

Half Term Newsletter Spring Term 2024-2025





Forthcoming events:

February

14th - INSET Day. School & Nursery closed 17th to 21st - Half term holiday

March

3rd - Year 3 Mass Cornish Sing, Hall for Cornwall
6th - World Book Day
11th - Songfest, Bodmin (choir - invite only)
13th - First Lego League Challenge, RNAS Culdrose (invite only)
18th - Year 4 Eden Project (details to follow)
21st - Red Nose Day

<u>April</u>

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
23rd - Year 4 Activity Day, Porthpean Outdoor Activity Centre

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.

INSET Days - School & Kids Club closed

- 14th February 2025
- 23rd July 2025

Head of School Welcome



Another half-term has passed us by, with lots of exciting learning taking place. Enjoy navigating through this newsletter, seeing what your children have been up to.

With the days slowly getting longer and the weather (hopefully) getting warmer, we cannot wait for the children to get involved in lots of exciting activities, including the interhouse series (see image).



Thank you for everyone's support with our incredibly successful disco. Along with the money raised earlier in the year, this will be subsidising upcoming school trips - keep your eyes peeled as lots of excitement and experience is planned. From everyone at Sandy Hill, we hope the children have a great week recuperating, ready to go again! Your support and smiles are always appreciated.

Best wishes,

Mr Jack Walker

Nursery - Acorn Class





Nursery - Acorn Class



In Nursery this half term, we have been learning all about the weather, within our topic 'Where do we see Colour?' We have enjoyed our focus text, Lost and Found, where we have talked about what we will need to wear on a cold and wet journey to the South Pole.

-Chinese New Year bought us lost of colourful inspiration, when the children learned that the colours Red and Yellow where significant during this celebration and they got to try their own Dragon Dance. We were also lucky enough to make some Chinese inspired food - Chowmein! We looked at how the the noodles changed from hard and crispy to soft and bendy once hot water was added. We used our Gross Motor skills to stir everything up and our finer motor skills to pick up the carrots and onions with tongs and scissors to chop in the spring onions at the end.

-In Phonics, we have looked at the rhyming words and hunting for parts of the rhymes that sound the same. In our phonics focus texts we have been reading Amazing, and the children have been learning to listen and tap the sounds (syllables) they hear. A-maz-ing - 3 sounds - 3 taps.

In our reading for pleasure book, One Mole Digging a Hole, we have been finding the verbs and spending time looking at everything going on in each picture. The Mole is 'digging' the garden however along the back fence the is a snail is 'slithering' along.

-In Maths this half term, we have been looking at number 5 where they have enjoyed learning 5 little speckled frogs, 5 fingers in my pocket and learning to subitise 5 buns, 5 frogs, 5 fingers etc.

Our SCARF were about keeping safe, including listening to our feelings, Linking to our colours topic we have matched our feelings to a colour, taking inspiration from the Colour Monster Story.

We finished off the Half term with a little valentines inspiration to spread kindness everywhere and making some wonderful headbands to attend the disco! So much happening in the Nursery its hard to capture all the highlights but we are always having fun!

Reception - Apple Class





Reception - Cherry Class





Reception - Apple & Cherry Classes

In Reception this half term, we have been learning all about heroes, within and beyond our topic 'Do All Superheroes Wear Capes?'. The children have enjoyed getting to know our focus texts, including Supertato, Tough Guys Have Feelings Too, and Super Daisy, and used these as a stimulus for many activities within our learning environment.

Academy

We have used texts such as The Runaway Pea as inspiration for learning about different fruits and vegetables, and were lucky enough to have a cooking session with the Aspens team, where we learned all about making a healthy soup and bread rolls.

The children have learned all about Chinese New Year celebrations, and have taken part in a dragon dance, explored Chinese artefacts, painted Chinese numbers, and located China on a world map.

In Phonics, we have continued to apply a 'can do' attitude, and have learned many new digraphs and trigraphs. The children have been applying these to their independent writing, and have begun to write short captions. It has been wonderful to see the children's confidence grow, and in particular to hear their enthusiasm for guided reading, where the children apply their phonics knowledge to decode words, and have really worked on adding expression to their voices.

