

ST BURYAN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th December 2025

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STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH
SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS,
MENUS AND DATES

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TURN ON NOTIFICATIONS AND RECEIVE NOTICE WHEN WE UPLOAD OUR
NEWSLETTERS, MENUS AND UPDATE OUR DIARY!

Key Dates

Please check the key dates below for upcoming events. New dates may be added across the term so please check our lines of communication when notified.

[In this edition...](#)

Welcome and Notices

Forest School

School Play

We need you!

Curriculum 2025/26

Reading

Key Dates and December Dates

Music lessons

Attendance

Updated: Contact Information

Wake Up Wednesday:

Information on TikTok for Parents

[INSET DAYS 25/26](#)

Monday 1st September 2025

Monday 20th October

Tuesday 21st October

Wednesday 22nd October

Thursday 23rd October

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 26th January 2026

Friday 24th July 2026

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter!

In this week's newsletter! You may have noticed that it has been slightly over a fortnight since our last newsletter, in that time we realise that you have had a lot of other communication through our Key Dates and more - so we didn't want to inundate you with information.

We are very proud of our children lately. Recently, we have talked about what makes us Team SBA members and we organised them into five main characteristics: Helpfulness and Responsibility, Kindness and Happiness, Pride, Respect and Positively Contributing to our Community. It has been great seeing our children show these not only in school, but out of school too. A great example of our children contributing to our community occurred at the Christingle event on Sunday, where our children sang so wonderfully, with Apryll singing a solo. Another took place this week when our choir visited Menwinnion to sing to the residents there. It was great to get out and support our community and it is so important that our wonderful school is recognised in our village.

On the note of performing, we are looking forward to welcoming you into school on Tuesday 16th December to view our Christmas plays. More information can be found later in the newsletter.

Earlier this month we sent home some reading tasks for our Key Stage 2 children to complete, these were also emailed to you. Several parents have asked how they can support their child's reading at home, beyond what is 'just on the page'. We built these activities to further support the great work you already do in aiding your children's learning. Whilst reading forms a big part of what we do in school, it is always great to reinforce - especially alongside a love of reading - at home. These activities are designed to take away the 'task' element of reading which some children - and maybe parents - may see it as. They look at reading from a different perspective and as more of a game or activity to do. Whilst we are not collecting this work back in, we'd be interested to know if you have tried any out!

Our attendance has been amazing this term! We are in the top ranked schools in the country at the moment - it would be amazing if we can keep that up across the year. We have had a slight drop-off in our attendance over the past two weeks; whilst we remain above the national average, it would be great to have a big push on being in school for the remainder of the term and into 2026! Later in the newsletter you can read about the impact low attendance and missing days has on your child's education.

This week, you can read about the impact Forest School has on not just your child's education, but on their personal development, as Mrs Wilson recaps all they have done this year.

Best wishes

Mr McDonald and all at St Buryan Academy

SPOTLIGHT *on Forest School*

It has been a fabulous term of forest school for reception, year 1 and year 2. We have experienced the full change of seasons from the Summer ending, through all that Autumn brings and into Winter. Children learn about seasonal changes during this phase of schooling; seeing it happen and watching the flora and fauna transform and adapt is one of the many ways forest school adds to children's classroom learning. It is also fantastic for inspiring curiosity, observations and understanding the change in seasons in a much more profound way. Forest school time allows children to engage with a natural, ever changing environment and this can be unpredictable and fantastic for resilience building when the weather gets colder, or we can't light the fire due to rain, we have to be flexible, prepared for any eventuality and ready to embrace challenges.

One absolute delight of this term that took over, was our apple harvest! Seeing our trees laden with bright, juicy, plump apples inspired so much of our fire-based cooking, and we cooked them in as many different ways as we could come up with! We have toasted apples rolled in cinnamon sugar, made apple pancakes, apple fritters, apple jumbles and on wet days, when we couldn't light the fire, we just enjoyed fresh, crisp, sweet apples straight from the tree.

