



Friday 6th September 2024

Pennoweth News

A very warm welcome back to another new academic year.

We would firstly like to welcome our new families who have joined not only in reception but across the different year groups here at Pennoweth and then offer another warm welcome back to our existing families following the summer break.

We hope that you have all had an amazing summer and are excited to see all that has happened already during our first week back.

Although it has only been a part week, our staff have been spending time getting to know their new Classes and already offering a number of different experiences which have excited and captured the imagination of their new children. It has been a joy walking around the school to see how enthused and excited our children are both in their new classrooms and outside at break times.

Before we dive into the weekly roundup, we have popped on the following page some upcoming events and dates for your diaries. These will be added and updated regularly, so please make sure you cast your eyes over this each week so that you don't miss any exciting events this term.

Nursery

This week in Nursery, we have been overjoyed to welcome the children through the door and spent time exploring our new Classroom and outside area. We have spent time observing the plant life that has been growing over the summer and even picking and harvesting the local produce—blackberries! There has been so many blackberries that we have had this for snack time and even delivered what we couldn't eat around the school. Well done Nursery!

Reception

This week the children have been fantastic and settled into Reception as if they had been at Pennoweth for quite some time. They should be very proud of themselves. We have spent the week introducing them to our classroom routine, getting them as independent as possible and finding out all about themselves and their family. Well done Reception!

Keystage One

This week the children have been conducting a number of different experiments this week including testing their eyesight! The children had to cover one eye and attempt to catch a coin from a given height. It was safe to say that all of the children enjoyed taking part in this experiment. The children also begun learning their new text 'The Ugly Duckling'. They spent time today describing the duck using as many awesome adjectives that they could think of.

In year 2 this week, the children have also been taking part in some exciting experiments. The children were challenged to use their cutting skills to slice up lemons, whilst also measuring carefully the amounts of sugar and water needed to make lemonade. What an amazing week Year 1 & 2!

Keystage Two

In Year 3 and 4, we have spent this week introducing and beginning to read our new class text: The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. We have also popped our scientific hats on by completing our Love To Investigate: Why are trees tall? Pupils investigated how water is transported in trees and plants by using straws taped together and trying to suck up water from a cup to replicate the way trees transport water from their roots to the tips of their branches. The children measured and recorded the data in a table and displayed this in a bar chart. Finally, we have been artists by experimenting with different pencil techniques, including: hatching, cross-hatching, shading, scumbling and stippling. We then applied these techniques when sketching an ammonite.

Next week, we look forward to getting our teeth into our Predator project with some more interesting and exciting science lessons planned!

What a fantastic start we have had to the year in upper key stage 2! Children in years 5 and 6 have settled into life incredibly well and are already producing some amazing work. We have kick started our project 'Darwin's Delights' with an investigation where we all became finches with different types of beak! This investigation looked at natural selection, we found that our finches (children) with the tweezer beaks were best adapted to their environment and so would have been able to pass their genetics onto their offspring. We have also been thoroughly enjoying our new book 'Sky Hawk' and are looking forward to all of the books that we are going to read over the year! Well done years 5 and 6, you have started as you mean to go on.

Our phase email addresses are:

eyfs@pennoweth.cornwall.sch.uk (for Nursery and Reception)

KS1@pennoweth.cornwall.sch.uk (for Years 1 and 2)

lowerKS2@pennoweth.cornwall.sch.uk (for Years 3 and 4)

upperKS2@pennoweth.cornwall.sch.uk (for Years 5 and 6)

School Lunches

Week beginning 09/09/24

(Week 1 choices from the Spring/Summer Term Menu)

Chartwells meal menu is on the school website



Dates for your diary

Start of Autumn Term (1)

*Wednesday 4th September
2024*

End of Autumn Term (1)

Friday 25th October 2024

Start of Autumn Term (2)

Monday 4th November 2024

End of Autumn Term (2)

Friday 20th December 2024

*Please view page two of the
Newsletter for further term
dates.*

Key Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

Autumn 1

Wednesday 11th September

Mark's Ark Visit for Years 5 & 6 (In School)

Tuesday 17th September

Year 2 visit into Redruth

Wednesday 18th September

Police Road Safety visit for Year 2 (In School)

Monday 23rd September

Year 1 Visit to Mosely Museum

Tuesday 1st October

Police Careers visit for Year 3 & 4 (In School)

Tuesday 8th October

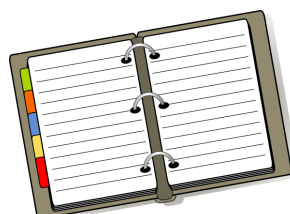
Early Years and Keystage 1 Harvest Festival visit @ St Andrews Church

Monday 14th October

INSET DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS

Monday 21st October

Police Workshop for Years 5 & 6 (In School)



Important Updates regarding Attendance

Attendance

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE LAW REGARDING PENALTY NOTICES FOR UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

We wish to inform you of changes in the National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence, including unauthorised holiday absence. Following recent legal amendments, these new regulations will become effective on 19 August 2024 and will change how penalty notices are issued in Cornwall.

What are the changes?

