Friday 13th November 2026

NEWSLETTER



Rachel Clift
Headteacher

Pondhu
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week of learning, enrichment and memorable experiences we have enjoyed at Pondhu! Our children have had so many fantastic opportunities to learn beyond the classroom, including an exciting Key Stage 1 visit to the Eden Project and a fascinating trip for Year 6 to Cornish Lithium, where they were able to explore the science and industry right here in Cornwall. We also came together for a very special Remembrance Assembly, with our Key Stage 2 children showing great respect and thoughtfulness. Alongside this, our children represented the school brilliantly at the cross-country event, and we had lots of fun supporting Children in Need. It has certainly been a busy week, filled with opportunities to learn, explore, remember and make a difference. We are incredibly proud of all our children!

Cross Country Success at Penrice School

On Monday, a group of pupils from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 represented our school at a Cross Country event held at Penrice School.
The children showed fantastic determination and resilience as they tackled the challenging course alongside pupils from other local schools. Every runner gave their very best effort and demonstrated a positive attitude throughout the event.
A huge well done to all our runners for their excellent effort and a particular well done to three of our runners who achieved top 3 places - Ruby (3rd in the Year 6 race), Bella (3rd in the Year 5 race) and Rhian (2nd in the Year 5 race). We look forward to seeing the whole team continue to develop their cross-country skills in future events.
Well done, Team Pondhu!

School Cross Country Club

If your child would like to join our school cross-country club they are welcome to join in every Monday lunchtime at 12 pm on the field - no need to sign up. Please bring shoes that you don't mind getting muddy (trainers or football boots are fine). We had 28 pupils last week - all aiming to get fitter, faster and have some fun - and I hope to see even more next week!
Mr Martin

STAR LEARNERS

Join us in celebrating children who have shone in their learning, effort and attitude this week

POTTER CLASS

RJ

for being super sensible on the school trip and for consistently making good choices

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

IGNACY

for settling well into the class and showing increasing confidence in his learning

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

ARMSTRONG CLASS

AVA

for having a super week in her new school

MRS SCOTLAND | SB

GOODALL CLASS

GRACE

for being a kind and helpful member of the class

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

RHIAN

for being a superstar and always trying her best

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

ISLA

for working hard and showing determination in all of her learning this week

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

BRITISH VALUES CHAMPIONS

Join us in celebrating children who have demonstrated the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance

POTTER CLASS

FINLEY

for being kind and helpful to others

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1

KAHLO CLASS

CELAEB

for showing respect and tolerance towards his friends

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2

GOODALL CLASS

AUTUMN

for always being a lovely respectful friend

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4

EARHART CLASS

LUNA

for always following the Golden Rules

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5

OWENS CLASS

DAISY

for being a really kind and respectful friend

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Top Class for Attendance EYFS / KS1

Potter & Kahlo



Top Class for Attendance KS2

Earhart



Most improved Attendance

Owens

TARGET: 96%

Whole School Attendance Snapshot

93.9%

Leave during term time

We understand that there are occasions when families need to request exceptional leave for their child during term time.

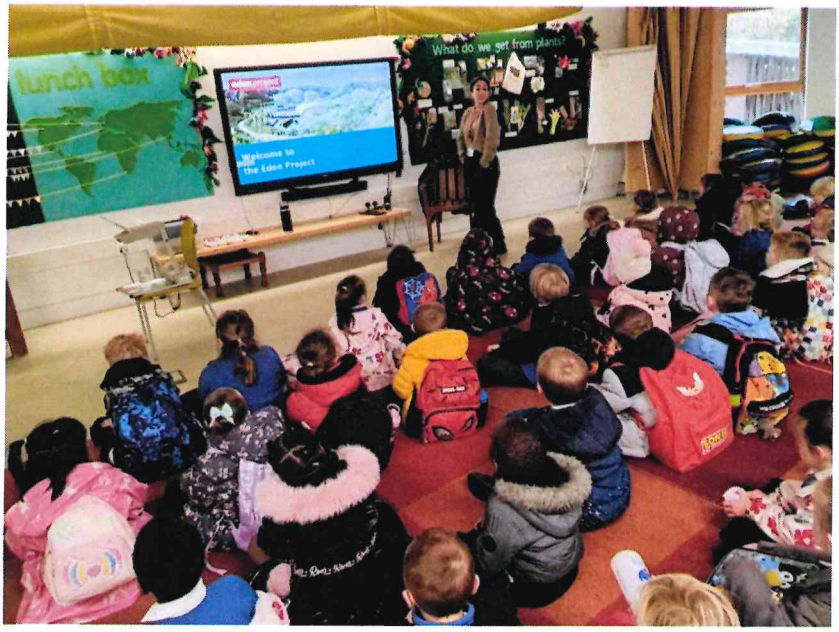
In such cases, it is essential to submit an absence form well in advance. These are available at the school office and on our website.

We will only authorised these requests in exceptional circumstances, and we will review each application on a case-by-case basis.

Please be aware that taking unauthorised leave may mean you become liable for a fine. To help you plan ahead, term dates are available on the school website.

EDEN PROJECT TRIP

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a fantastic day at the Eden Project on Wednesday. We started the day with two wonderful workshops. Reception/ Year 1 enjoyed a story about plants and animals in the rainforest. Then they went on a hunt around the rainforest biome for different colours, patterns, shapes and interesting plants. Year 1/2 learnt about how we can eat a rainbow with the wonderful fruit and vegetables that are available and how bees need these beautiful, coloured foods for pollination. They then transformed themselves into bees to play a pollination game. The children were fascinated by the biomes and took it all in. What an amazing experience!









