

MOUSEHOLE NEWS

Friday 12th September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We can't believe that we have already been back for two weeks. The children have all settled in beautifully and it has been lovely to welcome our new Mousehole Mice, Dinghy Class and children who have started in new classes throughout the school. We have been delighted to welcome back Miss Cane in Skiff Class and to have Ms Nicholls join us in Dinghy Class alongside Mrs St Pierre, both fantastic additions to the school staff.

A huge thank you to Annabel for welcoming the school to Sea Swept farm on Tuesday for some blackberry foraging, and seed planting. She also welcomed them all into the farmhouse to eat their lunch when the weather changed. The children had a wonderful time bonding, being out in the fresh air and enjoying the local nature around them.

Please use the communication leaflet sent out last week to help support you to contact the correct person if you would like to discuss any concerns, worries or achievements regarding your child. The term dates are attached below and can also be accessed via the school website. <https://www.mousehole.cornwall.sch.uk/web/> Look out for any extra information throughout the term from the staff via Seesaw.

A huge well done to Dinghy who have achieved 100% attendance this week. Our whole school target is 97%. Please take time to read the law regarding penalty notices that was sent home last week via Seesaw and attached below. Try to ensure that all medical appointments are made outside of school hours where possible as it is so important that your child doesn't miss their education.

The children have come back looking really smart in their school uniforms, can you please ensure that your child wears school black shoes and only have trainers on a PE day. They also need to have their hair tied back if it is on their shoulders. Please remember to have a water bottle, coat and healthy snack. (Can you ensure everything is named).

Thank you for your continued support with drop offs and pickups while the culvert works are being undertaken. Children in Skiff, Lugger and Schooner can be left at the school gate when the staff have welcomed them in as this will help with independence and congestion coming up the hill.

I hope you have a restful weekend and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday for a prompt 8.45am start.

Best wishes,

Sarah Trow

Stars of the week

Dinghy Class	-Hamish	-Hamish has settled into his new class here at Mousehole brilliantly! He is making friends and has been enjoying exploring the new environments both indoors and out! Great to have you in Dinghy Class Hamish and keep up the super learning! Well done!
Skiff Class	- Jude	- For starting Year 1 with a smile and showing great kindness.
	- Owen	-For having a brilliant attitude towards all areas of school life and just being brilliant. Keep it up !
Lugger Class	-Phoebe	- For a fantastic start to Year 4 - really impressed, super focus hard work, great example to all. Keep it up!
	-Rudy	-For a fab start to Year 3 great focus, 100% super polite, courteous and super team player. Keep it up!
Schooner Class	-Ula	- For settling well into Year 5 and demonstrating a conscientious attitude to her learning.
	-Lilah	-For her fantastic maths and attention to detail-keep it up Lilah!

Marvellous Mouse Of The Week



Henry

For settling so well into Mousehole Mice. Making new friends and being kind to everybody. Henry has beautiful manners and has already mastered the routines. Well done Henry!





WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE:
 95.12%
 DINGHY-100%
 SKIFF -96.3%
 LUGGER- 95.31 %
 SCHOONER-90%

HOUSE POINTS:

