



Sandy Hill Academy

Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.



Half Term Newsletter Summer Term 2024-2025



**Sandy Hill
Academy**



Forthcoming events:

June

2nd - Return to school
w/c 2nd - Cedar Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)
3rd - School photographer visiting for class/group photos
3rd - Year 1 & 2 Sports Day (Gates open 1pm for 1:15pm start)
4th - Year 3 & 4 Sports Day (Gates open 9:15am for 9:30am start)
4th - Year 5 & 6 Sports Day (Gates open 1:15pm for 1:30pm start)
w/c 9th - Redwood Class daily swimming lessons (1:30pm-2:30pm)
12th - Reception Class Sports Day (2:00pm-3:00pm)
w/c 16th - Pine Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)
w/c 23rd - Sycamore Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)
24th - 27th Year 6 Residential trip to London
w/c 30th - Beech Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)

July

w/c 7th - Elm Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)
w/c 14th - Ash Class daily swimming lessons (11am-Noon)
22nd July - End of term. 2pm finish for whole school (No after school clubs)

INSET Days - School & Kids Club closed

- 23rd July 2025

Change in circumstance

Please let us know if any of your circumstances change (address, contact telephone number, email, relationship status details), to ensure your records are current.

Equally, we would ask parents to inform us if there are circumstances outside of school that may be affecting your child's emotional wellbeing (e.g. parents separating, bereavement, moving home, change in family circumstances etc) we can ensure that your child receives the relevant support to help them through a difficult time.

Head of School Welcome



The first half term of the Summer Term has flown by, with three three-day weeks within a five week period. I hoped in the last newsletter for 'many sunny days ahead', and the weather has certainly has delivered; this has enabled us to enjoy plenty of fun and learning outside.

The Year 6 have completed their end of Key Stage to SATs. Every single child gave it their absolute all, demonstrating fantastic resilience and self-motivation throughout. It is safe to say they are all now ready to hit the ground running at secondary school. We are very proud of them all!

With sports days on the horizon and the Year 6 London residential, we hope for more fantastic weather filled with lots of exciting activities. As a school we are finalising plans for next academic year; we really appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing upcoming news with you after half-term.

Enjoy looking through what the children have been up to.

Best wishes,
Mr Jack Walker



Nursery - Acorn Class



SPORTS DAY!



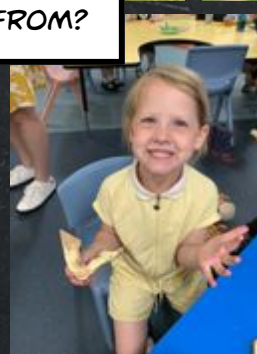
BUILDING
WONDERFUL
FRIENDSHIPS



WHERE DOES OUR
FOOD COME FROM?



MAKING BUTTER!



Nursery - Acorn Class



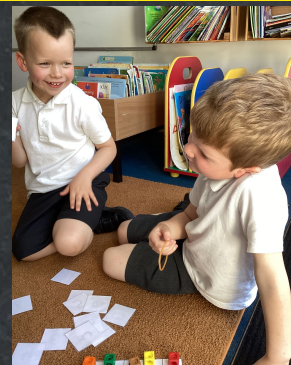
What an amazing, sunny half-term we've had, with the sunshine truly inspiring our play! In our "On the Farm" topic, our big question has been, *Where does our food come from?* Our child-led focus naturally turned to "milk," and from there, we began investigating! Once we learned that butter is made from cream, which comes from milk, we were thrilled to try making our own butter. This hands-on experience provided rich learning opportunities across the curriculum, from deepening our understanding of the world around us to exploring science concepts like changes in state. Even through the simple act of shaking cream, we strengthened our gross motor skills, helping to prepare us for handwriting!

We also had a truly amazing day celebrating our Nursery Day of Sports, where all the children enjoyed a range of fun activities, from ball skills to rocket javelin, and even a race against Mr. Walker, Mr. Chafer, and Mr. Talbot! This celebration of sports was not only a highlight but also supported our nursery transition sessions. Teachers from across the school joined in on the fun, helping the children feel connected and excited about the next steps in their learning journey.

We also welcomed some new children to the nursery, and we've made play a central part of their settling-in process. By building trusting, happy relationships, we're helping our little acorns thrive and build the confidence they'll need for a full year in the nursery starting in September.

Our love of reading in Acorn Class has truly blossomed this half-term with the introduction of our outdoor reading retreat, which is brimming with story sacks full of costumes. This has fostered a vocabulary-rich, inspiring learning environment for all.

