



## This week...

Thu 3 Dec Yr 1: Hearing Screening

## Next week...

Thu 10 Dec 6pm: Friends (virtual) AGM

### Reminder:

#### Starting and Finishing Stagers

We have timetabled learning in relation to our stagers, so it is really important that the children are in ready to start learning in the morning.

KS2 lessons start promptly at 8.45am, this is so we can build in the wellbeing/fun slots.

#### Evenings

The road becomes congested if you do not come at the right time - older children will not be ready as their sessions do not finish until just before their collection time.

All staff, as you can imagine, are working really hard. The car parking staff have a difficult job and are often out in the cold and wet.

So many have been so positive and thank you for this. None of us want to work in the way we are, but have to at present. Please, however irritable you may be, remember systems are in place to keep everybody safe. I struggle to condone rudeness. We are all doing our best. A smile and pleasant remark goes a long way.

#### Collection Times Reminder

3.30pm	Reception
3.35pm	Year 1
3.40pm	Year 2
3.45pm	Year 3
3.50pm	Year 4
3.55pm	Year 5
4.00pm	Year 6
4.30pm	Those who need to stay for childcare will stay in their year group bubbles but be based in the Qube, so that they are close by.

### Pentillie

We have been so blessed being able to visit Pentillie over the past few weeks. Years 1-6 have all come back so excited and motivated from their time outside the classroom. The Coryton family have been amazing and facilitated this opportunity so generously.

We hope to build upon this next term so that all classes can continue to learn off site, as well as on our school site. Obviously, we are making sure our visits are to places where the children are not near other people.

### Pencil Cases

Please can you make sure that your child has a pencil case that is not fluffy and easy to wipe and also not too big! We do not ask a lot. With Christmas coming it may be an ideal opportunity to replenish. Children need to have (named if possible): pencils, handwriting pen (from Year 3 after it is agreed that they are ready to move onto pen). However, all Year 5 and 6 pupils must use pen. In the summer term Year 6 will use a biro as a transition to secondary school. They also need to have a rubber, coloured pencils and a pencil sharpener.

It is amazing how many school pencils and pens have disappeared into pencil cases and then home. If you spot any, please send back so we can quarantine and put back into the class set.

### Uniform Payments

When ordering/paying for new school uniform, please ensure the payment is in a named envelope.

### Reception starts 2021

If you have a child due to start school in September 2021, the deadline for applications is Friday 15 January 2021.

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

## Christmas is coming...

We really do want to keep as many of the highlights of our SRG year and we realise that for many Christmas will be very different this year. We need to keep everybody safe and so we will modify all events, and have risk assessments to ensure everybody understands the systems in place for safety reasons.

We have seven different plays being rehearsed and because of this, performances will be shorter and a little different than usual.

However, the children gain so much from performing as it helps the development of self-confidence.



## Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December

This will take place in class bubbles in decorated classrooms except for Reception and Year 6 who will have their meal in the hall. Children are also invited to wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform on this day.



## Christmas Bazaar

We will be having class bazaars at the end of our Christmas technology week. Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite you in, but we are going to put together a craft bag that children can bring home. We are suggesting £2 for them to bring in to spend at their bazaar.

## Christmas Play Performances

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Reception: 9-10am  
2-3pm

### Monday 14th December

Year 1: 9 - 10am  
Year 2: 10-11am  
Year 3: 11-12  
Year 4: 2-3pm  
Year 5: 3-4pm  
Year 6: 4-5pm



## Christmas Parties – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

We will be watching an online pantomime in the morning and we will have class-based parties in the afternoon.

## Christmas Plays

I am awaiting any updated guidance, but if possible we are going to have two performances for EYFS and three for KS1 and KS2 children. We will also be putting recordings (maybe in chunks) on Google Classroom. In the summer we were able to perform outside for Leavers and had a mini Speech Day, but we are going to have to resort to the hall for Christmas!

In the hall we will sit people in their household bubbles, so only two per family will be able to come to any one performance and a maximum of two out of the three performances. We are working hard to facilitate this and are sorry we will have to limit numbers this year. We will be issuing our risk assessment for this, and it will include wearing masks and accessing the hall by the fire doors.

Windows and doors will be open, and all chairs will be sprayed and wiped between year groups. We will need audiences to leave promptly so we can get all performances starting and finishing on time. The children will be performing on the stage and at a distance from any audience.

Dates and times of class performances are below – booking information will be sent out via email tomorrow.

### Tuesday 15th December

Year 3: 9-10am  
Year 4: 10-11am  
Year 5: 11-12  
Year 6: 2-3pm  
Year 2: 3-4pm  
Year 1: 4-5pm

### Wednesday 16th December

Year 6: 9-10am  
Year 5: 10-11am  
Year 2: 11-12  
Year 1: 2-3pm  
Year 3: 3-4pm  
Year 4: 4-5pm



### Accelerated Reader

Well done to everyone who has quizzed so far, our whole school word count is: 39,551,979.  
Whole school total books read: 4,643.