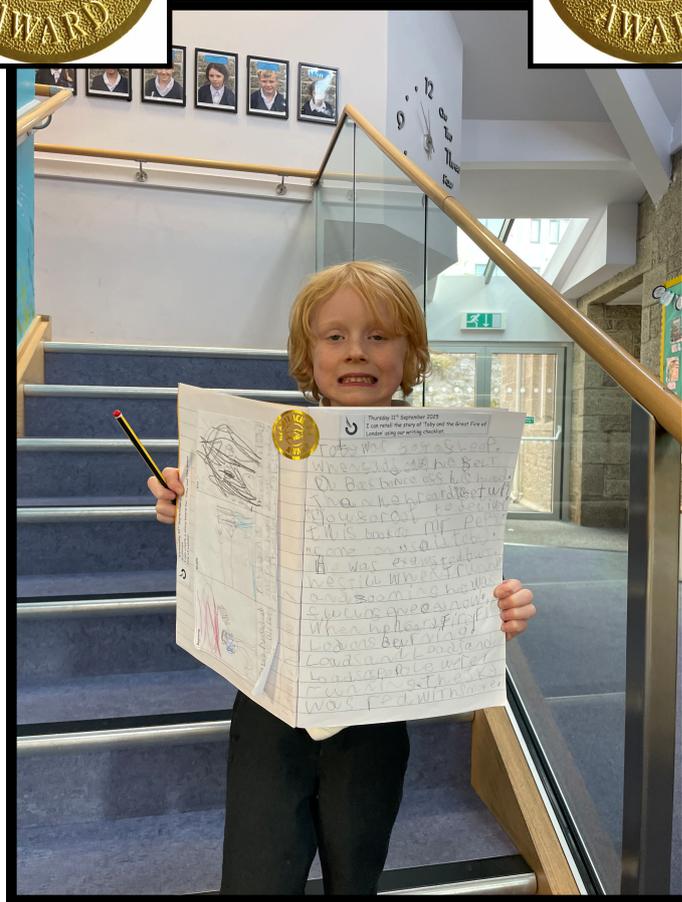


PORTHCHAPEL: 188

GWYNVER: 162

SENNEN: 261

PRAA SANDS: 223



Congratulations to Levan for receiving a head teachers award this week for his fantastic retelling of the story of "toby and the Great Fire of London." He used wonderful descriptive language and a variety of punctuation. Keep up this great work Levan!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 week HALF TERM: Monday 21st October 31st October -2025

W/C Monday 8th September 2025-Clubs start

Schooner Class swimming 12.9.24 - 5.12.24

Friday 26th September-Non Uniform day- Children Cancer Ward Fund

Tuesday 30th September 2025- Tempest Individual Pupil Photographs

October 2025 Feast Concert 6pm St Pol Du Leon Church-TBC

Wednesday 8th October 2025- Paul Feast Activities in School-come in PE kits

Sunday 12th October 2025- Paul Feast Service St Pol Du Leon Church 11am

Monday 13th October-Skiff trip to the Minack

Thursday 18th October 2025-Nasal Flu

Tuesday 14th/Wed15th/ Parent Consultations 3.30pm-6pm

2 week half term 21st-31st October

Return to school 3rd November

Tuesday 4th -7th November 2025 Mousehole Mice parent Meetings

Friday 7th November 2025-Nasal Flu

Friday 14th November 2025- Children in Need-wearing spots!

Thursday 11th December 2025 Save the Children Christmas Jumper day

Thursday 18th December 2025 Christmas Concert 6pm St Pol Du Leon Church

Whole School Christmas Dinner TBC

Friday 19th December Whole school cinema trip and last day of term

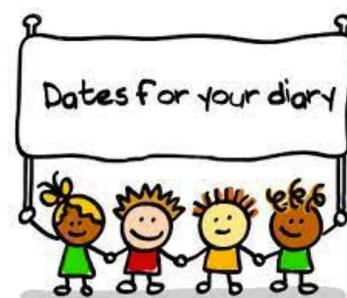
2025-2026 INSET Days:

Monday 1st September 2025

Monday 20th and 21st October 2025

Monday 26th January 2026

Monday 1st June 2025





FARMYARD FUN!

Tuesday this week the whole school had the opportunity to visit Sea Swept farm in Paul. We had so much fun exploring the whole farm with activities such as blackberry picking and spreading some flower seeds down the side of the paths. The children were exceptionally well behaved even though the weather was just a little bit wet and windy! We would like to say a massive thank you to Annabelle Pitts-Crick for giving us a tour of her family's farm and talking to us all about the great things they do there for the community and wildlife.



KIERS ART WORKSHOP

On Wednesday our first day back the whole school had the opportunity to work with Kiers to produce some artwork. Kiers are the company undertaking the work we are currently having done in our main playground. In groups the children came up with their own unique designs on different boards which will be placed on the hoardings until the work has been completed. The boards will then be kept and hung in our playground for everyone to enjoy. A big thank you to Kiers for working with the children and providing these workshops!



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2025

Coverstar

Coverstar say they are “the safe TikTok alternative.” They state, “there is no specific age limitation...however, if you are under the age of 13, you must obtain parental consent.” Users can post, comment and livestream.

Whilst Coverstar does not include private messaging, users can still interact via public comments. Coverstar does use moderation tools to scan all user-generated content. It is also important to be aware that Coverstar does allow in-app purchases ranging from £0.99 - £59.99.

If your child is using this app, ensure they know how to use the reporting tools. Bark provide a full review of Coverstar here, but they rate it as suitable for 10+:

<https://www.bark.us/app-reviews/apps/coverstar-app-review>.

Test your knowledge: Online Scams

Childnet have created a quiz for 9-13 year-olds that includes a range of potential online scams, as well as tips to help your child protect themselves online. Find out more here:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/test-your-knowledge-about-online-scams-with-our-quiz-for-9-13-year-olds/>

Online Safety Act

What is the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act 2023 is a set of laws introduced to protect children and adults online. Ofcom is the regulator for online safety in the UK, responsible for ensuring companies follow the new rules. As part of this role, Ofcom have designed the Children Codes of practice, which came into force in July



2025. The codes outline what all online services likely to be accessed by children must do to protect children online, for example:

- Enforce age limits.
- Protect children from accessing harmful or age-inappropriate content. This includes content relating to self-harm and eating disorders.
- Ensure users can easily report harmful content.

