

## End of Term Newsletter Spring Term 2024-2025





### **Forthcoming events:**

#### **April**

2nd - Rocksteady concert (9am) 4th - Last day of Spring Term (2pm finish) 5th to 21st (included) Easter holiday 22nd - Summer term begins, return to school

#### <u>May</u>

1st - School closed to pupils. School in use as Polling Station 5th - Bank holiday. School closed 7th to 9th - Year 5 Porthpean Camp 12th to 15th Key Stage 2 Tests (Year 6 SATs) 19th - Nursery Celebration of Sports 23rd - Year 4 Activity Day, Porthpean Outdoor Activity Centre

#### <u>June</u>

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 1pm for 1:15pm start) 12th - Reception Class Sports Day (2:00pm-3:00pm)

#### **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.

#### **School & Kids Club closed**

- 1st May 2025 School in use as polling station
- 23rd July 2025 INSET Day

### **Head of School Welcome**



Spring has well and truly sprung. It's great to see the sunshine finally making an appearance: many more bright mornings and evenings no doubt on the way. Please enjoy reading and looking through what the children have been up to over a busy but very exciting term.

Thank you for support at our recent Open Evening/Bake Sale/Book Event and our Bingo night. In addition to this we hosted the very successful EYFS Dino stomp. Your donations are supporting the cost of trips, activities and enhancements to what we can offer our children, from subsidising visits to upgrading our reading areas. Equally important, is that these events bring together our strong school community.

Keep an eye out at the beginning of the next term for our after school clubs offer. We are striving to provide as many opportunities as possible and welcome parent volunteers who wish to support their running. With SATs and school camps on the horizon, further communications will be heading your way.

Have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you all in the summer term.

Best wishes,

Jack Walker



### **Nursery - Acorn Class**





### **Nursery - Acorn Class**



It's been an absolute jam packed Spring Term. With Pancake day, St Piran's Day, World Book Day, Red Nose Day, Mother's Day, Dino Stomp, and the up coming Easter Break. Lots of wonderful opportunities have been experienced to enhance our day to day learning.

In **Communication and Language** we have been expanding our repertoire of Nursery Rhymes and it's been wonderful seeing them practice at home when you upload to Tapestry. We have also been learning to organise our play with our words when in a small group, for example, 'you be the driver and you sit behind'.

In **PSED** we have been expanding our play ideas using our focus books. Looking at making up our own characters and sequences based on the original story, 'What if Jack lived at the top of the Beanstalk?' In **Physical Development** we have been practicing our balance skills to build our core strength. We have incorporated key **PD** skills into our Funky Finger routines each morning, like, button fastening and zips, to glue and scissors skills, all of which are crucial **PD** skills.

In **Literacy** we have really been proud of being able to name our own work. Taking ownership of a model or a piece of work by writing a name on it gives wonderful meaning to their work.

In **Maths** we have been learning about the composition of 5, we loved going on our number hunts! We have been learning all about size, mass and capacity and the children have embraced having all the scales out, inside and out.

In **Understanding the World** we have been learning all about the life cycle of a plant and a butterfly. The children got to plant sunflowers and have been tending to the nursery garden patch.

In **Expressive Art and Design** we have been fortunate to have a Music teacher visit across the term and we have had an amazing time using different instruments and using scarves to sing and express the plant life cycle.

### **Reception - Apple Class**





## **Reception - Cherry Class**





## **Reception - Apple & Cherry Classes**



Apple and Cherry class have had a fantastic Spring term full of fun and adventure! Our topic 'How Do Things Grow?' and key focus texts including 'The Extraordinary Garden' have sparked creativity, discussion, and exploration into growing and gardening. We have enjoyed watching the development of our class tadpoles, and have learned all about the life cycle of the frog.

The children's writing has blown us away this term - the children are now writing captions to go with their creations in the mark making area, and are building the skills of independent writers.

