

ST BURYAN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 17th January 2025

www.stburyanacademy.com

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STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS, MENUS AND DATES

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TURN ON NOTIFICATIONS AND RECEIVE NOTICE WHEN WE UPLOAD OUR NEWSLETTERS, MENUS AND UPDATE OUR DIARY!

Key Dates

Please check the school calendar through our website regularly - more dates will be added as the term goes on

Please check the key dates below for upcoming events. New dates may be added across the term so please check our lines of communication when notified.



Ella gets her hair done at the Careers Fair we visited - more photos from this trip below!

In this edition...

- Welcome
- Start of 2025
- Spotlight on 2024
- Menus
- Yearly Dates
- What parents need to know about TikTok and JusTalk

INSET DAYS 24/25

Sept 3rd and 4th 2024

June 6th 2025

July 21st, 22nd, 23rd 2025

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025!

We have started 2025 in brilliant fashion and it is already primed to be an action-packed year!

As we do at the beginning of every Spring Term, we have kicked off the year with our whole school writing project. This year we are focussing on the book 'The Tin Forest'. Each class devises a scheme of work based upon the same text, producing some stunning pieces of writing and art work along the way. It is great to see all of the children link their learning and compare what their school-mates in different classes are doing based around the same book. It has created a real buzz around the school and we look forward to sharing the outcomes of this project with you.

Penberth have started their next round of Forest School sessions; we had a great time on Wednesday when we used the book 'Stick Man' as inspiration to create our own stick people.

In PE this week, entwining within our PE curriculum, we had a real focus on working collaboratively and the importance of teamwork - as you can see from the pictures below. We thought about how we can achieve more by working together and within a strong team you need people to do various, and different, jobs.

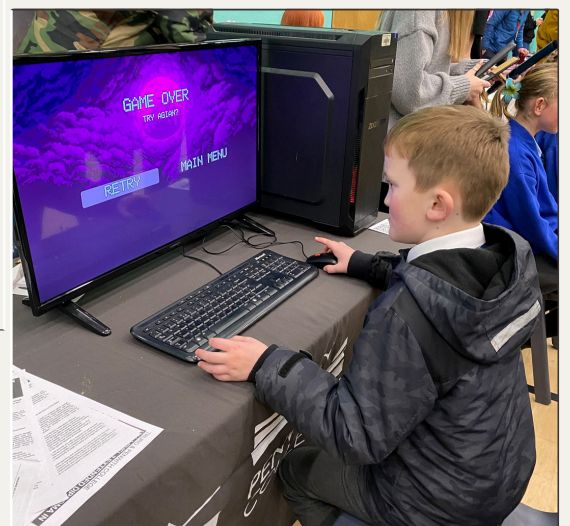
By the time our next newsletter comes out, our Year 5s and 6s would've returned from their London Residential. I'd like to thank the staff supervising this trip for all they've done in the build-up to it as well as their great work whilst on it. They have given up their own personal time in planning the trip and carrying it out, volunteering their own time for our children. It is another example of the lengths our staff go to in order to provide these fantastic opportunities for our children - we are a small team here which makes their efforts even more amazing and this sort of experience is priceless for our children. Residential experiences provide so many opportunities in character growth for our children; by visiting the capital it really broadens their horizons and gives them more cultural understanding of the world. I am sure that they can't wait to tell you about everything that they will do. We have got a great trip planned with museum visits, Tower Bridge Tours, Houses of Parliament Tours, watching The Lion King on the West End, a tour of Wembley Stadium and even snowboarding at the Snow Dome in Hemel Hempsted!

We are still seeing an increased amount of unauthorised absences and leave of absence forms being submitted to the school. Please remember that ten of these sessions (5 days) in any ten week period can lead to penalty notices. Unauthorised absences can include 'lates' and if it is suspected that a child who is reported ill on days in addition to the dates submitted on leave of absence forms is not actually ill. To support parents with holidays, we have considered when we place our INSET days next year, please look out for a letter next week with this information.

Our Friends of School have organised an 'unwanted Christmas gift' collection. If you are able to donate anything, please do so to the office area **at drop off times only** - thank you.

Best wishes

Mr McDonald and all at St Buryan Academy



Spotlight on 2024



Overview

We are delighted to inform you that our 2024 End of Key Stage data was in the top 3 schools within Cornwall, with our average reading score being the highest in Cornwall. This, along with our data across the school, evidences the high quality education our children at St Buryan receive – alongside all of the wider opportunities we provide them.

Our outcomes

How you can support your child's learning:

- Take an interest, ask about the favourite thing they learnt that day and similar questions, not just: "What did you do today?"
- Make sure that they read! Listen to them, share books with them and read to them too – even when they're older!
- Visit our 'useful pages' or each class page for tips and websites/apps to use to support learning.
- Don't underestimate the importance of well-being: **connect** with people, be **physically active**, **learn** new skills, **give** to others, pay attention to the present (**mindfulness**).