Ofcom has the power to enforce the rules as well as issue fines if companies fail to comply. You can find out more here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/new-rules-for-a-safer-generation-of-children-online>

How will it help to protect my child?

One of the main purposes of the Act is to protect children online. Ofcom has published information on how they are helping children to be safer online. The first link is a guide for parents, which also includes a section on what you can do as a parent. You can access this information here:

- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-ofcom-is-helping-children-to-be-safer-online-a-guide-for-parents>
- <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/protecting-children/how-the-online-safety-act-will-help-to-protect-children>

Further information

Online Safety Act: explainer:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/online-safety-act-explainer/online-safety-act-explainer>

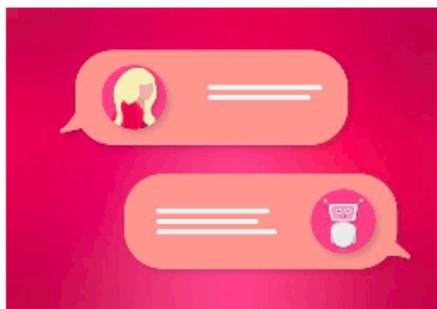
Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleycitylearningcentres.org.uk/sept-2025/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to grow, and examples include:

- **Search engines** such as Google now include an AI-generated overview as part of their results.
- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa, Meta AI and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat.



Opportunities

AI can be an effective tool when used correctly, for instance:

- **Homework** – children can use AI to support and assist their learning.
- **Advice** – AI can be used to provide information and suggestions on a variety of topics.

Risks and concerns

- **Misinformation** – ensure your child understands that AI can sometimes provide incorrect or misleading information.
- **Privacy issues** – read any privacy policies before using.
- **Chat apps** - a simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of apps already available that are not suitable for children as many are rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos that can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

How can I protect my child?

To help keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Develop your child’s digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

- Overview: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/by-activity/using-artificial-intelligence/what-is-ai-artificial-intelligence/>
- Should you worry if your child has an AI friend? <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/should-you-worry-if-your-child-has-ai-friend>

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Roblox: Grow a Garden

Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Grow a Garden is one of the latest games available on Roblox and is extremely popular. The game is labelled as ‘minimal’ for content maturity, which Roblox define as “may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood, and/or occasional mild fear.” Roblox believe that the game play is suitable for everyone. However, as the game is on Roblox, it is important to be aware of the following:

- **Chat** – strangers can interact with your child.
- **In-game purchases** – this game does include in-game purchases.
- **Screentime** – set limits for how long your child is playing.

A lot of the content on Roblox is user generated, which may mean not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play. If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing, ensure they know how to use any reporting tools and set up appropriate parental controls.

Further information

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/30428310121620-Parental-Controls-Overview>

Grooming online

Grooming is when somebody seeks to build a relationship with a child to exploit them or cause harm.

It is important that we teach our children how to recognise red flags. Childline have lots of useful information on their website, including where to get further support from:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/online-grooming/>

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, is being introduced following changes to the law. These new Government regulations will come into effect from 19 August 2024 and will affect when penalty notices are issued in Cornwall.

What are the changes?

1. There will be a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.
3. There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them. This could include prosecution.

Please see FAQs below with more information about how the new rules may affect you.

FAQs

If I have been issued with a penalty notice before 19 August 2024, will this be counted if I am issued with another penalty notice from September onwards?

No, the new limits come into effect from 19 August 2024.

If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

Yes, absence from school can only be agreed when the explanation of the leave of absence is considered as exceptional circumstance by the Head Teacher.

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

- Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has had unauthorised absence from school.
- In education law, anyone who lives with a child and who has day-to-day care of the child is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. This will include step-parents and partners.

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence includes other absence that has not been agreed such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed and failing to provide acceptable reasons for absence.

How do I request for my child to have leave granted during term time?

You must submit a Leave of Absence Request form to the Head Teacher before the proposed absence (a minimum of 15 days before the Leave of absence is due to commence). Each request will be considered on its own merit, but where the leave of absence could be taken outside of the school term the absence will not be authorised. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received confirmation from the school.

Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued?

No, a penalty fine can be issued for any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms (including between academic years).

What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under S444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

Please contact us to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can support you to improve the situation.