# PENSANS PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Learning today, brighter tomorrow* ♡

KINDNESS
CURIOSITY
RESPECT
BELONGING
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

20th NOVEMBER 2026

ISSUE 10


# Headteacher's Update ♡

## Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

What an incredibly busy and exciting week we have had at Pensans!

We began the week with another of our **Family Learning Robotics** sessions, which continue to be a great success. If you missed out this time, don't worry – we will be launching a new **Family Learning** programme next term focusing on **iPhone photography**. We know this is likely to be very popular, so if you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible so we can secure your place.

On Tuesday, every child enjoyed an amazing **scootering and skateboarding** experience. Throughout the day, pupils learned new skills, supported one another, worked together and, most importantly, had lots of fun! A huge thank you to **Team Rubicon** for providing such a fantastic day.

This week also marked **National Anti-Bullying Week**. Our KS2 pupils took part in workshops led by Richard from the Stay Safe team, exploring healthy friendships, respectful relationships and how to seek support when things go wrong.

> *"Thank you for welcoming me into your lovely school again this week. It was a pleasure to work with your pupils."*
> **Richard Pomfrett**

On Wednesday, you may have noticed an increased police presence around school. We were delighted to be the first school in Cornwall to pilot a new initiative with Cornwall Council and Devon & Cornwall Police called **Speedwatch**. Groups of KS2 children worked alongside police officers throughout the day, using speed detection equipment to monitor traffic along Madron Road. They even helped stop a few drivers to discuss road safety! Meanwhile, our EYFS and Porthmeor children met local police officers as part of their learning about people who help us. They enjoyed exploring the police vehicles, with the highlight undoubtedly being the chance to hear the sirens!

It was also wonderful to receive the following feedback from the instructors who delivered **Bikeability** to our Year 5 and 6 pupils:

> *"It was a pleasure to teach your children. They were respectful to us and to each other, listened carefully, followed instructions and approached every task with resilience and enthusiasm."*

We are incredibly proud of how our children continue to demonstrate the Pensans Way, representing themselves and our school so positively in everything they do.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be welcoming **Healthy Cornwall** into school to deliver dental health workshops across all year groups, supporting our ongoing Smile initiative in Early Years.

You may also start to hear a few songs being hummed and scripts being rehearsed as preparations begin for our Christmas performances. We can't wait to share these special events with you over the coming weeks.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**Niki Ambrose**
Headteacher, Pensans Community Primary School

# Upcoming Dates

## Next Week

**All week – Parliament week**

| | |
|---|---|
| MON 23rd NOV | • Robotics course |
| TUE 24th NOV | • Dental health day |
| TUE 24th NOV | • 5/6 Cricket MBA |
| WED 25th NOV | • Humphry Davy lantern making |

*More information about these events will follow nearer the time.*

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## Local Attendance ♡

*Let's keep making every day count! ♡*

| Sennen | Porthcurno | Godrevy | Cape | Porthminster | Porthmeor | Gwithian |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 99% | 93% | 94% | 82% | 90% | 79% | 83% |

WELL DONE!

*Amazing work everyone! ♡*

## Attendance Matters!

*Autumn Term 2026 ♡*

TOGETHER, EVERY DAY COUNTS

*Be here Be brilliant ♡*

### Did You Know?

Students who **attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better grades and build stronger friendships.**

Read more here: The link between attendance and attainment

Here at Pensans CP School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate 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 to the Headteacher using the school's 'Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances' request form.

The statutory guidance is clear holidays during term time will not be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unavoidable leave of absence requests for school-aged children are generally related to one off events that are rare, significant, unavoidable, and short in duration. Family holidays are **not** considered unavoidable.

Taking your child out of school without permission may result in a **Penalty Notice** being issued.

### What this means:

**A Penalty Notice** may be issued if your child has unauthorised absences, including holidays.

- The fine is **£80 per child, per parent** if paid within 21 days, rising to **£160** if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may result in prosecution.
- There is no right of appeal – if you believe a notice was issued in error, you must contact the school directly.

We understand that holidays are important for family time, but we are legally required to prioritise your child's education and wellbeing. **Every school day counts.**

*"A brighter future starts with being in school today."*

### Further Information

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 2-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 regularly going to the school (i.e. truancy or under the Consultation 1996), they also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

In some very limited circumstances, unauthorised absence may be referred to 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.

Parent 's act out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not, any person who has parental responsibility (for a child) and any person with care of a child, e.g. a grandparent you can fined for unauthorised absence even if you are not child or you have parental responsibility.

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. Pensans CP School is committed to enabling every child to reach their full potential and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

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# Stars of the Week ♡

*Celebrating our amazing pupils!*

*Small steps make big waves* ♡

Be kind
Be curious
Be your best
Be proud ♡

**Sennen Star**
**Elsie**
for putting so much effort into all her learning.

**Porthcurno Star**
**Jago**
for being a kind and helpful friend.

**Porthminster Star**
**Kevin**
for working hard on his handwriting.

**Porthmeor Star**
**Jordan**
for being brave and trying new things in class.

**Godrevy Star**
**Tilly**
for always showing great determination in her writing.

**Gwithian Star**
**Lamorna**
for trying really hard at self-regulation.

**Gwithian Star**
**Arabella**
for working hard in lessons.

**Cape Star**
**Tommy**
for his great circle times and being kind to his friends.

# Special Awards ♡

**Great Reader KS2**
**Zulaikha**

**Maths Award**
**Odelia**

**Writer Award**
**Lily Lee**

**Great Reader KS1**
**Levin**

## Headteacher's Award! ♡

**Kylan**
for holding the door for the police.

# House Points Winner!

## Porthcurno Class

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## Local Events

*Get involved! Opportunities for our children and families*

*Let's keep making every day count!*

## Our School Community Board









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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GRAND THEFT AUTO VI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18

Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.

### EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT

GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content.

### SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS

Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to distinguish this content and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.

### TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE

GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA VI, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the main in-game chat functionality and other associated features may still not be activated at launch, potentially encouraging players to discuss the game through other online platforms, potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.

### DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The different context may normalise these substances and their use. While Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug use, younger players may not fully understand the context or consequences, potentially adopting risky behaviour.

### NUDITY AND SEX

CENSORED

Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and adult content creators. Players can be exposed to sexualised conversations and behaviour, and online content may include sexualised imagery. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.

### OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES

As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, they appeal to additional content and may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.

### LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS

Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.

### COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.

### MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION

Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.

### Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world, playing video games and working with publishers and developers to find the latest guidance messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plan around.



#WakeUpWednesday

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See full reference list on our website

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