### AR Class Word Count – year to date

Year 2	2,111,475
Year 3	2,610,616
Year 4	10,369,797
Year 5	9,775,729
Year 6	13,994,042

### Top 5 Word Counts last week

Year 2	Tilly C	Year 3	Kensa A
Year 4	Ruby C	Year 5	Sienna B
Year 6	Kate B		

### Good Progress

Year 2	Danny C	Year 3	Raff J
Year 4	Penny B	Year 5	Lacey B
Year 6	Isabella M		

### ¼ Million

Millie BC	Seb Y	Charlie V	Harry F
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### ½ Million

William Br	Nathaniel K	Ed T	David Bu
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### ¾ Million

Jasper K

### 1 Million

Millie J

### Prayer Fingers

With so much turmoil in our world at the moment, we are encouraging children to use prayer and as such we are reminding you of the model we like to use in school.

#### **The little finger stands for DIGNITY**

God is good. He loves each one of us. We are special and important to Him. However small we feel, He knows us and notices us. In our schools everyone is someone, everyone matters. We can hold our heads up with dignity – God has made each one of us for a purpose in this world.

#### **The ring finger reminds us of our life together COMMUNITY**

God is good and being part of his family is good. He calls us to work together and learn to love each other. We all have different strengths, so everyone is needed. We look out for anyone who needs help. We support each other with love and are partners in learning.

#### **The middle finger stands for HOPE**

God is good and he wants all his children to know that his love and forgiveness are bigger than anything. God gives us hope. If we fail or go wrong, we can try again. If things hurt or fall apart, it is not the end. Nothing can separate us from God's love, we have hope.

#### **The index finger points to WISDOM**

God is good. He wants us to learn. Learning is our NUMBER ONE JOB in school. We should never give up learning in life. We need to learn in good ways, in God's ways in Wisdom.

### Music Awards

Piano award	Gwen Harnett
Singing award	Eris Best-Trent



## Handwriting and writing

We have been really thinking about gaps in learning and the impact of lockdown for our learners. Overall, we can see that the learning supported off site has ensured that there are not as many gaps as many schools are seeing. This is because of the great partnerships that developed between home and school and the specific guidance that was available. It is amazing how we have all developed a new skill set and how children off school even now are keeping up by completing tasks on google classroom daily.

One area we know that needs a catch-up programme is handwriting - children often worked on a computer and presentation was not always the highest priority. Some children are not joining their writing when they did before.

To achieve an expected level at the end of Year 6 they have to join their writing correctly and fluently. After Christmas this will be a whole school focus and we will be specifically teaching the letter sizes and the joins again.

We also know that writing skills themselves need further development so we will be sharing the criteria and making sure that children are taught to draft their work and make improvements. A variety of genres will be taught. Staff will receive some additional training at the INSET day in January.

To support this please do make sure you can access letter join and encourage your child to join their writing.

We will be presenting badges, first handwriting pens, second pens and also fountain pens as they improve their handwriting. Children in Year 5 and 6 should be writing in pen.

## Blackbird Pie magazine

Welcome to the winter issue of BlackbirdPie online magazine!

Despite everything there are festive things to see and do this year, from glittering gardens lit with myriad lights to light-hearted theatre shows.

Everyone has gone to great lengths to make things as Covid-safe as possible.

We have searched out quite a lot of free activities and events too including sparkling yuletide markets with entertainers, free entry at PK Porthcurno and The Box Plymouth, stories, videos and art activities to download, interesting winter walks and historic sites to explore.

As well as the new online format we will be doing more on facebook and Instagram, so please seek us out for regular activities, ideas and updates in between issues.

<https://blackbirdreads.turtl.co/story/cornwallchristmas2020/>

## Dates for your Diary

Thu 10 Dec	6pm - Friends AGM via Zoom
Fri 11 Dec	Reception: Christmas Play
Mon 14 Dec	Yr 1-6: Christmas Plays
Tue 15 Dec	Yr 1-6: Christmas Plays
Wed 16 Dec	Yr 1-6: Christmas Plays
Wed 16 Dec	Christmas Lunch
Thu 17 Dec	Online Panto and Class Parties
21 Dec – 1 Jan	Christmas Holidays
Mon 4 Jan	Inset Day
Thu 21 Jan	Cake Sale (TBC)
15-19 Feb	Half Term
Thu 25 Feb	Cake Sale (TBC)
Thu 18 Mar	Cake Sale (TBC)
2-16 Apr	Easter Holidays
Mon 3 May	Bank Holiday
Thu 20 May	Cake Sale (TBC)
31 May – 4 Jun	Half Term
Thu 17 Jun	Cake Sale (TBC)
Fri 23 Jul	Inset Day
26 July	Summer Holidays

