BELIEVE, ACHIEVE, ASPIRE

ST BURYAN ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2026

www.stburyanacademy.com 01736 810480

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

Download the free 'schools lite' app and search for St Buryan Academy

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

KEY DATES: AUTUMN 2



Remember to check your 'Junk' box for missed emails and then click: 'Trust Sender'.

REMEMBER TO CHECK EMAILS AND OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL DATES

Welcome !

Firstly, I would like to apologise for my absence this week and thank you for your understanding and kind wishes. I am also very grateful to our wonderful staff for their hard work and for keeping school life running smoothly.

At St Buryan Academy, our ambition is for every child to Believe, Achieve and Aspire. Alongside strong classroom teaching, we want children to enjoy experiences that broaden their horizons, build confidence and help them discover new interests and talents. This year, opportunities such as sport, swimming, outdoor learning, visiting authors, creative activities and pupil leadership help us go beyond the curriculum and develop skills for life. Learning to work together, take responsibility, persevere and contribute to our community is an essential part of growing up.

Our values of Community, Excellence and Equity underpin this work. We want every child to feel that they belong, have opportunities to succeed and see exciting possibilities for their future. In a small school, we can recognise each child's strengths and help them take their next steps.

I am delighted that our attendance currently stands at 97.1%. This compares favourably with the latest published national figures of 95.67% for primary schools. Thank you for your continued support in helping children attend regularly and benefit from everything school offers.

Being on time matters too. Our school day starts at 8.45am, and arriving ready to begin helps children settle calmly, connect with their classmates and access learning from the very start. Even a few minutes missed regularly can add up. If mornings or attendance are becoming difficult, please speak to us so that we can work together to help.

Families also make a real difference through short, regular practice at home:

- Reception and Year 1: Please practise the Little Wandle sounds and reading materials sent home. Encourage your child to say the sounds and blend them to read words, alongside enjoying stories together.
- Years 3 and 4: Regular practice on Times Tables Rock Stars will help children develop quick, confident recall of multiplication facts. A few focused minutes several times a week can make a big difference.
- Years 5 and 6: Please support the preparation and homework set by teachers, including SATs preparation where appropriate. Regular reading, discussing vocabulary, practising spellings and revisiting arithmetic will help build confidence. Encouragement and steady routines are key.

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we can give our children both the foundations and the wider experiences they need to thrive.

Mr McDonald

WELL DONE

A huge well done to our cross country and hockey competitors! It has been great to see us so well represented again in these events - and compete so admirably!
It really does confirm our motto: 'Small but mighty!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS: AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

A big thank you to you all for your understanding with our After-School Clubs this term. We remain committed to providing extra-curricular clubs, however being a small school, it can sometimes be a challenge for us to staff. I want to thank you for your understanding this week with limited clubs - a big thanks goes to our staff and volunteers for supporting these too. If you know anyone who would like to run an after-school club for us then please let me know. Thank you!

BELIEVE in ourselves **ACHIEVE** together **ASPIRE** for the future

RECENT PHOTOS: OUTDOOR SPACES



















ST BURYAN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

13/11/26

OUR CURRICULUM

Have a look at what we consider to be our 'Golden Threads'. These run through all we teach, learn and do.

Our Priorities 2026-27

Believe • Achieve • Aspire

OUR GOLDEN THREADS

THE ESSENTIAL THREADS THAT RUN THROUGH EVERYTHING WE DO

Connecting our priorities. Strengthening our practice. Enriching every child's experience.

OUR BELIEF

At St Buryan Academy, these golden threads are woven through our curriculum, our teaching, our relationships and our community. They ensure every child is known, valued and supported to be the best they can be – today and in the future.

READING AT THE HEART

We inspire a love of reading across the school and use reading to open minds, build knowledge and unlock opportunity.

ORACY AND COMMUNICATION

We develop confident communicators who can express ideas, listen carefully and collaborate effectively with others.

VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

We build rich vocabulary to deepen understanding, improve outcomes and help every child find their voice.

METACOGNITION AND INDEPENDENT LEARNING

We teach children how to think, reflect and take ownership of their learning so they become resilient, curious and independent.

ADAPTIVE TEACHING FOR ALL

We adapt teaching and resources to meet the needs of all learners, ensuring everyone can access, achieve and thrive.

BELONGING, ASPIRATION AND INCLUSION

We celebrate difference, promote equality and create a safe, welcoming community where everyone belongs and can succeed.

WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

We prioritise wellbeing for pupils and staff, promoting resilience, kindness and positive mental health.

BRITISH VALUES AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

We develop responsible, respectful citizens who understand their rights, responsibilities and the world around them.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL

We believe in every child. We set high expectations, remove barriers and empower every pupil to achieve their full potential.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

We work together with families and our community to support learning, wellbeing and opportunity for every child.