End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

Reading – 100%
Maths – 100%
Grammar, punctuation and spelling – 100%
Writing – 86%

Reading, Writing, Maths combined – 86%



End of Key Stage 2 (Year 6)

All data above national averages with R,W,M combined within the top 3 in Cornwall.
Average reading scores placed top in the county (111).



Early Years Foundation Stage

71.4% of children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD) in their Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

This is above the national average of 67.7%.



Year 4 Multiplication Check

44.4% of children achieved 100% in the Year 4 Multiplication Check. This is 9% above the National Average of 34.4%.



Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

71.4% of Year 1s achieved the expected standard in the Year 1 PSC. This is an improved outcome from our 2022/23 scores.



Attendance Overview

Our whole school attendance for 2023/24 was 94.8%
This is above the national of 94.5%
Our statutory attendance for children of school age was 95%

View some of our other curriculum successes on the next page.

Spotlight on 2024



Wider curriculum offer

We believe that in order for children to achieve well in their core learning, it is vital that they have the opportunity to achieve in all areas of the curriculum in order to enhance the four key concepts threaded through our learning: creativity, confidence, collaboration and independence. This enable our children to **believe** that they can, **achieve** what they set out to and **aspire** for greater things.



Sporting Success

Physical Education is a key part of our development; it helps create healthy children both physically and mentally. Here are some of our successes in the area from the last 12 months:

- Gold Award in School Games for the third consecutive year.
- 100% of Upper KS2 children represented the school at a sporting event with 86% doing so in at least three different sports.
- 15 children won endurance medals for Penwith Cross Country with 53% of KS2 children taking part.
- 4 children reached the Cross Country County Finals.
- In football, our mixed team reached the Cornwall County Small Schools Finals.
- Our rugby team qualified for the Cornwall County School Games finals
- All of Year 5 achieved their Bikeability accreditation
- All of Year 6 achieved the national expectation for swimming (25meters)



Well-being

At St Buryan we truly believe that a positive well-being is at the core of everything and is central in supporting all other aspects of school life. This is why we prioritise it through a wide-range of opportunities. Whether it be through Forest School sessions, celebrating World Mental Health Days or embedding it into our daily teaching and learning; ensuring that we support our children's well-being is key. Recently we have ensured staff members complete well-being training, we work with Cornwall Mental Health Service Team weekly to put on workshops and have recently worked alongside mental health charities such as Man Down Cornwall, Your Voice Cornwall and Samaritans to hold a well-being workshop day - the first of its kind in a Cornish primary school!



Community, trips and residential experiences

It is our aim to support our learning in school by creating enriching, purposeful learning experiences out of school in order to support learning and bring it to life. Throughout the year we have visited a wealth of places to enhance learning; whether it be trips that run alongside work in the classroom like museum visits and more, trips as part of our wider-curriculum like workshops at The Minack, to trips for special treats like the cinema or shows, to our memorable overnight residential experiences such as our sleepovers, camps, London trips and weeklong stay on the Isles of Scilly - we are always looking at how we can use these experiences to create even more opportunities for our children.

We have also increased our community work in the last year and have seen partnerships blossom with Buryan-in-Bloom, Friendship Clubs, the church, Parish Council and other groups within our community.



Want to know more?

Have a look at our school prospectus: <https://publuu.com/flip-book/364366/831193/page/1>



Scan me for more information





ST BURYAN ACADEMY

Key dates

2024

September

- 5th – First Day back!
- 20th – Fitness Day
- 25th – Outdoor Learning Day

October

- Black History Month
- 4th – World Animal Day
- 9th – Stay Safe Workshop
- 10th – World Mental Health Day
- 21st-25th – Parent Meetings
- 22nd – Healthy Cornwall Workshops
- 28th-1st Nov Half Term
- 29th-3rd Nov – Diwali

November

- Diwali
- 11th – Armistice Day
- 13th-17th Anti Bullying Week
- 14th – Open Afternoon/Learning together

December

- 16th – Christmas performances dress rehearsal
- 17th – Christmas Dinner
- 18th – Morning Christmas Show
- 19th – Evening Christmas Show
- 20th – Christmas Paryy and last day of term (1.30pm finish)

January

- 6th – Back to school
- 13th – Year 6 SATs meeting

February

- 3rd-10th – Children's Mental Health Week
- 7th – NSPCC Number Day
- 17th-21st – Half Term

March

- Women's History Month
- 4th – Open afternoon/learning together
- 6th – World Book Day
- 12th – Outdoor Learning Day
- 14th & 15th – Holi
- 21st – World Poetry Day
- 24th-28th – Parent Meetings

April

- 4th – Last day of term (1.30pm finish)
- 22nd – Back to School

Key contacts

- Mr. Josh McDonald
Head of School
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
head@stburyanacademy.org
- Mrs. Care
Business and Administration
Parent Liaison Officer
secretary@stburyanacademy.org
- Mrs. Joanna Kwiatkowska
SENCo
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
joanck@stburyanacademy.org

All other contacts are available on our website



May

- 12th – Year 6 SATs week
- 19th – Year 5/6 London Trip (proposed date)

June

- 2nd – Multiplication Check week
- 6th – INSET day
- 9th – Phonics Screening Check period begins
- 19th – Outdoor learning day
- 23rd – Year 1-4 residential week (proposed dates)

July

- 4th – Sports' Day and fete
- 14th – Reports out
- 15th – Year 6 Leavers' Service
- 18th – Last day (1.30pm finish)!

