



NEWSLETTER

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Before half-term, Year 5 and 6 had a wonderful day at Paignton Zoo. It was great for me to be able to accompany them and it was lovely to hear comments like “This is the best day of my life!”

PAIGNTON ZOO



Our class had a fantastic time at the zoo, we saw many different animals including monkeys, lions, giraffes and red pandas. Although it was raining, that didn't dampen our spirits. We had a big hall to feast in. Even though we saw the flamingos from far away, their hot pink was interesting to look at and pondered about. We could even see the lion's toys that had been bitten into. The staff even let us see a model of the tiger's skull. They even told us some facts about the many animals. At one point we saw the giraffes getting fed. We had a great time. By Piper and Valencia from Year 5

PENRICE FARM

On Wednesday, Penrice Farm Team brought along their wonderful animals for the Nursery and Reception children to meet – friendly dogs, a curious tortoise, and some very sweet guinea pigs.

Our children were amazing! They asked thoughtful questions about what the animals eat, where they sleep, and how to care for them properly. They learnt all about being responsible pet owners and how important it is to handle animals gently and calmly. It was a fantastic hands-on learning experience and a lovely opportunity to build confidence around animals.

A big thank you to Penrice Academy for sharing their time – we loved every minute of it!



SCHOOL TRIPS

Everyone is looking forward to the remaining trips of the year. We have planned the following:

Reception/Year 1/ Year 2 – Lanhydrock House, Screech Owl Sanctuary and Heligan

Year 3 – Tregullas Farm, St. Michaels Mount and Eden Project

Year 4 – Penlee House, St.Michaels Mount and Dartmoor Zoo

Year 5 – Bath, Tamar Bridge and Box museum and Minack theatre

Year 6 – Bath, National Marine Aquarium Plymouth and Minack theatre

SPRING 2 TRIPS

Thursday 19th March Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Lanhydrock

Friday 27th March Year 3 trip to Tregullas Farm

Tuesday 31st March Year 4 trip to Penlee House

Wednesday 1st April – Thursday 2nd April Year 5 and 6 trip to Bath and the Roman baths

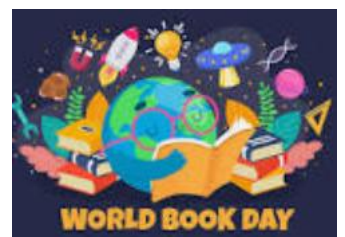
PE T-Shirts

We have introduced new PE T-Shirts which are optional to buy on Parent Pay, child sizes (3-4 years, 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 9-10 years & 11-12 years) are £11.85 and adult sizes (XS, S, M & L) are £14.85. From September these will become part of the school uniform.



WORLD BOOK DAY – 5th March

World Book Day is a global, annual celebration of authors, illustrators and books to promote reading for fun. In the UK, it is held on the first Thursday in March (March 5, 2026), encouraging children to dress up, enjoy stories, and use book tokens to purchase discounted books (these will be handed out on Thursday). So, let's see some of your amazing outfits!





Star Learners



The children have been fantastic this week and they have been chosen for a variety of reasons.

Reception – Michael for brilliant progress with his reading

Year 1 – Mikey for his improved effort and positive attitude towards reading

Year 2 – Josh for increased effort in his writing

Year 3 – Brogan for having a better attitude towards being the best that he can be

Year 4 – Rocco for working hard in all lessons and for improved behaviour at playtimes

Year 5 – Piper for producing an incredibly high standard of work in all subject areas