Breaking barriers. Opening opportunities.

Believe ★ Achieve ★ Aspire *Working together today for success tomorrow.*

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to support our school,why not get involved in our Friends of School?
They are a wonderful group always looking to do great things for our children. Visit their Facebook page for more information.

If you think you can help in any way, please get in touch – we'd love to hear from you!

INSETS

Tues. 1st September

Mon. 4th January

Plus: 19th - 30th October

SUPPORTING READING AT HOME

Reading every day makes a huge difference! Here are some simple ways you can support your child at home:

- Read together every day – even for 10 minutes
- Ask questions about the story
- Encourage your child to retell the story
- Visit the library and explore new books
- Talk about new words and their meanings
- Celebrate reading for pleasure!



Top Tip!

Make reading part of your daily routine. Little and often is best!

BELIEVE in ourselves **ACHIEVE** together **ASPIRE** for the future

ST BURYAN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

13/11/26

20 IS PLENTY

Parking safely around our school helps keep everyone safe.

20

- Protects our children and families
- Keeps our community safe
- Keeps traffic flowing smoothly
- Shows respect for our neighbours

Thank you for doing your part.

Stronger together, brighter futures!

When school and home work together, children thrive.
Here are simple ways you can support your child's learning every day.

YOU play the most important part in your child's education.

Your time, encouragement and belief make all the difference.

READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY
Share stories, talk about books and enjoy reading together. It builds vocabulary, imagination and confidence.

TALK, LISTEN AND ASK QUESTIONS
Chat about your child's day, ideas and interests. Encourage them to ask questions and express their thoughts.

EXPLORE NUMBERS EVERYDAY
Count, compare, measure and spot patterns in everyday life – in the kitchen, on walks, or while playing games.

PRAISE EFFORT AND CELEBRATE
Focus on effort, progress and trying new things. A positive attitude builds resilience and self-belief.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE
Let your child have a go at things for themselves – dressing, tidying, problem-solving and making choices.

EXPLORE THE WORLD TOGETHER
Visit new places, look at nature, cook, create and discover. Curiosity helps learning come to life.

BE KIND AND RESPECTFUL
Model kindness, listen to others and talk about feelings. Strong relationships help children feel safe and happy.

KEEP IN TOUCH
Share information, ask questions and celebrate successes. We're always here to help.

Let's work together!

We value our partnership with you. Together, we can give your child the best start and help them achieve their very best.

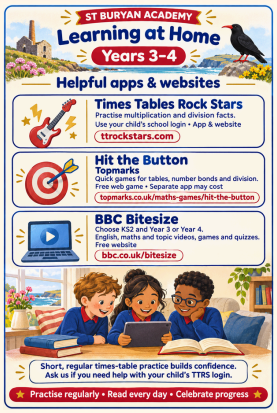
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU
If you have any questions or need support, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office.

EVERY DAY COUNTS
Good attendance and being on time means children don't miss out on important learning, friendships and opportunities.
Together, we can achieve great things!

Stronger together. Supporting every child, every day.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME







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St Buryan Academy

Safe Eating, Happy Children

Keeping every child safe and well

Working together for safer eating times

What We Do

- Actively supervise children within sight and hearing.
- Keep eating times calm, with children seated.
- Wash hands, clean equipment and check allergies.
- Adapt food to individual eating needs.
- Follow first-aid procedures and inform parents about incidents.

How You Can Help

- Tell us about allergies, dietary needs or chewing and swallowing difficulties.
- Prepare food safely before packing.
- Use a clean, named lunchbox and an ice pack for chilled foods.
- Encourage sitting, chewing carefully and not sharing food.

Cut the Risk

Especially important for Nursery and Reception: prepare food for your child's eating skills, not age alone.



Grapes, cherry tomatoes and strawberries:

quarter lengthways; cut smaller if needed.



Hard apple and carrot:

grate, soften or cook. Thin slices only if your child can manage them.



Sausages:

cut lengthways into thin strips; remove skins when needed. No round slices.

WE ARE NOW A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Please do not send nuts or foods containing nuts, including peanut butter, chocolate nut spreads and nut bars. Check ingredients every time and ask us if you are unsure. This helps protect children with serious allergies.

Healthy Snacks & Lunches

- Choose simple, less processed foods most often. Limit cakes, biscuits, sweets and sugary bars.
- If providing a break time snack, make it a healthy choice: fresh fruit, vegetables, prepared safely. Choose water to drink.
- Pack a balanced lunch: starchy food, protein, vegetables or fruit, and dairy or an alternative.
- Even dried fruit, such as raisins, is best kept to mealtimes: it sticks to teeth and can contribute to tooth decay.

