehole Mice had a fabulous welly walk around Mousehole finding different shapes. Followed by a lesson with Emma an oral hygienist on how to clean and care for their teeth!











As part of National Reading Year all the Year 6 children have recieved a book from Her Majesty The Queen to promote a love of reading. The were giving 'Impossible Creatures' By Katherine Rundell. Enjoy all of you and we look forward to hearing about the book!





LOST PROPERTY!!

We have lost property tubs in the reception area if your child has lost any items of clothes please come and have a look. A quick reminder to ensure that all of your child's clothing, packed lunch boxes and bottles are labelled.
Many thanks.



Attendance

Attendance target for all pupils:96% or above

Dinghy: 91%
Skiff: 96.8%
Lugger: 94.4%
Schooner:99.7%



Attendance Matters

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities, and even a small amount of missed time can have a significant impact on a child's progress, confidence and friendships.

We understand that children will occasionally be absent due to illness, but we encourage families to ensure that pupils attend school whenever possible and arrive on time each day. Establishing strong attendance habits from an early age supports children in developing routines, resilience and a positive attitude towards learning.

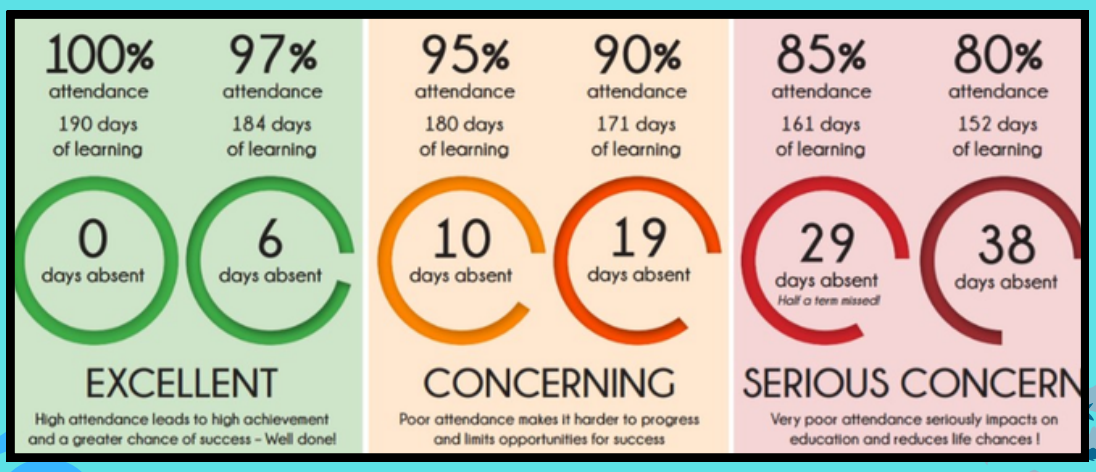
This year, we will continue to work closely with families to promote excellent attendance and to provide support where needed. If you are experiencing any difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help.

Our attendance target for all pupils is 96% or above.

Did you know?

- 95% attendance means your child misses around 10 school days each year.
- 90% attendance means your child misses almost 4 weeks of learning across the school year.
- Regular attendance supports academic achievement, wellbeing and positive relationships.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that every child is in school, on time and ready to learn each day. Together, we can help every child make the most of the opportunities available to them at Mousehole School. 🌟



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

Up and coming dates:

- Wednesday 2nd December Billy Wynter Humphry Davy Lantern Work shop with Yr 5/6- parents welcome to come along and support.
- Monday 7th December- School Christmas Fayre
- Tuesday 8th December-Yr 1 hearing screening test
- Thursday 10th December- Musicians Assembly
- Friday 11th December- Humphry Davy Lantern Parade
- Wednesday 16th December- Christmas Dinner/Christmas Jumpers
- Wednesday 16th December- Christmas Carol Concert 6pm
- Thursday 17th December -Nadalik theatre production visiting the whole school.
- Friday 18th December- Last day of Autumn Term - Cinema Trip children to be collected at 3pm from The Savoy Cinema in Causeway Head.

2026-2027 INSET Days:

Monday 4th January 2027

CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all · onen hag oll

KINDER
STRONGER
BRIGHTER
CORNWALL



CORNWALL PARENTING OFFER

Free Parenting Support for Families Across Cornwall

Building Confidence • Strengthening Relationships • Improving Outcomes

What is the Parenting Offer?

- **FREE** parenting support, workshops and advice.
- Support available from pregnancy through to 19 years (25 years with SEND).
- Focus on strengthening parent-child relationships, confidence and wellbeing.

When should parents consider attending?

- Preparing for different stages in your child's life, understanding their emotions and behaviours and preparing for their next stage of development.
- New parents or parents wanting relationship support.
- Support to strengthen emotional wellbeing, communication or family relationships.
- Seeking practical support to improve your confidence.

How we can support settings, schools and professionals?

