

Newsletter



Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts

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Dear parents and carers,

This half term has started with children enjoying their Stunning Starts to launch new topics. Children have learnt about Diwali, discussed fire safety in PSHE, explored toys their grandparents would have played with in history and compared the materials they were made from with their own toys, used drama to learn new storytelling texts, started new dance and tag rugby units in PE and taken part in puzzle challenges and an evacuee day!

Next week is Anti-bullying Week and we launch this on Monday with Odd Socks Day. Wednesday is Positive Noticing Day and on Friday we have Pudsey Day. More information is included in the newsletter.

Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Cathy Brokenshire (Headteacher)

St Dennis Stars

All St Dennis Stars were awarded for **courage** this week, which is one of our core values.



Nursery Elodie **Year 3** Iuan

Reception Penny **Year 4** Lucy

Year 1 Alfie **Year 5** Ethan

Year 2 Jax **Year 6** Piran



FOSDA Coffee and Cake Invitation



We're incredibly lucky to have a brilliant fundraising group at St Dennis – Friends of St Dennis Academy (FOSDA). Their support makes a real difference and we're so grateful for everything they do.

To keep the momentum going, FOSDA are looking for new members and fresh ideas! Whether you can spare a little time to help at events, share creative fundraising ideas or simply want to find out more, we'd love to welcome you!

Come along for coffee and cake on **Thursday 13th November at 11-30** in school. Parents, carers, grandparents – everyone is welcome! Mrs Nash and Mrs Crawford will be there to greet you and chat about how you can get involved. No pressure, just a friendly get-together to see how we can continue making great things happen for our children.

We are looking forward to...

Week beginning: Monday 10th November

Nursery	We are looking forward to finding out about how firefighters help us.
Reception	We are looking forward to learning about and celebrating how everyone is unique and special on Odd Socks Day.
Year 1	As writers, we are looking forward to writing about The Gruffalo's Child.
Year 2	As dancers, we are looking forward to creating some great movements linked to our science about materials.
Year 3	As scientists, we are looking forward to investigating the physical properties of types of rock.
Year 4	As historians, we are looking forward to learning about Viking raids at Lindisfarne.
Year 5	We are looking forward to learning how to thread a needle and create a blanket stitch.
Year 6	As athletes, we are looking forward to developing our skills in tag rugby.
The Nest	We are looking forward to our cinema trip to watch 'How to Train Your Dragon'.

Attendance

Attendance for this year is now **94.5%**

This week, the class with the winning attendance is **Reception**



Reception	100% ★
Year 1	93.8%
Year 2	95.0%
Year 3	93.2%
Year 4	93.4%
Year 5	92.3%
Year 6	91.5%

They will enjoy an extra special playtime next week, for being the best attending class!

Growth Mindset Awards

Our Growth Mindset certificates were awarded to Holly, Walter, Eva, George, Bailey, Evie and Eva



These awards celebrate children who have continued to believe in themselves and be resilient when something has been tricky! It's knowing that they can't do it... yet!

Lunchtime Awards

Tamara, Alba and Kendall received Lunchtime Awards this week for being polite, using good manners and showing responsibility.



