

08/06/23

# NANPEAN SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER



### ATTENDANCE

*Due to technical issues this week, we are unfortunately unable to update attendance. We will bring you up to date with this as soon as we are able to.*

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wednesday 14th June - Cricket Tournament at Roche CC.
- Thursday 22nd June - Clay Schools Athletics Event at Brannel
- Wednesday 28th June - Family Worker Drop in Session - More details elsewhere on this Newsletter
- Friday 7th July - 'Wear Green for 'The Cove' - More information elsewhere on this Newsletter.
- Friday 7th July - Sports Day - More details to follow.
- Wednesday 12th July - Summer Fair 1:15pm - 3:10pm.
- Wednesday 19th July - Parents Forum - 9am.
- Monday 24th July - Transition Day.
- Tuesday 25th July - Last day of the Summer Term.
- Wednesday 26th July - Summer Holidays begin.

### HEAD TEACHER WEEKLY UPDATE

I hope that you all enjoyed the half term week and the lovely weather that we have experienced over half term last week and that has continued this week. It was lovely to be outside frequently and the children have all enjoyed talking to me about things they have been doing outdoors, while I also saw some children from school at the beach over half term. Hopefully this weather continues throughout June, July and especially August when it is the Summer Holiday.

This week, it was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Monday and to hear about their week off and see them enjoying playing outside with friends. As always after a week off, the day just flew by!

On Monday, I also met our Chair of Governors, Mark Tucker. We had a productive meeting as we usually do every few weeks to discuss things related to Nanpean School.

On Tuesday, I did assembly about World Ocean Day, which is this Thursday as it is always the 8th June every year. Children learnt about the different Oceans and also about the need to protect our Oceans in relation to how they help on Planet Earth.

The highlight of my week came on Tuesday evening while attending the poetry festival for the local cluster schools held at Brannel School. There is a report and photo elsewhere on the Newsletter but I was especially impressed with the 5 children who attended. Well done again to Dylan and Jessie (Year 6), Imogen (Year 4), Sennen and Stanley (Year 2).

On Wednesday, I had a few meetings and staff meeting linked to Assessment and monitoring progress of children in the foundation subjects.

On Thursday, the TPAT Director of Primary Education visited. This was positive in terms of celebrating successes and progress made this school year, while also collaboratively planning for next academic year.

As I quickly write this on Thursday lunchtime, I am looking forward to our INSET Day tomorrow whereby Teachers are allocated time to complete specific tasks. I then hope that the school community has a lovely weekend. See you all next week, best wishes,

Mr M Nicholls (Headteacher).

## ★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

Each week, Nanpean School staff choose one pupil from their class who has shone to be their class star.

This week our stars are:

- Eden - Imogen G** - for caring for and watering our plants.
- Hendra - Willow** - for always being a kind and helpful member of the class.
- Prosper - Ebrel** - for always being kind, caring and helpful.
- Karslake - Toby** - for his excellent determination to improve his handwriting.
- Melbur - Maisie** - for expertly modelling 4 by 1 digit column multiplication to the class.
- Drinnick - Archie H** - for outstanding effort across all his lessons and being a superb learning partner.
- Rosemellyn - Travis** - for focussed learning and persevering when learning was challenging.

## CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Each week we present a child with a Citizenship Award. This is to recognise and reward a child who has been notably kind, helpful or well behaved during the week.

This week our Citizenship Award goes to:

**Cora (Eden)** - for always being ready to help others

## BUSY BEES

Busy Bees are awards given out to children to acknowledge that an aspect of their learning or behaviour is exceptional.

**Toby (Drinnick)** - for tremendous effort with handwriting. Toby is continuously improving. Be proud!

**Imogen, Elliot, Lowena, Cora, Lara and Harry (Eden)** – for excellent independent writing.

## ★ SPORTS STAR AWARD ★

This Weeks Sports Star Award goes to:

**Jamie (Drinnick)** - for always giving it his best at after school clubs with Mr Harwood, improving his skills in all areas. And for always offering to help and bring equipment in without having to be asked.