- Partnership working – Parenting Workers to attend events, staff/team meetings, parents evening, coffee mornings.
- Identify parents/carers needs and deliver Bitesize workshops with topic related themes (e.g. routines, sibling rivalry, mental wellbeing).
- Deliver evidence-based programmes with your cohort of parents/carers.
- Tailor bespoke parenting support to meet needs.

Parenting workshops available

Practical support for every stage of your parenting journey

Understanding Your Child Togetherness – Solihull Approach

A 10-week evidence-based programme.

- Understanding behaviour
- Child development
- Emotional wellbeing
- Communication and connection
- Managing feelings and anger
- Building stronger relationships

Parents Plus Adolescent Programme

For parents and carers of young **people aged 12-19 years.**
A 9-week evidence-based programme.

- Understanding teenagers
- Positive communication
- Encouraging cooperation
- Effective boundaries
- Positive behaviour support
- Supporting emotional wellbeing

Supporting Healthy Relationships

A 3 week evidence-based programme for couples who are expecting or have children of any age.

Includes:

- **Me, you and baby too** (for all new or expectant parents)
- **How to Argue Better** (for parents who are still in a relationship with a child of any age)
- **Getting it Right for Children** (for separating or separated parents)

"One of the best things you can do for your child is to improve the relationship between parents."

Bitesize Workshops

Short practical workshops for all parents and carers.
Flexible 1-2 hour sessions providing practical tools and strategies.

- Routines
- Boundaries
- Praise & Rewards
- Remaining Calm
- Online Safety
- Teenage Brain
- Mental Wellbeing
- Sibling Rivalry
- School Transitions

Additional support

These services are available through the parenting website.

SEND Support

Specialist parenting support and workshops and access to local SEND services.

Video Interaction Guidance (VIG)

A strengths-based intervention using video to enhance parent-child communication and relationships.

Empowered Parenting Podcasts

Free podcasts offering parenting advice, practical strategies and top tips to support families throughout their journey.

Self-guided pathways online Learning & Resources

'Togetherness Solihull Approach'.

How do parents access this service?

FREE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FOR ALL FAMILIES

- No referral required
- Parents can self-book directly through the website
- Free to access
- Face-to-face and online options available
- Support available for families from pregnancy through to age 19 (25 years with SEND)

BOOK DIRECTLY ONLINE

www.cornwall.gov.uk/parenting
parenting@cornwall.gov.uk
01872 324323

Scan here to find out more

Happier Healthier Brighter Futures

Support · Learn · Grow · Belong

A great start in life

Knowsley City Learning Centres

Online Safety Newsletter

Nov 2026

Spotify Parental Controls

Spotify is a music streaming service. You must be aged over 13 to access it. If under 18, parent/guardian consent is required. However, under-13s can access Spotify through a managed account set up by a parent or legal guardian.

Since July 2026, Spotify has provided parental controls for managed accounts on both free and premium plans. These controls:

- turn messaging off.
- turn explicit content off.
- turn videos and canvas off.
- allow you to block specific artists or tracks.

Further information

Read the news announcement here: https://newsroom.spotify.com/2026-05-13/managed-accounts-free-tier-expansion/

Spotify have produced this Parental Guide to assist you with further information: https://www.spotify.com/us/safetyandprivacy/parental-guide

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translation tool on our web version: https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/november-2026-primary/

Online Grooming



What is Online Grooming?

Online Grooming is when an adult builds a relationship online with a child to manipulate, exploit, or abuse them.

How does Grooming take place?

Groomers often use fake profiles to pretend they are someone they are not, for example they may claim to be younger than they really are or pretend to be a person of influence. They will use flattery and attention to build trust and friendship. They may use online games or social media to initiate contact but then encourage your child to switch to a different app to chat with privately - usually on an app that offers limited or no parental controls and/or encrypts messages.

What can I do?

- Use appropriate parental controls.
- Set privacy settings.
- Show them how to use any blocking or reporting tools.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they do online and who they communicate with. Remind them that people online may not always be who they say they are.

What are the signs that my child is being groomed?

- Being secretive about who they are talking to.
- They become withdrawn from family and friends.
- Appearing anxious or upset after receiving messages.
- Receiving unexpected gifts.

Find out more here: https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/offender-gaining-trust

What should I do if my child is being groomed?

- If you think your child is in immediate danger, contact the police.
- Stay calm and reassure your child that they are not to blame.
- If you are worried about online abuse or the way somebody has been communicating with your child online, report it to CEOP: (https://www.ceop.police.uk).

Further information

- https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/11_18/lets-talk-about/sexual-abuse/online-grooming/

COM Networks

COM Networks are online communities where harmful and deeply disturbing behaviour occurs, including child sexual abuse, cybercrime and extremism. These networks operate on mainstream messaging apps, gaming platforms and through social media. **It is important to be aware that such networks exist and understand the risks they can pose to children.** Introductions to COM Networks can begin with harmless conversations on a game or social media platform, but then as trust builds, groups will gradually introduce harmful content, extreme challenges and pressure to prove loyalty. Some groups use threats, humiliation or the threat of exposing private information to control members. Images, messages or personal details may be used to blackmail victims.