Key Dates - Autumn Term 2

- 10.11.25 Anti-bullying Week
Odd Socks Day
- 12.11.25 Positive Noticing Day
0900 Family Worker Drop-in
- 13.11.25 14:30 FOSDA Coffee and Cake - Open to all parents and carers who would like to find out more
- 14.11.25 Pudsey Day
- 17.11.25 09:30 - 11:00 Open Morning
14:45 Coffee and Cake - ASD Team
- 18.11.25 09:00 Reception Parent/Carer Workshop - RWI
15:00 Y1 Parent/Carer Workshop - Phonics Screening Check
Y3 Truro Museum Visit
- 19.11.25 09:00 Y5 Parent/Carer Workshop - Key English and Maths Skills
- 20.11.25 09:00 Y3/4 Parent/Carer Workshop - Multiplication Tables Check
15:00 Y2 Parent/Carer Workshop - Key Stage 1 Assessment
- 21.11.25 09:00 Y6 Parent/Carer Workshop - SATs
- 28.11.25 Non-uniform day for a tombola prize
- 01.12.25 Festival of Trees Visit to St Denys Church
- 04.12.25 Santa's Grotto
- 05.12.25 14:00 finish for FOSDA Christmas Fayre
- 09.12.25 14:30 Rocksteady Performance
- 10.12.25 Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
- 12.12.25 Over 70s lunch - Y5
- 15.12.25 15:00 Nursery - Songs and mince pies
- 16.12.25 14:00 Reception Nativity
- 17.12.25 KS2 Carol Service Rehearsal at St Denys Church
14:00 Key Stage 1 Nativity
- 18.12.25 14:00 Key Stage 1 Nativity
- 19.12.25 10:00 Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St Denys Church
Special Golden Time - Silent Disco
Special Attendance Assembly
13:30 Finish



Monday is **Odd Socks Day!**

Children can come to school on Monday with odd socks on to celebrate everyone being unique and to launch this year's Antibullying Week.



After its success last year, we are delighted to be participating in Positive Noticing Day on **Wednesday**.

We will be spending some time during the day thinking about the power of positive noticing. It is simple, practical, and highly effective. Being positively noticed by others builds self-esteem, supports behaviour and promotes good mental health.



We will be encouraging children (and staff!) to positively notice one another.

We encourage families to join in at home too. You can write positive notes for family members on luggage labels, post it notes or pieces of paper. We know that children who are positively noticed by their parents/carers are happier, healthier and more resilient and secure.

You may wish to use Positive Noticing Day as an opportunity to start daily positive noticing in your home. You can create and share positive labels as a family and save them - stick them on the fridge, the back of the door or put them in an old picture frame.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

'I noticed that you put your plate by the sink, that's really helped me this morning, you are very thoughtful, thank you'

'Doing your homework without me asking shows real independence. I love the determination you are showing'

'You are so good at sharing with your sister/brother. You are such a kind person.'

We hope you enjoy the day, and we want to say that 'we notice you' and the effort you make to support your children, engage them in learning and enrich our school community!

You can find out more about positive noticing and Positive Noticing Day at <https://www.positivenoticingday.com/homeadults>.

On **Friday**, we will be supporting Children in Need on Pudsey Day! Children can wear yellow or something spotty for a £1 donation. We can't wait to see everyone in their outfits to raise money for such a great cause.



If you are a parent or carer of a child due to start Reception Class in September 2026, please come and join us at our Open Morning on **Monday 17th November**.

Please come to the School Reception between **09:30 and 10:30** to meet Mrs Brokenshire (Headteacher), Mrs Nash (Deputy Headteacher) and have a guided tour of the school with our Year 6 Ambassadors.

Book your visit by scanning the QR code.

In February 2023, Ofsted said

'St Dennis is built on strong relationships.'

'Pupils show great enthusiasm for learning, including in the early years.'

'Leaders have high aspirations for all pupils. Staff share their vision. Leaders do what is best for pupils.'

'Parents and carers speak positively about the school.'

Open Morning 2025



Come and have a look and explore our website <https://www.stdennis.academy/> to find out more about us!



Open Morning 2025



If you are a parent or carer of a child due to start in Reception Class in September 2026, we warmly welcome you to our Open Morning on Monday 17th November from 0930 to 1030.

Please come and see the amazing learning our children do and the wide range of activities available to them.

Please scan the QR code to book a place.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please follow this link to our website, where you can access this newsletter and the links within it <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-dennis-primary-academy/UploadedDocument/f8f187e7-flc7-4e08-bb24-780lee8b8f98/online-safety-newsletter-nov-2025.pdf>



Online Safety Newsletter

Nov 2025

CapCut

CapCut is a video editing app. Their services are intended for those over the age of 13 (those under the age of 18 must have consent from their parent/legal guardian). It is rated as 13+ on the App store.