## HOUSEPOINTS

Class	Godrevey (Green)	Lizard (Yellow)	Pendeen (Blue)	Trevose (Red)	Wolf Rock (Purple)
Eden	43	28	49	47	31
Hendra	20	20	19	24	21
Prosper	19	13	24	21	22
Karslake	19	25	17	26	23
Melbur	34	39	31	32	30
Drinnick	25	36	33	30	24
Rosemellyn	21	16	17	14	21
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Term Total</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,034</b>

At the start of the new Half Term, Trevose (Red) take the lead with 1101 points, followed by Godrevey (Green) with 1043 in second and Wolf rock (Purple) and Lizard (Yellow) are in third with 1034.

## BRANNEL POETRY

### EVENING

On Tuesday evening, 5 children took part in a Cluster Poetry Festival involving local primary and secondary schools. This took place in the Bell Theatre at Brannel School. The children had learnt their poems at home with parents and practised in school with Mr Nicholls. Mr Nicholls attended to support them, and was extremely impressed with their confident, fluent reading of the poem, including changes in voice as they recited the poem. Well done to all children involved, they were superb and it was clear that the audience enjoyed their performances. Well done to Dylan and Jessie (Year 6), Imogen (Year 4), Sennen and Stanley (Year 2). Dylan won the Year 5/6 category and Imogen won the Year 3/4 category.



## UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

A reminder that children who are walking TO or FROM school (even from the car park area) should have a signed 'unaccompanied' form to say parents are happy for them to do this. Please ask Miss Tucker or Mrs Houston in the school office if you would like to add your child to the unaccompanied list. Thank you.

# PERSONAL BELONGINGS

As we move into the Summer and (hopefully) some warmer weather, it is important that all children have their drinks bottle at school. Some children aren't bringing their water bottle (school has provided two in the last year) but it is important for them to drink at school to stay hydrated which helps them to concentrate. Also, due to unpredictable weather, it is also important that children have their coat at school as well, in case this is required.

## PARENTS FORUM

Advance notice that the date of the next parents forum meeting is on Wednesday 19th July at 9am. All parents are welcome as this is when Mr Nicholls meets with parents to discuss positives and further ideas in relation to Nanpean School.

## STAFFING

We have now decided on our staffing structure for the 2023 / 24 academic year. Please see the letter on the next page, which explains this in more detail.

## PUPIL PREMIUM

Why not apply for Pupil Premium? It entitles school to extra funding which can be used for extra tutoring and resources. It also saves families money in meal costs, and entitles parents to additional Government Cost of Living payments (£80 was given to Pupil Premium children this month!)

# WEEKLY HOME DEBATE

This week, the weekly debate from the Smart School Council Community (SSCC) asked if repeated bullying should be punishable by law. This can be accessed via the link below:

<https://bigdebateclub.com/debate/should-repeated-bullying-be-punishable-by-law/>

A very interesting question which I am sure will provoke many opinions so I hope you enjoy discussing and debating this and I look forward to hearing your views over the forthcoming week.

Last week (before half term), the debate asked if everyone should give 20% of their wage to charity. The general consensus was that this is a lovely idea, but many people wouldn't be able to afford to do so, especially in the current economic climate following huge increases in prices that have been seen over the last year.

## ATTENDANCE

Following a meeting with our Education Welfare Officer, we have taken advice from the NHS website, and have shared this below.

Should you need to keep your child home due to illness, when advising the school of the reason for your child's absence, please be specific with the reason given. If you report that they are 'unwell' we may call you back to obtain more details.

If your child is absent from school, you must contact the school with a reason for the absence. If we do not receive any verbal or written communication from you then the School Office Staff will telephone home. If no response is received, other contacts held for your child will also be contacted. If we have not heard from any contacts, then a home visit may be conducted. If no response is received to this home visit your child may be referred to the Local Authority as a Child Missing Education. Contact may also be made with Children's Services and/or the police in line with safeguarding procedures. The absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

### Holidays in Term Time

Please be reminded that the school's stance on holidays in term time still remains the same, that an absence from school will only be authorised in 'exceptional circumstances'. This will be at the Head teacher's discretion and if he is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.

### The law states:

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a penalty notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A of the said Act. Penalty notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may result in legal action. Absence not authorised by the school may result in prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444 (1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to court.

