



Mawnan CE VA School Newsletter

Using our God-given talents to let our light shine

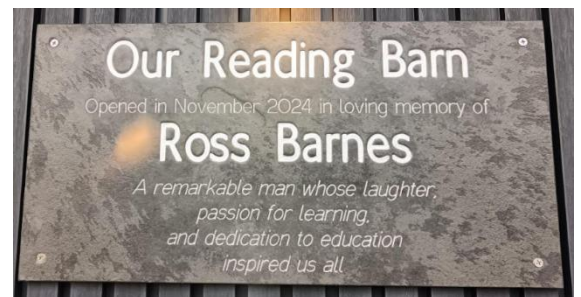


Our core Christian Values: *Compassion, Hope, Peace, Perseverance, Respect, Trust*

Friday 29th November 2024

Our Reading Barn

It is with great pleasure and a sense of achievement that I share with you the momentous occasion we celebrated this morning: the official opening of our Reading Barn!



Orson undertook the significant responsibility of cutting the ribbon and unveiling our memorial plaque.



The realisation of this project has been a testament to the collaborative spirit that defines our school community. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to several individuals whose dedication and expertise have been invaluable.

Zinnia's design flair and vision were pivotal in determining the barn's location and overall aesthetic. Her talents extended to the beautifully landscaped paths and the charming raised bed that now complements the barn's surroundings.

Our Chair of Governors, Rachel, deserves recognition for navigating the complexities of the planning application process, ensuring that our vision could become a reality. I am deeply appreciative of the Mawnan Governors for their unwavering support and their judicious allocation of school funds to bring this project to fruition.

The tireless efforts of Mick, our exceptional caretaker, cannot be overstated. His support throughout the entire process, particularly his adept project management over the summer, has been instrumental in transforming our vision into reality.

The Mawnan PTA has once again demonstrated their commitment to enhancing our children's educational experience. Their fundraising efforts augmented by generous community donations from the Red Lion Quiz and Falmouth Fire Brigade have provided us with beautiful library shelves.

Miss Prosser's passion for literature has been a driving force behind this project. Her work in championing reading throughout the school, crafting our reading curriculum, and collaborating with the library service to transition our book collection to its new home has been exemplary.

Finally, I must acknowledge the true inspiration behind this endeavour: our amazing children. Their enthusiasm for reading has been the catalyst for this project and continues to motivate us in our educational mission.

The Reading Barn stands not only as a testament to our collective efforts but also as a poignant memorial to a beloved teacher, colleague, and friend. It embodies the spirit of community, learning, and remembrance that is so central to our school's ethos.



Memory Day

Today in memory of Mr. B we engaged in the outdoor activities and bushcraft learning which he so dearly cherished.

A local company, Footsteps of Discovery gave us their hands-on experience, enabling our children to connect with nature, learn valuable skills, light fires and create lasting memories. It has been a really fun filled, memorable day.







Touch Rugby League



Our Touch Rugby Team once again played extremely well, their line positioning was exemplary, their defense was great and their rugby skills really did shine through. The improvement they have made over the last three weeks is admirable and they should be very proud of finishing second! Well done Team Mawnan.

Year 5 & 6 Netball Peninsula Final

After recently winning the Peninsula Qualifier our Netball team went back to Penryn to play against 8 other schools from the Peninsula. They won 5 games, lost 2 and drew 1 which put them in a fantastic third final position. They improved with every game and really did themselves proud. Well done girls!

3rd overall! Beautiful playing, the organiser also commented on what a great team they were. Huge thanks to Gill for her awesome coaching!



Coats

With the weather turning colder, I kindly request that you ensure your child has a warm coat in school. We want to make sure that our students are comfortable and protected from the elements during these winter months.

Christmas Dinner 2024

Our school Christmas Dinner will be served on **Wednesday, 18th December 2023**. This meal is available to book now via ParentPay. Please book at your earliest convenience, so that the kitchen knows how many children to cater for.

PTA Movie Night

We are pleased to share that we made a profit of **£558.49** from movie night!

A huge thank you to all the school staff and parents who helped with this event. We would also like to express our gratitude to Asda Falmouth for their generous donation of the majority of the food.

As always, the kids were fantastic and made the most of it, with beanbags and the cosiest of onesies! A fun evening all around.

Mawnan School T towels

It's that time of year! We have our fabulous School T towel for sale and various other personalised merchandise to buy. .