CORNISH LITHIUM TRIP Y6

On Tuesday Year 6 Owens class enjoyed an exciting and informative visit to Cornish Lithium near St. Dennis, where they discovered more about Cornwall's geology and the importance of lithium in modern technology.

The children began by learning how granite is formed and took part in a series of fascinating experiments to investigate how lithium can be extracted from granite. They then enjoyed a tour of the Cornish Lithium site, where they saw how the extraction process works on a much larger scale.

The visit also provided an opportunity to discover just how important lithium is in our everyday lives, particularly in the production of batteries for electric cars, mobile phones, tablets and many other devices. The children also learned about the exciting opportunities for future employment within this growing industry, discovering how science, engineering, technology and environmental skills could lead to a variety of careers right here in Cornwall.

The children showed great enthusiasm, curiosity and focus throughout the visit, asking thoughtful questions and getting fully involved in all the activities. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were excellent ambassadors for our school, representing Owens class and Pondhu brilliantly.

A big thank you to everyone at Cornish Lithium for making the visit such an enjoyable and valuable learning experience!













REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Wednesday, we came together for a special Remembrance Day assembly to remember and honour all those who have served, and continue to serve, our country.
Our KS2 children proudly laid the beautiful poppy wreaths they had made, and members of our School Parliament read the moving poem 'In Flanders Fields'.
We were incredibly proud of how respectfully and thoughtfully all of the children observed our minute of silence. It was a lovely opportunity for us all to pause, reflect and remember.
We will remember them. 🌺❤️





Anti-bullying week

Next week in school we will be taking part in anti bullying week. On Thursday, the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will take part in a workshop with the Stay Safe Initiative.

Odd socks day

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week in the UK, taking place on Monday 16th November. Children can come to school in their normal uniform but also wear odd socks.



Coming up at Pondhu

View Full Calendar

16 Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day
19 Thursday 19th November	Anti-bullying workshop Y3-6
23 Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November	UK Parliament Week

TERM DATES 2026-2027
Autumn Term 2026

Saturday 19th December 2026 - Sunday 3rd January 2027: Christmas Holidays
Spring Term 2027
Monday 4th January 2027 - Term Begins
Saturday 13th February 2027 - Sunday 21st February 2027: Half-term
Friday 26th March 2027 (Bank Holiday) - Sunday 11th April 2027: Easter Holidays
Summer Term 2027
Monday 12th April 2027: Term Begins
Monday 3rd May 2027: Bank Holiday
Saturday 29th May 2027 - Sunday 6th June 2027: Half-term
Friday 23rd July 2027: Final Day of Term

Christmas Events 2026

Nursery Christmas Cafe - Tuesday 15th December @ 9.00 am

Reception/Year1 Christmas Cafe - Monday 14th December @ 2.15 pm

Year 1/Year 2 Christmas Cafe - Wednesday 16th December @ 2.15 pm

Specialist Base Christmas Cafe - Wednesday 16th December @ 2.15 pm

KS2 Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church date to be confirmed

Mayor's Carol Concert @ St.John's Methodist Church - Friday 4th December @ 6.00 pm

Santa's on the run - Tuesday 15th December @ 1.30 pm

Christmas Dinner (Christmas jumper day) - Thursday 17th December



Virtual Classroom

Links for home practice

WB: 9.11.2026

Please use the videos below to practise the sounds your children have been learning this week with them at home. Your child will know which group they are in based on the colour books they are reading, and which adult leads the group. This will indicate which films they should be watching. If you have any questions about Virtual Classroom, please ask Mrs Vine.

Colour Group RWI Teacher	Sounds or skills	Links
Group A/B Mrs Rundle	g i u z Fred Game	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UAmvz03K/dolIyKXF https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/idjI9n66/3yqipCCB https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6tKQiH80/ZKxylhgr https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GjguAthX/6keBbc4J https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8KsPvmfX/zmA5JXOc
Group C Mrs Rundle	g i u z word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/UAmvz03K/dolIyKXF https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/idjI9n66/3yqipCCB https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/6tKQiH80/ZKxylhgr https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/GjguAthX/6keBbc4J https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/4D1QewA6/7C844hfk
Ditty Mrs Dell	th nk ng qu word time	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pZTbHgEr/YbajgLbB https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/tKua7F7f/nXGiXfVG https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7C4NVlMP/zVyG6EyI https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MBzq65HC/be9vFXAh https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/R7ksvfTU/UbTodHyU
Purple Group Mrs Chappell/ Mrs Vine	oo (look) ou or word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/sLDwn2vG/R3gnrIth https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/7q19cTRf/gEbw5nZQ https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/p99o9n7W/xlCLSJ8P https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/e8mmYrPN/MjkArPKa https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/EclfGE98/uPfYZPlJ
Orange Group Mrs Hackworth	o-e aw word challenge	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/U81hyL19/A0yqiHiK https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/rD0jac2W/XISTXIJu https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xJLYOFAm/kMgtKYea

	speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/NTRYRgL6/Sr4XdO4j
Yellow Group Miss Maskell	ph kn word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/cC0lkBH1/aIJBeQgb https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pEw2vIIb/WRMJnaqE https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xJLYOFAm/kMgtKYea https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/uwMLlkG5/1QTZ3gVs
Blue Group Mrs Bailey	cious ible word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/F4XSxPGR/9IIZKTZa https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mlUTid7V/IJ3AV81H https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/xJLYOFAm/kMgtKYea https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gASxmUBj/nrQBwIvn