In Maths this half term, we have been growing 6, 7, and 8, and have been learning how to write addition and subtraction number sentences. The children were introduced to the magic of the doubling pot, and wowed us with their growing knowledge of doubles facts.

Our SCARF sessions have centred around keeping safe, including listening to our feelings, and learning what is safe to go into and onto our bodies.

We have enjoyed our weekly pen disco sessions to promote the growth of our fine motor skills, and continued our daily Big Brush Club!

It's safe to say that learning in Reception is memorable, meaningful and fun!

Year 1 - Chestnut Class





Year 1 - Holly Class





Year 1 - Chestnut & Holly Classes



Holly and Chestnut Class have enjoyed learning about their new topic 'Brilliant Bodies'. The children were thrilled to learn all about nurses and were excited when we had a midwife come into school. Before she came in, they all thought of questions they could ask her and they listened and participated in a Q&A session brilliantly! We followed that with Mrs Chafer coming in to show the class a real baby and asked her different questions about what is required to look after a newborn.

In Science, the children have been learning all about the human body. We have labelled it, identified the senses and what they are used for and finished it off with an experiment; looking at 'do bigger feet mean you can jump further?' The children came up with some fantastic predictions prior to the experiment.

In PSHE, we have been looking at keeping safe. The children all had a good understanding of who they could talk to if something happened to them. They have listened to different stories and joined in with great discussion identifying what went wrong and how it could be resolved. Keeping safe tied in with Safer Internet Day as the children learnt about how to keep themselves safe online.

In RE, the children have been learning about Judaism. We looked at the religion and how Jewish people live day-to-day compared to some other religions. They enjoyed learning about the different stories and celebrations involved and then learning the names of some of the artifacts.

The Year One team are looking forward to a fun-filled half-term including World Book Day and British Science Week!

Year 2 - Maple Class





Year 2 - Willow Class





Year 2 - Maple & Willow Classes



Willow and Maple class have enjoyed learning about their new topic 'Sensational Safari.' The children have enjoyed learning how to use an atlas to find where Kenya is and to investigate the physical features. In Art, the children have carried their learning about Africa into their painting unit and created outstanding African sunset paintings showing the silhouettes of different animals found in the national parks. The children also baked some traditional North African flatbreads with Aspens. They thoroughly enjoyed making their breads and tasting them with their dips.

In Computing our focus has been on what information technology is. It was great fun roleplaying a supermarket scenario to understand how information technology works at the checkout to scan barcodes and calculate the total of our shopping.

For RSE this half term the children have been learning about how to keep themselves safe. We have completed different activities to help us to know that it is important to speak up if something or someone makes us feel upset, worried or hurt. The children have rehearsed different phrases they could use to help to keep them safe in different situations.

Willow and Maple class are looking forward to all the special events coming up next half term such as St. Piran's Day, World Book Day and Science Week.

Year 1 and 2 Valentine's Disco





Year 3 - Ash Class







LEARNING ABOUT LIGHT





ENJOYING CHOREOGRAPHING MOVEMENT INSPIRED BY WILD ANIMALS IN PE

SHOWING OFF OUR STONE AGE LEARNING WITH A BRILLIANT EXPERIENCE DAY.



EXPLORING PRINT MAKING IN OUR DT LEARNING, MAKING CROWNS INSPIRED BY WILLIAM MORRIS





Year 3 - Elm Class



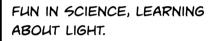


3D SKETCHING IN ART TO CREATE JELLYFISH!



LEARNING ABOUT GEORGES SEURAT AND CREATING THESE AMAZING POINTILLISM PAINTINGS.

GEOGRAPHY - PLANNING A ROUTE FOR A DAY OUT AT THE MAGIC KINGDOM IN FLORIDA.