What should I look out for?

- **Increased secrecy**
- **Emotional or behavioural changes**
- **Unfamiliar language:** using new expressions or discussing extreme content, opinions or beliefs.
- **Unexpected gifts**

Sky News investigation into COM Networks (and links on popular sites such as Roblox and Discord)

You may have seen Sky News' investigation into COM networks. The report highlights findings from a six-month investigation that found self-harm-themed avatars, clothing and related content available on the gaming platform Roblox, including items that could be accessed by children as young as five years old. The report can be viewed here, please be aware that it contains upsetting content: https://news.sky.com/video/inside-robloxs-dark-side-sky-news-finds-self-harm-avatars-available-to-young-children-13592551

How can I protect my child?

- Have regular and open conversations with your child. Ask your child what they do online and who they communicate with.
- Reassure them that they can always ask for help, even if they have shared something personal or broken a family rule.
- It is important to remember that threatening to confiscate their devices may make them less likely to talk to you when something goes wrong.
- Regularly review privacy settings and set up appropriate parental controls on all devices your child is using.
- Ensure your child understands the risks of sharing personal information or intimate images online.

Further information

- https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp/professional-resources/sadistic-online-exploitation/
- https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/understanding-com-networks/

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WhatsApp Channels and Parental Controls

Users must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Children under 13 can access WhatsApp through a parent-managed account.

WhatsApp Channels

WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool to send updates to followers. Channels can be found in the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content. If your child has their own WhatsApp channel, then you need to be aware that they are public. Anyone can view and follow a channel and anything you share on your channel is public. We would recommend that parental controls are used to prevent children creating and accessing WhatsApp channels.

Parent Managed accounts

Parent managed accounts are required for those under 13. These accounts have additional safety restrictions and do not allow access to features such as Channels, Meta AI and location sharing. You also have control over which groups they can join.

Parental Controls for Teenagers

For users aged 13 to 17, WhatsApp offers parental control settings to limit access to certain features such as Channels.

For more information, visit: https://www.whatsapp.com/parentalcontrols

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Rage Bait

Have you heard of this term? Rage bait is when somebody deliberately posts online content to make people feel angry or frustrated to generate views and engagement. Find out more here: https://findmykids.org/blog/en/rage-baiting

COME AND VISIT US!

Mousehole School

Starting Reception in 2027?

At Mousehole School we are proud of our local community and all the rich opportunities it brings our children. We would love for you to come and take a look around our fantastic school, have a chance to meet our school team and see where your child could thrive in our little community!
We look forward to meeting you!

CONFIDENCE
RESPECT
LOVE OF LEARNING



Ofsted

Read our report

To arrange a tour and make an appointment please contact us:

Tel: 01736 731427

Email: mousehole@tpacademytrust.org

LET'S GO PENZANCE

Walky Wheely Wednesdays

active CORNWALL

Let's travel to school the fun way...
Walk or wheel your way to school every Wednesday and earn points for your class to win prizes while competing against other schools in Penzance!

Why join in?

- Healthier, happier children
- Less traffic around school
- Builds confidence and independence
- Better for the environment

What you get:

Your school will be given a **repair toolkit** for everyday use—perfect for pumping tyres and simple repairs.

Families can take part in a special full-day session with a **qualified mechanic** to get bikes fixed and ready to ride!



Launching 5th October

Mousehole School Christmas Fair

Refreshments

Beat the Santa Goalie!

Raffle
Drawn at
3.30pm

Monday 7th December

Christmas Crafts

2.30pm—4.00pm
in the School Hall

Teddy Tombola

Jolly Jam Jars

Guessing Table

Christmas Pong

Lucky Dip

Come along and help us celebrate the festive season with the school community!



All money raised will go to FROMS and the continued work they do with the school to offer our students wonderful opportunities.

Christmas Raffle Prizes

Do you own or work at a local business?
Do you have some unwanted gifts at home?
Are you willing to approach some local businesses for us?

With our annual Christmas Fair fast approaching we are in need of raffle prizes and need your help.

We also need Tombola donations so any tins, chocolates, biscuits or small gift items all greatly received!

If you are able to donate or source a prize, however big or small, for our Christmas Fair then please drop it in to the School Office or pass it to Sophie or Becky in the school playground.

We aim to have all prizes/items by Monday 30th November.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!



Jolly Jam Jar Day!

Friday 4th December

A Jolly Jar is a jar that is filled with goodies like; sweets, chocolate, small toys, stickers, erasers, small pencils/pens/crayons – things you might find in a party bag.

You can decorate your jar if you wish with stickers, glitter, ribbon – the choice is yours!





Please bring your jar(s) in on Friday 4th December ready for the Christmas Fair!