

## Newsletter



Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts

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Dear parents and carers,

At St Dennis this week, children have been busy exploring a wide range of exciting learning opportunities. They've built train tracks, collected and painted autumn leaves, made leaf rubbings and created collages inspired by the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo. They've learnt about how to keep healthy and investigated the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, researching key facts to deepen their understanding. Socrative has been used for interactive quizzes and in Forest School, children have enjoyed making fires safely. Through Natterhub, they've explored how to stay safe online, learning about the pressures and temptations that can exist on the internet and how to make sensible choices.

We also enjoyed Harvest Assembly today, where children learnt about the work of St Austell Foodbank.

Hope you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Cathy Brokenshire (Headteacher)

### St Dennis Stars



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



- |           |          |        |        |
|-----------|----------|--------|--------|
| Nursery   | Ella-Mae | Year 3 | Aerin  |
| Reception | Myla     | Year 4 | Casey  |
| Year 1    | Alanna   | Year 5 | Anashe |
| Year 2    | Ishea    | Year 6 | Oakley |



### We are looking forward to...

Week beginning: Monday 6th October

Nursery	We are looking forward to exploring how we move through our PE sessions.
Reception	As writers, we are looking forward to strengthening our hands in Dough Disco.
Year 1	As geographers, we are looking forward to going on a village walk.
Year 2	We are looking forward to our Stay Safe workshop and our PSHE learning about keeping safe.
Year 3	As theologians, we are looking forward to learning about how Christians might look after the environment.
Year 4	As creative writers, we are looking forward to inventing our own creation stories.
Year 5	We are looking forward to our Stay Safe workshop.
Year 6	As learners, we are looking forward to taking part in our Stay Safe workshop.
The Nest	We are looking forward to creating autumn craft.




The deadline for applications is **31 October 2025**

## Transfer to secondary school

### September 2026

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school



**Information and guidance**  
 Application form and information: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)  
 Telephone: 0300 1234 101



scan me



[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

### Year 6 Parents and Carers

The deadline to apply for your child's secondary school place is 31 October.

## Attendance

Attendance for this year is now **95.2%**

This week, the class with the winning attendance is **Year 4**



Reception	93.1%
Year 1	91.0%
Year 2	97.2%
Year 3	91.7%
Year 4	98.7%
Year 5	94.4%
Year 6	87.5%

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 Theo, Freya, Miley, Lowen, Penny, Imogen and Ayla this week!



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

Jack, Willow and Harmony received Lunchtime Awards this week for being polite, using good manners and showing responsibility.



## Key Dates - Autumn Term 1

06.10.25	Stay Safe Week
08.10.25	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Workshops
10.10.25	World Mental Health Day
13.10.25	0900 Year 5 Fabulous Finish 1500 Year 2 Fabulous Finish
14.10.25	0900 Year 4 Fabulous Finish 1500 The Nest Fabulous Finish
15.10.25	0900 Year 6 Fabulous Finish 1500 Year 1 Fabulous Finish
16.10.25	0900 Year 3 Fabulous Finish 1500 Reception Fabulous Finish Nasal Flu Vaccinations
17.10.25	Special Golden Time

## Harvest

Today, we were pleased to welcome Andy from St Austell Foodbank to speak to the children during our Harvest Assembly. He shared how the foodbank supports individuals and families across our local area, and explained how donations of food and essential items help meet real needs in our community.

The children listened with interest about how the foodbank operates and who it helps. Andy's visit gave us all a clearer understanding of why our Harvest donations matter. All the items collected will now be passed on to St Austell Foodbank, where they'll be sorted and distributed to those who need them most.

Thank you to everyone who contributed.



Welcome to our first SEND Newsletter! This will focus on news, upcoming events and top tips!

Mrs Waters is our SENCO and is always happy to answer any questions you may have. She works on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

There is also a lot of SEND information available on our website:

<https://www.stdennis.academy/send-1/>



## Exciting news... PINS Project!

We are so excited to have been chosen to be part of the PINS Project this year!

**What does PINS stand for?** Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools. The partnerships bit refers to bringing together NHS Kernow, Cornwall Council, us at Parent Carers Cornwall, and YOU, the school community.

If you are interested in finding out more about the PINS project, and to see the other schools taking part, please visit the Parent Carers Cornwall PINS project page.

[www.parentcarerscornwall.org.uk/pins/](http://www.parentcarerscornwall.org.uk/pins/)



PINS Coffee Morning  
St Dennis Primary  
Academy  
4th November 9AM  
All Welcome



## Autism in Schools Team

The team have already been into school this term for a planning meeting. We have lots of events and support booked in for the whole year, starting with a Parent Carer Cafe on

**Monday 17th November at 1445**

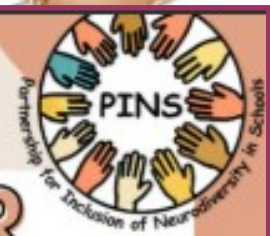
This session will focus on the upcoming festive period and how to support your child through all the changes to routine and excitement of Christmas!

