



Spring Term 2026 Newsletter 1
Friday 23rd January 2026

MOUNT CHARLES SCHOOL

HEADTEACHER UPDATE



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we begin a new year, it is a natural time to pause, reflect, and look ahead to a fresh start. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your continued support and understanding during the recent period of late openings and early closures caused by the bad weather.

During this time, we were reminded of the strength of our school community. The kindness, patience, and community spirit shown to one another were truly appreciated.

As always, the safety of our pupils was, and will continue to be, our primary concern, and we are grateful for your cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You are always welcome to call us, email the school, or speak to a member of staff on the school gates.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that ClassDojo is used solely for announcements. This has been the case since September, and unfortunately, we are unable to use it as a conversational platform. Thank you for your understanding and for using the appropriate channels to communicate with us.

We are very excited to announce that our school is taking part in the National Year of Reading. Reading plays a vital role in children's learning and development, and it is so important that children are read to, and read with, throughout their primary years. This initiative will help us celebrate books, stories, and the joy of reading across the school.

Within this newsletter, you will find more information about our upcoming World Book Day celebrations, including planned activities and our school book fair. We are very much looking forward to sharing these exciting events with the children and welcoming your involvement.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. We look forward to a positive and successful year ahead.

Kind regards,
Mrs Simpson



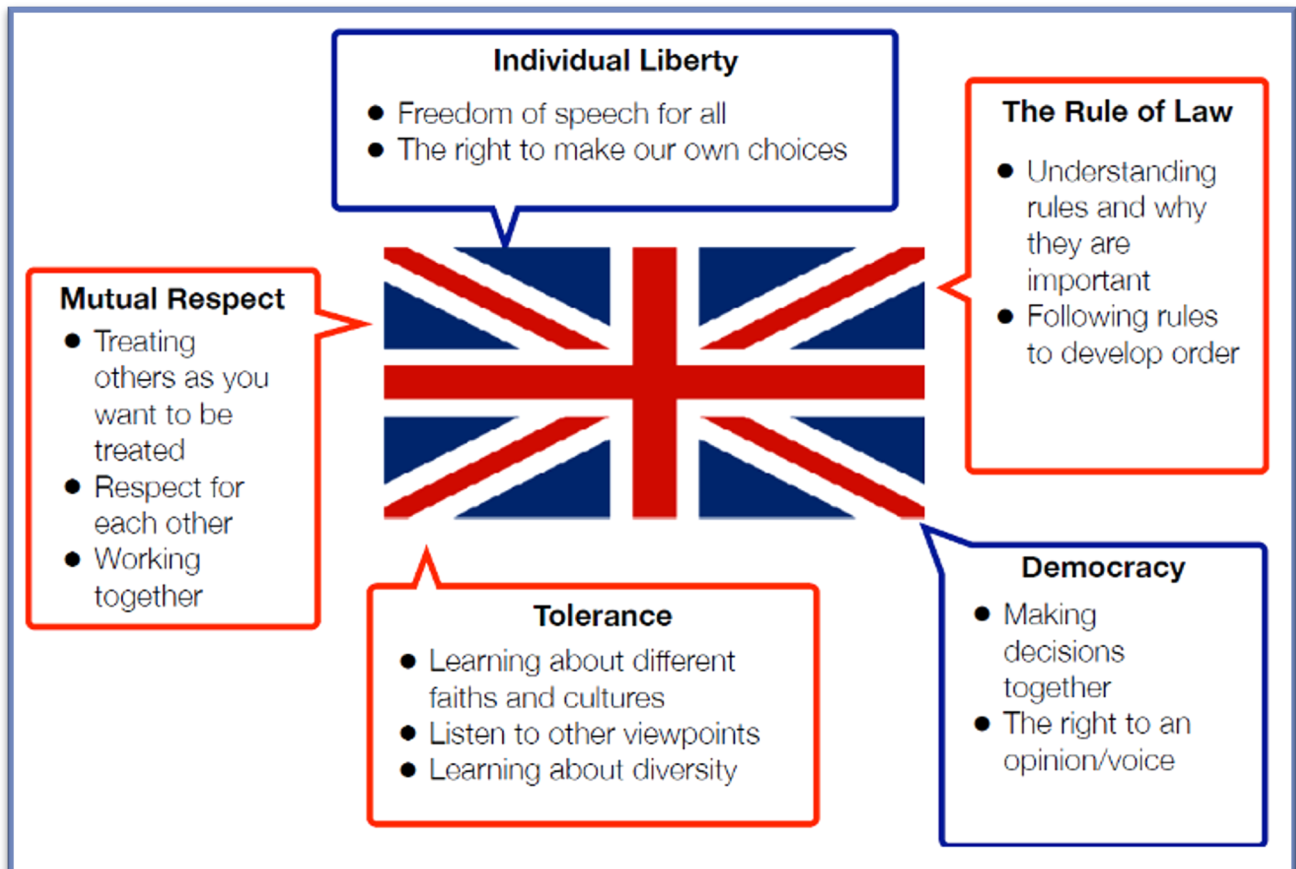
BRITISH VALUES

As part of our Dreams and Goals PHSE learning this week, we thought about how to work in a team and the benefits of doing so. Anna from Norway has dreams of being the best footballer. In the video we watched she talked about training and working hard to achieve her goal. Unfortunately her team lost in the final. We talked about:

How Anna handles the pressures of being a captain in this competition?

How does Anna recover from failure - what strategies does she use?

Respect is the focus of our British Values this week as a result of these discussions.



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding and Wellbeing at Mount Charles School

At Mount Charles School, the safety, wellbeing and happiness of every child are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to providing a secure and nurturing environment where all children can flourish and reach their full potential.

We value the strong partnership we have with our parents and carers and kindly ask that you continue to work closely with us to help maintain this safe and supportive atmosphere. If you ever have concerns about your child's safety or wellbeing, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can speak directly with a member of our Safeguarding Team or email DSL@mcs.celtrust.org. All concerns are taken seriously and handled with care and confidentiality.

We would also like to remind families that the messaging facility on Class Dojo has not been available since September. We are unable to respond to messages via social media, so we encourage families to contact us directly by telephone on **01726 73911**. For any non-safeguarding questions or queries, please email mountcharlesenquiries@mcs.celtrust.org. All enquiries will be responded to within 48 hours.

Parents Pop-Up Event – Monday 26th

We are excited to be hosting our very first Parents Pop-Up Event on **Monday 26th January**, designed as a relaxed and supportive event for our families.

We will be joined by:

- **South West Water**- offering advice on water bills, ways to reduce costs and available support schemes
- **Cornwall Young Carers**,- providing information about support available for young carers
- **Employment Plus**- who offer a holistic approach to finding work, CV writing, wellbeing support and confidence building
- **Healthy Cornwall**- advice on healthy eating , stopping smoking and healthy lifestyle changes,
- **Social Prescribers**,-Supporting local activities, groups and services that support wellbeing.

Family Support- Friendly guidance for a wide range of family needs, from routines to relationships.

There will also be a **pre-loved uniform and coat stand**, where families are welcome to swap items or simply take any essentials they may need. Mrs Hann has also kindly provided a fantastic selection of pre-loved coats, available to swap or take.

The event will run from **2.00pm to 3.30pm**, and **tea and coffee and biscuits will be provided**. Ms Kevill and Mrs Hann look forward to welcoming you and hope many of you can join us.

Parents' Pop-Up Event!



A relaxed, drop-in event designed to support our families and celebrate our community.

We'd love to see you there!

We're bringing together a range of fantastic local organisations to offer friendly, practical support for families. Whether you're looking for advice, ideas, or simply want to see what's available in our community, everyone is welcome.

