

ST BURYAN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th October 2025

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secretary@stburianacademy.org

Tel: 01736 810480



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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

Sponsorship Form

We need you!

Curriculum 2025/26

Reading

Key Dates

Recorder lessons

Attendance

Updated: Contact Information

Wake Up Wednesday: Supporting Dyslexia

Wake Up Wednesday: Dealing with
traumatic events

Halloween Events in the village

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

Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter!

Here we are at the end of the first half term already!

Whilst it has been a half term where some changes have been implemented, it has also been a half term of successes.

We've had some really positive feedback by external moderators and from our Trust on how we are implementing our class structure, we continue to achieve well in sports, as evidenced by our hockey team and cross country teams. We have just announced a partnership with 'MADE' (madearts.com), who have begun to work with our KS2 children through their 'Feeling Good' project, which is designed to support well-being and self confidence through 'The Arts' of signing, dancing and drama - we are one of only five schools in the whole county to have been selected to take part in this.

Our attendance is superb at the moment too! It is currently at 96.9%, which puts us in the top 12 percent of schools in the whole country! That is a great achievement for a school our size, where each child carries more of a percentage than in larger schools - but let's keep this up and aim to get it above 97%!

As well as all of this, our children are thriving academically too. Our children have settled into their new routines superbly and by ensuring that our children are happy, safe and settled, it means that they thrive in their learning too - when visiting classes and teaching in every class, I have been really impressed and proud of how our children are demonstrating their learning too.

These positive messages are really important to share at home too. We are really fortunate that our home/school relationships are really positive and, as a community, we work incredibly well together; however, by encouraging attendance, supporting reading and learning at home, taking an interest in your child's day at school in the right ways - are all important threads to ensure positive feelings toward school life.

We continue to provide fantastic opportunities for our children, which not only support them in the classroom, but in the wider-world too. We have our whole school sponsored run coming up when we return, please see below for more information. We will also be doing some work with Healthy Cornwall, where children will explore the benefits of various foods and what makes a healthy diet. We also have our parent meetings coming up - look out for more information on these when we return! We will be visiting the memorial in the village for pay our respects on Remembrance Day and on the 7th November we will be continuing our community work as our wonderful Friends of School are holding a BBQ at Community House whilst the fireworks take place, with proceeds going to the school!

We have the police coming in near the end of term to do some life-skills work with our Year 5/6s as well as all that Christmas brings!

So, my message as we reflect on our first half term back - and what is to come as we build toward Christmas - is that we should all be so proud of what our school continues to achieve, as we fully embrace our school mantra: small but mighty.

Have a wonderful two week half term!

Best wishes

Mr McDonald and all at St Buryan Academy



This year we are inviting our children to raise funds for our outdoor area to add to our playtime resources and developing our Early Years outdoor space.

November, children will be aiming to complete 20 laps of the playground (that is over 1 mile). Our older children will aim to jog the 20 laps, whilst our younger children will get the opportunity to use our bikes and trikes to complete them!

Please bring in completed sponsor forms with sponsorship in by Friday 7th November 2025.

- a donation per lap
- a single donation

[illegible]



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

Have better
**general
knowledge**

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 11 TH 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

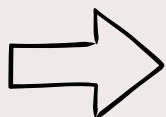
Thank you for supporting us with our push on raising our attendance figures

**CURRENT
ATTENDANCE:
96.9%**



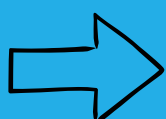
St Buryan Academy

Contact Information



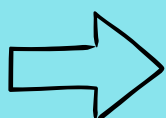
General Enquiries

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



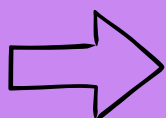
Pre-planned absence

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



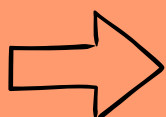
Unplanned absence and illness

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



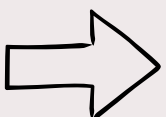
Safeguarding

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EMPOWER DYSLEXIC LEARNERS

Dyslexia affects how some people process information relating to reading, writing, and memory. It varies widely between individuals and can influence how learners engage with certain tasks. With the right support and understanding, children and young people with dyslexia can feel confident and included in their learning environment. This guide offers practical tips to help parents and educators create supportive, responsive spaces that promote engagement, independence, and wellbeing.

1 UNDERSTAND DYSLEXIA

Take time to understand the diverse ways in which dyslexia manifests in children and young people. Recognise the challenges and the strengths, from difficulties with literacy to increased creativity, problem-solving, and big-picture thinking. A strong foundation of knowledge leads to more effective support, and by raising your understanding of children's individual ways of working and thinking, you can help them feel proud of who they are.

2 ADAPT TEACHING

Learners with dyslexia often thrive with multisensory approaches, so it's important to explore and adapt teaching styles that engage multiple senses or reduce sensory input when needed. Flexibility is key! Remember, what works well for one learner may not work for another, so encourage pupils to experiment and personalise their own approach to classroom learning.

3 CREATE SAFETY

Foster a classroom culture where dyslexic pupils feel safe to be themselves. When learners don't feel the need to mask their difficulties, they're more likely to engage, take risks, and grow. Think Maslow before Bloom!

4 CELEBRATE ALL ACHIEVEMENT

Recognise and celebrate progress, academic or otherwise. Acknowledging effort and success builds confidence and reinforces a growth mindset. Let young people know you believe in them and help them see their own strengths.

5 SUPPORT NOTE-TAKING

Support children and young people in finding note-taking methods that work for them, such as mind maps, colour-coding, sketches, voice recordings, or digital tools. These strategies not only aid learning now but are valuable skills for future education and employment.

