

Newsletter

Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts

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Dear parents and carers,

What a great first two days back at school! The children have returned to school looking smart in their uniform and ready to learn.

They have all had the best time today either at school, taking part in kin-ball, archery, ultimate dodgeball and learning survival skills, or at Polkerris Beach. We have seen all our core values of aspiration, courage, responsibility, teamwork, friendship and achievement being displayed and we look forward to sharing lots of photos with you next week.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Cathy Brokenshire (Headteacher)

Clubs



As you know, each term, we run a full programme of clubs for children to attend after school.

These are due to start again on Monday 16th September and will run for 10 weeks. Details will follow next week.

To help us plan for clubs, please can you either follow the link or scan the QR code to give us some feedback. Thank you

https://forms.office.com/e/wbKkRvDztM?origin=lprl_inl



PE Days

From Monday, class PE days will be as follows:

Nursery - Tuesday

Reception - Thursday

Year 1 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 2 - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 3 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 4 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 5 - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Thursday

Children in KS1 will need to bring their PE kit in on a Monday and keep it in school all week.

Children in KS2 can wear their PE kit on PE days.

A polite reminder that correct PE kit needs to be worn at all times (please see what PE kit consists of in this newsletter).

Key Dates - Autumn Term 1

- 16.09.24 Individual School Photos
1500 Sort Class (Y1) Meet the Teacher
Clubs Start
- 17.09.24 0900 Lowarn Class (Y4) Meet the Teacher
1500 Brogh Class (Y3) Meet the Teacher
- 18.09.24 0900 Pedrean Class (Y6) Meet the Teacher
1500 Gwiwer Class (Y2) Meet the Teacher
- 19.09.24 0900 Kroenek Class (Rec) Meet the Teacher
1500 Godh Class (Y5) Meet the Teacher
- 20.09.24 0900 The Nest Meet the Teacher
- 23.09.24 Stay Safe Week
- 01.10.24 Black History Month
- 09.10.24 MADE Project in Godh Class (Y5)
- 10.10.24 Harvest Assembly for The Foodbank
- 21.10.24 0900 Godh Class (Y5) Fabulous Finish
1500 Sort Class (Y1) Fabulous Finish
- 22.10.24 0900 Lowarn Class (Y4) Fabulous Finish
- 23.10.24 0900 Pedrean Class (Y6) Fabulous Finish
1500 Gwiwer Class (Y2) Fabulous Finish
- 24.10.24 0900 Brogh Class (Y3) Fabulous Finish
1500 Kroenek Class (Rec) Fabulous Finish
Nasal Flu Vaccinations
- 25.10.24 0900 The Nest Fabulous Finish

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence, came into effect from 19 August 2024 and will affect when penalty notices are issued in Cornwall.

What are the changes?

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered.

The new rules mean you will no longer be able to take your child out of school for one week's holiday without the consideration of a penalty notice being issued.

There will be an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.

If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.

If a parent then commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will need to consider other enforcement options available to them. This could include prosecution.

FAQs

If I have already booked a holiday for next year, could I receive a penalty fine at the new higher rate?

Yes, absence from school can only be agreed when the explanation of the leave of absence is considered as exceptional circumstance by the Head Teacher.

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

Each parent can receive a fine for each child who has had unauthorised absence from school.

In education law, anyone who lives with a child and who has day-to-day care of the child is also considered to be a parent whether they are the biological parent or not. This will include step-parents and partners.

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No, it applies to all unauthorised absence from school including holidays. Unauthorised absence includes other absence that has not been agreed such as truancy, arriving late after the register has closed and failing to provide acceptable reasons for absence.

How do I request for my child to have leave granted during term time?

You must submit a Leave of Absence Request form to the Head Teacher before the proposed absence (a minimum of 15 days before the Leave of absence is due to commence). Each request will be considered on its own merit, but where the leave of absence could be taken outside of the school term the absence will not be authorised. Do not assume that the absence will be granted until you have received confirmation from the school.

Do the 10 sessions of unauthorised absence have to be taken all at the same time before a penalty fine is issued?

No, a penalty fine can be issued for any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period. They can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms (including between academic years).

What happens if I am issued with a penalty fine and I don't pay it?

Unauthorised absence from school is an offence under S444 of the Education Act 1996. A penalty fine is an opportunity for you to settle out of court. If you don't take this opportunity, you can be prosecuted for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

What should I do if I am worried about my child's attendance?

Please contact us to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can support you to improve the situation.



St Dennis Primary Academy
Term Dates 2024/2025

September 2024						October 2024						November 2024							
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31	Thurs		7	14	21	28	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri		1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat		2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun		3	10	17	24	

December 2024						January 2025						February 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24
Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		4	11	18	25
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	Thurs		6	13	20	27
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	

March 2025						April 2025						May 2025						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		7	14	21	28
Thurs		6	13	20	27		Thurs	3	10	17	24		Thurs	1	8	15	22	29
Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	4	11	18	25	

June 2025						July 2025						August 2025						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28	Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue	1	8	15	22	29	Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed	2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thurs		5	12	19	26		Thurs	3	10	17	24	31	Thurs		7	14	21	28
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri	4	11	18	25		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat	5	12	19	26		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27		Sun	3	10	17	24	

INSET Days

03 September 2024
04 September 2024
04 November 2024
06 January 2025
22 April 2025



School holidays

Bank holidays

Christmas Day 25 December 2024
Boxing Day 26 December 2024
New Years Day 01 January 2025
Good Friday 18 April 2025
Easter Monday 21 April 2025
May Bank Holiday 05 May 2025
Spring Bank Holiday 26 May 2025
Summer Bank Holiday 25 August 2025

AUTUMN TERM (74 days)

3 September - 20 December 2024
(HALF TERM 28 October -1 November 2024)

SPRING TERM (60 days)

6 January - 4 April 2025
(HALF TERM 17-21 February 2025)

SUMMER TERM (61 days)

22 April - 23 July 2025
(HALF TERM 26-30 May 2025)

195 days are included on the school calendar. Schools will be open to pupils for 190 days. The five additional days are allotted for In-Service Training (INSET). Schools allocate their own INSET days.