In our maths sessions this term we have continued building 9 and 10, exploring composition and number bonds. We have also recapped our knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes, and looked at length and height. The children have particularly enjoyed making musical patterns, and noticing the patterns that are all around us in our environment.

Within our art sessions, we have been developing the skill of printing. We started with our hands, and discussed the main functions of print. We then moved on to simple line printing, using our finger to make marks and patterns, before moving on to more intricate prints where we drew our designs on the tables, and used a fine paintbrush to create our chosen image and print it onto paper.

This term we enjoyed celebrating Red Nose Day, and taking part in our EYFS Easter bonnet parade. We were amazed by the children's creativity, and it was lovely to see the children show off their bonnets with pride as we paraded round the school!

### **Year 1 - Chestnut Class**





## Year 1 - Holly Class





### **Year 1 - Chestnut & Holly Classes**



Year One have had a brilliant term. This half term has been filled with exciting events such as World Book Day, British Science Week and St Piran's Day. The children loved coming into school dressed as their favourite book character and sharing stories throughout the day. During that week, they also had the chance to go into a space dome and learn about our solar system which they were fascinated by.

More recently, the children have planned and created a model out of cardboard and plastic. They had to work very collaboratively to ensure they all had the right equipment. They had to cut, stick and mould their items to create the final masterpiece.

During Spring Term, the children have learnt about animals, classifying them and highlighting their features. We finished this module off with a visit to Penrice Farm where they enjoyed learning about the animals there and how to take care of them.

The children have been able to make the most of the nice weather by having their PE lessons outside and on the field. The children practised their dribbling and passing before showing great teamwork and playing some small sided games.

Have a great break and we look forward to seeing you all after Easter for another fun-filled term!

## Year 2 - Maple Class





### **Year 2 - Willow Class**





### Year 2 - Maple & Willow Classes



What a super term of learning it has been in Willow and Maple Class. This half term has been jam packed with special events. Year 2 have celebrated World Book Day, Science Week, Inter-house sports, St. Piran's Day and Comic Relief to name but a few! The children thoroughly enjoyed their visit to St. Austell library, dressing up and completing their Reading Bingo and potato competition as part of World Book Day. As well as visiting the library on World Book Day we also got to visit the space dome and learn about our solar system and the constellations. We were fascinated by what we saw and heard inside the dome and it really sparked our curiosity for our next topic, 'Explorers.'

We were extremely lucky to be visited by Catherine Barr, an author who is completing her 'Big Walk to Little Schools.' This is a challenge where Catherine will walk form Cornwall to Scotland to share her stories about nature and the environment. Our Year 2 children particularly enjoyed learning about baby T-Rex and drawing them as part of our workshop with Catherine.

Willow and Maple enjoyed celebrating Gool Peran (St. Piran's Day). The children are becoming more confident with using some basic Cornish phrases both in and out of the classroom which is bryntin (brilliant). The children know how to say "myttin da" (good morning) and "dohajydh da" (good afternoon) and they are now saying "mar pleg" (please) and "meur ras" (thank you). In Year 2 we also learned some Cornish dancing which we thoroughly enjoyed.

### Year 3 - Ash Class





A REAL TREAT TO HAVE A VISIT FROM THE SPACE DOME



GREAT COSTUMES ON WORLD BOOK DAY!



RAISING MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE ON RED NOSE DAY



EGG HUNTING FUN!



OUT AND ABOUT - THE HALL FOR CORNWALL AND THE CINEMA!



EXPERIMENTING IN SCIENCE WEEK!





### Year 3 - Elm Class





A REAL TREAT TO HAVE A VISIT FROM THE SPACE DOME



GREAT COSTUMES ON WORLD BOOK DAY!



VISUALLY IMPAIRED FOOTBALL IN PΕ



OUR TRIP TO THE MUSEUM



OUT AND ABOUT - THE HALL FOR CORNWALL AND THE CINEMA!



EXPERIMENTING IN SCIENCE WEEK!