## Top Tip!

The Neurodiversity hub is a brilliant website full of advice for all areas of need for you, and your child. <https://parentcarerscornwall.org.uk/>.



# MEET YOUR PINS WORKER



Hi! My name is Michelle Lobb, I am the PINS locality worker for your primary school.

I wanted to introduce myself and the PINS project so you know what to expect.

The Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a new project that builds on the idea of using a community approach to improve the experiences and inclusion of neurodivergent children within mainstream school settings.

The community engagement opportunities will be informal and inclusive sessions, where parent carer views and experiences will be gathered. Parent carers will also have the opportunity to explore ideas that could create positive change within their school community, together with school staff.

## Contact Info

Here are all the ways you can contact me:

- MichellePCC@outlook.com
- Through your school SENCO
- 07503173917

This partnership work will give children, their families, and school staff the opportunity to have important discussions to understand how best to support neurodivergent children and their families within school communities across the country.

From September 2025 I will be visiting your school on a frequent basis to hold Parent/carers engagement sessions - these sessions will be open to all families (whether your child is neurodivergent or not) and I promise to have a good cake and nice coffee available!

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 4th November at 0900 - 1030 PINS Coffee morning with Michelle Lobb

Wednesday 12th November at 0900 - Family Worker Drop in session

Monday 17th November at 1445 - Autism in Schools Team Parent Cafe

*Everyone matters, everyone succeeds, every moment counts.* October 2025

Please follow this link to the newsletter on our website so you can access the live links <https://primariesite-produced.s3.amazonaws.com/st-dennis-primary-academy/UploadedDocument/42f8e547-875a-4641-8868-cf7adeeccdcb/online-safety-newsletter-oct-2025.pdf>



# Online Safety Newsletter

Oct 2025

## Risks of using AI for mental health

AI chatbots and wellness apps are becoming increasingly popular, which may lead to your child accessing them to support their mental health.

### What should I be concerned about?

- The information/advice given may not always be accurate.
- Privacy concerns of how data is collected and used.
- Children may use these apps rather than seeking help from an adult.

### What can I do?

- Chat to your child regularly about what apps and websites they are using and why.
- Remind them AI is a tool and not a substitute for qualified professionals who provide tailored advice/support.
- Talk to them about how they should fact check information.
- Check age ratings.

### Further information

<https://stigmafreementalhealth.com/blog/supporting-youth-mental-health-with-ai-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers/>

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

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## YouTube

YouTube is one of the most popular platforms, available across many different devices - phones, tablets and Smart TVs etc.

**YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13**, however, younger children can still access YouTube with consent from a parent/ guardian. There are different options available to access YouTube, depending on your child's age:



**1. YouTube Kids** – a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age category you select: Preschool (ages 4 and under), Younger (ages 5–8) or Older (ages 9–12).

**2. Supervised accounts** – a parent-managed version of YouTube that allows you to control the content your child can access. You can select one of the following options:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything except for videos marked as 18+.

Find out more: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

### What do I need to be aware of?

Whilst YouTube can be educational and fun, it is important to be aware of the potential risks, such as:

- **Inappropriate content**
- **Excessive Screentime** – particularly due to the autoplay feature.
- **Unwanted contact / cyberbullying** – particularly via comments if your child is sharing videos.
- **Algorithms** – algorithms influence what we see to keep us engaged. This can lead to a user being exposed to large amounts of content about one topic/theme, which may not be helpful if it is negative.
- **Adverts** that may not be aimed at or suitable for your child's age.

### What can I do?

- Set up appropriate parental controls.
- Show your child the reporting and blocking tools available.
- Watch YouTube together or supervise use.

### Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>

# WhatsApp

WhatsApp is incredibly popular with young people and is used for group chats, voice messages and video calls. **Users should be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp.**

We frequently receive reports of children using WhatsApp inappropriately, such as sharing images to embarrass others, sending hurtful messages, spreading rumours, or excluding people from group chats to make them feel left out. Since WhatsApp lacks parental controls, it is important to think about whether it is really the right platform for your child. For example, you should consider if your child has the critical thinking skills to recognise bullying. Furthermore, do they understand how to manage peer pressure and refrain from joining in on hurtful behaviour?