Birthdays & Celebrations

- Please do not send cakes or sweets into school to share.
- This respects parental choice, dietary and allergy needs, helps everyone feel included and removes pressure on families to buy anything.
- There is no need to bring anything.
- An optional non-food alternative could be a bookmark. Alternatively, offer treats directly to parents at the first entrance gates after school, so that they can choose.
- Please do not give food directly to children.

Believe • Achieve • Aspire

Questions or worries about eating? Please speak to us.

Based on TPAT safer eating and food hygiene training, with NHS healthy eating guidance.

OUR FOCUS THIS YEAR

Believe ★ Achieve ★ Aspire

OUR PROMISE

Your child is at the heart of everything we do.
We create a safe, happy and ambitious place where everyone belongs and can achieve, aspire and shine.

1 EXCELLENT TEACHING EVERY DAY

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- High quality, engaging lessons every day
- Coaching and support for our staff
- Regular assessment to check progress
- Clear routines and high expectations

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Strengthening subject knowledge across the curriculum
- Developing our teaching strategies
- Using evidence to ensure every child continues to make strong progress

KS2 OUTCOMES 2026

Combined RWM	Reading EXS+	GPS EXS+	Maths EXS+
71%	100%	100%	86%
(Above national average +2%)	(Above national)	(Above national)	(Above national)

2 STRONG WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- Daily writing opportunities
- Focus on vocabulary, spelling and clear communication
- High quality feedback and modelling

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Embedding our new writing curriculum
- Developing spoken language
- Strengthening moderation to raise standards further

KS2 WRITING DATA 2026

- 86% Year 6 EXS+ (Above national)
- All PP pupils achieved EXS+ in Writing
- 36% Year 4 EXS+ (Focus for development)

3 A STRONG START FROM NURSERY TO RECEPTION

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- A nurturing, play-based start
- Strong routines and quality teaching
- Focus on language, early maths and independence

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Strengthening the transition from Nursery to Reception
- Building even more opportunities for early writing

EYFS DATA 2026

86% achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) — Above national average (67%)

4 CONFIDENT IN MATHS, READY FOR THE FUTURE

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- Daily maths teaching with a focus on fluency, understanding and problem solving
- Reasoning and practical maths opportunities
- Times Tables Rock Stars and rich resources

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Embedding arithmetic and reasoning strategies
- Strengthening multiplication facts
- Targeted support for those who need it

KS2 MATHS DATA 2026

86% Year 6 EXS+ (Above national) — Above national average

5 EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENRICH EVERY CHILD

SCHOOL GAMES PLATINUM MARK

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

We offer a wide range of experiences inside and outside school to build skills, confidence and a love of learning.

Forest School · Theatre and arts · Sporting competitions · Residentials and sleepovers · Leadership roles · Community projects · Cultural experiences · Visits and workshops

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

We are expanding enrichment and leadership opportunities, broadening cultural experiences and creating even more chances for every child to shine.

6 A CARING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- We celebrate differences and promote respect
- We support wellbeing and positive mental health
- Everyone is valued, included and listened to

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Strengthening support for SEND and disadvantaged pupils
- Working closely with families and partners
- Continuing to remove barriers and open doors to opportunities for all

7 AMBITIOUS FOR ALL, STRONGER TOGETHER

WHAT WE DO ALREADY

- High expectations for every child
- Ambitious curriculum for all
- Strong partnerships with families and the community

HOW WE ARE ENHANCING

- Building on success and always looking to improve
- Using data and feedback to drive our decisions
- Working together as a team to give every child the very best

STAY INFORMED

Keep an eye on Class Dojo (Merry Maidens), our website and email for the latest news, dates and updates!

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN

Helpful reminders and tips to support your child's learning and wellbeing...

SAFETY REMINDERS

Keeping our children happy, healthy and safe.



ST BURYAN ACADEMY • TEAM SBA



Autumn 2 dates

November & December 2026

NOVEMBER

4 Nov	Poppy Appeal memorabilia available to buy
5 Nov	Swimming
6 Nov	Non-school uniform • bring a raffle donation
8 Nov	Christmas card order deadline
11 Nov	Remembrance Day • join KS2 at the memorial at 10.50am for a short service
12 Nov	Swimming
13 Nov	Children in Need • non-school uniform, £1 donation
16 Nov	Odd Socks Day • Anti-Bullying Week
17 Nov	Healthy Cornwall parent meet and greet • in the hall, 3.15–3.45pm • healthy packed lunches and healthy living
19 Nov	Swimming
20 Nov	Mexican Meal Night • Community House
26 Nov	Swimming

DECEMBER

3 Dec	Swimming
7 Dec	Christmas show dress rehearsal
8 Dec	Christmas show • 9am and 5.30pm
10 Dec	Last swimming session
15 Dec	Christmas dinner and Christmas jumpers • £1 for Save the Children
17 Dec	Christmas carols
18 Dec	End of term • wear Christmas clothing