Reception - Apple Class



CAMEL
CREEK
VISIT



BEACH
TRIP

TRIP FUN



CHARLESTOWN CHURCH



Reception - Cherry Class



MATHS GAMES TO
ENCOURAGE TURN
TAKING!



V.E DAY CELEBRATIONS



OUTSIDE FUN



TRIP DAY!



AFRICAN
SUNSETS



Reception - Apple & Cherry Classes



Reception have had the most wonderful half term of learning and adventure in the sunshine! This half term our topic was 'Where am I in the world?' In our Understanding the World sessions, we have looked at different countries in Africa, and found out about the different types of wildlife that can be found on the continent. One of our focus texts was 'How to be a lion' by Ed Vere - the children enjoyed becoming illustrators and creating their very own Leonard the lions!

Following our exploration of the text Handa's Surprise, we had the team from Healthy Cornwall deliver three workshops all about healthy eating. The children got to use all of their senses to experience and taste different fruits and vegetables, and learned about how we can make healthier choices.

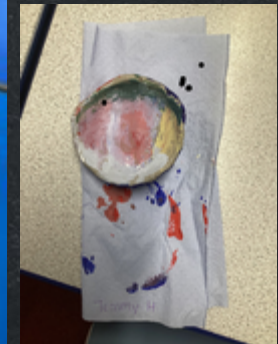
We enjoyed a very special visit from some animals from Camel Creek, including ferrets, a chinchilla, rats, and bearded dragons! The children learned all about where these animals come from, and how the team at Camel Creek care for them.

A real highlight of our half term was our trip to Charlestown church and beach. The children enjoyed looking at the features of the church including stained glass windows, the Bible, and the font. We had a delicious packed lunch in the church hall, and then headed down to the beach for some fun activities including making and flying kites, and parachute games. We ended the day with an ice lolly on the beach!

The children have thoroughly enjoyed this term's show and tell, where each Friday, a different group of children have had the opportunity to bring in something that they have handmade for a friend at home, in celebration of Friends Friday!

We hope all of the children in Apple and Cherry class have a fantastic half term!

Year 1 - Chestnut Class



Year 1 - Holly Class



Geography -
recapping mapping



VE Day
celebrations



Healthy eating -
food tasting



Glockenspiels in music



Working with clay in art

Year 1 - Chestnut & Holly Classes



Year One have had a fantastic start to the Summer Term! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about *transport* and how it has changed over time. They were especially fascinated by famous flyers such as the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart.

In preparation for Sports Day, the children have been practising incredibly hard and are very excited to showcase their efforts when we return for Summer 2!

In *Science*, our focus has been on different materials and their uses. The children explored a range of material properties and conducted an experiment to discover which materials float or sink — a fun and engaging way to apply their learning!

In *RE*, we've been learning about Christianity and the Creation Story. This topic inspired some beautiful art pieces, which the children thoroughly enjoyed creating.

Art lessons this term have been all about sculpture. The children had great fun designing and making their own clay bowls, which they proudly painted and took home.

Our recent *trip to the library* was a brilliant experience for everyone. The children learned how to check books in and out, and even created their own front covers for stories — sparking lots of creativity and excitement.

Throughout the year so far, the children have consistently impressed all the adults in Year One with their fantastic attitude to learning, focus, and determination.

We wish you all a restful and enjoyable break!

The Year One Team

Year 2 - Maple Class



HEALTHY CORNWALL WORKSHOP



DT SAFARI VEHICLES



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



MUSIC PERFORMANCE



SCIENCE PLANTING INVESTIGATION



Year 2 - Willow Class



Year 2 - Maple & Willow Classes



Year Two have had a fantastic start to the Summer Term and have made the most of the beautiful weather by taking learning outdoors where possible.

The children have begun their new topic of 'Explorers' and have shown their excellent recall skills when discussing facts they have acquired about Christopher Columbus. We used Christopher Columbus' sea voyage as inspiration for our collage that we created in Art. Miss Bussandri and Miss Polmouter were blown away with the amazing artwork that was created by all of our talented Year Two artists!

In Computing this half term the classes have been using an app called Chrome Music Lab to create their own music whilst learning about pitch, tempo and rhythm. The children have had great fun using the app to explore a variety of different music instruments too. It has been wonderful to listen to the compositions the children have created and for the children to be able to listen and appraise the musical compositions their peers have made.

Well done for all your hard work this half term Year 2! We can't wait to continue our learning next half term and are very excited for Sport's Day. ★😊🏃‍♂️

Year 3 - Ash Class

*A FANTASTIC START TO THE TERM WITH
OUR RAIL PROJECT!*



*EXCITED TO BE PRACTICING FOR OUR
SPORTS DAY IN THE SUN.*



Year 3 - Elm Class

PRIMARY ENGINEER RAIL PROJECT - DESIGNING AND MAKING A LOCOMOTIVE WITH WORKING BRAKES. TESTING HOW FAR AND STRAIGHT THEY WOULD TRAVEL.