We have also been practicing using real tools. We've had the bow saw and the hand drill (brace and bit) out this term and are making some festive decorations to bring home. Using real tools encourages children to develop their sense of responsibility as well as giving real purpose and meaning to something they are making. It can be hard work too which builds strength, coordination and grit.


We have also been exploring our senses and love our new forest school song- why not ask your child if they can sing it to you? We are on our way to forest school, forest school, forest school, we're on our way to forest school- what will we see/hear/smell/taste/touch?

The wonders that have come out of these sessions are often in the unplanned moments and forest school is a time to allow children to take charge of their own ideas. To support this we have a range of loose parts, imaginative areas like our mud kitchen, a willow den area, our mini Minack, and lots of craft and construction items. Children also have time to work on social and emotional skills, we see so many collaborative projects and leadership qualities that begin to emerge when children form a team. The older children in the group are often given additional responsibilities managing areas during tidy up time and preparing and lighting the fire. Older children are also encouraged to become teachers to the younger ones who may not yet know skills like how to tie knots or make sparks with the flint and steel.

Remember that you can see regular photo updates of our forest school sessions on our school website!

I am looking forward to what next term will bring,

Mrs Wilson



Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star


Monday 15 + Tuesday 16 December
10:30 - 12:00

☆ **Event Info** ☆

This session is inspired by 'Fox and the Star' by Coralie Bickford-Smith and all things festive as we make Christmas stars, wreaths and snow globes!

What is Forest Friends?

Forest Friends is a forest school-inspired workshop, with all-weather outdoor sessions themed around children's stories and the seasons — exploring creativity with tools & natural materials.

 **PK PORTHCURNO**
PACER OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION

Donations welcome to help cover costs
St Buryan Academy



Christmas Play

16th December




Raffle and
Refreshments

9:30am
&
6:00pm

in the
School Hall

DECEMBER AT ST BURYAN ACADEMY 2025

Sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
Don't forget to book school dinners - especially on a Monday!	1	2 PE for KS2	3 PE for Merry Maidens Forest School for Merry Maidens	4 Swimming Hockey League	5 Wear something Christmassy with your uniform!	6
7 Light switch on - please see letter about singing	8	9 PE for KS2 Choir performing at Menwinion	10 PE for Merry Maidens Forest School for Merry Maidens	11 Christmas Jumpers for Save the Children £1 donation	12 Wear something Christmassy with your uniform!	13
14	15 Pasty Box Mini Police Project (Tregeseal)	16 Christmas Clothes! Mini Police Project (Tregeseal) Christmas Dinner Performance: 9.30am and 6.00pm	17 Mini Police Project (Tregeseal) PE for Merry Maidens Forest School for Merry Maidens	18 Mini Police Project (Tregeseal) Friends of School Christmas Disco!	19 Wear something Christmassy with your uniform! End of Term - 1.30pm finish!	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31	Don't forget your coats and water bottles!	Christmas tree decoration entries with 50p by 5 th Dec.	Book your Christmas dinners by Tuesday 9 th Dec.





Volunteers NEEDED

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL

We need help with:

- Volunteer readers
- Forest School

You can support your local school and children of the community by volunteering at St Buryan Primary School. We are looking for volunteers that would like to support children's reading and help with our forest school sessions. If you may be interested, then get in touch for more information!

**Contact Mr McDonald on
head@stburyanacademy.org for more information**

ST BURYAN PRIMARY SCHOOL 2025/26 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Shaping Bright Futures: An Overview of Our Innovative Curriculum

Merry Maidens

Autumn Term

Under the Sea:

Join us as we dive into our learning, finding out about what lives in the deep blue which surrounds us and how they survive!

Spring Term

The Great Fire of London:

We learn about how the Great Fire of London started and how it was stopped. We learn about the impact it had on London and England through the diary of Samuel Pepys.



Summer term

Famous Figures:

We learn about inspirational people, their achievements and what impact they have had on the world.



HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

We integrate academic excellence with social, emotional, and physical well-being, ensuring students grow as well-rounded individuals



PERSONALIZED EDUCATION

Through tailored instruction, adapted support, and flexible groupings, we meet students where they are, helping them reach their full potential



STEM AND CREATIVITY

We include STEM education alongside arts and humanities, promoting critical thinking, creativity, and innovation. Our students are not just learners but creators and problem-solvers



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Our curriculum incorporates environmental education, teaching students about sustainability, conservation, and the importance of caring for our planet



INNOVATIVE LEARNING APPROACHES

We embrace a blend of traditional and modern teaching methods, from hands-on projects and inquiry-based learning to digital literacy and interactive technologies



GLOBAL AWARENESS

Our curriculum includes multicultural studies, foreign languages, and topical learning, encouraging global citizenship and cultural empathy



COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Learning extends beyond the classroom through trips, community service projects and partnerships. These experiences teach our students about empathy and responsibility



CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT AND GROWTH

Progress is monitored through a combination of formative and summative assessments, portfolios, and reflections, allowing for continuous feedback and growth

Boscawen - Un and Tregeseal

Autumn Term

Frozen Kingdom:

We learn about Shackleton's Arctic expedition, how it was ground-breaking and the sacrifices made. We will study the similarities and differences between various Polar Regions whilst carrying out map studies.

Spring Term

Stone Age to Iron Age:

We learn about the people who came before us, their settlements and lives - as well as the impact that they had on our lives today. We look at these ancient civilizations as historians and geographers - we will even visit some settlements that are amongst us!

Summer term

Romans:

We look at the significant impact the Romans had on how we live our lives today in an historical study.



At St Buryan Academy, our Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 classes often combine their learning in the afternoons.

This means that both groups follow the same overall topics, but at a level that's right for their age. By doing this, we make sure that all children get the chance to cover the full curriculum in a way that is engaging and age-appropriate, while also making the most of opportunities to learn together.

It allows teachers to plan rich, creative lessons that build on children's skills year by year, ensuring no learning is missed and that every child continues to be challenged and supported.

20 is plenty!

Children who read for **20 minutes** a day will...

Improve
**focus and
concentration**

Have a world of
**imagination and
creativity**
opened to them

Have
**stronger
writing skills**

Improve and
**strengthen
memory**

Be exposed to
**1.8 million
words a year**

Have a
**broad
vocabulary**

Improve
test results

Improve
**communication
skills**

Encourage
**a love for
learning**

Learn how to
**develop
empathy**

Improve
**critical
thinking skills**

Have
**reduced
stress levels**



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KEY DATES

AUTUMN TERM

DATE	EVENT
2ND SEPT	BACK TO SCHOOL!
12TH SEPT	JENNY DAVY AUTHOR VISIT!
19TH SEPT	INTERNATIONAL CHARITY DAY BRING A £1 FOR A CORNISH THEME DRESS UP DAY MONEY GOES TO THE PASTY BOX
25TH SEPT	OPEN MORNING FOR FAMILIES 9AM-10AM
26TH SEPT	IMS PRUSSIA MUSIC CONCERT
2ND OCT	WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY: WEAR SOMETHING GREEN FOR WELL-BEING
POSTPONED UNTIL 11TH NOVEMBER	NATIONAL FITNESS DAY: DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE SPORTS STAR AND FUNDRAISER
20TH-31ST OCT	HALF TERM
4TH NOV	HEALTHY CORNWALL WORKSHOPS
10TH-14TH NOV	PARENT MEETINGS
11TH NOV	REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AT MEMORIAL
20TH NOV	NASAL FLU IMMUNISATION
15TH-18TH DEC	YEAR 5/6 DEVON&CORNWALL MINI POLICE PROGRAMME
16TH DEC	CHRISTMAS DINNER, CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT DATES MAY BE ADDED OR
CHANGED – WE WILL LET YOU KNOW OF CHANGES
AND ADDITIONAL DATES**