Believe • Achieve • Aspire

MEXICAN NIGHT



20 NOV

5-7.30

FOOD | CRAFTS | PINATA RAFFLE



RAISING FUNDS FOR SCHOOL
@ ST BURYAN COMMUNITY HOUSE

EVENTS SCHEDULE

Novemeber 2026

NOV 4TH	**Friends of St.Buryan Academy AGM** **2.30-3pm** St.Buryan Farm Shop
NOV 6TH	**Non School Uniform Day** In exchange for a Raffle Prize
NOV 20TH	**Mexican Meal Night** **5-7.30pm** St.Buryan Community House
DEC EVENTS	• Wreath Making • Christmas Plays • Christmas Market and more .....

For more details and updates about these events, please keep an eye on our Facebook page, if you'd like to join us then please get in touch or come to our AGM

St Buryan Academy Primary School Calendar 2026/27

September 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2026

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2027

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

CORNWALL COUNCIL
one and all · oll hag oll

Together for Families

School holidays

Bank holidays

Christmas Day	25 December 2026
Boxing Day	28 December 2026
New Years Day	01 January 2027
Good Friday	26 March 2027
Easter Monday	29 March 2027
May Bank Holiday	03 May 2027
Spring Bank Holiday	31 May 2027
Summer Bank Holiday	30 August 2027

Bank Holidays highlighted in pink

Autumn Term
1st Sept – 18th Dec 2026
(Half Term 19th – 30th Oct)

Spring Term
4th Jan – 25th Mar 2027
(Half Term 15th – 19th Feb 2027)

Summer Term
12th Apr – 23rd Jul 2027
(Half Term 31st May – 4th Jun 2027)

INSET Days (highlighted in **Yellow**) **school closed**:

Tues 1st Sept 2026

Mon 4th Jan 2027

St Buryan Academy Primary School
Believe, Achieve, Aspire

St Buryan Academy

Contact Information

General Enquiries

Mr McDonald - jmcdonald@stburyan.tpacademytrust.org
Mrs Care - tcare@stburyan.tpacademytrust.org

Pre-planned absence

Mr McDonald -jmcdonald@stburyan.tpacademytrust.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 jmcdonald@stburyan.tpacademytrust.org

Safeguarding

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

Special Educational Needs

Mrs Ayotte (SENCo) - hayotte@stburyan.tpacademytrust.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.

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

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026

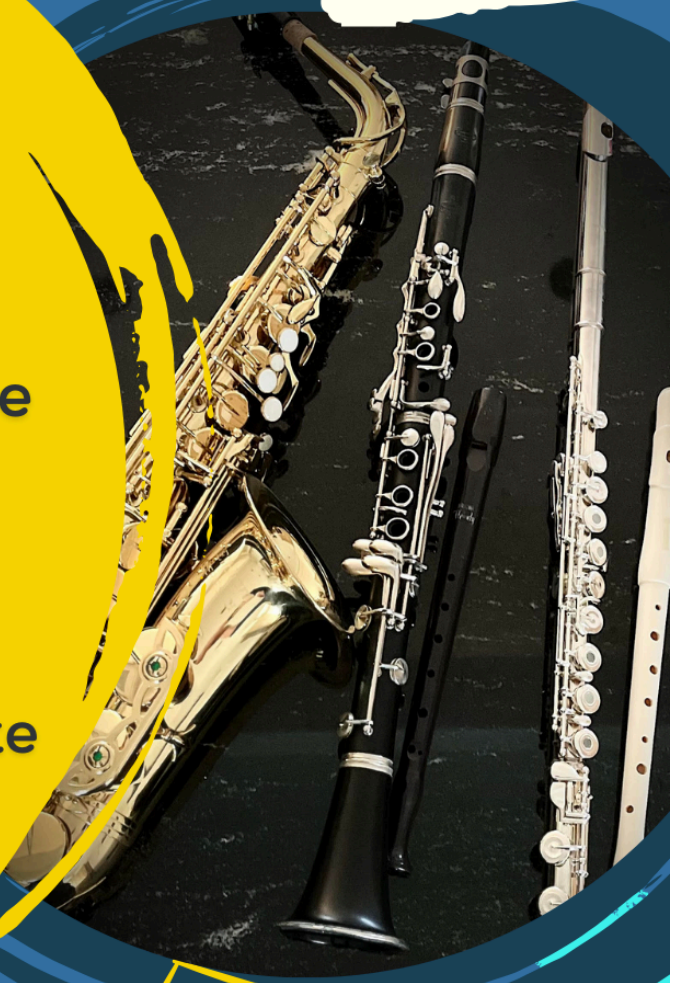
Music Lessons

Scan Me

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

Flute Clarinet Saxophone
Recorder Fife

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