To give everyone a little more time to buy the school merch (kids self-drawn paper dolls tea towels, personalised mugs, magnets..), the deadline for ordering has been extended to midnight on **Sunday, December 1st!**

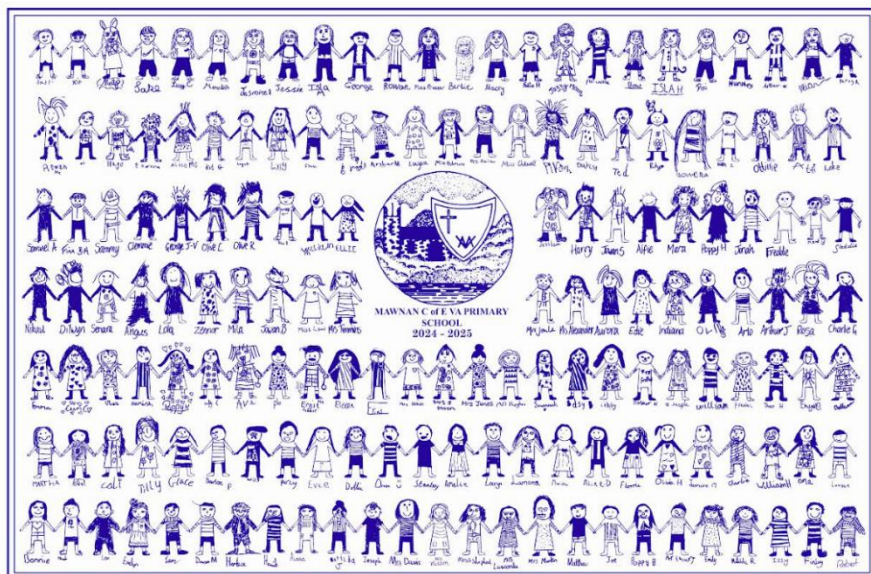
You can order via this form: <https://forms.gle/Gr3ALZ6uvWAa9hyp6>

Payment: Cash or card will be accepted upon collection in

December. These are easy fun xmas gifts!! 🎁

If your child was absent from school when they drew their portraits another child will have drawn them – all pupils are on the towel.

We also have Bertie bookmarks in the office for sale at 50p each.



December is here...almost!

As we enter the final month of the year, I am delighted to share with you the exciting plans we have in store for the upcoming festive season. Christmas is a time of joy, compassion, and togetherness, and here at Mawnan School, we wholeheartedly embrace these values.

Next week...

Christingle and Christingle Candles

On **Thursday 5th December**, we have the much-loved tradition of Christingle, a beautiful service that marks the beginning of the Christmas season. The children will be gifted with their own Christingles and will learn about the significance of each element. It is a traditional event that brings our school community together.



This week we have sent home the Christingle candle money boxes to raise funds for the Children's Society. Please could you kindly return the money boxes to school by **Tuesday 3rd December**, as we will be taking them to the church for our Christingle service on Thursday 5th December. Please note that there is one money box per family, which will be given to the oldest child.

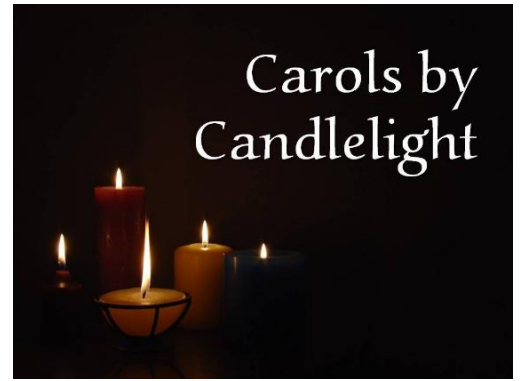
The following week...

KS2 Music Concert

On **Monday 9th December** we will be hosting music concert featuring our amazing music teacher, Mr. Hatherly, and our The talented Key Stage 2 musicians and singers. The concert will take place in the afternoon at 2:00pm. Families are welcome to attend and enjoy the wonderful performances.