Key Information

Please note that dates are subject to change and more may be added across the course of the year.

PE every Tuesday

Swimming every Thursday morning (children may come to school in PE kits these days)



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREENTIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

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/justalk-kids>

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Aspens

LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL
Week 1

Autumn Winter
2024-25:
2/9, 23/9, 14/10,
4/11, 25/11,
16/12, 6/1, 27/1



THE MAIN EVENT

MONDAY
Margherita Pizza
Slice and Wedges

TUESDAY
BBQ Cheesy Chicken

WEDNESDAY
Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

THURSDAY
Lasagne

FRIDAY
Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC
Veggie Dish


Veggie Pepper and Sweetcorn Pizza
Slice with Wedges

Butterbean Ratatouille

Quorn Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

Vegetable Lasagne

Veggie Burger and Chips



RAINBOW ALLEY
Vegetables and Salads


Sweetcorn

Apple Slaw and Wholegrain Rice

Peas and Carrots

Green Beans

Baked Beans



BIG TOPPING
Filled Jackets


Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo

Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



DESSERT TROLLEY

Toffee Frozen Yoghurt

Sweet Potato Brownie

Forest Fruits Jelly Pots

Cookie Dough Apple Crumble

Jammy Thumbprint Biscuits

DAILY SALAD BOWL,
FRESHLY BAKED BREAD,
YOGHURTS AND
CUT FRUIT

AVAILABLE DAILY



PASTA TWIRLER

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce and Cheese

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Aspens

LUNCHTIMES

Week 2

TRADITIONAL

Autumn Winter
2024-25:
9/9, 30/9, 21/10,
11/11, 2/12,
23/12, 13/1, 3/2



THE MAIN EVENT

- MONDAY**
- Cheesy Tomato Pizza Muffins
 - Chicken and Sweetcorn Cobbler
 - Roast Pork, Roast Potatoes and Gravy
 - Classic Cottage Pie
 - Battered Fish and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC
Veggie Dish

- BBQ and Sweetcorn Pizza Slice
- Winter Vegetable Crumble
- Cauliflower Cheese, Crispy Onion Topping & Roast Potatoes (You don't have to have the onions!)
- Roasted Sweet Potato Pastry Roll and Mash
- Cheese and Tomato Toasted Wrap with Chips



RAINBOW ALLEY
Vegetables and Salads

- Wholegrain Pasta Salad and Green salad
- Herby Diced Potato and Carrots
- Mixed Greens
- Peas
- Baked Beans



BIG TOPPING
Filled jackets

- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



DESSERT TROLLEY

- Toffee Apple Sponge and Custard
- Chocolate Sprinkle Iced Cake
- Raspberry Coconut Jelly
- Fresh Fruit Salad
- Anzac Biscuits

DAILY SALAD BOWL,
FRESHLY BAKED BREAD,
YOGHURTS AND
CUT FRUIT

AVAILABLE DAILY



PASTA TWIRLER

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

FOOD FESTIVAL

By Aspens

LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL

Week 3

Autumn Winter
2024-25:
16/9, 7/10,
28/10, 18/11,
9/12, 30/12,
20/1, 10/2



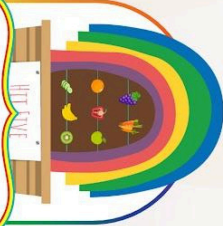
THE MAIN EVENT

- American Style Mac & Cheese
- Sausage Casserole and Mash
- Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy
- Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice
- Golden Fish Fingers and Chips




MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggie Dish

- Veggie Wholegrain Pasta Bolognese
- Vegetable Pot Pie and Mash
- Carrot and Stuffing Pastry Plat
- Mild Veggie Bean Chilli Loaded Wedges with Cheese
- Vegetable Fingers and Chips



RAINBOW ALLEY Vegetables and Salads

- Carrots
- Roast Root Veggies
- Peas and Sweetcorn
- Broccoli
- Baked Beans



BIG TOPPING Filled Jackets

- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
- Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



DESSERT TROLLEY

- Marble Cake
- Apple, Cinnamon Raisin Flapjacks
- Orange and Mango Jelly
- Banana Bread Muffins
- Gingerbread Cookies

AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT



PASTA TWIRLER

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese