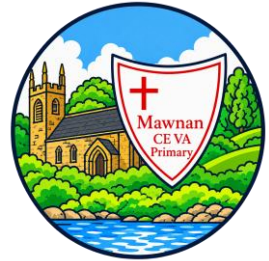


THE MAWNAN LIGHT

Friday 25th September 2026



COMPASSION • HOPE • PEACE • PERSEVERANCE • RESPECT • TRUST

Come along to our PTA AGM

Our PTA is a small but wonderfully committed group of parents and teachers who do so much for the children at Mawnan. They organise fantastic events and special treats, while also raising money for special events and educational resources that benefit the whole school.

They would love to welcome some new members! The AGM is a chance to meet the team, hear about what they do and find out how you could get involved. Whether you can offer a little time or would like to take on a bigger role, your support would be greatly appreciated.

We hope to see you there!

JOIN US FOR OUR

PTA AGM

MEETING

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

October 8, 2026

3.30PM IN SCHOOL (ZEST Old Library)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PARENTS, TEACHERS FRIENDS, FAMILY COMMUNITY MEMBERS	We need HELPERS!
--	-------------------------

COME LEARN ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF JOINING
AND HOW YOU CAN MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE!

We ❤️ Mawnan School!!

Harvest Service

On Tuesday 6 October, we will hold our Harvest Service with Rev. Johanna Clare at St Michael's Church. The service begins at 9:30am, and we will leave school at approximately 9:15am to walk there together.

We would be grateful if each child could bring a harvest donation for the Trussell Trust food bank to take to church on the day. The items most needed are:

- Long-life semi-skimmed milk
- Tinned meat, such as ham, and tinned tuna
- Tinned vegetables, such as peas and carrots
- Tinned meat and vegetable soups
- Tinned fruit and tinned rice pudding
- Weetabix
- Small bottles of squash
- Small jars of coffee
- Bags of sugar
- Toilet rolls, washing-up liquid and deodorant

Every donation will help a local family experiencing hardship. Harvest is also a lovely opportunity for our children to think about how we can care for others in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

Safety at the end of the school day

It's lovely to see families catching up at the end of the day. While you're on the school site, please keep a close eye on your children so that everyone can leave safely.

Please remind children to walk their bikes and scooters across the carpark. We also ask that children stay away from parked vehicles, the bushes and trees, and the school wall.

Thank you for helping us keep home time safe and relaxed for everyone.

Netball

On Wednesday, our Netball team headed to Penryn College for their first Penryn Partnership Netball League games of the season.

They got off to a fantastic start, winning their first game 11–2 against Constantine! They then played a closely matched game against Kennall Vale, finishing with an exciting 4–4 draw.

A fantastic performance from the team, showing great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship. Well done, everyone!



Year 6 Surf Trip!

On Monday, our Year 6 pupils had such a fantastic day on their surf trip! The conditions were perfect, with offshore winds, mid-tide and beautiful 2ft waves — ideal for getting out on the water!

Miss Prosser was so impressed with their fantastic teamwork. There was lots of cheering each other on, encouraging one another and celebrating every success. Everyone managed to get to their knees, with some even making it all the way to standing!