### A reminder of how each illness should be treated:

Coughs and colds inc runny nose	It is fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. Only if they have a fever should then be kept off until the fever goes
Cold Sores	There is no need to keep your child off school if they have a cold sore.
Head lice and nits	There is no need to keep your child off school if they have lice. You should treat lice the night before returning to school. This will be recorded as UNAUTHORISED
Sore throat	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat, unless accompanied by a high fever
Vomiting and diarrhoea	Should stay away from school for 2 days
General sickness	Can attend school once they feel better. If they are sick in the morning, but better by the afternoon they can return. If you feel this could be anxiety related, please seek advice from school as we can support with this rather than keep them at home
Minor headache	A child with a minor headache doesn't need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe then a GP should be consulted.
COVID (It is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID 19 unless directed by a health professional)	If a child or young person has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test, if they can. After 3 days, if they feel well and do not have a high temperature, the risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults. Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.



Nanpean C P School  
St Georges Road Nanpean  
St Austell Cornwall PL26 7YH  
Tel 01726 822447

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Dear Parents,

This letter is being sent to inform you of class structure arrangements for the next academic year. I apologise in advance for the length of this letter but I feel it is important to give parents (and children) as much information as possible.

### Context

As you will be aware, schools have to make decisions based on varying numbers in each year group, as funding for schools links to how many children are registered at the school. Therefore, schools constantly need to consider their class structure and organisation, and it is becoming increasingly common in primary schools to have what is termed 'mixed age classes'.

At Nanpean School, mixed age classes were constant until 2016 when the school increased in size as part of Cornwall Council's Targeted Basic Need (for school places) programme. Unfortunately, the planning permission for extra houses in the local area was never granted, so although Nanpean School can cater for 210 children in 7 classes, mixed age classes are something that have been a possibility throughout this time, but, through careful management of the allocated school budget, we have managed to stay at 7 classes even though we have 150 children on roll and the school is not full. However, next year, and in the foreseeable future unless pupil numbers rise dramatically, our school is not funded enough to maintain 7 classes. As a result, we have carefully considered the organisation of the Curriculum, as well as numbers of children in each class, to organise our school for 2023-24 academic year based on 6 classes, as stated in the table below.

Class (Year groups)	Teacher	Teaching Assistant(s)
Eden (R)	Miss Jackson (Monday – Wednesday) Miss Chapman (Thursday – Friday)	TBC - Appointment being Advertised
Hendra (1)	Miss Morton (Monday – Wednesday) Miss Morrison (Thursday – Friday)	Miss Rosevear (Monday – Thursday) Miss Tucker (Friday) Mrs McDermott
Prosper (2)	Miss Brotherhood (Monday–Tuesday) Mrs Cooper (Wednesday – Friday)	Mrs Williams (HLTA)
Melbur (3/4)	Mrs Jago	Ms Grindrod Mrs Varney (am) Mrs Kitts (pm)
Drinnick (4/5)	Miss Martyn	Mrs Miskowicz (Monday–Wednesday) TBC - Appointment being Advertised (Thursday – Friday)
Rosemellyn (6)	Mr Prince	Mrs Kitts

### Mixed Age Classes

Some parents will have reservations about having their children in mixed age classes. Parents often find it more acceptable to have their child in a mixed age class if they are from the younger age group as they feel that in this situation their child will be in a more challenging environment. On the other hand, some parents feel that their child may not be challenged enough if they are working with younger children. These fears, though understandable, are not borne out in practice.



Firstly, the official starting date of any academic year is the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. This is an arbitrary date that has historical origins to a more rural England when children used to bring the Harvest in during the later Summer months. Therefore, even with the current system, a child born in early August is usually in one class, and a child born at the end of August, literally in the same month, would be in the next school year group. The point here is that levels of maturity and academic ability do not necessarily follow year groupings by their date of birth, and some younger children are often more mature and able than some older children.

Secondly, the school curriculum is designed to allow for mixed age classes. Elements of each Curriculum subject are taught on a cyclical basis with knowledge and skills being taught on a number of occasions during a child's time in Primary School.

