



Manaccan Primary School Newsletter  
January 2026



# Head of School: This Month at Manacchan Primary School



Welcome to the first Book Creator newsletter of 2026!

As we settle into the new term, I want to extend my sincere thanks for your patience and understanding during what has been a rather challenging start to the calendar year. The snow, ice, storm damage and subsequent power & water outages have certainly tested us all, and I am incredibly grateful for the resilience shown by our children, staff, and families. Despite the disruptions, late openings and closures, our community has once again demonstrated its ability to adapt, support one another, and remain positive.

We have continued to develop our exciting range of clubs on offer this half term, designed to broaden horizons and open up new opportunities for our pupils. From Line Dancing, to Multi-skills, and the ever-popular Skateboarding - we are committed to ensuring every child finds something that inspires them.

This month, I had the pleasure of hosting our termly parent/carer coffee morning, giving us the chance to reflect together on last term and continue the important dialogue about how we can keep improving our school offer. Your insights and ideas are invaluable, and I look forward to building on this collaborative approach throughout the year. Additionally, we were pleased to run our second Maths Workshop for parents and carers this academic year. These sessions are designed to support families in understanding our curriculum and the methods we use, helping us work together to strengthen pupils' confidence and progress in Maths.

Although the term didn't start quite as smoothly as planned, it has been heartening to see such optimism, and dedication across our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hancock

# Shining Stars - This Week's Certificate Winners

A huge well done to this week's certificate winners, who have shown our school values and been role-models to others! We are so proud of you!



# House Points

All of our children belong to a school 'house': Ammos (meaning 'sand'), Astron (meaning 'star') and Zali (meaning 'swim'). Each week, the children earn house points for showing our school values, working hard and showing brilliant presentation in their learning. We now record these points digitally and share the weekly totals and overall running totals in our newsletters. The current points for this half term are as follows - it is all to play for!



**AMMOS**

SAND

127



**ASTRON**

STAR

146



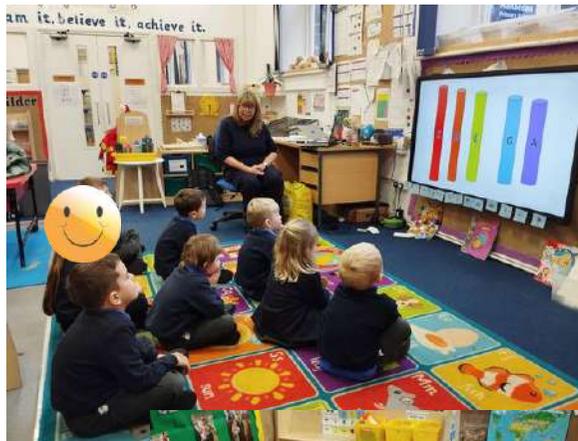
**ZALI**

SWIM

108

# Gillan Class

This month in Gillan Class, we have been busy learning across lots of exciting subjects. In Maths, KS1 have been practising addition and subtraction skills, while EYFS have been exploring numbers from 0-5 and learning about different shapes. In English, KS1 have been developing their instruction writing skills creating a piece of writing about how to be a great explorer. In Art, we are creating collages inspired by the Great Fire of London. In Science, KS1 have been learning about different materials, and EYFS have been exploring the seasons. We are also enjoying our special music sessions with Jenny Crow, who is visiting Gillan Class for some fun and engaging musical activities. Whilst in our PE lessons, we have all been practising our fundamental skills.



# St Anthony Class



The Spring term is always frenetic and this year has proved no exception. In St Anthony, the children have been busy learning about light, understanding the differences between artificial and natural light whilst investigating which materials are good at reflecting. We have been studying climate in Geography and have compared climates from different regions of the world and looked into how climate change is impacting our lives. The class have used Coding to program Microbits in Computing which was enjoyable and a lot of fun. We have written recount letters in Literacy and are mastering multiplication and division in Maths. I would like to thank all of the children for their hard work this month.

# Indoor Athletics



Earlier this month, children in Year 5/6 had a fantastic time at Helston College's Indoor Athletics event. They showed brilliant enthusiasm and behaviour throughout and won lots of well-deserved medals. We were delighted to hear that they have made the next round alongside Parc Eglos - more details to follow soon! A big thank you to Mrs G and Mrs Teakle for accompanying the children.

# Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition



We were lucky enough to be visited by the Cornish Plastic Pollution Coalition this month. The whole school enjoyed an assembly, learning more about plastic pollution and how they can make a change for good. Throughout the day, each class took part in various activities and workshops to further their understanding, learning and engagement with this important topic. A huge thank you to our visitors for their time!