Come and chat to:

*Monday 26th January
2:00pm - 3:30pm*

Southwest Water – Information on water bills, ways to reduce costs, and support schemes available.

Employment Plus – Help with CVs, job searching, training opportunities, wellbeing support and confidence building.

The Salvation Army – Guidance and support for families, including practical help and community connections.

Healthy Cornwall – Advice on healthy eating, stopping smoking and making positive lifestyle changes.

Social Prescriber – Linking you to local activities, groups and services that support wellbeing.

Family Support – Friendly guidance for a wide range of family needs, from routines to relationships.

Kernow Young Carers – Support for children and young people who help care for someone at home.

Plus: **Pre-loved uniform & coat stand** – donate, swap, or simply take what you need.



...and many more local organisations!



ATTENDANCE



Why Attendance and Punctuality Matter

Every school day counts! Regular attendance and arriving on time play a vital role in helping children feel confident, settled, and ready to learn. When children attend school every day, they don't just keep up with lessons — they build strong routines, friendships, and a love of learning that supports them throughout their school journey.

Being **on time** is just as important. The first few minutes of the day often include vital instructions, phonics, maths, or settling activities that set the tone for learning. Missing even a short amount of time can leave children feeling rushed or unsure, and those small gaps can quickly add up. For example, arriving just 10 minutes late each day can mean missing **nearly a full day of learning over the course of a half term.**

Good attendance and punctuality help children to:

- Feel calm and confident at the start of the day
- Fully understand lessons without gaps in learning
- Build positive relationships with friends and teachers

Develop important life skills like responsibility and routine

We know that mornings can sometimes be challenging, but by making attendance and punctuality a priority, you are giving your child the best possible start to their day and their future.

Support is Available

School can offer a range of support for children and families.

If you'd like to know more about what we can do, **please contact our attendance team** (ktaylor@mcs.celtrust.org or enquiries@mcs.celtrust.org) **who are always happy to help.**

Thank you for working with us to ensure every minute counts!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Lost minutes = Lost learning



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!





WORLD BOOK DAY AND SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Book Fair – after school 2nd March to 6th March

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

Reading Breakfasts – Y5/6 Tuesday 3rd March

Y3/4 Wednesday 4th March

EYFS/Y1/2 Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day in school. Children are invited to wear a book character costume, accessory or their pyjamas to school on 5th March. Children will all receive a book voucher that they can redeem for a free book at participating retailers.



Scholastic Book Fair

The Book Fair will open 3:10–3:45 every evening of the week 2nd to 6th March, with a range of up to date book titles available to buy. You can also redeem your child's book day voucher on some titles.



Reading Breakfasts

We would like to invite parents to come and be part of our World Book Day celebrations. Each year group will have a reading breakfast 8:45–9:15, where you are invited to come and share a book and a croissant/pan au chocolat with your child. If you are unable to attend, children will share the breakfast and stories with their teachers and friends in class instead.



**GO
ALL
IN.**

National Year of Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading - 10 Minutes That Will Change Everything

We're asking every family to commit to just 10 minutes of reading together, every single day, throughout 2026.

Why 10 minutes? Because it works.

Children who read for pleasure are **13 times more likely** to read above the expected level for their age. Just 10 minutes daily exposes your child to approximately **1 million words per year** - building vocabulary, confidence, and a love of learning that extends far beyond literacy.

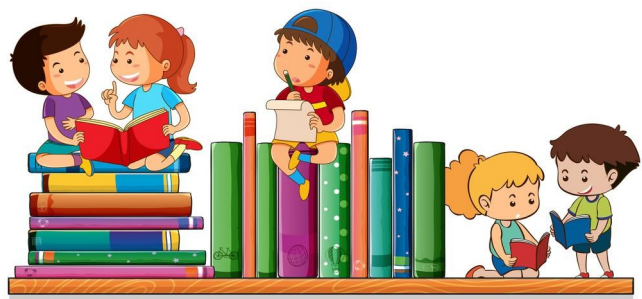
This isn't about perfection. It's about consistency. A bedtime story. A comic at breakfast. An audiobook in the car. Whatever works for your family.