Thirdly, and most importantly, work in all classes is already tailored to meet the individual needs of all children within the class. Children in a mixed age class are therefore given work appropriate to their age and ability, so it should not be too easy or too difficult. Teachers are used to planning for this and dealing with a wide range of needs within classes.

Finally, this is extremely common in schools due to the lack of funding for schools. Cornwall is one of the lowest funded Local Authorities in the country and groups of children do not always join the school as a class of 30 (the maximum) children. Schools are funded on the pupil numbers registered at the school. In order for a Teacher to be in paid employment there must be enough children in the class or across the school to ensure the school gains enough funding. Classes of 28 – 30 generally provide enough revenue for a teacher to be employed.

Due to all of these factors, we have carefully considered the expected number of children in each year group next year and the Curriculum they should be following (the Curriculum is different for Year R who follow the Early Years Foundation Stage, and there is a separate Curriculum for Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6). This led us to realising the need for 2023-24 to have a Year 3/4 and a Year 4/5 class at Nanpean School for 2023-24. This means that the current Year 3 (Karslake) group of children, who will be Year 4 next year, will be 'split' across two classes. In doing so, we will be considering a variety of factors, including age, ability, individual need, and, of course, friendship groups, although we are also aware that children make new friends very quickly and this is an important skill in life. We will shortly be completing the process of allocating children from our current Year 3 Class into these groups, and we will be carefully considering many factors when doing so. We hope that the outcome will be pleasing for all children and parents. Unfortunately, children can't be moved between classes, as this would mean a variety of changes, and would make it impossible to ensure children have covered the full National Curriculum requirements.

Finally, as I hope you can see, there are a number of factors which affect the class a child is allocated to. It is a time consuming and difficult process. The outcome will not always be perfect but this will be carefully considered. Please be assured that whichever class your child is in, they will make good academic progress at an appropriate age related level, will maintain friendships, and will have any support required. The children will all access the National Curriculum and cover all required elements of this. They will not be held back and the most important factor is that the children will complete their learning journey by the time they finish Nanpean School in Year 6.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy letter. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Nicholls (Headteacher).



**SCHOOLS ARE UNDERFUNDED, WE NEED YOU!!  
FILL OUT THE ONLINE FORM AND HELP OUR  
SCHOOL GET MORE MONEY TO SUPPORT YOUR  
CHILD. FIND OUT IF**

## **YOUR CHILD COULD QUALIFY FOR PUPIL PREMIUM...**

### **WHAT IS PUPIL PREMIUM???**

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011, and is allocated to schools to enhance the provision for pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children of service personnel. Latest research shows that over 250,000 families are eligible but missing out!!

Registering for free school meals could raise an extra £1320 for your child's primary school to fund valuable support like **extra tuition or additional teaching staff**, as well as saving families on **average £460 per year** in lunch costs.

Nanpean School want to make sure that we are providing your child / ren with the best education and academic support we can. Also, healthy food has obvious benefits and can help pupils establish healthy habits for life. Healthy school food can also improve pupils' readiness to learn.

### **HOW DO I APPLY???**

Applying for Pupil Premium couldn't be easier. All it takes is for you to complete an online form at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/#Apply>. All applications are treated with the utmost discretion and children in receipt of Pupil Premium are not identifiable in any way. You will only need to complete this form once and it will last for the duration of your child's time at Nanpean School. PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM ASAP!

### **AM I ELIGIBLE???**

If you are in receipt of:

- Income Support
  - Working Tax Credit run-on
  - Universal Credit
  - Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
  - Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
  - Support from NASS (National Asylum Support Service)
  - Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190 or
  - The guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- You could be eligible for Pupil Premium assistance.

### **MY CHILD ALREADY GETS FREE SCHOOL MEALS???**

All pupils in Years R, 1 and 2 currently receive free school meals. However, we would still encourage parents to check eligibility for Pupil Premium Funding so that they can continue to receive free school meals when they are no longer infants, as well as other additional benefits of extra staffing and tuition.



# Online Safety Newsletter

June 2023

## Rec Room

Rec Room is available across different platforms and is free to play. It can be played with or without a VR headset. Rec room consists of player created rooms, in which players can play games and interact with others.