## What should I be aware of if my child is using WhatsApp?

- **Group chats:** Everyone within a group, even if they are not one of your child's contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat.
- **Inappropriate content:** users can be exposed to content that is not suitable for their age.
- **Location sharing:** talk to your child about the potential danger of sharing their location.
- **Chat lock/secret code:** users can lock chats as well as apply a secret code setting so a chat does not appear in the main chat.
- **Screentime due to addictive nature**
- **AI:** WhatsApp includes Meta AI.

## What can I do?

- Check privacy settings, for example check who can add them to groups.
- Ensure your child understands that they can leave a chat at any time, Find out more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/424124173736394>
- Show your child how to block and report other users. Find out how here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>
- Use parental controls such as screentime controls or do not disturb to reduce alerts.
- Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be received by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- Chat to your child about the groups that they belong to.

## Further information

Find out more here:

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zc8vxg8>
- [https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq\\_content](https://faq.whatsapp.com/773166357950949?helpref=faq_content)

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## Italian Brainrot

Have you heard of Italian Brainrot? It is a viral trend consisting of AI generated characters featuring in memes and videos. It originally started on TikTok but can now be seen on other platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. There are also lots of spinoff content including a game on Roblox.

Whilst the content is generally nonsensical and children will find some of it funny, some content can include inappropriate/offensive language and content that might not be suitable for your child's age.

## iOS 26

Apple have released their new operating system – iOS 26. Protect Young Eyes have published an article detailing the changes relating to your child's safety, including content filtering in Safari. Find out more here:

<https://www.protectyoungeyes.com/blog-articles/a-parents-guide-to-ios-26>

## Managing Digital Spending

Parent Zone have created a guide to help teach your child how to manage their online spending. You can read it here:

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/managing-digital-spending-guide-parents>

## ADHD, Screen Time, and Healthy Boundaries

Bark have created this guide for parents of children with ADHD to support you in helping your child create a healthy relationship with technology. You can access it here:

<https://www.bark.us/blog/adhd-kid-and-tech/>

CORNWALL  
CRICKET BOARD

FREE

Girls

Dynamos  
Softball  
Cricket

With Roche Cricket club

Fun Skills, drills and game based  
activity

For ages 8 to 11  
at Roche Victory Hall

From 6pm to 7.30pm

20th Oct  
27th Oct  
3rd Nov  
17th Nov  
24th Nov



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Discount Code:  
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for information  
[www.cornwallcricket.co.uk](http://www.cornwallcricket.co.uk)




**SARACENS**

## October Half Term Saracens Basketball

Get ready for an action-packed day of basketball fun this half-term! Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, our expert coaches will guide you through exciting skills sessions, awesome drills, and thrilling mini-games - all in a fun, supportive environment. Come along, make new friends, and take your game to the next level! Spaces are limited - book now to avoid missing out!

				
Year 5, 6 & 7 Year 8 & 9	27th October 27th October	10:00 - 12:00 12:00 - 14:00	Brannel School Sports Hall Brannel School Sports Hall	

**BRANNEL SCHOOL**  
EXCELLENCE | CREATIVITY | COMMUNITY



[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=VwpMcoFJHE2PehfjOiPv87\\_QzirCkgROKqGUXYB4uA5UQThIMEdDNIRMREgxRU000TNWVTJSTjFKMS4u&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=VwpMcoFJHE2PehfjOiPv87_QzirCkgROKqGUXYB4uA5UQThIMEdDNIRMREgxRU000TNWVTJSTjFKMS4u&route=shorturl)



**Wild Wellbeing**

The Mental Health Support Team warmly invite you to attend...

During October half term MHST, in collaboration with Natural England, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and National Trust, would like you to join us on a FREE Halloween Wild Wellbeing session at various locations across Cornwall.

This is for parents and children aged 5-12 in Cornwall to help understand and support emotional and mental wellbeing. Please book EACH child on to a session

Sessions available at:

- Golitha Falls - Tuesday 28 October
- Lanhydrock - Wednesday 29 October
- Dipping Pond, Goss Moor - Thursday 30 October
- Tehidy Woods - Friday 31 October

\*Free parking at all sites

Activities will last approx. 2 hours  
Please feel free to drop in from 10am, activities end at 1pm

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:  
<https://forms.office.com/e/fwtSJ59Cuv>



Follow us on Facebook for updates and upcoming events:  
[Cornwall Mental Health Support Team \(MHST\)](https://www.facebook.com/CornwallMentalHealthSupportTeam)



**CORNWALL COUNCIL**  
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Together for Families

The deadline for applications is 15 January 2026

## Starting school September 2026

Applying for a place in a reception class for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022

**Attending a nursery or pre-school**  
You will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. Please note that if a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

**Information and guidance**  
Application form and information: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)  
Telephone: 0300 1234 101



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