As part of the National Year of Reading 2026 "Go All In" campaign, we're committed to ensuring 100% of CELT pupils see themselves as readers by December. But we can't do this alone - we need you.

Your commitment + Our support = Reading success

You'll receive monthly reading packs with book recommendations, conversation starters, and practical ideas to make those 10 minutes count.

Will you commit to 10 minutes every day?



ENRICHMENT SPORTS

Monday 5th January – Year 6 Table Tennis Festival at St Austell Table Tennis Club

A group of our Year 6 pupils visited St Austell Table Tennis Club to take part in a table tennis festival alongside other local schools. The children learned the basics of table tennis and enjoyed playing both singles and doubles matches. Everyone had a fantastic time developing new skills and representing the school brilliantly. Well done to Year 6!



Monday 12th January – Cross Country Race 1 at Poltair

The first cross country race of the season took place at Poltair, with pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 taking part. All of the children showed great determination and excellent running skills, well done to everyone involved!

Special congratulations to our medal winners: Freya (Year 4), Teddy (Year 6), Theia (Year 5) and Jenson (Year 5). Teddy and Theia won their races, Jenson finished in second place and Freya achieved a fantastic third place. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to the next race in February.



Monday 19th January – Year 4 Table Tennis Festival at St Austell Table Tennis Club

Year 4 pupils enjoyed a visit to St Austell Table Tennis Club to take part in another table tennis festival with local schools. The children learned new skills and took part in both singles and doubles games. They all had a great time and showed excellent enthusiasm throughout the day. Well done, Year 4!

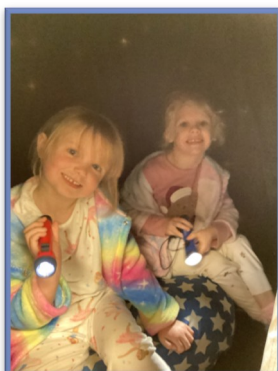
EYFS NURSERY

Sea Shell Class thoroughly enjoyed their ENGAGE Pyjama Day to introduce them to our new half term topic - 'What Happens When I Fall Asleep?'. The children wore their pyjamas to school, brought in their favourite teddies, and had a hot chocolate with a bedtime story. We also learnt all about how we can keep our teeth clean and healthy. Each child brushed their teeth and took home a brand new toothbrush. What an exciting start to the term



EYFS RECEPTION

Seahorse class have had a wonderful start to their new ILP 'What Happens When I Fall Asleep?'. The children have enjoyed exploring light and dark in the dark den, wearing their pyjamas to school for the day, learning about the importance of brushing their teeth and sharing a bedtime story and hot chocolate together.



YEAR 1 & 2

Key Stage 1 pupils enjoyed a healthy week in Design and Technology, designing and making their own nutritious wraps. They explored healthy foods, sorted ingredients into food groups and carefully chose fillings that worked well together. After learning about the importance of handwashing, the children prepared and enjoyed their delicious creations. Everyone loved choosing their own fillings and tasting their healthy wraps!



YEAR 3

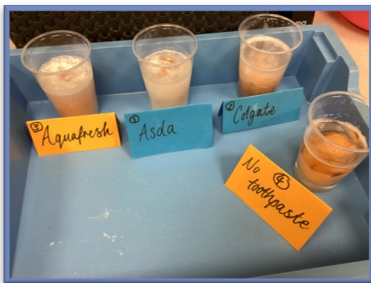
Year 3 children have been busy exploring rocks in Science! They learned about how sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed and used playdough to model the different processes. By pressing, layering, and changing their playdough, children were able to see how rocks can form over time through pressure and heat. It was a hands-on and engaging way to bring their learning to life!



