



# 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

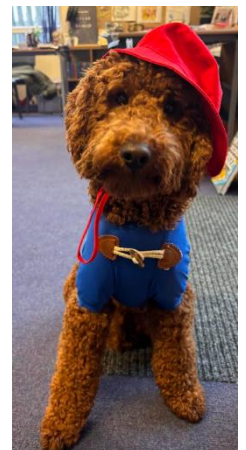


## World Book Day

What a day! It has been a fun-filled packed day learning all about influential characters from the Book series of Little People, Big Dreams and both staff and pupils have had a fantastic day!

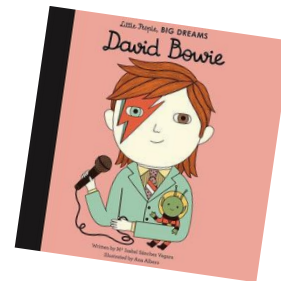
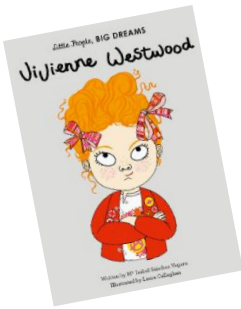
Your children moved around classes:

1. Creating art in dots with Yayoi Kusama
2. Line dancing with Dolly Parton
3. Fashion designing with Vivienne Westwood
4. Song writing with David Bowie and Freddie Mercury
5. Dinosaur excavating with Mary Anning
6. Learning about First Aid with Florence Nightingale
7. Solving a Murder Mystery (Traitor style) with Agatha Christie



Our other influential people were David Attenborough, Houdini, Amelia Earhart, Aryton Senna, Vincent Van Gogh, Coco Chanel, Earnest Shackleton and Meghan Rapinoe.





With their reading partners the children took part in World Book Day Orienteering this afternoon, finding the staff characters at certain posts and finding out facts about them.



## Books for the Mawnan School Reading Barn



£880 raised

£1K goal · 23 donations



Share

Donate now

Thank you so much your kind donations to our Book for Barn Go Fund Me campaign. We are delighted to have raised £880 so far, which is incredibly close to our target of £1,000. We have one more week to go until our campaign ends. Thank you for your support.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

We have our second round of parent teacher meetings for this academic year planned for the week beginning Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

You will receive a Google form shortly to sign up for a meeting at a time that suits you. This dedicated week in our school calendar allows us to cancel all professional meetings and personal plans to ensure that we can meet with each and every one of you. It is crucial that you sign up for a meeting, as we are eager to discuss your child's progress with you. I kindly request that you arrive promptly for your scheduled meeting, as any lateness can have an impact on other parents.

**Dance club (Monday and Tuesday) Construction club and Sketching club will be cancelled on the week commencing March 24<sup>th</sup>.** This is because the staff running these clubs will be delivering the Parent Teacher Meetings. Clubs will resume as normal the following week.

All other clubs will run as normal.

## Cross Country

Congratulations to Robert and Matthew for competing for Mawnan school at Polwhele house cross country meet on Saturday. They ran extremely well against schools from the whole county and came in at 16th and 21st place. Next year we plan to take a big team to this brilliant event!



## Mother's Day Breakfast

This special event is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as a school community and celebrate the incredible mothers and mother figures in our students' lives. We warmly invite you to join us on Friday 28th March from 7:45am in the school hall. It promises to be a delightful morning filled with love, laughter, and delicious food (thanks to Jacky). A google form will be emailed shortly.



# Statutory Test Dates for 2024-2025

## Key stage 2 tests

The statutory [key stage 2 tests](#) are timetabled from Monday 12 May to Thursday 15 May 2025:

Date	Activity
Monday 12 May 2025	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 13 May 2025	English reading
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Mathematics papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15 May 2025	Mathematics paper 3

**Phonics Screening Check for Year 1** children Year 1 children will complete their phonics screening check in the week beginning Monday 9th June 2025.

**Multiplication tables check (MTC) for Year 4** children Year 4 children will complete the multiplication check during the week commencing Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of regular attendance, particularly during the statutory testing period. Therefore, I kindly request that you refrain from booking any holidays or nonessential activities during term time to ensure that your child is able to participate fully in their learning.

# 10 Top Tips for Parents & Educators

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

It's World Book Day this week, a perfect time to celebrate the joy of reading and explore how technology can support literacy. The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy.

To help struggling readers, many digital platforms offer tools that enhance readability by making text more accessible and engaging. We've created this week's free guide – also available in podcast format – offering parents and educators ten top tips on how they can help young readers engage in text and foster a love for reading.

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. Formery discovered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](#).

### 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- #### 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they read help on occasion, digital reading peers can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties and can even be used to ensure if they're part of their routine learning process. Preparing reading and practice on a tablet or laptop can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- #### 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- #### 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- #### 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- #### 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve story-telling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – involving children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- #### 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- #### 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator reading aloud, improving fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- #### 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- #### 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- #### 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media platforms include reviews and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can result in a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

**Meet Our Expert**  
 Cathryn Ison is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, [Neuroteachers](#), which offers a library of short, easy-to-use educational videos for educators. Cathryn also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

**WakeUpWednesday**  
 The National College

[X @wake\\_up\\_weds](#)
[f /www.thenationalcollege](#)
[@wakeup.wednesday](#)
[@wakeup.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.03.2025



Cornwall  
Wildlife Trust



Cornwall Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust

The Mental Health Support Team warmly  
invite you to attend...

Egg Hunt →

# Wild Wellbeing



During the Easter holidays MHST, in collaboration with Natural England, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and ..., would like you to join us on a FREE Wild Wellbeing session at various locations across Cornwall.

This is for parents and their primary aged children (5-11) in Cornwall to help understand and support emotional and mental wellbeing.

Please book EACH child on to a session below:

Morning and afternoon sessions available:

Tuesday 8 April 2025 at Golitha Falls

Thursday 10 April at Tehidy Woods

Tuesday 15 April at The Dipping Pond, Gossmoor

Tuesday 15 April at Widemouth Bay, Bude

Each session will last approx. 2 hours

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:

<https://forms.office.com/e/1c>

[VmDjXF5E](https://forms.office.com/e/1c)



Please note: Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. If you are allocated a place and cannot attend, please let us know so we can allocate your space to someone else

Follow us on Facebook for updates and upcoming events:  
[Cornwall Mental Health Support Team \(MHST\)](#)