## Diary Dates: February 2026

- Tuesday 3rd February - Reception & Year 6 Heights and Weights
- Friday 6th February - Centenary Shield Final football match
- Monday 9th February to Friday 13th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- Monday 9th February - Parent/Carer Reading Workshop, 9am
- Monday 9th February - Cross Country, 3:30pm on the field
- Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- Friday 13th February - INSET DAY (school closed to children)
- Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February - Half Term



**WOW!**

**We are incredibly lucky to be so well supported by our brilliant PTA. Please see below for their updates:**

Manaccon PTA were delighted to help enrich the children's Christmas celebrations at the end of the Autumn term. Firstly, we worked with DT Coaching to run a Silent Disco. Thank you to Fiona for purchasing and cooking the hot dogs, and to everyone who provided baked goods to enjoy afterwards. Feedback from the school Christmas lunch was extremely positive, which the PTA supplied the crackers for. We would also like to thank all staff, especially Mrs Hancock, for making it such a memorable occasion for the children.

Following the wonderful Nativity performance, the PTA ran refreshments and activities in the school hall. We were incredibly grateful to receive raffle donations from Roskillys, Brenda's, The Prince of Wales and Aerial Cornwall. Thank you to Demelza and Lorna for donating the soft toy for the 'Guess the Name' competition. The mulled wine, hot chocolates and sweet treats were very popular on a cold December evening - and we even had some snow! The snow machine was a fun and festive way to end such an enjoyable event.

The fun didn't stop there. Later in the week, the children enjoyed a screening of The Christmas Chronicles, with the PTA providing snacks and hot chocolates. Thank you to Alice for organising the popcorn. The PTA were also pleased to provide selection boxes for the children once again, along with the beautiful Christmas tree.

The Spring term is shaping up to be a busy one. Manaccon School will be hosting the cross-country event on Monday 9th February, with refreshments available throughout the after-school event. Shrove Tuesday pancake racing will take place after school on Thursday 26th February, with free pancakes and toppings for all. On Thursday 5th March, the school will celebrate St Piran's Day alongside the school's 130th anniversary, with a cream tea afternoon and maypole dancing. The local community will be invited in from 3.30pm, so please spread the word. Finally, on Friday 6th March, the PTA will be selling 'Wonka' bars for World Book Day.

# Notices & Reminders

Any third party activity undertaken based upon information displayed in this newsletter is strictly at your own personal risk. Manaccan Primary School is not liable for any losses, injury and/or damages incurred as a result of such third party activity.

**Save Money**  
Potential saving of  
**£495**

## LUNCHTIME FREE MEAL

Healthy, nutritious and freshly made daily

**EVERY** child in Reception Year 1 & 2  
can have a **FREE** school lunch.

Please contact reception  
for details

**FOOD  
FESTIVAL**

By Aspens



**ST KEVERNE TEENAGERS**  
**TABLE TENNIS CLUB**  
SMASH • SPIN • SERVE • HAVE FUN!

LOOKING FOR A FUN AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY?  
Come and hang out, learn new skills, and play **TABLE TENNIS** with friends!

**AGES 10-16**  
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME  
BEGINNERS ENCOURAGED!

**EVERY THURSDAY** STARTING 5TH FEBRUARY  
(TERM TIME) 4 TILL 5:30  
CHURCH HALL, LEMON STREET, ST KEVERNE

**WHAT'S INCLUDED?**

- Table tennis games & coaching
- Tea and toast provided
- Friendly, supportive atmosphere

**IMPORTANT INFO**  
A parent/guardian consent form must be completed before starting.

**CONTACT US**  
Joan Kearsley 01326 280337  
joan@huckleberryhouse.co.uk  
Kelly Pengilly 07506 146 525  
kellypengilly360@gmail.com

**JUST TURN UP & GIVE IT A GO!**  
**WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!**

# Attendance

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

As of 19th August 2024, the government's new National Framework for Penalty Notices for School Absence (including unauthorised holidays) comes into effect.

*\*This affects when penalty notices are issued in Cornwall\**

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions for any reason (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period

A parent will no longer be able to take their child out of school for one week's holiday without a potential penalty notice being issued.

There is an increase in the penalty fine from £60 to £80 if paid in 21 days. If the fine is not paid by the first 21 days, it will rise to £160, if paid within 28 days of being issued.

If a second penalty fine is issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.

If a parent commits a third offence in a 3-year rolling period, the local authority will consider other enforcement options available. This may include prosecution for the offence of failing to ensure your child's regular attendance.

## Reporting Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school due to illness, please inform the office by 9am in the morning. Please let us know why your child is going to be absent and when you expect them to return. You may either phone the office on 01326231431 and leave a message.

Alternatively you can send an email to [hello@manaccan.org](mailto:hello@manaccan.org)

# THIS MONTH'S ATTENDANCE

OUR TARGET IS 96%

**GILLAN: 97.17%**

**ST ANTHONY: 95.64%**

**WHOLE SCHOOL: 96.3%**

## School Start Time

A gentle reminder that as of January, the school starts at 08:45am. The main gate opens at 08:30am each morning, with classrooms opening at 08:35am. The gate is closed at 08:45am. Children who arrive after 08:45am will be marked as late, persistent lateness will be monitored.