Year 3 - Ash & Elm Classes



This half-term, Year 3 has explored a range of exciting topics across the curriculum. In Maths, we have focused on formal methods for multiplication and division, building confidence in using written strategies to solve problems. Alongside this, we have continued to refine our arithmetic skills in addition and subtraction, ensuring fluency and accuracy. Our times table knowledge has improved significantly, with a focus on learning the 8 times table and consolidating our understanding of the 4s. English has been an exciting journey, particularly with our grammarsaurus learning. We have explored visual literacy through the animation *The Lighthouse*, examining how different sentence openers can enhance our writing. Using this knowledge, we wrote diary entries from the perspective of both the lighthouse keeper and a villager, capturing their thoughts and emotions through rich vocabulary and varied sentence structures.

In science, we have been learning about light and darkness, discovering how light travels and exploring how different surfaces reflect light. We have carried out investigations to deepen our understanding of these concepts.

In Geography, we have started to learn about oceans and rivers, firstly looking at our case study of the sunshine state and posing the question of why it is known as that.

Computing lessons have focused on understanding different input and output processes, as well as learning what digital devices are and how they are used in everyday life.

In DT, we have explored the work of the interior designer William Morris and learned that design technology is about making things for a purpose. With this in mind, we designed and created crowns to showcase our learning, proudly parading them around the school.

PSHE lessons have focused on valuing differences, helping us understand and celebrate diversity. Additionally, we have explored strategies for avoiding and diffusing risky situations, learning how to make safe and responsible choices.

Overall, this half-term has been full of growth and discovery, with plenty of opportunities to apply our learning in creative and practical ways. We are looking forward to continuing our journey in the next half-term!

Year 4 - Beech Class





Year 4 - Sycamore Class





Year 4 - Beech & Sycamore Classes



Our Year 4's have had a great start to the Spring term, and have been absolute Sandy Stars! Miss Rowe and Mrs Simpson are proud of all of their hard work. This half term, they have immersed themselves in their new Geography based topic about the 'Amazon Rainforest' and they have delved into creating some fantastic work based on this! They have created some intriguing rainforest fact files, and art work, and in English they have written a persuasive letter to stop deforestation.

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 multiplication and division, and teaching a variety of strategies to solve these problems. We have also been learning the 9 x tables, as well as consolidating the 6's, 8's, 4's and 3's. We have been extremely impressed with the increasing mental arithmetic scores each week and the children's dedication to handing in homework to support this.

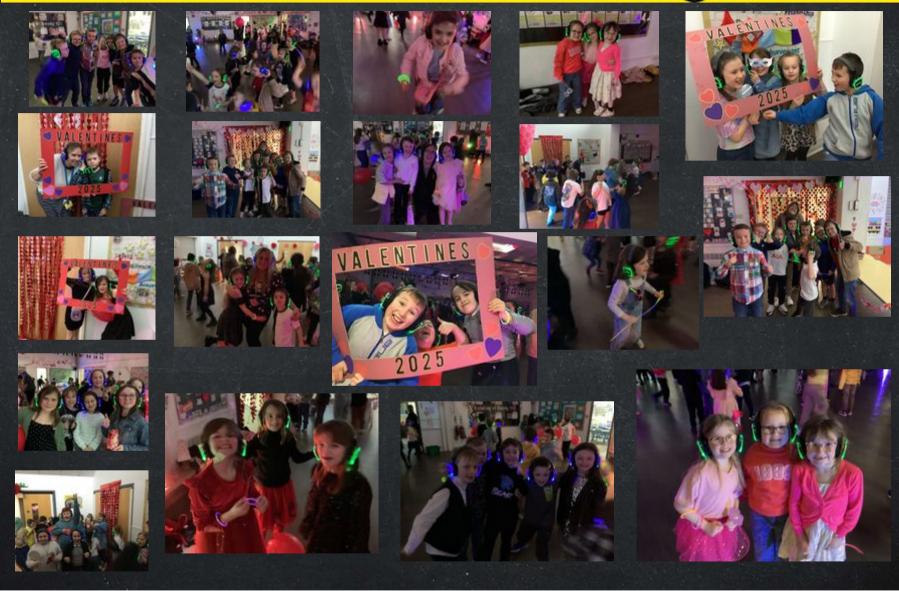
In Science lessons, the children have loved taking part in experiments linked to our topic of Sound. A particular highlight was learning how to make their own head phones in order to block out sound! In Music, the children have been listening and appraising a variety of songs that support the theme of bullying, their main song they have learnt is called 'Stop bullying' and the children have created their own bullying raps which they performed in class to one another. In PE, both classed have immersed themselves into a variety of skills such as team work through dance and tag rugby lessons.

