

THE MAWNAN LIGHT

Friday 18th September 2026



COMPASSION • HOPE • PEACE • PERSEVERANCE • RESPECT • TRUST

Our second week back at school has been nothing short of phenomenal. The children have embraced their learning with enthusiasm and are already deeply engaged in their new learning expeditions. It has been wonderful to see their excitement, curiosity and eagerness.

Our youngest children have settled brilliantly into school life and are becoming increasingly confident with their new routines. Across the school, the children have returned with such positive attitudes that the whole school feels calm, purposeful and happy.

This week, we have begun our Reading Partners programme. Every child in school is paired with another pupil, and on Friday mornings they meet to share and enjoy a book together. It is a very special part of school life: it develops confidence and a love of reading while strengthening the wonderful relationships between children of different ages.

Miss Pridmore

Parent Governor Election

Mawnan School is supported by a committed governing body, which plays a vital role in overseeing the school's long term strategic direction, ethos and vision.

Governors are volunteers who act as 'critical friends' to the school's leadership team, making sure all pupils access education, opportunities and experiences of the highest possible quality.

Here's a snapshot of what we do:

- hold the school's leaders to account by asking questions and discussing educational performance
- ensure the curriculum is broad and ambitious
- help with staff recruitment
- approve school policies
- oversee the school's financial performance, making sure our budget is well spent.

As you can imagine, this is a particularly rewarding role at a school like Mawnan, where governors get to work with the school community to help all our children thrive.

Our board is made up of seven foundation governors, two staff governors, one local authority governor and two parent governors, who are elected by parents. All are volunteers, who want to see Mawnan School continue to be the very best it can be.

Both parent governor roles are currently vacant, and we are looking for candidates to stand for election to fill both vacancies. Only parents with children already at the school can stand, and only parents with children already at the school can vote for their preferred candidates.

No special qualifications are required, nor do you need a background in education. We welcome parents with a broad range of professional experiences and governance training is provided. We meet twice a term, usually always on a Monday evening.

Please do get in touch to ask for more information on what it involves here at Mawnan.

You can email me at rstevenson@mawnanschool.com or catch me at the school gates. I am Tilly and William's mum from Y6 - and I have a black labrador called Freddie whom a lot of children like to pat!

A Parent Governor Vacancy - Nomination Google Form will be sent out on Monday and nominations need to be sent to Mrs Cattle by the end of next week, 25 September.

Rachel Stevenson

Chair of Governors

A Musical Treat

Next Friday, 25 September at 2:30 pm, we are looking forward to a very special musical treat when we will be entertained by the Spectrum Music Concert Wind Band from South Devon.

We would love to extend the invitation to all our families. If the weather is kind, the concert will take place outside; if not, we will gather in the school hall.

Please come and join us at 2:30 pm if you would like to enjoy an afternoon of wonderful woodwind music with the children. This will be instead of celebration assembly.



Bikes and Scooters

We are delighted that so many children are choosing to cycle or scoot to school. It is a wonderful way to travel actively and helps children arrive ready for the day.

For everyone's safety, please ensure that children dismount from their bikes and scooters before coming through the school gates and walk them carefully onto the school site.

If your child's bike or scooter is left at school after school hours, please make sure it is securely locked. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the security of bikes or scooters left unattended on the school premises.

Music at Mawnan

You may remember that our music teacher, Mr Hatherly, left us at the end of last term to take up a new post. We wish him every success in his new role.

We are delighted to welcome **Mr Pert**, our new guitar teacher, and **Mrs Blake**, our new piano and keyboard teacher. Mrs Blake will also be teaching the weekly music lessons for Pico, Fusion and Dart classes on Wednesday afternoons.

We are very pleased to welcome them both to the Mawnan community and look forward to hearing plenty of wonderful music across the school.

School Jobs

This week, our Key Stage 2 children applied for the school jobs they would like to undertake this year. We are delighted that so many children have put themselves forward for roles through which they can contribute to the development and everyday running of our school.

Taking on these responsibilities gives children a meaningful voice in school life and helps them develop confidence, leadership, teamwork and a sense of service to others. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and their desire to make a positive difference to our school community.

Next week, we will also be holding our Navigator elections.

THE NAVIGATORS

BE THE VOICE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The Navigators is our School Council. We give students a real opportunity to share ideas, solve problems and help make our school the best it can be.

Together, we can build a better school for everyone.

WHY JOIN THE NAVIGATORS?

- HAVE A VOICE**
Make sure every student's ideas and opinions are heard.
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
Turn ideas into real changes and improvements.
- WORK AS A TEAM**
Collaborate with other students, teachers and leaders.
- BUILD SKILLS**
Grow confidence, leadership, communication and teamwork.
- MEET NEW PEOPLE**
Make friends and connect with students across year groups.
- CARE FOR OUR SCHOOL**
Help create a happy, inclusive and welcoming school.

WHAT COULD YOU WORK ON?

- Our school environment
- Learning & resources
- Student wellbeing
- School events & celebrations
- Food & lunchtime
- Clubs & activities
- Sustainability
- And lots more!

YOU CHOOSE WHAT MATTERS!

FOR PARENTS

The Navigators helps children develop essential life skills while giving them a meaningful way to contribute to school life.

- Encourages confidence and independence
- Develops leadership and communication
- Builds a sense of responsibility and pride
- Strengthens the home-school partnership

We value parent support! Talk to your child about their ideas and encourage them to put themselves forward.

READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Put your name forward for The Navigators!
Applications open:
Speak to your teacher for more information.