1. There will now be a national threshold of **10 unauthorised sessions** for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within any rolling 10-school-week period when a penalty notice must be considered.
2. Under the new rules, taking your child out of school for a one-week holiday (10 school sessions) will now mean that a penalty notice must be considered.
3. The penalty fine has increased from £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. If not paid within 21 days, the fine will increase to £160 if settled within 28 days.
4. If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent/s for the same child within a 3-year period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.
5. For a third offence within a 3-year period, the local authority will explore other enforcement options. This could include prosecution.

Please see the FAQs below for more information about how the new rules may affect you.

We would like to thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring that children do not miss any valuable learning time.

For more information, please contact your school office.

FAQs

If I received a penalty notice before the 19th August 2024, will it count if another notice is issued after September 2024?

No, the new limits come into effect from 19 August 2024.

If I have already booked a term time holiday for next year, will I be fined at the new rate?

Yes, if the absence is not authorised by your child's Head Teacher. Only a Head Teacher can authorise an absence in exceptional circumstances.

Who can be issued with a penalty notice?

Each parent can receive a fine for each child with unauthorised school absences.

Legally, anyone living with the child and responsible for their day-to-day care is considered a parent, including step-parents and partners.

Do the new rules only apply to holidays during term time?

No, they apply to all unauthorised absences from school, not just holidays. This includes truancy, arriving late after the register has closed, and failing to provide a reason for absence.

How do I request leave for my child during term time?

Submit an Exceptional Circumstances / Absence Request form at least 4 weeks before the planned absence. The Headteacher, in partnership with the Safeguarding and Attendance leads will decide if the circumstances are exceptional enough to grant leave. Wait for confirmation from the school before assuming the leave is approved.

Do the 10 unauthorised sessions need to be consecutive to issue a penalty fine?

No, from the start of the new school year, the sessions can be any combination of absences over a 10-week rolling period, consecutive or non-consecutive, and may span across two terms, including different academic years.

What if I don't pay the penalty fine? Unauthorised school absence is an offence under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. The fine allows you to settle out of court. If unpaid, you can be prosecuted for failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

What should I do if I am concerned about my child's attendance? Contact the school for advice on how we can help you improve your child's attendance.

More information is available at:

DfE: Working together to improve school attendance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65f1b048133c22b8eecd38f7/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance__applies_from_19_August_2024_.pdf

Friends of Pennoweth Upcoming 2024 Winter Term

★

Messy Fun Walk - Thursday 26th September

We will be holding our first sensory fun walk after school. Come along to try the squishy messy fun. We will also have a fidget & squishy sale and tuck shop. All proceeds from this events will go towards equipment for the new sensory room.

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Friends of Pennoweth AGM - Tuesday 1st October 7pm
Pennoweth School Hall

Stay informed and get involved!

You can put in as much or little time as you can spare - any help is always appreciated.

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Bag2School Collection - Wednesday 8th October

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Half Term Discos - Thursday 24th October

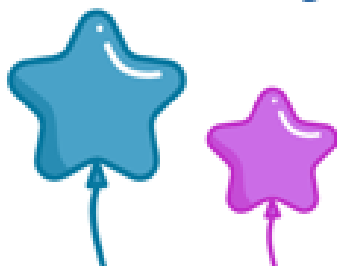
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Wreath Workshop - Thursday 5th December

Come along and make your own Christmas wreath.

Message us to book.

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Friends of Pennoweth

Thank you to everyone that has joined in at events and supported us in fundraising for Pennoweth School this year. Thanks to this support we have been able to fund the following:

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Reception starter bags

R&KS1 apple pressing

Phonics books

Whole school panto performance

Helping Santa with gifts

Love Yourself day treats

Dress up items for reception

Sen lego therapy sets

Y3/4 Maypole dancing workshop

Welcome packs for our new starters in September

Y6 Leavers hoodies

Y6 Leavers presentation decs, gifts and cakes

Y6 Last week treat

*



Our DNA

Everything we do in school is shaped by our Pennoweth DNA statements. Each week each phase team identifies one child who has done a fantastic job of demonstrating each strand of the DNA. Well done to all the children below.

We are safe.

We feel loved.


We take responsibility.

We are always learning.

We are ready.

Quality	Year R, Y1 and Y2	Year 3+4	Year 5+6
Safe		To be shared in next weeks newsletter	
Loved			
Responsible			
Learning			
Ready			

Congratulations to our stars of the week from each Class! Well done everyone!

Pendennis Daily Awards	Tintagel Whole Class
Restormel Whole Class	Porthcurno Whole Class
Gwithian Whole Class	Newlyn Whole Class
Mevagissey Whole Class	Pendeen Whole Class
Godrevy Whole Class	Lizard Whole Class
Levant Whole Class	Geevor Whole Class
Poldark Whole Class	

Read Write Inc.
Phonics



Headteacher's

Phonics Star of the Week

Awarded to

Harper (Tintagel)

06/09/24

C. Andrews

Date



Signature



Read Write Inc.
Phonics



Headteacher's

Phonics Star of the Week

Awarded to

Ivy (Gwithian)

06/09/24

C. Andrews

Date



Signature



Attendance

We aim for all our children to have at least 96% attendance throughout the year.

