



Mawnan CE VA School Newsletter

Using our God-given talents to let our light shine



Our core Christian Values: *Compassion, Hope, Peace, Perseverance, Respect, Trust*

Friday 15th May 2026

Year 6 SATs complete!



Firstly, we want to say how incredibly proud we are of our wonderful Year 6 children, who completed their SATs this week. They approached each day with such positivity, determination and maturity, and really let their lights shine! We know how hard they have worked throughout the year, and it has been lovely to see their resilience, perseverance and support for one another shine through during the week.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff team for the care and encouragement they gave the children each day, from the SATs breakfasts in the mornings to helping everyone feel calm and confident before the tests. Thank you as well to the rest of our school community for being so thoughtful, quiet and considerate during such an important week.

After all of their hard work, Year 6 were treated to a lovely afternoon tea at Sampy's Café on Thursday afternoon.

We are so grateful to Amanda Shepherd for the delicious food and warm welcome, and to our generous PTA for helping to make this special treat possible.

It was such a lovely way to celebrate the end of a big week together. Well done Year 6, you should all be very proud of yourselves.



Non-Uniform Day – Friday 22nd May



On Friday 22nd May, the last day of this half term, we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for [Young Lives vs Cancer](#).

This fundraising idea was suggested by one of our children, whose family is currently being supported by this wonderful charity. Young Lives vs Cancer provides vital care and support to children and young people with cancer, as well as their families, during incredibly difficult times.

Children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for a small donation, we will have a cash donation on the gate. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help support the amazing work this charity does for families across the country.

Term Time Holidays

We know how important family time is, and we understand that holidays can often be more affordable outside of the school holidays. However, attending school every day really does make a difference to children's learning, confidence and friendships.

Even a few days away from school can mean children miss important lessons, discussions and experiences that are difficult to catch up on fully. Learning in school builds step by step, and missing key parts can sometimes leave children feeling less confident when they return.

As a school, we are required to follow national attendance guidance. Holidays during term time are not normally authorised and may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority. We always hope to avoid this and ask families to work with us by planning holidays during the school breaks whenever possible.

Term Dates 2025/2026

Date	Event
25 th – 29 th May	May Half Term
1 st June	Inset Day 3
2 nd June	Return to School
21 st July	Last Day of School
22 nd July	Inset Day 4
23 rd July	Inset Day 5

Term Dates 2026/2027

Cornwall Council

2026/27 School Term Dates for Community and Voluntary-Controlled Schools



September 2026						
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thurs	3	10	17	24		
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

October 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		

November 2026						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30
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	29	

December 2026						
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thurs	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

January 2027						
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	

February 2027						
Mon		1	8	15	22	
Tue		2	9	16	23	
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	

March 2027						
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		

April 2027						
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		
Sun	4	11	18	25		

May 2027						
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	

June 2027						
Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thurs	3	10	17	24		
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

July 2027						
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		

August 2027						
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	

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

AUTUMN TERM (72 days)

3 September - 18 December 2026
(HALF TERM 26 - 30 October 2026)

SPRING TERM (54 days)

4 January - 25 March 2027
(HALF TERM 15 - 19 February 2027)

SUMMER TERM (69 days)

12 April - 23 July 2027
(HALF TERM 31 May - 4 June 2027)

195 days are included on the school calendar. Schools will be open to pupils for 190 days. The five additional days are allotted for In-Service Training (INSET). Schools allocate their own INSET days.

Academy, trust and voluntary-aided schools set their own term dates and INSET days.

INSET Days – Academic Year 2026–2027

Staff training (INSET) days will take place on:

- Thurs 3rd September
- Friday 4th September
- Monday 7th June
- Tuesday 8th June
- Wednesday 9th June

Key Dates to remember 2025/2026

Date	Event
21 st May	Oppie and Topper trip to Pendennis Castle
21 st May	School Census Day
1 st and 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
8 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening
12 th June	Year 3 Elemental Beach Trip
17 th – 19 th June	Year 4 & 5 Camp to BF Adventure
24 th -26 th June	Year 6 Camp to Porthpean
3 rd July	Sports Day
10 th July	Sports Day (reserve day)

Save the Date: PINS

SEN (following on from PINS Project) Coffee morning for new joiners and existing parents will be on Friday 10th July 9-10am.

Top Tips for Helping Neurodivergent Children Navigate the Online World

Neurodivergent children are often drawn to technology, so early, supported experiences online are key. This guide explores how adults can model positive digital behaviour, set age-appropriate limits and create open, judgement-free conversations about online safety. It also highlights the importance of balancing screen use with offline activities to support wellbeing and development.

It also unpacks emerging challenges, including AI-generated content and the blurred lines between real and simulated interactions. With clear, practical advice on boundaries, critical thinking and safe communication, this guide helps educators and families build confidence in supporting neurodivergent children to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

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 HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

- 1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD**

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.
- 2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE**

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.
- 3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS**

Current government guidance suggests no solo screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.
- 4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES**

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.
- 5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and low, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.
- 6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency, involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.
- 8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT**

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.
- 9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS**

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.
- 10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS**

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert
Catrina Lowri is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neuroteachers and the author of "The Other 20 – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) [/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.youtube.com/wake.up.weds)

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MAWNAN SUMMER BASH

CARWINION HOUSE

SATURDAY 18TH JULY

FROM 4PM

**GAMES & PRIZES
CHILDRENS DISCO
BANDS
AFTER PARTY DJ**

**FOOD & DRINKS
COCKTAIL BAR**

RAISING FUNDS FOR MAWNAN SCHOOL

ADULTS £8 KIDS GO FREE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Mawnan Park

Children and parents or carers are invited to join volunteers straight after school on Thursday 21 May to help plant the newly prepared sensory garden beds at Mawnan Park, the village playground next to the bowling club.

This is a lovely opportunity for children and their families to get involved in improving the park, supporting wildlife, and helping create a beautiful sensory space for everyone to enjoy.

If you and your children would like to take part in future planting days, pond digging, or wildlife habitat creation over the coming months, please get in touch with Shiona to be added to the WhatsApp or email distribution lists.

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The plants and compost have been funded through the Mawnan Park Nature Garden crowdfunder and part-funded by Cornwall Council's Cornwall Climate and Nature Fund.