TOGETHER, WE CAN NAVIGATE TOWARDS A BETTER SCHOOL FOR EVERYONE.

Your voice matters!

School Admissions for September 2027

Although the new academic year has only just begun, applications are now open for children starting primary school and for Year 6 pupils transferring to secondary school in September 2027.

- The deadline for **secondary school applications is 31 October 2026.**
- The deadline for **primary school applications is 15 January 2027.**

Applications should be made online through [Cornwall School Admissions](https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions).

We know that choosing and applying for a school can feel like a significant decision. If you have any questions or would like support with the application process, please come and speak to us. We are always happy to help.



Together 
for Families

The
deadline for
applications is
**15 January
2027**

Do you have a
child born **between
1 September 2022
and 31 August 2023?**

If so, you will need to apply
for a place in a reception
class in September 2027 for
your child by the deadline
of **15 January 2027.**



Please note: you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



scan me



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www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions

RECEPTION 2027 SCHOOL TOURS

Do you have a child who is due to start school in September 2027?
We'd love to meet you and show you around our lovely school.



Tuesday 22 September 2026
9:30–10:30am

Monday 5 October 2026
1:30–2:30pm

Tuesday 20 October 2026
9:30–10:30am

Monday 9 November 2026
1:30–2:30pm

Tuesday 24 November 2026
11:00am–12:00pm

Monday 7 December 2026
1:30–2:30pm



Please phone

01326 250660

to book your place on one of our school tours.

*We'd love to meet you
and your family!*



Mawnan CE VA Primary School

After-School Wraparound Childcare

Our after-school wraparound childcare provides a friendly, relaxed and safe environment for children at the end of the school day. Children can enjoy a range of activities, spend time with friends and receive a light snack, while parents benefit from flexible, reliable childcare.

The club runs Monday to Thursday:

3:15–4:15pm — £6

3:15–5:30pm — £12

Places should be booked and paid for in advance through ParentPay. If your child is booked into wraparound until 5:30pm and chooses to attend one of our enrichment clubs, you will not need to pay separately for the enrichment club, with the exception of skateboarding.

Using our wraparound provision not only supports busy families but also helps us to maintain and develop this valuable service for the school community. We would love to welcome more children!

Run Mawnan – Sunday 20 September 2026

Get your running shoes—and perhaps your fancy dress—ready for **Run Mawnan!** Whether you are taking part, cheering from the sidelines or simply coming along to enjoy the atmosphere, it promises to be a brilliant community event.

Alongside the running, there will be plenty of family fun, including a **BBQ, cakes, refreshments, games stalls and a tombola**, plus a prize for the best fancy dress!

 **Medals and goody bags are guaranteed for everyone who registers online by Sunday 13 September.**

You can enter on the day, but medals and goody bags cannot be guaranteed.

 [Find out more and register for Run Mawnan](#)

Attendance and Leave During Term Time

Term-time leave can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Under the national framework, schools must consider requesting a penalty notice when a child has 10 unauthorised sessions—usually five school days—within a rolling period of 10 school weeks. The sessions may include unauthorised leave, other unauthorised absence or late arrival after registration has closed.

A first penalty notice is £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. A second notice for the same child within three years is charged at £160, with no reduced rate. A third offence within three years may lead to prosecution rather than a further penalty notice.

Attendance information is shared daily with the Department for Education and the local authority. This helps schools and services identify patterns, offer support and make sure children receive their entitlement to education.

Our priority is always to work with families so that children can attend regularly and thrive. Every school day matters.

Term Dates

Information Classification: PUBLIC

Cornwall Council

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



CORNWALL COUNCIL
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Together for Families

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.

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	

Important Dates

MONTH	KEY DATES
September 2026	Thu 3 and Fri 4 – INSET days Mon 7 – Children return
October 2026	Tues – Harvest Service at St Michael's Church Mon 26–Fri 30 – Half-term holiday
November 2026	Week beginning Mon 16 – Parent–teacher meetings
December 2026	Thu 3 – Christingle Service at St Michael's Church Tue 15 – Candlelit Carols for KS2 at St Mawnan Church Fri 18 – Last day of autumn term
January 2027	Mon 4 – Children return
February 2027	Mon 15–Fri 19 – Half-term holiday
March 2027	Week beginning Mon 15 – Parent–teacher meetings Tue 23 School Eucharist at St Michael's Church Thu 25 – Last day of spring term
April 2027	Mon 12 – Children return
May 2027	Mon 3 – Bank holiday; school closed Mon 10–Thu 13 – KS2 SATs Mon 31 May–Fri 4 Jun – Half-term holiday
June 2027	Mon 7–Wed 9 – INSET days Thu 10 – Children return Mon 7–Fri 18 – Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check window Week beginning Mon 14 – Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
July 2027	Fri 9 – Sports Day Fri 23 – Last day of academic year

What Parents and Educators Need to Know about Character.AI

Character.AI lets users create and chat with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional favourites, or romantic partners. While these conversations can feel engaging and supportive, their convincing human-like responses can blur important boundaries. Young people may encounter inappropriate content, misinformation and privacy risks, or begin forming an unhealthy emotional attachment to an AI companion.

For parents and educators, understanding these risks can make conversations about AI companionship more constructive. This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores warning signs such as secretive or excessive use and withdrawal from real-world activities, while offering practical advice on checking age restrictions, protecting personal information, questioning chatbot advice, and responding appropriately when safeguarding concerns arise.

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when it all sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could unintentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, selling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid blaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Review use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process: educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 8000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday The National College