Overall attendance for this week was

96%

see below for the attendance for each class last week.

Pendennis	100%
Tintagel	94%
Restormel	97.7%
Porthcurno	91.3%
Gwithian	100%
Newlyn	100%
Mevagissey	92.3%
Pendeen	98.3%
Lizard	95%
Godrevy	96.9%
Levant	96.4%
Geevor	96.6%
Poldark	93.1%

Congratulations Pendennis, Restormel, Gwithian,

Unauthorised Exceptional Leave of Absence Information

The law requires parents to ensure their children receive an efficient full time education, and every minute of every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of the valuable time.

We hope that when you read the information outlined on our website, you will consider that your child's education is too important to take on

holidays during term time.

If an unauthorised leave of absence is taken, this may incur a penalty

notice being issued under Section 444A, and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice will result in Court action.

Unauthorised Late Information

If your child is arriving late—after the register has closed at 8:50am it will be coded as a U which, is an unauthorised late mark. If your child accrues 10 unauthorised late marks within 100 sessions (10 weeks) you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996.

The School may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take legal action against you, issuing a penalty notice under section 444A, and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 per child, per parent if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice will result in Court action.

Persistent absences/unauthorised lates, not authorised by the school, may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates Court, leading to fines up to £2500 and/or custodial sentences.



Online Safety Update

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to raise with if these change over time.

Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and an ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMH coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>

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Attendance Support

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

Emotionally Based School Avoidance is a term used to refer to reduced attendance or non-attendance at school by a child or young person. It's often rooted in emotional, mental health or wellbeing issues. The rate of children who miss school more than 10% of the time in England has more than doubled since before the pandemic: rising from 10.9% in 2018-19, to 22.3% in 2022-23.

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

REASONS FOR ABSENCE

School avoidance is sometimes underpinned by several factors rather than one single cause. This could include something going on for the child or young person within the family or at school. A child may have caring responsibilities at home, for instance, or a change in family dynamics; bullying and friendship difficulties at school; pressure to achieve in schoolwork and exams; or moving from primary school to secondary school.

PATTERNS OF ABSENCE

You may notice patterns in regular absences or children regularly expressing that they don't want to attend school (particularly being reluctant to leave home on school days). If a child or young person is neurodiverse, there is some evidence to suggest there are more aspects of school life which can cause distress – such as changes in the environment, changes of routine and sensory stimuli.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS

There may be an increase in a child or young person's complaints about physical symptoms, particularly on school days or the evening before school. These could include complaining of a tummy ache, headache, or saying they feel ill when there doesn't appear to be a medical cause. Always check with the GP first to rule out medical causes or illness.

IMPACT OF SCHOOL AVOIDANCE

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

School refusal can negatively impact a young person's learning and development. Attending school on a regular basis not only supports academic attainment but is also important for the development of key life skills and the growth of children and young people as citizens.

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

The difficulties associated with school non-attendance can be far reaching and may have a negative impact on long-term outcomes. It may, for example, lead to reduced future aspirations, poor emotional regulation, mental health difficulties, limited academic progress and restricted employment opportunities.

CYCLE OF ABSENCE

Consistent absences may contribute to sustained school avoidance over time. Further to this, the longer a pupil is out of education, the more likely it is that there is a rise in their ongoing need to avoid the activity which is making them anxious – increasing their desire to stay at home.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WORK TOGETHER

If there's a concern about a child's absence and emotional wellbeing, it's important that there is clear communication and a consistent approach between the child's parents and the school, so you can take a child-centred approach together towards a plan of support or reintegration. This ensures a consistency of approach from both home and school, creating better outcomes for the child.

FOLLOW REGULAR ROUTINES

Children can benefit from a regular and consistent routine. This could be a morning routine, from waking up and having breakfast through to getting dressed, packing their bag and leaving the house. A consistent evening routine which is calm and limited time on screens can also give children much needed predictability and familiarity. Schools can help create a timetabled routine for the child's school day, if required.

MANAGING OVERWHELMING FEELINGS

While there may be times you feel frustrated or angry, try to stay calm; acknowledge the child's worries, listen and discuss a range of coping strategies together to help them face the discomfort and overwhelming feelings. These could include mindfulness, deep breathing or going for a walk and practice the strategies in less overwhelming situations first.

REDUCE STIMULATING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

If a child is avoiding school, reduce their access to more stimulating activities (such as watching television, playing games and spending time with friends) during school hours, where possible. This reduces the potential for the child having rewarding experiences at home, which could be interpreted as a positive aspect of avoiding school.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/school-avoidance

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Further News and Announcements



Together 
for Families

EMPOWERED PARENTING PODCASTS

For every step of your parenting journey.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PODCASTS, AVAILABLE NOW

Check out our new Empowered Parenting Podcasts from Cornwall Council's Together for Families. We will be releasing new episodes each week, bringing you top tips and guest speakers to discuss a range of topics relating to your parenting journey.

Upcoming topics include: Back-to-school, Praise and Encouragement, Routines, Boundaries, SEND Navigators, Brain Development, and many more!

**JOIN US, BY
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