6 SET SMART GOALS

Set SMART goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic & Timely. Focus on what's achievable to build momentum. For example, if a pupil is consistently scoring 3/10 on spelling tests, adjust the target to match their current level and celebrate progress.

7 MAKE LEARNING MEANINGFUL

Connect learning to real-life contexts. Use imaginative, relatable examples to bring abstract concepts to life, for example, using squash ratios or zoo feeding routines to teach proportion - relevance boosts motivation and retention.

8 KEEP RECORDS

Keep a clear, up-to-date record of what strategies and accommodations work best for each learner. This 'case history of need' is invaluable during transitions from one setting or phase of education to another and helps ensure continuity of support - a key component of making reasonable adjustments.

9 TEACH ORGANISATION

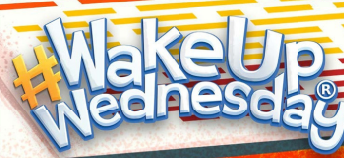
Organisation can be a challenge for dyslexic learners. Regular check-ins on homework, projects, and deadlines can make a big difference. Teach and model planning tools, such as calendars, checklists, and visual timetables, to build independence over time.

10 CHAMPION INDIVIDUALITY

Just like fingerprints, no two dyslexic learners are the same. Be open to trying different approaches and encourage students to reflect on what works for them. Promoting self-awareness and independence is one of the most powerful things you can do!

Meet Our Expert

Elizabeth Wilkinson MBE is a pioneering advocate for neurodiversity and the founder of The Dyslexic Dyslexia Consultant. With a career spanning over two decades, Elizabeth has become a nationally respected voice in the field of dyslexia awareness, education, and inclusion.



The National College®

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEALING WITH TRAUMATIC & CHALLENGING EVENTS

Children and young people may face a wide range of traumatic or challenging events – from bereavement and illness to bullying, family breakdowns, or witnessing violence. These experiences can affect their mental health, behaviour, relationships, and academic progress. With the right support from trusted adults, children can begin to feel safe, rebuild resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies. This guide offers practical and empathetic ways to provide support and promote positive outcomes.

1 A PREDICTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Children who have experienced trauma often feel unsafe or uncertain. Creating routines, setting clear expectations, and maintaining consistency can help restore a sense of security. This structure offers reassurance and helps children feel more in control of their surroundings.

2 USE LANGUAGE THAT MATCHES THEIR AGE

Speak clearly and sensitively, choosing words that are appropriate for the child's age. Avoid overwhelming them with too much information at once. Offer gentle, honest explanations and focus on reassurance, especially when talking about difficult or sensitive subjects.

3 TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Mention briefly that trauma can show up in physical ways, such as changes in sleep, appetite, concentration, or as physical aches and pains. Consider this before labelling behaviour as 'difficult' or 'lazy'. Some children may become withdrawn, while others may be more outwardly challenging. Highlight that there's no 'one way' children respond.

4 AVOID RETELLING OR RELIVING TRAUMA

Children sometimes get asked to explain or repeat their experience multiple times. Striking a balance of when to listen and when to gently redirect can help to avoid unnecessary re-traumatisation. Acknowledge, but don't probe for detail unless safeguarding procedures require it.

5 AVOID DISMISSING OR MINIMISING FEELINGS

Seemingly well-meaning comments like "It's not that bad" or "You're okay" may shut down children's emotional expression and are often not helpful. Instead, acknowledge what they're feeling, even if it seems small. Validating a child's emotions helps them feel seen and encourages open communication in future.

6 UNDERSTAND HOW THEY'RE FEELING

Many children don't have the words to express their emotions, especially during distress. Supporting them to name what they're feeling – such as angry, scared or sad – builds emotional literacy. Tools like emotion charts, drawing, or storytelling can help externalise feelings in a safe, manageable way.

7 BE AWARE OF YOUR OWN RESPONSES

Children pick up on adult emotions and reactions, often mirroring them. Staying calm, even in challenging situations, helps children feel more secure. Practising your own self-regulation is an important way to model healthy stress management and encourages children to do the same.

8 SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

While many children benefit from everyday emotional support, some will need more specialised help. If symptoms persist, worsen, or disrupt their daily life, consult with school safeguarding leads, a GP, or a mental health professional. Early intervention can prevent long-term difficulties and support healthy recovery.

9 MAINTAIN CONNECTION

Isolation can worsen the impact of trauma. Encourage involvement in group activities, praise their efforts, and ensure they feel like a valued part of the school or family community. Meaningful connection with trusted adults and peers builds resilience and a sense of belonging.

10 BE PATIENT – HEALING TAKES TIME

There's no quick fix for emotional recovery. Children may have good days and setbacks, and progress may not always be visible or linear. Your ongoing support, patience, and presence can help them move forward at their own pace, knowing they are not alone.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school by integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture, and systems. She has been a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUpWednesday®

**PLEASE JOIN MUTHA FUDGER
FOR A MORNING OF COFFEE,
CAKES AND SPOOKY CRAFTS!
29TH OCT ST BURYAN VILLAGE HALL
10:00 - 12:30**

**COFFEE, CAKES & SAVOURIES FOR SALE
FREE HALLOWEEN ARTS & CRAFTS**

FREE SPOOKY SQUASH

ALL AGES WELCOME!

A MORNING OF HALLOWEEN FUN.

DRINK COFFEE & EAT 'HALLOWEEN' INSPIRED CAKES

WHILE THE KIDS PLAY & CRAFT!

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES ENCOURAGED BUT NOT ESSENTIAL

- PRIZE FOR THE BEST DRESSED -

EAT IN & TAKE AWAY OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

- RAFFLE -

RAISING FUNDS FOR ST BURYAN GALA



**FREE HALLOWEEN
ARTS & CRAFTS
FOR ALL AGES!**