What can I do on CapCut?

CapCut is used as a video and image editing tool allowing users to edit their videos/ images as well as add music, sound effects, text and stickers.

What should I be aware of?

- The templates are user generated, therefore they may not always be appropriate for your child to view, for example may contain adult themes.
- CapCut includes access to a library of music that can be used within videos that may include explicit lyrics.
- Premium content – CapCut does include in-app purchases/monthly subscriptions to allow users access to premium content.

Further information

Internet Matters have created this useful guide:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/skills-building/capcut/>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version:
<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/november-2025-primary>

WhatsApp Update

School WhatsApp groups

Are you part of a parent WhatsApp group at your child's school? These groups can be useful for sharing information and reminders, but it is important to use them thoughtfully. Here are some tips on how we can ensure they remain positive and respectful:

1. Be considerate – we know messages can sometimes be misinterpreted so carefully think about what you share. These groups should not be used to share criticisms of the school, staff or other parents and children. Any concerns should always be discussed with the school directly.
2. Don't spread rumours – avoid sharing any gossip within the group.
3. Protect privacy - do not share photos or videos of other children.
4. Think before you send – be mindful of the time and if the message is necessary for everyone.

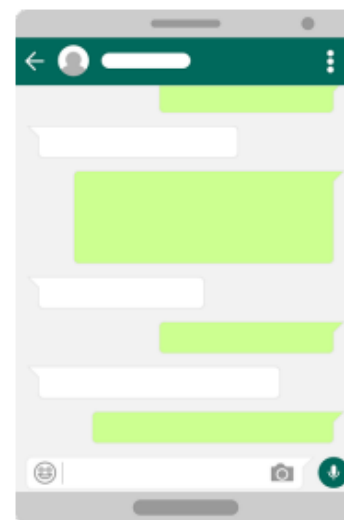
Our children watch how we communicate, so let's model healthy, online communication to them.

WhatsApp Channels

Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. If your child is using WhatsApp, then you should be aware of WhatsApp Channels. Channels are a one-way broadcast tool used by companies and individuals to send updates to followers. WhatsApp Channels can be found on the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content.

You cannot switch off access to channels and there is no age rating associated with the channels so you would have to access them to know what the content truly is. Klicksafe highlight what you should be aware of: <https://www.klicksafe.eu/en/news/was-sind-whatsapp-kanale-und-was-muessen-eltern-beachten>

Find out more about WhatsApp channels in general here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/549900560675125>

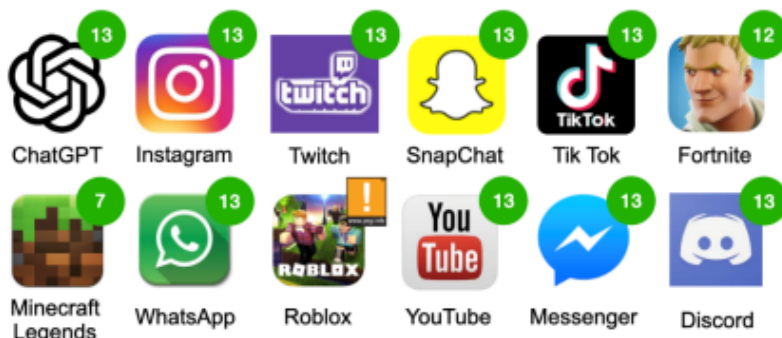


Age Ratings

Age ratings exist to help protect your child by showing whether content is suitable for your child's age. Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online or using social media- make sure you check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough.

Popular apps and their age ratings

Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are currently accessing.



For users under 18, a parent or legal guardian's permission may be required to use the service

In addition to checking the age rating, the likes of PEGI (Pan European Game Information) provide further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might encounter e.g. violence or bad language within a game.

