

Friday 16th October 2026

NEWSLETTER



Rachel Cliff

Headteacher



Pondhu
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding half term, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the many achievements, opportunities and memorable experiences that our children have enjoyed. It has been a term packed with success and enrichment, from sporting events, swimming lessons, Bikeability training and competitive sports fixtures, to exciting educational visits to Wheal Martyn and inspiring author visits that have sparked a love of reading and storytelling. We have also been delighted to launch our School Parliament, giving our pupils a stronger voice in shaping our school community and developing their leadership skills. None of this would be possible without the enthusiasm of our children, the dedication of our staff and the continued support of our families. Thank you for helping to make this half term such a positive and memorable one.

SPORTS REPORT

On Monday a group of Year 1 and 2 pupils took part in a Cornwall School Games event at Brannel School. The children took part in a range of games and activities, and had great fun developing their skills. The event finished with a medal ceremony, with the Pondhu team winning 3 of the 6 medals on offer for teamwork, determination and their positive attitudes!

On Tuesday we played football and netball fixtures against St Mewan school. Our Year 5-6 football team had a strong start, with quick passing football and good finishing before a good St Mewan spell later in the game. The Pondhu team won 7-2, and continued their strong start to the season.

Our Year 3-4 team showed great improvements from their first game, with more accurate passing, hard work in pressing and tackling and some excellent finishing - finishing with a 4-0 win.

Our netball team played well - with impressive passing, shooting and intercepting - and finished with a 22-0 win. Their next challenge is to improve their footwork, so as not to give away so many penalties.

Well done to everyone involved in the sporting fixtures this week.
Mr Martin

STAR LEARNERS

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



POTTER CLASS

ZEENAT

for completing her writing independently and following advice to improve it further

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1



KAHLO CLASS

ROSIE-ANN

for working more independently in maths

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2



ARMSTRONG CLASS

EMILY

for her super talking at school this week

MRS SCOTLAND | SB



GOODALL CLASS

IVY

for perseverance and focus during her science

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4



EARHART CLASS

MAX

for always working hard and being an enthusiastic learner

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5



OWENS CLASS

LOUIS

for a consistently fantastic and conscientious attitude to his learning

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
AAZIM

for being kind and helpful

MRS RUNDLE | R/Y1



KAHLO CLASS
NANCY

for being kind, helpful and a
great role model

MRS VINE | Y1/Y2



GOODALL CLASS
Jackson

for being kind and respectful

MRS NEWNES | Y3/Y4



EARHART CLASS
SETH

for respect because numerous
adults have reported how polite
and kind he has been

MRS JOLLIFF | Y4/Y5



OWENS CLASS
SOPHIA

for another week full of kindness
and consideration to others

MR DAWES / MR MARTIN Y6

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Top Class for Attendance EYFS / KS1
Potter



Top Class for Attendance KS2
Goodall



Most improved Attendance
Earhart



TARGET: 96 %

Whole School Attendance Snapshot
92.2%

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 authorise 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.



Virtual Classroom Links for home practice

WB: 12.10.2026

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
Reception Mrs Rundle	v w y z x Fred game	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/pTuiotzl/atqPDoy_0 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3ISzLOCZ/Pwkktv9F https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/PLwA2kvZ/8wGtPkgg https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Wsv8FQ8i/2PIDm3o4 https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vM2gw3vc/VLIZx1MN https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/QCzoPSBj/gWVj3d9u
Green Group Mrs Chappell/ Mrs Vine	oy ar igh word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/8p4g8yrZ/5B6V51er https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/woC3kDGD/1GYx5CQp https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/yIEYEMhO/HW74w7En https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/W9iXYjT1/MbZF8yuf https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/KAzY9hEM/vEkkfUsi
Orange Group Mrs Hackworth	a-e i-e o-e word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Dg2BojCf/mzozPrhX https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/c7zyhoIA/cZRrgdpt https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/9ueFYmXv/G6CgMt5N https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/W9iXYjT1/MbZF8yuf https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/OZBXRQNS/81jdeNOo
Blue Group Mrs Bailey	oo (look) ar red words word challenge speeding up word reading	https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/kMtzfSIP/sMyPS7rN https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/N4rHjC7M/4zYKEUgp https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Krj3v32a/uqMoqG1X https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/blcxrM5l/sYaaXy

		<u>H9</u> <u>https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MrUAdjL/qv89ns</u> <u>ho</u>
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Coming up at Pondhu



[View Full Calendar](#)



Monday 2nd November

Return to school for Autumn 2 Term



Monday 2nd November -
Friday 6th November

Year 4/5 Swimming
Earhart class



Wednesday 4th November

Bonfire Night Disco



Friday 6th November

Nursery / Reception Open
morning [BOOK A PLACE](#)

TERM DATES 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

Saturday 17th October 2026 - Sunday 1st November 2026: Half-Term

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

NURSERY AND RECEPTION TOURS



Friday 6 November 10.00am - 11.00am - [Book Now](#)

Thursday 12 November 4.00pm - 5.00pm - [Book Now](#)

Why book a tour?