FANTASTIC EGYPTIAN ARTWORK!

ENGLISH ROLE PLAY - THE EGYPTIAN CINDERELLA

COMPUTING - CODING

Year 3 - Ash & Elm Classes



What a fantastic term it has been for both Ash and Elm classes! The children have all worked incredibly hard and enjoyed so many exciting activities. In Maths, they've become fraction superstars, mastering how to find fractions of amounts and showing great skill in adding and subtracting money using the column method, a truly valuable life skill. Their times tables knowledge is also really growing, with the 6s now being tackled after becoming super speedy and fluent with their 3s, which is fantastic progress! In English, their creativity has shone through as they've been busy writing their very own Egyptian Cinderella stories, carefully crafting characters and plots based on the original fairy tale. Science has been full of forces and fun, exploring different types of contact and non-contact forces, building locomotives to see these in action, and learning about the fascinating properties of magnetism. In PSHE, they've had important discussions about how to look after themselves, focusing on staying healthy and happy both physically and mentally. In Computing, they've delved into the world of programming and created their own animations, learning about sequences and algorithms. Their Art lessons have seen them start to explore the fascinating world of sculpture, experimenting with different materials and techniques to create 3D artworks. In History, they've embarked on an exciting journey into their new topic, the Egyptians, discovering fascinating facts about this ancient civilization. And in Spanish, they've been learning all about families and how to say the names for different relatives, building their vocabulary and confidence. Well done, Ash and Elm classes, on another brilliant term! We are incredibly proud of all their hard work, enthusiasm, and the progress they have made. Have a wonderful break!

Year 4 - Beech Class



LEARNING TENNIS SKILLS AND PREPARING FOR OUR SPORTS DAY!



CREATING OUR OWN CODES IN COMPUTING



MAKING CLAY FIGURES IN THE STYLE OF ANTONY GORMLEY IN ART!



WE HAD A VISIT FROM THE POLICE!



PORTHPEAN TRIP!

Year 4 - Sycamore Class



'TURTLE' CODING



CLAY SCULPTURES



PORTHPEAN TRIP!



POLICE VISIT



'READY STEADY GO' PREPARING FOR SPORTS DAY



Year 4 - Beech & Sycamore Classes



Year 4 have had a fantastic Summer Term, packed with varied learning. Children have enjoyed learning about the Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Using the story of the Princess who hid in a tree as a starting point, linked to our English work, pupils have shown wonderful historical thinking, deciding whether Anglo Saxons really did live in the Dark Ages and discovering that Vikings might not have been as vicious as they first thought.

In Maths we have been learning about fractions and have gone from strength in using them in problem-solving and arithmetic questions. Our next topic that the children are looking forward to in maths is decimals and money. Both Beech and Sycamore Class will be learning to be confident with their money calculations and have had fun discussing what they would be able to afford on different budgets.

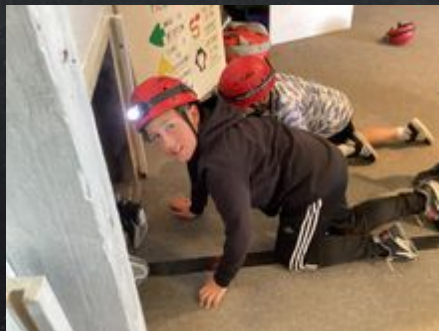
In PE, both classes have been prepping for sports day and have been practicing incredibly hard to showcase their efforts on sports day in Summer 2!

Year 4 had an unforgettable time during their activity day at Porthpean. The students were full of excitement as they explored the fascinating rock pools, discovering all sorts of sea creatures and learning about the coastal environment. They thoroughly enjoyed spending time in the water, playing and having fun together. One of the highlights of the day was the beach games, where they worked in teams, showing great cooperation, enthusiasm, and team spirit. It was a day filled with adventure, laughter, and lasting memories.

Throughout this school year so far, the children have consistently impressed all the adults in Year Four with their incredible attitude to learning. We all wish you a restful half term break!

From the Year Four team!

Year 5 - Cedar Class



Year 5 - Pine Class



Year 5 - Cedar & Pine Classes



What a fantastic first half of the summer term Year 5 have had. Although it has been a short half term, the children have worked incredibly hard and have achieved brilliantly.