# Attendance

## Attendance Ladder



### Attendance Guidance

Here at Manaccan Primary School, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken out of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances. However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Head of School using the school's request form. Please note - at Manaccan Primary School we are not able to authorise holidays as this is not deemed to be an 'exceptional circumstance'.

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days. If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs. Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

# The School Day

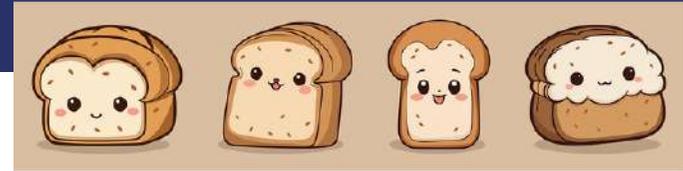


A polite reminder of the small changes to the timings of the school day, that are now in place.

Please see below for a summary of changes:

<b>WHEN?</b>	<b>WHAT?</b>	<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>
07:35 – 08:35	*NEW* Breakfast Club	See separate letter.
08:30 – 08:35	Non-breakfast club attendees - parents/carers and children may wait in the playground for classrooms to open.	
08:35	Classrooms open for children to enter.	Children can arrive any time from 08:35 to 08:45 and will be marked 'present'.
08:45	Registration closes & playground gate closes.	Any child arriving after this to enter through top gate and sign in please.
15:10	Playground gate opens for parents/carers to wait in the playground.	
15:15	Children released to parents/carers from classrooms.	

# Breakfast Club



Following parent/carer feedback, we will be trialling a Breakfast Club during the Spring Term. Please find the details below:

**Days and Times:** Monday to Friday, 7:35am – 8:35am

**Location:** Entrance via the playground gate and into the hall through the hall door

**Cost:** £5.50 per hour session (includes a light breakfast snack such as toast or cereal)

## **Booking:**

- All bookings will be made via ParentPay.
- Booking payment items will be added to your ParentPay account for advance payment please.
- If you experience any issues with your ParentPay account, please contact the school office where Mrs Howard and Mrs Thomas will be happy to support you.
- Bookings for the following week must be made by Wednesdays at 3:00pm.
- Unless there is an unavoidable emergency, no bookings will be accepted after this deadline.

# Safeguarding

If you are concerned about the physical or mental welfare of a child or young person and you wish to speak to someone about it, you can contact the MARU (Multi-agency Referral Unit) on the following numbers:

Monday to Friday, 9am - 6pm: 0300 123 1116  
Evenings & weekends: 01208 251300

Police (Non-emergency): 101

## Internet Safety

If you are searching for support and are worried about this being tracked by an abuser in the home, please use a **private or incognito tab** when browsing as this will not save on your search history.

Domestic Abuse advise - First Light: 0300 777 4777

## Support in your area

You can walk into a local BOOTS pharmacy and ask for 'ANI' ( Say, "I'm asking for Annie") or ask to access their 'Safe Spaces' where you will get support with domestic abuse. There will be a trained member of staff.

You can also download and access the Bright Sky app safely. This will give you access to a directory of support agencies and help lines.

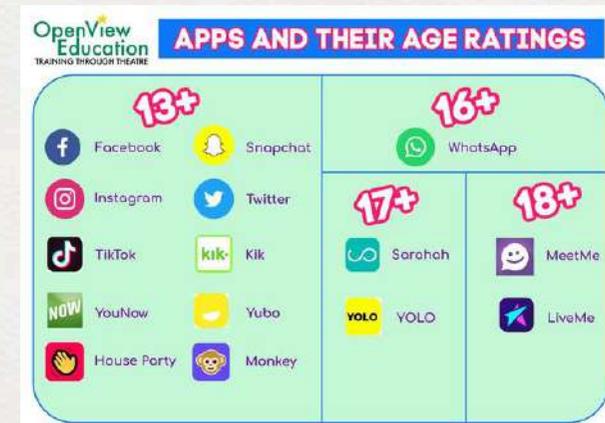


# Safeguarding - E Safety

## Social Media Age Limits:

There has been a rise across the country in young people reporting issues surrounding the use of social media. The NSPCC website has lots of useful information around app and social media use: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

Please note: the age limit for most apps in the UK is 13+. WhatsApp has a minimum age limit of 16.



## E-Safety Useful Links

If you would like any support with e-safety at home, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff. The links below may also be helpful:

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)  
[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)  
[Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#)

## E-Safety In School

Pupils of all ages are taught about how to keep themselves safe online, both in school and at home. At Manacnan Primary School we use the SCARF resource and curriculum to teach PSHE. More information about SCARF can be found here: [SCARF: Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship \(coramlifeeducation.org.uk\)](https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk)



## Staying in Touch



Click  
banner/icons  
for more  
information!

### Notifying change of circumstances

Please tell us of any changes to you or your child's personal details (i.e name, address, telephone numbers, emergency contact details, medical details, email address or relationship change). Certain changes may be updated directly via the Arbor Parent Portal, however if you have any difficulty please email the school office at: [hello@manaccan.org](mailto:hello@manaccan.org) or call 01326 231431.