Uniform

For contacts and where to buy uniform, please follow this link to our website <https://www.stdennis.academy/uniform-information/>.

School Uniform

- School sweatshirt or cardigan with (or without) school logo
- White polo shirt
- School fleece with (or without) school logo
- Black trousers (black jeans are not permitted) or black skirt
- Black smart shorts (not sports shorts)
- Sensible plain black shoes or plain black trainers

PE Kit

- Plain white t-shirt with (or without) school logo
- Black shorts (plain jogging bottoms / leggings in cold weather may be worn over shorts)
- Suitable trainers or other sports footwear e.g. football boots, plimsolls

Please note that school jumpers need to be worn with PE kits rather than other jumpers or hoodies which are not school uniform.

Jewellery

The only permitted jewellery that may be worn is:

- One pair of stud earrings – no other piercings are permitted
- A sensible wrist watch – no electronic smart watches are permitted

Make-up

- Make-up, nail varnish, false nails and nail extensions are not permitted.

Hairstyles

- Extreme hairstyles, such as mohawks and patterned or brightly coloured hair, are not acceptable.
- Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. during PE.
- Bandana style headbands and flowers/bows or excessive hair accessories are not to be worn; however, plain hair clips or bands are acceptable.

If anyone needs any help with school uniform, please speak to the School Office.



Please follow this link to our website to access links within this newsletter <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-dennis-primary-academy/UploadedDocument/5fa061a5-5cf9-4e33-a65d-1aab7938b7e6/online-safety-newsletter-september-2024.pdf>



Online Safety Newsletter

Sept 2024

Need app ideas?

Internet Matters have curated a list of age-appropriate apps depending on what your aim is when your child is spending time online:

Skill Building apps:

If you would like to help your child develop a new skill, then you might find some useful ideas here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/skill-building-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Apps to keep your child entertained:

These apps are organised into age groups so you can find an app that is suitable for your child:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/13-great-apps-to-keep-your-kids-amused-in-the-school-holidays/>

Apps to help get your child active:

Again, these apps are organised by age group:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/apps-guide/apps-to-help-kids-get-active/>

Wellbeing apps:

These apps are organised by topic such as sleep aids or managing anxiety and will help your child develop an understanding of how to look after their own wellbeing:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/wellbeing-apps-guide-for-kids/>

Social Media Algorithms

What is an Algorithm?

Algorithms influence what we see on social media platforms and predicts what type of content we are most likely to interact with, thereby keeping us online for longer. The algorithm uses information such as who you follow, what you have searched for and what you have watched, liked or shared to determine what it thinks most interests you, to then show you this content more, for example, in the explore tab on Instagram.



What do I need to know?

Whilst there are benefits to algorithms, for example it means we tend to see content that does interest us, unfortunately there are negatives as well. They can lead to increased screentime as we continue to see things that interest us. Secondly, it can lead to users being shown large amounts of inappropriate content which can exacerbate negative body image or heighten access to misogyny content. It can also lead to 'echo chambers' where you are only seeing content that relates to your opinion rather than seeing a balanced viewpoint.

The Family Online Safety Institute discuss algorithms in more detail as well as tips for you to help your child, such as how to reset their algorithm:

<https://www.fosi.org/good-digital-parenting/how-to-talk-to-your-kids-about-social-media-algorithms>

WhatsApp: chat lock/secret code

You must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Did you know that you can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting? If a user locks a chat, then the chat will appear at the top under locked chats but cannot be viewed without your device password or biometric (face id/fingerprint). Furthermore though, a user can apply an additional setting to hide the locked chat (so it does not appear in their chat list and can only be accessed via the search bar). Whilst this feature adds privacy, it can make it difficult to monitor what your child is doing on WhatsApp, which is why it is important to have regular chats with your child.

Snapchat

What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g., 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

What should I be concerned about?

Risks of using Snapchat include your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

NEW safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The features include seeing a warning message if they receive a chat from someone who has been blocked/reported by others. Also, if a teen blocks a user, it will also now block any future friend requests sent from accounts created on the same device (to reduce the potential of bullying). **These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from such features.** You can find out more as well as about the other new features here: <https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>

Family Centre

Family Centre is a set of parental controls designed to help you see what your child is doing when using Snapchat. You must have your own Snapchat account to set it up. Family Centre allows you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely: <https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls>

Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary: <https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

Parent Zone have published a short 5-minute guide here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>



Check in on an iPhone

On iOS 17, you can use check in to let others know when you have arrived at a destination. When using check in, it monitors your journey and notifies the other person when you arrive at your destination or if you are not progressing as you should.

You can also use it to specify a period of time so if you are meeting somebody new then you can set a timer and if you don't end the Check In before this time then the other person is notified.

You can find out how to use this feature here: <https://support.apple.com/en-in/guide/iphone/iphc143bb7e9/ios>

Discussing distressing news

Following on from the recent awful events in Southport, INEQUE Safeguarding Group have published an article to help you when discussing distressing news with your child. The article also includes a downloadable resource that children can read when news becomes overwhelming for them.

Find out more here: <https://ineqe.com/2024/08/02/discussing-distressing-news-events-with-children>

Family Quiz for Online Wellbeing Tips

The NSPCC have created a quiz that can be completed as a family to help you have discussions together and find out about the NSPCC's top tips for positive online wellbeing.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/quiz/>