One real highlight of this term was our residential trip to Porthpean. The children who went along enjoyed a range of fantastic range of activities including; archery, watersports, climbing, caving and the high ropes. Each and every child who attended were a credit to the school: well done campers! The non campers also had a great few days, they were a real credit when they helped out the Key Stage 1 children with their VE day celebrations. They also created some amazing art work!

In literacy, we have been learning about characterising speech and using dialogue, taking inspiration from a visual stimulus. In maths, we have been learning about percentages and how to calculate the perimeter and area of rectilinear shapes. In science, the children have enjoyed beginning to learn about space and the order of the planets within our solar system. In PE, we have been progressing our athletic abilities in preparation for our upper key stage 2 sports day.

We look forward to our last half term in Year 5, with lots more fun and learning to come.

We hope you have a fantastic half term break and we look forward to seeing you back to begin the final half term of Year 5.

Year 6 - Oak and Redwood Class



Year 6 - Oak and Redwood Class

POST SATS CELEBRATIONS IN YEAR 6



Year 6 - Oak & Redwood Classes



As we reach the end of this half term, we couldn't be prouder of Year 6 and all they have achieved. The children have shown an incredible amount of enthusiasm, resilience and self-motivation in the lead-up to their SATs. From focused revision sessions to supporting one another every step of the way, they approached the challenge with a fantastic attitude and a real sense of determination. During SATs week itself, the children truly shone. They took everything in their stride and gave each test their absolute best—showing calmness, confidence and a wonderful team spirit. Each morning began with our much-loved SATs breakfast, and we'd like to give a big thank you to our amazing catering team for helping us start each day on such a positive note. To celebrate their hard work, we enjoyed a well-earned trip to the park, where laughter, games and sunshine were the order of the day!

In PE, we've been developing our cricket skills—practising batting, bowling and fielding techniques. The children have shown great improvement and sportsmanship throughout. In Geography, we've been exploring the topic of climate change, looking closely at evidence and learning how it affects people in different parts of the world. Year 6 have engaged thoughtfully with the topic, showing real care and curiosity about this important issue.

To round off the term, Oak Class have been swimming each morning. As ever, they've given it their all—showing perseverance, courage and progress with every session.

Now, we look ahead to our final half term of primary school. It's going to be packed full of exciting events: our school play, leavers' assembly, school camp to London, and plenty of fun along the way. We can't wait to make even more special memories together!

TRANSITIONS

The summer term can be difficult for some children as we begin to plan for the upcoming transition, whether this be to a new class and year group or to a new school.



We have a range of strategies that we can use to support your child, if they are feeling particularly nervous or unsure about the transition. In addition to our planned transition afternoons when all children spend time in their new classroom, this can also include transition booklets with photos of their new classroom and key adults, extra visits to meet their new teacher or to their new classroom and next year's key adults spending time with your child in their current class. We also ensure a thorough handover of key information, which includes conversations between your child's current teacher and next year's teacher as well as myself. Pupils with an IPM will be contacted by their child's class teacher before the end of term to review progress towards their targets and set new goals as we look ahead to the autumn term.

Parents/carers of year 6 pupils should have already received information from their secondary school setting about upcoming transitions and support for this. I also recently shared information about the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) support for parents/carers of Year 6 pupils via an online workshop. Details of this can be found on the next page.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's transition, please do speak to us. We will be happy to talk through any worries you may have and make an appropriate plan to support your child.

Mrs Carter - SENDCo

My usual working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Young Minds have created some Top Tips for Parents to support their children with transitions. This is aimed at Year 6 pupils moving onto secondary school, but there are many helpful tips for children of any age that you might find useful. You can find out more by [clicking here](#).



**The NHS Mental Health Support Team invites you to
book your place on our:
Year 6 Transition Workshop**

This is an hour long online session aimed at
parents and carers. The session covers how to
help and support young people with the
transition to secondary school.

*Please note this group is open to
parents/carers of children in Year 6 only

Upcoming Sessions:

- Tuesday 20 May at 11am or 1:30pm
- Monday 2 June at 10:00am
- Thursday 12 June at 1:30pm

To request a place, please
complete the online form or
scan the QR code provided:
<https://forms.office.com/e/qEEGC8PpTd>



Sign up will close 1 week before the workshop date

SPEAK TO OUR PARENT
SUPPORT ADVISOR,
MRS CHOWN, FOR
FURTHER INFO

Pupil Premium & Free School Meals



All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to receive a free school meal. This is part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative, regardless of household income.

However, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 may also have an entitlement to benefits-related Free School Meals. Children in this group are also eligible for Pupil Premium – additional funding paid to the school to support your child in their learning. It is important to apply for benefits-related Free School Meals if you think your child may be eligible. This is so that your child's school can receive this funding. Your child will be eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals if you meet the [eligibility criteria](#).