Year 6 – Koby for a great attitude and confidence

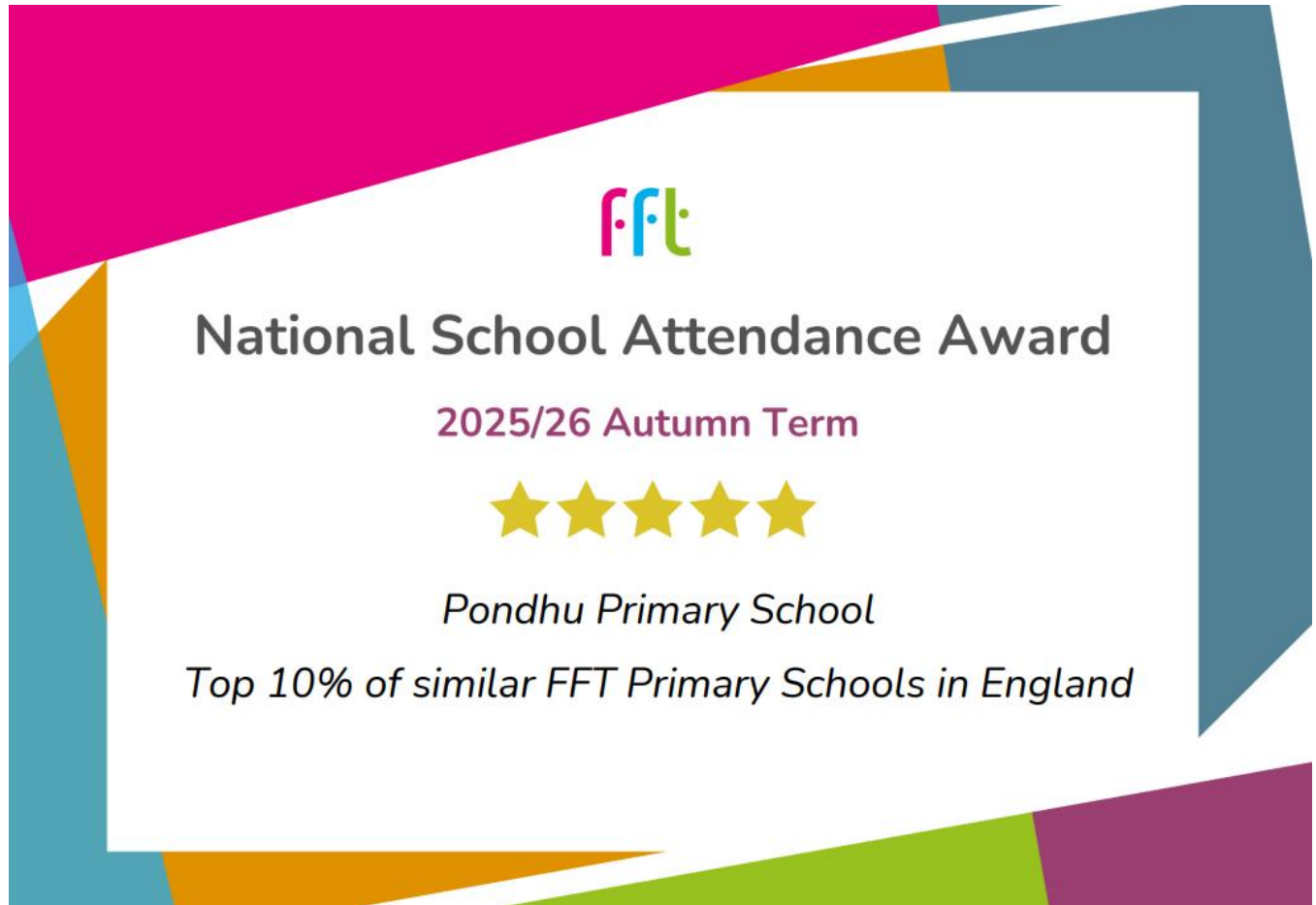
CROSS COUNTRY

On Monday, a group of enthusiastic Pondhu runners proudly represented the school at the 3rd Mid-Cornwall Cross Country race held at Poltair. Battling against wind and rain, the children showed incredible determination and resilience, giving their very best effort in challenging conditions. Their hard work truly paid off, with fantastic results including multiple medal finishes ranging from 1st to 5th place. The team's performance showcased not only their athletic ability but also the outstanding sporting spirit and determination that Pondhu is known for. A huge congratulations and well done to everyone who took part — you should be extremely proud of your achievements!



ATTENDANCE

We are pleased to share with you that Pondhu received an award for Attendance for the Autumn Term as we were in the top 10% of similar schools nationally. A huge thank you to parents for your support in ensuring your children attend school regularly!



EYFS/KS1 ARIAL



WINNER - Jemison

KS2 ALFIE



WINNER - Attenborough

Attendance this week

Montessori (R/Y1) – 91.4%


Jemison (Y1/2) – 98.3%

Attenborough (Y3) – 99%

Franklin (Y4) – 95.7%

Shackleton (Y5) – 95%

QEII (Y6) – 94.2%

Whole School – 96.4% 

BRITISH VALUES CHAMPIONS

Reception / Year 1 – Riley for being respectful by doing great listening

Year 1 / 2 – Autumn for showing tolerance of others and being a kind friend

Year 3 – Nancy for being so much more tolerant of others

Year 4 – Skye for always following the Golden Rules in lessons

Year 5 – Penny for showing kindness and respect to others and for always setting a good example of how to contribute well to lessons

Year 6 – Marley for always being kind and respectful



Well done to our British values champions!

Read Write Inc Virtual Classroom



Please find this week's Virtual Classroom video links in the document attached to this newsletter. These links enable children in Reception to Year 3 to practise their reading skills with you at home. They directly link to the skills they have been learning during their daily Read Write Inc sessions. You should be able to just click on the hyperlinks within the document and be taken straight to a video clip. Please set aside 10 minutes to watch films with your child each week, find a quiet space for your child to watch the film on a laptop, phone or tablet and praise your child as they join in with the lesson. Please see the diary dates for the upcoming parent information sessions where you can find out more information about Read Write Inc.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday 2nd March – Poltair Rugby festival

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 5 trip to Penrice to see 'Into the woods'

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day

Friday 6th March – Year 5 Pickleball at Penrice

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Rachel Clift



Where we laugh, learn and grow