2025/26 INSETS:

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Monday 20th October, Tuesday 21st October, Wednesday 22nd October, Thursday 23rd October, Friday 24th October 2025
- Monday 26th January 2026
- Friday 24th July 2026

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

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

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

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

January 2026						
Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thurs	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	4	11	18	25		

February 2026						
Mon		2	9	16	23	
Tue		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thurs		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22		

March 2026						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thurs		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

April 2026						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

May 2026						
Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thurs		7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	

June 2026						
Mon		1	8	15	22	29
Tue		2	9	16	23	30
Wed		3	10	17	24	
Thurs		4	11	18	25	
Fri		5	12	19	26	
Sat		6	13	20	27	
Sun		7	14	21	28	

July 2026						
Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

August 2026						
Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thurs		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

2025/26 INSET DAYS
 FIRST DAY OF 2025/26 SCHOOL YEAR

Music Lessons



Music lessons are now available at school for Woodwind instruments provided by CMST.

Flute Clarinet Saxophone
Recorder Fife

In order to get your child's musical journey underway please sign up on our website below or contact us on office@cmst.co.uk



Hear Music.
Learn Music.
Play Music.

For more information
head to:
CMST.co.uk/learnmore

Sign Up At:
CMST.co.uk/signup



CMST
ILOW RAG OLL

Why attendance matters

At St Buryan Academy we take attendance seriously. Good punctuality and high attendance helps promote a child's success and happiness in and out of school.

High attendance fosters:

Positive attitudes towards learning

Higher chances of achieving (or surpassing) academic development

The best chances to develop and foster friendships and social skills

Did you know that?

School is open for children for 195 days - meaning they already get 170 days off each year!

90% attendance is still 4 weeks off school each year!

80% attendance = 1 day a week off over 5 years = 1 full year of school missed!

Over a year, 10 minutes late each day is 6 full days of school

Thank you for supporting us with our push on raising our attendance figures

**CURRENT
ATTENDANCE:
96.1%**



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

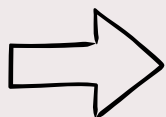
@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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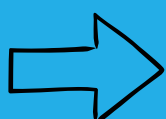
St Buryan Academy

Contact Information



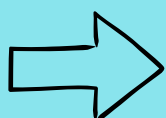
General Enquiries

Mr McDonald – head@stburyanacademy.org
Mrs Care – secretary@stburyanacademy.org



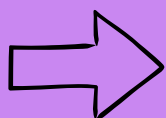
Pre-planned absence

Mr McDonald – head@stburyanacademy.org and fill in a Leave of Absence form available on our website



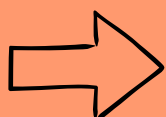
Unplanned absence and illness

Please phone by 9.00am on the morning of the absence
If no answer, please email head@stburyanacademy.org



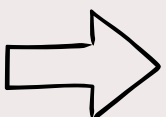
Safeguarding

Mr McDonald (Designated Safeguarding Lead) – head@stburyanacademy.org
Mrs Helen Ayotte (Deputy DSL) – hayotte@stburyanacademy.org
safeguarding@stburyanacademy.org



Special Educational Needs

Mrs Ayotte (SENCo) – hayotte@stburyanacademy.org



Teacher Meetings

Please see 'Meet our Staff' page under 'Our School' on our website



Office Hours

Please note that our Reception hours are 8.30am-1.30pm Monday to Thursday term time only. Phone lines are still accessible but please aim to use one of the above contacts in the first instance outside of these hours – thank you.

In the event of needing to contact the school out of these hours, please use the relevant above contact and phone in emergency only.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE FOR PICK-UP, STAFF WILL SUPERVISE YOUR CHILD UNTIL 3.30PM – AFTER THIS TIME THEY WILL BE SENT TO AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB, WHICH MAY INCUR A CHARGE IN LINE WITH OUR WRAP-AROUND CARE FEES.