YEAR 4

Year 4 have been working like scientists to set up an experiment to answer the question: which is the most effective toothpaste? We have been learning that bacteria eat the sugar on our teeth, then releases acid into our mouths. This acid causes tooth decay and may lead to fillings and extractions.

We now have eggs sitting in vinegar covered with three different types of toothpaste. We are looking forward to seeing what happens to the shells- will the results match our predictions?



YEAR 5

Year 5 kicked off their 'Stargazers' topic with an incredible journey into space! Inside the space dome. They explored life as an astronaut, space shuttles, the wonders of our solar system, and the beauty of star constellations. The children were full of curiosity, asking brilliant questions, and their excited gasps of "Wow!" and "Look!" showed just how much they enjoyed the experience.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have been exploring microorganisms in Science, learning what they are and where they can be found. They discovered that some bacteria are harmful while others are helpful and play an important role in keeping us healthy. The children also investigated how bacteria spread and transfer between people, reinforcing the importance of good hygiene.



ARB

Mount Charles ARB has started the term by thinking about animals, we have shared books including 'Elmer' and 'Brown, Bear, Brown Bear what do you See'? We have been thinking about why Elmer felt sad and have been learning about things you can do to cheer yourself up when you're feeling sad.

In science we have been sorting animals depending on their type and talking about where different animals live. Due to the cold weather we have had recently we have been exploring ice and talking about different types of weather.

We have undertaken lots of messy art activities to help develop fine motor skills.



CELEBRATION

Celebrating



Yr1/2— Carlo, Jacob, Phanuella, Ella, Kian, Samuel,
Marcie, Madeline, Otilie, Oliver,

Yr 3— Jasper, Mason, Esmæ, Teddy, Harriet, Quinn

Yr4— Lily, Leo, Freddy, Jack

Yr5— Lucas, Emma, Alex, Matthew, Ethan, Milo,
Mollie

Yr6— Sam, Lila, Aurora, Pearl C, Otto, Lewis

Success

Our attendance trophy was won by:

9th ORCA 97.4%

16th ORCA 100%

23rd SEALS 98.9%

**Perfect
Attendance!**



British Values

Celebrating our British Values Champions :

Year 1/2: Gracie, Otilie, Bradley, Eden, Ophelia, Murphy, Leon, Bonnie Rae, Reuben

Year 3: Reuben, Rose, Charlotte, Sammie, Kanan, Lewis

Year 4: Ruan, Leo W, Blake

Year 5: Harper, Lowena, Alex, Matthew, Esmæ, Marilyn

Year 6: Khole, Kimberly, Megan, Pearl J, Malachy, Jasmine

REMINDEERS

What should my child bring every day?

A **named** coat—the weather can be changeable

Water bottle

A fruit snack is provided for all KS1 children.

KS2 should bring a **healthy snack** - for example fruit, cereal bar, yogurt, houmous & veg sticks, cheese & crackers.

Uniform expectations

We have seen an increase in the number of children not wearing correct uniform or PE kit. Please find below a reminder of what your child should be wearing in school. If you need help with providing the correct uniform, please do not hesitate in contacting the school office.



UNIFORM

Grey trousers/Skirt/Pinafore

White polo shirt KS1 White shirt & tie KS2

Summer Term—Blue/white checked dresses KS2 white polo shirt or shirt & tie

Mount Charles jumper/cardigan only available from Cornwall Screen print

Black Shoes ONLY no trainers

PE KIT

Black shorts/**black** jogging bottoms/**black** leggings

White Mount Charles logo t shirt

Mount Charles jumper or cardigan **NO** hoodies

Please remember to write your child's name in all items of clothing, especially coats and jumpers. We are frequently finding coats with no names so are unable to return them to their rightful owner.



Contacting the school

Our enquiries email is monitored intermittently during the school hours, 08.00-15.30 Monday to Friday. We aim to get back to you within 48 hours. If the matter is urgent, please call the school office directly.