### Year 3 - Ash & Elm Classes



What a brilliant Spring term we've had in Year 3! Miss O'Brien and Mr Talbot are incredibly proud of all the hard work, enthusiasm, and progress the children have shown over the past few months. In Geography, we've been diving deep into our topic of oceans and rivers, using the Sunshine State as a fascinating case study to guide our learning. The children have produced some fantastic cross-curricular work and have loved exploring the geography of Florida and its waterways.

In English, we've been captivated by the Cornish tale of the Mousehole Cat, which inspired some beautiful writing. The children have also written their own short stories based on the Stone Age, building on their Autumn term learning. To finish the term with a seasonal twist, everyone enjoyed creating Easter acrostic poems—they certainly got us into the festive spirit!

In Maths, we've been busy becoming more fluent with our 4 and 8 times tables, and we're now building confidence with the 3 times table too. This focus has really helped us improve our arithmetic and deepen our understanding across the curriculum. A highlight has been our work on fractions, and we're excited to continue exploring this in the summer term.

We've also had some truly memorable experiences this half term. We kicked off with a St Piran's Day celebration, where we had the amazing opportunity to sing with Will Keating at the Hall for Cornwall. Then came our trip to the National Maritime Museum in Falmouth, where we applied our science learning about forces by creating and racing wind-powered model boats—while also thinking about the impact of plastic pollution. To top it off, we had a lovely cinema trip to see Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom*, which included a lovely walk and lots of smiles.

It's been a fun-filled and learning-packed term, and we are so excited for what the summer term has in store. Have a wonderful, restful Easter break!

### **Year 4 - Beech Class**





### **Year 4 - Sycamore Class**





### Year 4 - Beech & Sycamore Classes



Our Year 4's have had an amazing Spring term! Miss Rowe and Mrs Simpson are proud of all of their hard work. They have immersed themselves in our Geography topic all about the Amazon rainforest and created some fantastic cross curricular work based on this!

In English, we have worked on our handwriting alongside enjoying using Spelling Shed to learn the weekly spellings. And we have been creating some setting descriptions based on the book the Great Kapok tree, and how to stop deforestation letters. In maths, each child has enjoyed placing themselves on the TTRockstars leader board in preparation for the Multiplication Check coming up in June. We have also focused on length and perimeter, and fractions. We have been extremely impressed with the increasing mental arithmetic scores each week in their weekly tests.

A personal highlight of this term for Year 4 was Science week. The children loved engaging within all the experiments, and their absolute favourite was the exploding lunch box! Well done Year 4 for showing great dedication and team work within your Science learning this week.

This term has also been a highlight for the children because of the extra curricular days we have had. Such as World book day, St Piran's day, Red nose day, and Will Keating coming in for a St Piran's singing celebration!

We hope you have a restful Easter holiday, and enjoy eating lots of chocolate! From team Year 4.

### **Year 5 - Cedar Class**











**DOWN VOLLEYBALL** 

HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY



















### **Year 5 - Pine Class**





### **Year 5 - Cedar & Pine Classes**



Year 5 have had a fantastic term of learning and fun! The spring term has provided so many enjoyable events and visits - World Book Day, Science Week, St. Piran's Day, alongside visits from the Space Dome, Will Keating and author Steve Williams to name just a few.

In English, we have been learning all about how to use a range of adverbials to make our writing more interesting. We have also been focussing on writing setting descriptions and characterising speech.

In maths, we have been building on our arithmetic knowledge and the children have been proud to see their scores improve over the weeks. Recently, we have been learning about decimals, comparing decimal numbers and rounding them to the nearest whole number.

In geography, we been learning all about mountains and how they are created. We have also learnt about and compared some of the most famous mountain ranges on earth - and beyond!

In PE, we have developed our football and tag rugby skills and enhanced our communication skills through team games and orienteering activities.

From all the Year 5 team, we hope you have a fantastic Easter break and we look forward to seeing you for the summer term!

### **Year 6 - Oak Class**





### **Year 6 - Redwood Class**





### **Year 6 - Oak & Redwood Classes**



Spring term was extremely productive in Year 6. The children have worked exceptionally hard across all subjects, demonstrating enthusiasm, resilience, and teamwork.