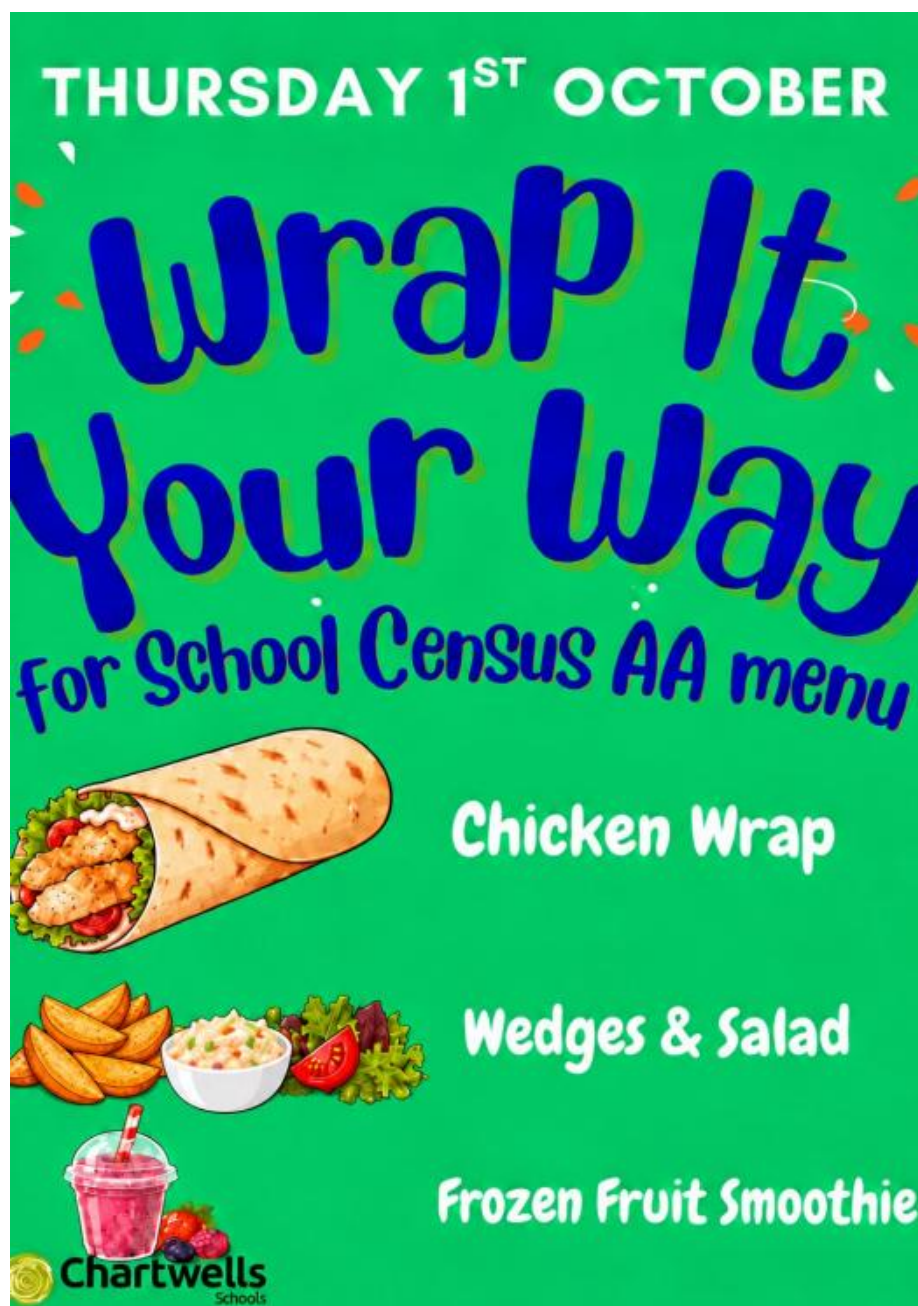
Well done, Year 6 — what a brilliant day!



We have a favour.....! School meals on Census Day

On Thursday 1 October, schools across England will complete the autumn school census. As part of this, we record how many children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have a school lunch that day. This number helps determine the funding we receive to provide universal infant free school meals throughout the year.

If your child is entitled to a **universal infant free school meal or a free school meal**, we would be grateful if you could choose a school lunch for them on Census Day. It helps us record meal take-up accurately and supports our school meals provision. Thank you for your support!



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.



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JH51096185 06/26

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

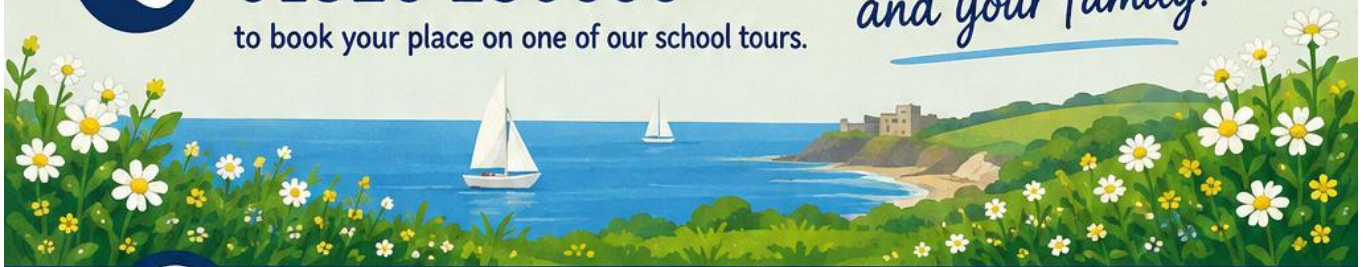


Please phone

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!