Well done Beech and Sycamore class for working hard! We are all proud of the progress you have all made.

We hope you have a restful February half term from all of the team in Year 4.

Year 3 and 4 Valentine's Disco





Year 5 and 6 Valentine's Disco





Year 5 - Cedar Class





Year 5 - Pine Class





Year 5 - Cedar & Pine Classes



Wow - what an amazing start to the Spring Term Year 5 have had!

Year 5 have enjoyed learning all about our new topic of 'Natural Disasters'. During which, we have studied how some different disasters occur and some of devastation they can create.

In English, the children have continued learning all about the mechanics of writing accurately. We have enjoyed using our natural disaster topic as a driving force for our writing. So far this term, we have written poems including figurative language and explored different character's feelings in texts.

In maths, we have been learning all about fractions, statistics and methods for multiplication and division. The children have also been progressing their arithmetic skills steadily and are very proud of their recent scores!

In PE, we have enjoyed progressing our tag rugby skills and created excellent group dances. In science, we have been learning all about friction and how this can be a helpful and unhelpful force.

Our art lessons have included painting with contrasting and complimentary colours. We are very proud of all the artwork we have created so far this term. It certainly has made our classroom look very colourful!

Year 6 - Oak Class





Year 6 - Redwood Class





Year 6 - Oak & Redwood Classes



This half term has been a fantastic one for Year 6, full of exciting learning opportunities and impressive achievements across all subjects.

In English, we have been exploring *Skellig* by David Almond, using the novel as inspiration to develop our descriptive writing skills. The children have also been honing their mystery writing techniques, creating suspenseful and engaging pieces.

In Maths, we have tackled a wide range of topics, including perimeter and area, ratio and proportion, and shape. The children have worked hard to deepen their understanding and apply their skills in problem-solving tasks.

In RE, we have been exploring key concepts of Hinduism to help answer our big question: *Why do Hindus want to be good?* Through discussion and reflection, the children have gained a deeper understanding of Hindu beliefs and values.

PE has been a mix of creativity and competition, as we alternated between dance and football. A highlight of the term was our inter-house competition, where everyone enjoyed taking part in seated volleyball.

Computing has been particularly impressive this half term, with the children developing their own websites. They have showcased their digital skills by designing different web pages and subpages, incorporating hyperlinks to bring their sites to life.

It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and hard work from all our Year 6 pupils, and we look forward to another exciting half term ahead!

SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities)



Communication & Interaction

high fives & clapping

chat over a smack

food together

fun with a post box

Peek-a-boy

doing laundry together

Typically, children learn to talk and understand words gradually. They learn best from listening and talking to other people. Research shows that language development in the first years of life is linked to educational progress. Here's some easy ideas to promote language development with your little ones over the half term break.

Social, Emotional & Mental Health

The Children's Mental Health Support Team (MHST) aim to build resilience and empower children and young people to get the help they need, when they need it. The MHST help schools to develop a whole-school approach to emotional health wellbeing. Mental Health Practitioners can help children displaying mild to moderate signs of worry, low mood, mild behavioural difficulties.

The MHST has a new Facebook group with the aim of keeping you up to date and share with you all their latest workshops and

relevant information. Click here for more info.

Ceast activities



Cognition & Learning

Working memory is where we hold onto and process information in the short-term to support the task at hand. It's a bit like a mental notepad!