If you have a problem you would like to discuss regarding your child, in the first instance, please contact your class teacher at collection/drop off times or by calling/emailing the office.

Email: enquiries@mcs.celtrust.org Phone: 01726 73911



Join Our PTA – Make a Difference in Our School Community

Our PTA is looking for **parents and carers** to join our friendly group of volunteers!

The PTA plays a vital role in supporting our school by:

- Organising fun events for children and families
- Raising funds for extra resources and experiences
- Building a strong, connected school community

You don't need special skills or lots of free time — every little bit helps.

Whether you can:

- Help at the odd event
- Share ideas
- Support behind the scenes
- Or get involved more regularly

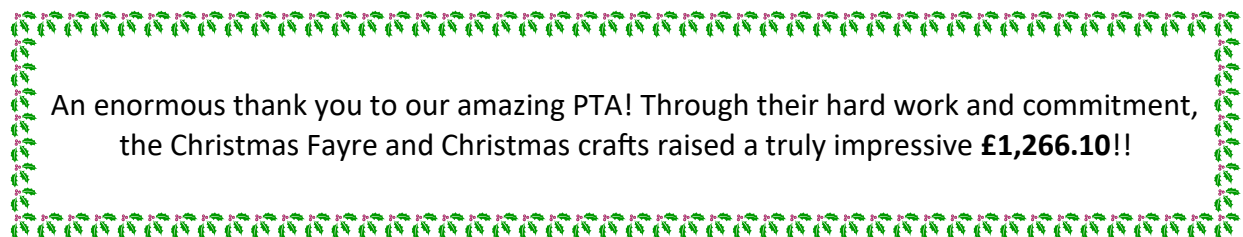
...we'd love to have you on board. We meet every 6 weeks for an hourly meeting.

Being part of the PTA is a great way to:

- Meet other parents and carers
- Support your child's school experience
- Have fun while making a real impact

If you are interested, please contact the school office via email enquiries@mcs.celtrust.org

Join us and be part of making our school an even better place for our children—every contribution makes a difference.



An enormous thank you to our amazing PTA! Through their hard work and commitment, the Christmas Fayre and Christmas crafts raised a truly impressive **£1,266.10!!**

Diary Dates



TERM DATES

2025-2026

- Spring term 1 2026:** Monday 5th January 2026 - Friday 13th February 2026
- Spring term 2 2026:** Monday 23rd February 2026 - Thursday 2nd April 2026
- Summer term 1 2026:** Monday 20th April 2026 - Friday 22nd May 2026
- Summer term 2 2026:** Monday 1st June 2026 - Friday 24th July 2026
- INSET DAYS:** Friday 17th October and Friday 3rd July

2026-2027

- Autumn term 1 2026:** Thursday 3rd September 2026—Friday 16th October 2026
- Autumn term 2 2026:** Monday 2nd November 2026 - Friday 18th December 2026
- Spring term 1 2026:** Monday 4th January 2027 - Friday 12th February 2027
- Spring term 2 2026:** Monday 22nd February 2027 - Thursday 25th March 2027
- Summer term 1 2026:** Monday 12th April 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027
- Summer term 2 2026:** Monday 7th June 2027 - Friday 23rd July 2027
- INSET DAYS:** Tuesday 1st & Wednesday 2nd September 2026

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lanjeth Nusery and Water Gardens

Half Term Activity – Lanjeth Nursery and Water Gardens

- Lanjeth Nursery and Water Gardens
- Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th • 5-15 year olds.
- 0845-1500 - £35, discounts for siblings.

Book at www.lanjeth.co.uk



Flu
Vaccination

School Age
Reception -
Year 11

Complete
your
consent
form here

Drop In Clinic

Saturday 24th Jan 2026

10:30 - 13:30

New St Austell Hub

Chi Austel

White River Place

St Austell PL25 5AZ



For more information
please speak with a
member of the team
Call us on

01872 221105

kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net