Key Stage 2 Candlelit Carols

We would like to inform you that on the evening of **Thursday 12th December**, Key Stage 2 will be performing their annual carol service at St Mawnan Church (old church). This beautiful candlelit service will commence at 6pm, and we kindly request that the children arrive from 5:45pm wearing their Christmas Jumpers. Due to limited capacity, this event is exclusively for Key Stage 2 families (Pico, Fusion, and Dart), with a maximum of two tickets per family (these have been sent home with your KS2 children today). We apologise for the need to limit tickets, but the size of the church and the large cohorts in Key Stage 2 necessitate this measure. We appreciate your understanding. To mitigate parking issues, we strongly recommend lift sharing, as parking at the church is extremely limited.



The final week...

Oppie and Topper Class Nativity

I am delighted to announce that free tickets for our upcoming Christmas performances will be sent home next week. The performances will take place on **Tuesday 17th December at 2pm** and **Wednesday 18th December at 6pm**. Please note that tickets are limited to two tickets per show, per family, for the children in Oppie and Topper Class.



If you would like to swap your afternoon or evening tickets with another family, please liaise directly with them. Additionally, if you find yourself with unwanted tickets, we kindly request that you return them to the School office, as they will be offered to others, such as grandparents. We will inform you if any spare tickets become available.




Pre-school aged children and siblings at secondary school will need a ticket.

For siblings in Key Stage 2, there will be an opportunity to see the Christmas Nativity on the afternoon of Monday 16th December. During the 6pm performance on Wednesday 13th, a film will be shown in one of the classrooms specifically for siblings of the children performing.



Christmas Event Calendar

| Date | Event | What you need to know |
|--|--|---|
| Thursday 5th December | Christingle Services  | This service will be happening at St Michael's Church at 9:30am Please bring in your Christingle candle moneyboxes by Tuesday 3rd. All of the money raised goes to the Children's Society. |
| Friday 12th December | Christmas Jumper Day  | We would like the children to come into school wearing their Christmas jumpers instead of their Mawnan jumper. We will not be asking for donations. |
| Thursday 12th December | Key Stage 2 Candlelit Carols at St Mawnan Church (old church). | This candlelit service will start at 6pm and arrival will be from 5:45pm. We would like the children to wear their school uniform. Due to limited capacity, this event is exclusively for Key Stage 2 families (Pico, Fusion, and Dart), with a maximum of two tickets per family. We strongly recommend lift sharing as the parking at the Church is <u>very</u> limited. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Friday 13th December</p> | <p>Secret Santa</p>  | <p>This PTA event will be an opportunity for the children to buy preloved gifts for their families. The gifts will be wrapped and labelled by our team of volunteers.</p> <p>Thank you all for your wonderful donations.</p> <p>The children will need to bring in a bag and some money (ideally pound coins).</p> |
| <p>Monday 16th December</p> | <p>Nativity dress rehearsal for KS2</p> | <p>Please see the information above about tickets.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday 17th December</p> | <p>Oppie and Topper Nativity at 2pm</p> | |
| <p>Wednesday 18th December</p> | <p>Oppie and Topper Nativity at 6pm</p> | |
| <p>Wednesday 18th December</p> | <p>Christmas Dinner</p>  | <p>You can view the menu and book this on parent pay now.</p> |
| <p>Friday 20th December</p> |  | <p>For our last day of term, we would like all of the children to come into school in their sparkliest clothes (non-uniform).</p> <p>We will also be having our class parties on this day and a special visitor will be coming to join us!</p> |

School Vacancies

We are currently advertising for a Teaching Assistant, more details can be found here:

https://www.mawnanschool.com/web/teaching_assistant_november_2024/700731

Wraparound

We still haven't had any interest in these positions. Please could you share these links with anyone who you think might be interested in working with our wonderful children.

https://www.mawnanschool.com/web/wraparound_playleader_/696866

https://www.mawnanschool.com/web/wraparound_playworker/696867

Safety at the end of the day

I would like to remind all parents and guardians to prioritize the safety of our students. Please refrain from allowing your children to run in between parked cars, behind the bushes near the cars, or climb on the school wall. Thank you for your support with this.



Recent user numbers for the messaging app Snapchat currently sit at approximately 800 million and figures from data gathering company Statista indicate that roughly 20% of those users are under 18. That's a lot of young people participating in this sprawling social media platform, many of whom are potentially unaware of the associated risks.

That's why we're releasing this week's guide – also available in podcast format for those who want to listen on the go. It can be tricky to know how to

safeguard younger users on Snapchat but we aim to show you how, while also giving you in-depth knowledge of the online safety risks posed by this platform.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97 DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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