What else should I review?

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, **it is also vital to review the content yourself**. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it is necessary to apply further parental controls. For example, does it include the ability to communicate with others and are in game/app purchases available?

What else can I do?

- Explain the importance of age ratings to your child and how they protect them.
- Go online together to see what your child is accessing.
- Set up parental controls on your broadband, devices and on any individual apps that your child is using. This will reduce the chances of them accessing or viewing anything unsuitable.
- Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

You can find out more here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 01.11.25. The inclusion of any links does not imply any affiliation with or endorsement of the linked websites, documents, or videos, nor are we claiming any ownership or copyright in the content of the linked materials.

Help to keep children safe online with Techosaurus

The NSPCC have created Techosaurus, a friendly dinosaur to assist you in having chats with your child about online safety. It is aimed at younger children and includes a book and activity pack (both chargeable). You can find out more here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/techosaurus/>

Online Roasting

Have you heard of this term? It has been around a while now, but Online Roasting refers to a form of cyberbullying. Roasting typically involves making fun and insulting somebody, sometimes with their consent and other times not.

What can I do?

- Talk to your child about what online roasting is, ask them if they have ever experienced it and what they think about it.
- If this has negatively impacted your child then save any evidence and involve the school (if appropriate). Childline also offer further advice and support in relation to cyberbullying.

Further information

Find out more here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/online-roasting-signs-cyberbullying/>

What to do when...from CEOP

CEOP Education have published this poster directing you to the relevant information around six different situations, such as what to do to protect your child from online blackmail. You can access it here:

<https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/globalassets/professional/resources/wtdw-round-up.pdf>

Eco Club

November is 'Cut Your Carbon Month'. Below is a checklist of challenges for children to complete at home. Eco club will talk about it in assembly so all their friends know about it and then if anyone completes the challenges they get a special certificate!

Thank you Eco Club!



- Make 3 evening meals plant-based across the month.



- Make 3 journeys active across the month.



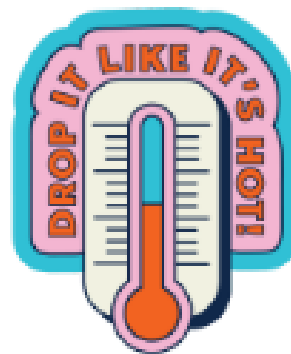
- Meal plan to reduce food waste for one week.



- Lower your washing machine temperature to 30°C for three washes across the month.



- Have a 'device-free' day.



- Drop your heating by 1°C for a week.

Completed by:



"Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers." – Shakuntala Devi

At St Dennis, we are committed to nurturing confident and capable mathematicians. Our aim is to foster a genuine enjoyment of maths while helping children build a strong conceptual understanding that they can apply to real-life problems and challenges. In addition to our daily maths lessons, children benefit from maths jotter time, key skills sessions and regular practise of number facts. Maths is also woven throughout the day, embedded in stories, routines and cross-curricular activities, making learning both meaningful and fun!

This year, we're excited to have a whole-school focus on problem solving and reasoning, encouraging children to think critically and creatively. Building on the success of the Mastering Number programme in Key Stage 1, we've now introduced it to Key Stage 2, ensuring continuity and deepening number fluency across the school.

All curriculum information is available on the school website <https://www.stdennis.academy/maths/>

Mastering Number

Over the past few years, alongside our regular maths lessons, children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have been taking part in the Mastering Number programme—a national initiative designed to develop deep number sense and fluency in calculation.

This structured approach helps children build confidence and a solid understanding of numbers from an early age. The response from our pupils has been fantastic, they genuinely enjoy the sessions, and we're seeing impressive progress as a result!

As a consequence of this success we have introduced it in Key Stage 2. At this stage, the focus is on developing fluency and confidence with multiplication and division facts.