There's no better way to experience life at Pondhu Primary School than to come and see it for yourself. Our team is delighted to offer small group tours for families considering Pondhu Nursery or our Reception class for their child.

During the tour you can take a look at our Nursery and Reception, including the outdoor areas, chat to our staff and ask any questions you might have.

Our inclusion team is also very happy to accommodate individual tours for families upon request. Please email: pondhusecretary@pon.celtrust.org to request an individual tour.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES



Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT



The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS



YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

SUGGESTED CONTENT



YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT



YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.



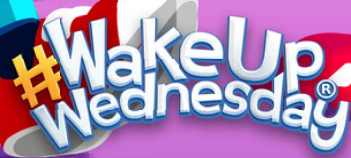
WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

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Treasure Hunt

Stephen, a member of the Town Team, has prepared a special Town Treasure Hunt if you fancy exploring and finding out more about the town and businesses. Please collect from Market House.

Town-wide Trick or Treat

Loads of businesses around St Austell town centre are taking part in a free Trick or Treat this half term. If a shop window has this sticker



inside of it, go in and get something for nothing for kids! It might be sweets, something the shop makes, or another treat they've prepared for you. All for free!

St Austell Town Team
invites you to

Halloween Activities



All Half Term

St Austell Town



Week 1: 19th - 25th October

Activity	Location	Time	Cost
Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	1pm - 4pm	Free

Crazy Golf & Ping Pong (Run by St Austell BID)	White River Place	11am - 4pm	Free
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Creative Crafting (15-18)	Market House	2pm - 4pm	Free
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Crazy Golf & Ping Pong (Run by St Austell BID)	White River Place	11am - 4pm	Free
Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	1pm - 4pm	Free

Lucky Dip	Springfield Pantry	10am - 4pm	Free
Instruments & Stories (KS2)	Market House	11am - 12pm	£1
Instruments & Stories (KS3+)	Market House	12pm - 1pm	£1
Creative Crafting (18-22)	Market House	2pm - 4pm	Free

Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	Sat 1pm - 4pm	Free
Pumpkin Carving Contest (Keep the Pumpkin)	Market House	Sun 12pm - 4pm	£2

Bookable Activities*

Whilst most activities are just turn up activities on the schedule marked with a * need booking. For details of any of these, get an adult to search for "St Austell Town Team" on Facebook.



Week 2: 25th Oct - 1st Nov

Activity	Location	Time	Cost
Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	1pm - 4pm	Free

Crazy Golf & Ping Pong (Run by St Austell BID)	White River Place	11am - 4pm	Free
Creative Crafting (18-22)	Market House	2pm - 4pm	Free

Spooky Story Time (4 - 8)	TBC (see FB)	2pm - 2.30pm	Free
Spooky Story Time (8 - 12)	TBC	2.30pm - 3.30pm	Free
Creative Writing Workshop	TBC	3.30pm onwards	Free

Crazy Golf & Ping Pong (Run by St Austell BID)	White River Place	11am - 4pm	Free
Instruments & Stories (KS2)	Market House	11am - 12pm	£1
Instruments & Stories (KS3+)	Market House	12pm - 1pm	£1
Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	1pm - 4pm	Free

Artsea Crafting (Slime Making & Tote Bags)	Market House	Bookable Slots*	£10
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Monster Darts (Under 12s)	Kernow Darts	Sat 1pm - 4pm	Free
Artsea Crafting (Slime Making & Tote Bags)	Market House	Sat Bookable Slots*	£10
Pokeween and Fancy Dress Competition	Mad 4 Miniatures	Sat	Details on FB
Annual Zombie Walk and Halloween Party	Market House	Sat 6pm onwards	Free





**DEVON &
CORNWALL
FOOD ACTION**

Registered Charity 1155313



ST AUSTELL POP-UP FOOD HUB

St Augustine of Hippo Catholic Church

Woodland Road, St Austell PL25 4RA

Pre-Order Only

£30

PER BUNDLE

Payment on the day (cash preferred)

WHAT's INCLUDED In Your Trolley Load:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| - Cupboard Staples | - Bread |
| - Fruit and Vegetables | - Bag of Frozen Food |
| - Tea | - Toilet Rolls & Kitchen Paper |
| - Crisps | - Box of Pies |

along with other items to purchase on the day

Please Note: Contents may vary and depends on availability

Fighting Food Waste. Feeding Families. Building Community.

To guarantee your bundle please order using the QR code

Alternately contact Debbie on

07880 835 331

DATES/TIMES

10:00 - 11:00

**Pop Up Date
Saturday**

**7th November
5th December**

**Last Order Accepted
Tuesday**

**3rd November
1st December**



Brannel Basketball Club October Half Term Camp

Monday 26th October

9.30-12 Primary

12.30 - 3 Secondary

£20 per participant (includes a Camp Tee)

To register

Email Jamie@cornwallCougars.com

or scan QR Code

Coached by



In Collaboration with



