PENSANS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Learning today, brighter tomorrow ♡

KINDNESS
CURIOSITY
RESPECT
BELONGING
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

16 OCTOBER 2026

ISSUE 7

Headteacher's Update ♡

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Wow! What a busy and productive half term it has been. Our children have enjoyed so many wonderful experiences and celebrated lots of successes along the way. I'm sure they are now all looking forward to a very well-deserved half-term break!

This week, our Pastry Box chefs impressed the team with their creativity and fantastic pastry skills. It was also Sennen Class's turn to visit the Kurt Jackson Art Gallery, where our pupils once again impressed us with their excellent behaviour as well as showing off their artistic flair.

Our Year 5 children had a wonderful time at the Fire Station, learning some really important life skills, particularly around keeping themselves and others safe. Mrs Browning and her team also had a fantastic day yesterday with Porthmeor Class, enjoying a visit to the local park.

Gwithian Class and Porthminster Class had their meet and greet with the lovely Peaira, who will be running bespoke Forest School sessions for the children next half term. We are really looking forward to seeing the children enjoying these exciting outdoor learning opportunities.

We were also delighted to welcome Reverend Ralph, who worked with the children in Porthcurno Class to support their R.E. learning about Christianity. We will be welcoming him back after half term to lead some assemblies, and we are also looking forward to our KS2 Christmas Celebration at Chapel Street Church later in December.

There was lots of excitement on Wednesday with our Halloween Silent Disco! The children had a brilliant time and there were certainly some spooktacular costumes. A huge shout-out and thank you to all the staff involved, as well as our lovely Kitchen Crew, who provided delicious food and helped to make the event such great fun.

Celebrating Our Children

A huge well done to all our children who supported Show Racism the Red Card Day by wearing red today. It was fantastic to see so many children getting involved and helping us to promote the important message of respect, inclusion and standing together against racism. Thank you to everyone who joined in!

We also want to say a super well done and very good luck to Luna in Year 5, who is doing something incredibly special this weekend. Luna is having her hair cut off for charity! What a wonderful and thoughtful thing to do. We are so proud of you, Luna, and we can't wait to hear all about it when you come back to school. Well done, superstar! 🌟

Family Learning

Our Family Learning Robotics programme is now fully booked for after half term, which is fantastic. If you missed out this time, don't worry, as we are hoping to run another programme in the New Year.
Please keep an eye out for more Family Learning opportunities coming up. We love being able to welcome our families into school to learn, create and have fun alongside their children.

Parent and Pupil Voice

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent parent questionnaire. Your feedback is really important to us.
We will be looking carefully at your responses alongside the pupil questionnaire completed by our children in school. After half term, we will share some feedback with you about what you have told us and how this will help us continue to develop and improve our school.

Have a wonderful half term!

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy half term, I would like to say a huge thank you to our children, families and wonderful staff team for everything you do to make our school such a special place.
I hope you all have a fantastic half-term holiday, enjoy some well-earned family time and, most importantly, stay safe.
We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2 November, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term!

Upcoming Dates

MON 2 NOV — Back to school



WED 4 NOV — Rev Ralph assembly



WED/THU 11/12 NOV — Bikeability



TUE 17 NOV — Scooter and Skate day!



WED 18 NOV — Speed watch police day



♡

More information about these events will follow nearer the time.



Belong ~ Explore ~ Achieve ♡

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Local Attendance ♡

Let's keep making every day count! ♡

Sennen	Porthcurno	Godrevy	Cape	Porthminster	Porthmeor	Gwithian
97%	88%	97%	87%	99%	88%	90%

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 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 to the Headteacher using the school's 'Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances' request form.

DfE 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 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.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not, any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and, any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

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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ISSUE 7

Stars of the Week ♡

Celebrating our amazing pupils!

Small steps make big waves ♡

Be kind
Be curious
Be your best
Be proud
♡

Sennen Star
Zach
for always doing the right thing.

Porthcurno Star
Eden
for being a role model.

Porthminster Star
Kevin
for supporting his peers.

Porthmeor Star
Teyha
for joining in with joy and confidence during PE this week.

Godrevy Star
Cohen
for amazing behaviour.

Gwithian Star
Brodie
for always trying hard.

& Julia
for great listening.

Gwithian Nursery Star
Julia
for her creativity, kindness and amazing listening ears!

Cape Star
Hallie
for becoming more independent.

Special Awards ♡

Great Reader EYFS KS1
Alyssa

Great Reader KS2
Theodore

Maths Award
Koby and River

Writer Award
Isla

Citizen of the Week
Reyna

Headteacher's Awards ♡

Luna
for her selfless act for charity.