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

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

Inset Day 1 – 3rd September 2026

Inset Day 2 – 4th September 2026

Inset Day 3 – 7th June 2027

Inset Day 4 – 8th June 2027

Inset Day 5 – 9th June 2027

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	Fri 6 th – Flu Immunisations Thurs 12 th – Individual School Photos 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 & Y6 leaver's service

Top Tips for Promoting a Love of Early Writing

The ability to write – both to communicate information and express feelings and ideas – is a vital life skill. From making those first experimental marks on paper to their pride in forming letters and words that can be recognised by others – and, even more thrillingly, be used to convey *meaning* – seeing young children discover the art of writing is a joyous experience.

The journey isn't always an easy one, however, so it's important that we provide little ones with a suitable springboard from which to take their first literary leaps. Showing children the real-world advantages of writing, making sure crayons and paper are always available for them, and encouraging their efforts are among our expert's tips for promoting an early affinity with writing.

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 PROMOTING A LOVE OF EARLY WRITING

Mastering writing skills at an early age can result in better literacy and communication capabilities, giving children improved prospects in their later education and career. To write meaningfully requires motivation, inspiration and fine motor skills. Children gradually come to understand that writing has meaning and that the words they write can be read back again.

- 1 MODEL WRITING HABITS**
Children thrive on copying the behaviours of the adults they observe around them, so modelling writing habits to children is vital – as is helping them to grasp that writing has meaning. As many adults now write with digital tools instead of pen and paper, we'd recommend using obvious 'writing' actions so that children are less likely to misinterpret what you're doing as browsing the internet or checking your social media.
- 2 WRITE FOR A REAL PURPOSE**
Adults can promote writing by involving children in its real-life purposes, such as shopping lists or letters and cards to friends and relatives. This is especially helpful before children enter the final year of the Foundation Stage, when writing becomes more structured and less spontaneous. Children increasingly use digital technology for their early writings, so it's important to recognise and value all the forms that writing might take for children at home.
- 3 CREATE THE 'WRITE' ENVIRONMENT**
Where possible, providing accessible opportunities to write is beneficial for children who want to engage independently. It can help children to be fully immersed in the experience, aiding their concentration and letting them build up the amount of time they're able to focus. You could keep paper, clipboards and a range of writing tools near where children play, for example. They could also take these outside. Different materials will pique interest.
- 4 UTILISE THEIR INTERESTS**
To inspire children to write and keep them motivated, following opportunities linked to their interests and play is important. They could write invitations for a tea party or a sign for a make-believe shop, for instance, or make a 'lost and found' poster for a character in a story. These opportunities can be created organically by giving children access to a variety of writing tools in the environment.
- 5 CONSIDER THE PROCESS**
In terms of development, children generally learn to speak first, then build their vocabulary and develop the fine motor coordination they need to manipulate a writing instrument. All these stages are important and should be encouraged. As they grow older, the alphabet can be introduced, and you can support them to make links between the spoken language and written words.
- 6 FOCUS ON FINE MOTOR SKILLS**
Before learning to form letters, children will make marks as they learn how to hold instruments like pencils or crayons. In doing this, they'll develop the dexterity and movement in their fingers that's needed for writing. You can support this by engaging in play which boosts these skills – such as threading beads, finger painting and using playdough. Giving them broader implements to hold (chunky crayons, for example) will also help.
- 7 PHASE IN PHONICS**
Using phonics builds the knowledge of sounds and the skill of using letters. For young children to be able to apply what they've learned in their writing, it's important that they get lots of opportunities to playfully explore the sounds that make up words. Moving to more formal correspondences and letter identification too early can be counterproductive. Nannies should be able to advise parents on the right time to introduce this.
- 8 BUILD A POSITIVE MINDSET**
In developing early writing skills, children engage in mark making, which might not accurately represent known letters and can include symbols and pictures. Praising a child's effort here promotes a positive mindset around writing; they're demonstrating that they understand it has a purpose and meaning. Ask them to share what they've written (they'll normally translate it for you) and try to avoid connecting them too much in that specific moment.
- 9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS**
While writing and early mark making can be hugely enjoyable, children can also sometimes struggle to sit for lengthy periods of time or engage with writing fully. Regular intervals are encouraged: even making some marks or writing a few words (such as their name) is better than none. You could also factor in some movement breaks. Not forcing children to write in a particular way is key to ensuring they don't become disengaged.
- 10 LINK WRITING TO READING**
As children get older, you can (while reading a story, for example) highlight particular sounds in words – perhaps starting with familiar ones like the letters in their names. You can also show the direction you're reading in (left to right in English; right to left in Arabic and so on), which will help raise their awareness. Highlighting who the author is may also encourage children to begin writing their own stories.

Meet Our Expert
Kara Kiernan has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYF's practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/love-of-early-writing

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