This term, Science Week took us on an exciting journey through the history of trains, where we explored their evolution and impact on society. A particular highlight was the launch of our own wooden electrical train projects—combining creativity with engineering skills! Additionally, our visit to the space dome was a truly immersive experience, which inspired some fantastic recount writing in English. Building on our class novel, *Skellig*, the children crafted their own mystery stories, developing their ability to build suspense and intrigue. We were so impressed by their creativity and descriptive writing skills!

We were incredibly fortunate to have a coach from The Cornish Pirates Rugby join us for some fantastic training sessions. The children thoroughly enjoyed developing their rugby skills and teamwork under expert guidance. In Geography, we explored the pressing issue of climate change and discussed how we can play our part in protecting our planet. This theme also inspired our artwork, where we focused on using tint, tone, and shade to create impactful pieces. As part of our Cornish Studies, we applied these skills to paint stunning landscapes of Porth Beach.

This term, we studied the song *You've Got a Friend* by Carole King. The children not only enjoyed singing but also had the opportunity to accompany the song using Glockenspiels, developing their musical skills and confidence.

We are incredibly proud of how hard the children have been working in the lead-up to their SATs. Their determination, self-motivation, and teamwork has been excellent! We know they will continue to give their best as we move into the Summer term. Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable break!

### **Attendance**





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.

### 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 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 <u>eligibility criteria</u>.

From 1st April 2025, the government's protection arrangements for Free School Meals (FSM) will end. For those who were already entitled to benefits related Free School Meals before 1st April, these eligible children will remain entitled until they reach Year 7, at which point their eligiblity will be reviewed regularly.

However, under the new changes, any pupils who become eligible after April 1st will no longer have this protection and will also be subject to regular checks.

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). Please note you will need to make a separate application for each child, siblings do not receive entitlement automatically.

If eligible, you can apply for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium online.

### **Safeguarding**



# COST OF LIVING SUPPORT

Location:

Light and Life Church Unit 4 Brunel Business Park St Austell PL25 4TJ

> IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL AND SPEAK TO SARAH CHOWN

WHEN: 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 10:00AM - 12:00

NEXT DATES ARE 17TH APRIL AND 15TH MAY

#### Support with:

- Financial support in crisis
- Benefits and welfare checks
- Council tax support
- Housing advice
- Support with employment

### Support with:

- Help with the cost of utility bills
- Debt advice and support
- Support with form filling
- Access to your local social prescribing team

### SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)





The Neurodiversity Profiling Tool is the first step in identifying neurodiversity within children and young people aged 0-19 years.

The profile will only be used where neurodevelopmental concerns and questions about additional needs arise between parents and professionals.

Before parents/carers make an initial request, please visit our website at the link below for more information and useful links.



Scan the QR code to complete a request form and provide us with more information on your child.

Response from school to suggest or



Implementation of recommended next steps. (This may signpost other routes of support or referral).

#### Step 4

NDP Tool completion meeting arranged



www.aspireacademutrust.org/NDPT





This term, we have been lucky enough to be supported by the SIAG (Specialist Information, Advice and Guidance Service) Outreach Team who are part of the Specialist Partnership Trust. Their support included several visits to our Year 1 classes, during which we worked together to review what is going well and consider what other reasonable adjustments could be made to support all learners in class. Following this, we Attention Autism have adapted the way we offer sensory and movement breaks to support children's focus and regulation skills so they are ready for learning. We also had an exciting demonstration of a 'Bucket Time' activity, an *Attention Autism* strategy designed to support children's attention, listening and engagement within group settings, which included splatting shaving foam cupcakes! The children thoroughly enjoyed this and are looking forward to experiencing more Bucket Time activities in class next term!