Emily
for helping out others.

House Points Winner!

Sennen Class

Botallack (Blue team)

KIND PEOPLE
BRIGHT MINDS
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Every day at school brings new opportunities ♡

Belong ~ Explore ~ Achieve ♡

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ISSUE 7

Amazing Achievement ♡

Kind hearts make a big difference! ♡



Reyna
Citizen of the Week



Luna
Headteacher's Award



Kevin
Porthminster Star



Well done everyone!

Luna
has raised
£360
for
Little Lady Locks

She has raised enough to provide a child with hair loss a real hair system

+

she'll be donating 9 inches of her own hair.





River
Maths Award



Give Racism the Red Card ♡

C'ohen
Godrevy Star

Little Lady Locks

A brighter future starts with kindness ♡

Belong ~ Explore ~ Achieve ♡

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Local Events ♡

Get involved! Opportunities for our children and families

Let's keep making every day count! ♡

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

AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school - such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds /wuw.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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BLOCK AROUND THE CLOCK

SUPERHERO TOWER ON THE WAY!

HISTORIC CATHEDRAL (COLOSSAL BUILD!)

Coming Soon

THE VAULT IS GROWING!

LAUNCHING EARLY NOVEMBER!

Penzance Local Click & Collect

We already have 90 incredible sets in our inventory, with even more massive builds on the way—including the colossal Superhero Tower and the massive Historic Cathedral!


FANTASY REALM


NOSTALGIC HOME


SUPERCARS


SPACESHIP



DYNAMIC RENTAL PRICING STRUCTURE

STANDARD	PLUS	PREMIUM	ELITE	MASTERPIECE
from £4.99 per week	from £9.99 per week	from £14.99 per week	from £29.99 per week	from £49.99 per week

Whether you love the magical details of fantasy realms, the holiday nostalgia of classic houses, high-speed supercars, or building lovable on-screen pocket monster creatures, we have a build tier tailored perfectly for you.

THE BEST PART? Our Elite and Masterpiece tiers feature a descending pricing structure. The longer you rent, the lower your weekly rate becomes! That means more time to build, less pressure, and maximum enjoyment.

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Penzance Gymnastics Club

BUILD CONFIDENCE
BE STRONGER
HAVE FUN!

PARKOUR CLASSES

BUILDING CONFIDENCE, STRENGTH & SKILLS

- IMPROVES COORDINATION
- BUILDS STRENGTH
- DEVELOPS BALANCE
- BOOSTS CONFIDENCE
- FUN, ACTIVE & SOCIAL

CLASS TIMES

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY
5:00 - 6:00PM	5:00 - 6:00PM	6:00 - 7:00PM
AGES 9-12	AGES 6-9	AGES 9-12

FOR AGES 6-12

Learn new skills, challenge yourself and become stronger – inside and out!

BOOK NOW
SPACES FILL FAST!

Penzance Gymnastics Club
Stronger Children • Healthier Futures

@penzancegymclub

READY, SET RIDE!

THE CORNWALL BICYCLE PROJECT

FREE FUN CYCLING SKILLS

- Games and challenges
- Build your bike skills
- Grow your confidence

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER
RECREATION GROUND,
PENZANCE

AGE 4-16
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

+ FUN FAMILY RIDE

THE GERAINT THOMAS CYCLING TRUST

active CORNWALL

SCAN ME

TRELYA

Every day at school brings new opportunities ♡

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Penzance Gymnastics Club

HALLOWEEN DISCO

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER
5PM - 7PM

£5 EACH
INCLUDES DRINK AND CRISPS!

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

IN PARTNERSHIP

MBFDC FOOTBALL CAMPS

OCT HALF TERM

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

All children welcome to attend ⚽
Have fun, score goals & play football!

THURS 22ND OCT
FRI 23RD OCT
MON 26TH OCT
TUES 27TH OCT

- UEFA/FA Qualified Staff & DBS Checked
- Skills & ball techniques
- Fun activities, matches & tournaments
- Penalty shootouts, prizes & more!

TIMES / AGES:
School Years 2 - 8
U7s - U13s
10am - 3pm
£18 (1 day), £33 (2 days)
£45 (3 days), £55 (4 days)

PLAYERS NEED:
Packed lunch & drinks
Wet weather clothing & spares!
Football boots for the new 3G pitch
Shin pads
Indoor Footwear (in case of poor weather!)

MOUNTS BAY ACADEMY 3G PITCH
Boscathnoe Lane, Heamoor, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 3JT

Online Registration Link
www.mbfdc.co.uk

Scan the QR code to visit the MBFDC website for further details!

Every day at school brings new opportunities ♡

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