In Year 4, there is a statutory online assessment called the **Multiplication Tables Check (MTC)**.

It evaluates whether pupils can fluently recall their multiplication facts up to 12×12 . As one of the enhancements for helping your Year 4 child learn the tables we use an online app called Times Tables Rockstars. Your child can log in at home and practise maths in a fun way!

Starting Strong: Maths in the Early Years

Maths learning begins right from the start in our nursery, where children enjoy dedicated daily number sessions. These early experiences lay the groundwork for a deep understanding of numbers.

As children move into Reception, this foundation is built upon through focused teaching of *number sense*—the essential building block for all future mathematical learning.



How can I help my child at home?

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

This online game provides learners with a chance to practise the recall of their number bonds, multiplication and division facts where they can test their accuracy and speed of recall.

<https://trockstars.com/>

Each child from Year 2 has a log in and password for Times Tables Rock Stars. They can earn coins through practising their multiplication and division facts in a range of fun games.

https://www.transum.org/Software/SW/Starter_of_the_day/index.htm

A different problem is given each day, to test different areas of Maths and twist your brain in different ways.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

This BBC resource is based on songs, quizzes and activities to build your child's confidence and understanding in early maths.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>

Another BBC resource based on quizzes, games and activities to increase confidence and understanding in maths for all ages.



Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts. (November 2025)

HOW OUR SCREEN USE AFFECTS OUR CHILDREN

Our phones are designed to keep us hooked in, but research shows that when adults are engrossed in their devices, they can decrease their engagement with their children



Prioritising direct interaction is essential for healthy development.

Studies highlighted that ***TECHNOFERENCE** is linked to three significant aspects of parent-child interactions:

- 1. Parent directiveness:** how often parents give instructions to their children, either verbally or non-verbally.
- 2. Responsiveness:** how quickly and effectively parents respond to their child's needs.
- 3. Scaffolding:** how parents adjust their behaviours to create a supportive framework for their children's learning experiences.

By being more mindful of our device use, we can foster better interactions and a stronger connection

Birth to 2 years

Set aside screens and **focus on face-to-face** interaction. Infants particularly benefit from loving expressions and our voices. Avoiding screen distractions strengthens bonds and enhances language skills. This is evident in everyday moments, such as playing at the park, trying new foods, or breastfeeding. **Using smartphones while feeding can lead to slower responses to a baby's needs.**



Making eye contact, sharing smiles, and engaging in conversation are crucial for their development

I'm just checking what time your football starts



Be a good role model. Young children learn by watching adults and they need to see faces and expressions. If they see you distracted by scrolling, it interrupts both your attentions, making it harder to learn language and manage their emotions.

Instead, we need to use smartphones around children only when absolutely needed for tasks, and explain what we're doing out loud

2 to 4 years

5 to 8 years

When using screens in front of children, it's important to use it thoughtfully. Set clear rules, like no screens during meals, bedtime, or while playing and be consistent. Remember, children are learning how to manage their attention, behaviour, and emotions. **The habits you show as an adult play a big role in helping them develop these skills.**



When using tech to help with learning, do it together with your kids

9 to 12 years



Work together as a family to establish screen time boundaries that everyone agrees on using our family digital plans

Talk openly about your screen time with your kids. Encourage them to share their thoughts on when and why technology is used. As children grow, they start to understand concepts of fairness and hypocrisy. By demonstrating thoughtful and intentional use of technology, we can help them build trust and enhance their self-awareness.

13 to 17 years

Set a good example for your kids by practising what you preach. Establish limits on your own screen time to show them the importance of balance. Consider sharing helpful tools like screen time apps and focus modes, and work together to create a digital plan for the whole family.



Our actions set an example for them in how they handle their focus, develop their sense of self, and navigate relationships with others

*TECHNOFERENCE - describes the distraction caused by our tech usage when with children and young people



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR SAFER SCREENS

created with input from Alliance4Children



for support and advice, including family plans