Developing working memory and using strategies to support children to reduce their cognitive load (i.e. how much they have to remember in one go), can have a huge impact on our ability to learn successfully. At school, this might look like:

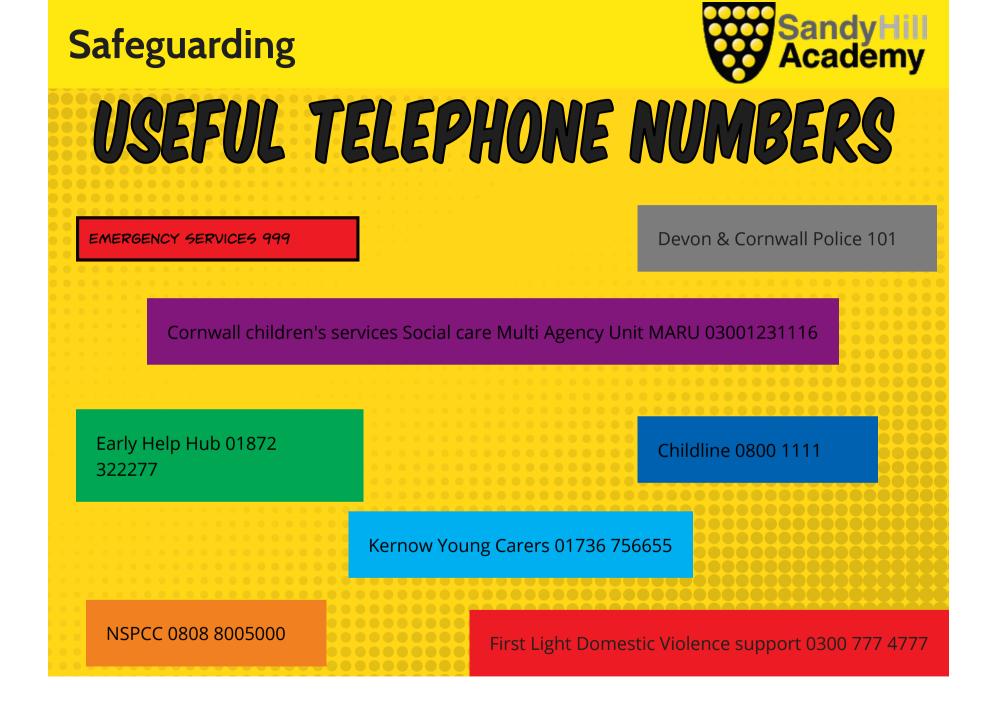
- using visuals alongside spoke language
- giving instructions in the order they should be completed
- having consistent lesson structure with predictable routines
- using task management boards to organise ideas
- mind maps
- practical learning activities

Sensory and/or Physical

Our sense of movement and balance is known as our **vestibular** sense. This is the sensory system which is responsible for our sense of balance and movement, controlling our muscles, and most of our reflexes. The vestibular system is stimulated by movement up or down, backward or forwards, and around or over. The vestibular sense:

- encourages calming and organising
- helps with attention and concentration
- builds up strength in the body and core muscles
- helps with coordination

You can find out more about the vestibular sense and activity ideas that support this by clicking here.



Pupil Premium & Free School Meals

Sandy Hill Academy

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 <u>eligibility criteria</u>.

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.

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.

Arbor - School Communications





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

If you haven't already done so, please download 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 <u>Arbor Parent App - The Aspire Academy Trust</u>

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

Arbor 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

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:

- 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.
- . 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.
- 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.
- Only relatives who are Primary Guardians of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



The Sunnyville School of Magic W10 5BN Lender, GBR

Enter your passwo

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 '<u>Statutory Information</u>' 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.



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



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

CORNWALL COUNCIL ore and al - orechaged Together V for Families

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



you don't have your name, ar chat about an

childline

you can talk to us. It's free, you don't have to tell us your name, and you can chat about anything.

Size is a service provided by the NSPCC. Children's Society for the Proveman of address publics: Jost Registered charge or grant and Water parket. Societand to Amery Bit Buckstate by Muderator. 2025/EDD Mothers



jo@samaritans.org

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



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 Website:www.sandyhill.org.uk Cuck icons for more info