Your entitlement to Universal Infant Free School ends when your child transitions to Year 3, so it is worth considering whether you may be entitled to benefits-related free school meals particularly if your circumstances have changed (i.e your household income has changed and you are in receipt of certain benefits).

If eligible, you can apply for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium [online](#). Please be aware that if you have applied and become eligible for Pupil Premium Free School Meals after 1st April 2025, your entitlement will be subject to regular ongoing entitlement checks.

If your child is a Key Stage 2 pupil and you are no longer eligible, you will be charged for your child(ren)'s meal via ParentPay.

If your circumstances subsequently change and you regain eligibility at a later date, you will need to reapply via the Cornwall County Council system, as it will not update automatically.

As always, please contact the school office if you have any questions.



Here at Sandy Hill Academy, 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 (no less than 15 school days before the absence) to the Headteacher using the school's '*Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances*' request form, which can be obtained from the school office.

The following information details the government guidance that we as a school have to follow:

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.

Arbor - School Communications




All school communications are sent electronically via email and instant messaging via the Arbor Parent App only.

If you haven't already done so, please ensure you have downloaded the Arbor App via the App Store or Google Play.

The app allows you to receive the latest messages from school, book parent/carer meetings, track your child(ren)'s attendance, provide consent for events and activities as well as manage and update the information that we hold about both you and your child(ren).

If you need further information or support, please visit [Arbor Parent App - The Aspire Academy Trust](#)

If you do not have access to email, or your email address needs updating, please contact the school office. Thank you.

**We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App**

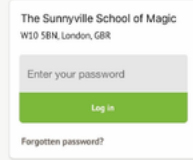
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

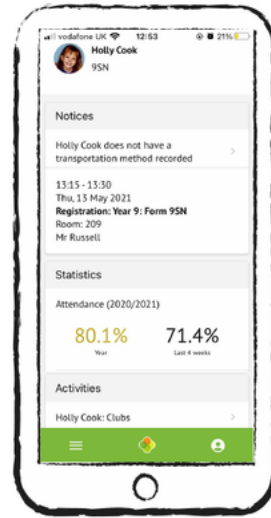
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



Notices

Holly Cook does not have a transportation method recorded

13:15 - 13:30
Thu, 15 May 2021
Registration: Year 9: Form 95N
Room: 209
Mr Russell

Statistics

Attendance (2020/2021)

80.1% Year 71.4% Last 4 weeks

Activities

Holly Cook: Clubs

"Working together, inspiring excellence"

As a member of the [Aspire Academy Trust](#) we have a centralised approach to policies. We have an extensive list of policies that cover the nursery, school and Kids Club.

All Ofsted statutory policies are located under the '[Statutory Information](#)' page on our school website.

In addition to these statutory policies, a selection of additional useful policies can be found on our '[Parents/Useful Links & Downloads](#)' page.

Please also read our '[Aspire Social Media Policy](#).' and '[Aspire Parent Code of Conduct](#)' .

If you are unable to find a particular policy, please contact the school office.

Thank you.

Please may we remind parents/carers that neither smoking nor vaping is permitted whilst on school premises.



Thank you.



Worried about a child?

Who to contact if you have concerns about a child:

Multi-agency Referral Unit (MARU): 0300 123 1116

Out of Hours Service: 01208 251300

NSPCC

If you're worried
about a child:

0808 800 5000
help@nspcc.org.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk



Cornwall's Early Help Hub offers family support to help with common family matters (i.e. parenting support, health visiting, school nursing) for children and young people.

To request help:
earlyhelphub@cornwall.gov.uk
01872 322 277



SAMARITANS

Call free day or night on

116 123

Email
jo@samaritans.org

Crisis Care Award (Cornwall Council)
0300 1234 121

Housing (Cornwall Council)
0300 1234 161

First Light (Domestic Violence Support)
0300 777 4777

Citizens Advice Cornwall
0800 144 8848

Remake Cornwall
07480 135818
remakecornwall@gmail.com

St Austell Foodbank
01726 65313
info@staustell.foodbank.org.uk



Sandy Hill Academy

Aspiring to achieve, determined to succeed.



Staying in Touch

Address: Sandy Hill Academy, Sandy Hill, St Austell, PL25 3AT

Email: hello@sandyhill.org.uk

Nursery enquiries: nursery@sandyhill.org.uk

Phone: 01726 75858

Website: www.sandyhill.org.uk



Arbor



ParentPay

CLICK ICONS
FOR MORE INFO