**Rec Room is rated as 9+ by the App store.** For players under 13 years of age, they are assigned a junior account. When creating a junior account, you can also add your own email address, which will allow you to manage your child's password and other settings such as in app purchases. Users with a junior account will not be able to message each other.

You should be aware of the following if your child is playing Rec Room:

- In app purchases: make sure your bank account details are not linked to the device your child is playing on.
- Chat: if your child does not have a junior account then there is a chat facility within Rec Room so there is a risk that your child could communicate with strangers.
- Inappropriate content: your child may come across themes or content that is not appropriate for your child.

Rec Room does have reporting facilities so if your child is playing Rec Room, then please ensure they know how to use them and to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them.

You can find out more about Rec Room here:

<https://recroom.com/parents-guide>

## Social Media Influencers

### What is an Influencer?

An influencer is somebody prominent on a social media platform such as YouTube and Instagram, who have a high number of followers. Influencers share their opinions/ideas and may be paid to advertise/promote products through their account. Whilst there are some great influencers, there are some that choose to share their own opinions, which could be misogynistic or racist for example. These opinions can be expressed or interpreted as fact. It is important to talk to your child about the spread of misinformation online and how we should fact check and critically analyse what we see and hear online.

What we see on social media platforms is influenced by algorithms, which predict what type of content we are most likely to interact with. Whilst there are benefits of algorithms, it can mean that once we start looking at certain content, our social media feed can become more aligned with that opinion, so we don't see a balanced picture. You can find out more here: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/algorithms/>

### Further information

The NSPCC have created an article detailing what you need to know about online influencers. You can read it here:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-05-16-the-influence-of-influencers/>



# Omegle

Omegle have updated their terms and conditions. You must be 18+ to use Omegle. Omegle is a social networking/chat website that connects two strangers together for either a text or a video chat. Chats are anonymous unless a user provides this information.



Omegle should not be accessed by children due to the potential imagery shared and language used which can be explicit.

## What should I be aware of?

- No registration is required to access Omegle (therefore no age verification) and there are no reporting facilities.
- Users are given an option to save the chat's log and share the link. It is also possible for other users to take screenshots of text and video chats.

You can find out more information from Internet Matters, including imitation apps that you should also be aware of:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/news-blogs/what-is-omegle-what-parents-need-to-know/>

# Money Savvy Online



## Have you been scammed online?

As scammers become more sophisticated, it's important that we learn about the different approaches that they might use and what to look out for so we can protect ourselves. Barclays have listed some of the most common scams on their website:

<https://www.barclays.co.uk/fraud-and-scams/scams-protection/>

## MoneySense from NatWest

NatWest have an area on their website full of useful articles and guidance to support your child and enhance your understanding. Articles include avoiding fraud and online scams, information on digital game currency, the dangers of fraud and do you know what a money mule is?

The site also includes activities to complete with your child to enhance their understanding of money including a 'savings challenge' for ages 5 – 8 and 'money and your mental health' aimed at young adults. You can find this information and lots more here:

<https://natwest.mymoneysense.com/parents/>

## JusTalk

Users can use this app to video chat, call and text. There are two versions – JusTalk and JusTalk Kids with both versions having the option to unlock further functions via a premium subscription. JusTalk is rated as 12+ and JusTalk Kids is rated as 4+ on the App store. Even though the apps may be rated as age appropriate for your child, there are still risks in using either version, such as in app purchases.

The Ineqe Safeguarding Group provide an overview of JusTalk, including the risks you need to be aware of: <https://ineqe.com/2023/02/08/what-is-the-justalk-app/>

## Free Webinar

London Grid for Learning (LgFL) are working with the Early Years Alliance to deliver a 1-hour webinar on Thursday 8th June 10-11am to parents of children aged 0-5 years, about simple steps to take to keep children safe when using online devices. You can find out more at the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-connect-screens-in-the-early-years-tickets-633434709267>

## What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity is increasing due to the likes of ChatGPT and more recently, My AI from Snapchat. Internet Matters have created a guide about using AI with your child and lists some popular AI tools that you should be aware of: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

In addition, Childnet have produced this blog about Snapchat's My AI: <https://www.childnet.com/blog/snapchats-new-ai-chatbot-and-its-impact-on-young-people/>