YOU CAN ALSO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE ND PROFILING TOOL BY VISITING THE NEURODIVERSITY HUB ON THE



Neurodiversity Hub - Parent Careers Cornwall

#### **Events & Activities**

### **St Austell Easter Time2Move Programme**

#### Monday 7th April Hop & Chop: Easter Cooking Fun!

Join us for a Children's Easter-Themed Cookery Class from 10 AM - 1 PM! Little chefs will learn new culinary skills while creating easy, healthy recipes they can recreate at home.

- Hands-on cooking experience
- Fresh, nutritious ingredients A delicious, healthy lunch to enjoy together Water and milk will be available throughout the class. Perfect for young food lovers looking for a fun and tasty Easter adventure!

### Wednesday 9th April Easter Crafters: Make & Take Workshop

Join us for a fun-filled Children's Easter Craft Workshop from 10 AM - 1 PM! Young creatives will be guided in making beautiful Easter crafts to take home, using a variety of materials and techniques.

- Hands-on Easter crafting
- Take-home creations
- A warm, healthy lunch with fruit, vegetables & a

Water and milk will be available throughout the workshop. A perfect way for kids to get creative and

#### Monday 14th April Piskie Trails & Clay Creations Adventure

10 AM: Start with a scenic 1-hour walk from The One and All Bank to Wheal Martyn via the Clay Trails. At Wheal Martyn, get creative with air-drying clay to make your very own Cornish piskie houses during a fun 1-hour

Lunch: A healthy warm meal with a meat or vegetarian/vegan pasty or sausage roll, fruit, and an oat-based snack will be provided. Please bring refillable

After lunch, take a 1-hour walk back to CN4C via the Clay Trails.

#### Wednesday 16th April Easter Adventure: Lanhydrock Exploration

10AM: Catch the train from St Austell to Bodmin Parkway Station and enjoy a 1.75-mile walk to Lanhydrock National Trust. Once there, take part in fun Easter trail activities as you explore the beautiful

Lunch: A healthy packed lunch with fruit, lean protein, and an oat-based snack will be provided. Families are encouraged to bring refillable water

After lunch, enjoy the 1.75-mile walk back to Bodmin Parkway Station, then hop on the train back to St Austell, Transport expense provided.

Please note: Limited spaces are available for children not in receipt of free school meals. Exclusive places are reserved for children with free school meals.

Bookings: 01209 310610 / info@cn4c.org.uk













£22 for the dav!!!

#### Monday, 7 April Brannel School

Tuesday, 8 April Tretherras School

#### Wednesday, 9 April

Camborne College St Day FC

#### Thursday, 10 April

Helston FC Penrice School

#### Friday, 11 April

Falmouth Sports Hub Penair School

#### Monday, 14 April

Falmouth Sports Hub Girs Only

#### Tuesday, 15 April

Tretherras School

#### Wednesday, 16 April

Falmouth Sports Hub Camborne College

#### Thursday, 17 April

Helston FC Penrice School



Book now 01752 522202 www.officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/courses.html

www.argylecommunitytrust.co.uk

#### **Events & Activities**



Please click the above image to read the latest edition of Blackbird Pie.



#### 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







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





Crisis Care Award (Cornwall Council)

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

### **School Policies**



#### **School Uniform Reminder: Hairstyles & Jewellery**

Hairstyles should be neat and tidy. We ask that long hair is to be kept tied back, with no dyes or colours added.

Hair accessories and hair bands should be functional and discreet.

Tramlines and extreme hair designs are not acceptable and we request that a Grade 2 is the shortest cut length.

A watch may be worn and one single pair of small, plain stud earrings.

Full details of our school uniform policy can be found on our school website.

#### **School Premises**

Please may we remind all parents, carers and visitors to Sandy Hill Academy that smoking and vaping are not permitted on site.

Dogs are also not permitted on school premises, unless they are a known therapy dog or assistance dog.

### **Aspire Policies**



#### "Working together, inspiring excellence"

As a member of the <u>Aspire Academy Trust</u> 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 '<u>Parents/Useful Links & Downloads</u>' 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.





## **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









CLICK ICONS FOR MORE INFO

