



Mawnan CE VA School Newsletter

Using our God-given talents to let our light shine



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

Friday 7th November 2025

Anti- Bullying week

Anti-Bullying Week – Monday 10th to Friday 14th November 2025

This year, Anti-Bullying Week takes place from **Monday 10th to Friday 14th November**.

The theme for 2025 is “**Power for Good**” a powerful reminder that each of us has the ability to make a positive difference, to speak up, to support others, and to help create a school environment where everyone feels safe and valued.



What the theme means

- It's about recognising that kindness, respect and inclusion are not just nice ideas, but active choices we each can make.
- It encourages pupils (and staff) to use their “power for good” — whether that is standing up if they see someone being unkind, offering support to a friend, or helping make our school a kinder place.

- It covers every setting: in the classroom, in the playground, online, at home — wherever we connect.

Odd Socks Day – Monday 10th November

We will be kicking off the week with **Odd Socks** Day on **Monday 10th November**.

On this day, everyone is invited to wear odd socks (mismatched socks) as a fun way to celebrate what makes us all unique and different. It helps to start conversations about difference, being yourself and accepting others. It's simple, fun — and a reminder that our differences are something to be proud of.



Why it matters

Bullying affects children's wellbeing, their ability to learn and enjoy school, and their confidence to be themselves. By having a week focused on these issues, we help to create a safer, kinder and more inclusive school environment for everyone.

With the theme "Power for Good" we are emphasising that each of us has a role to play. Together, we can make a difference.

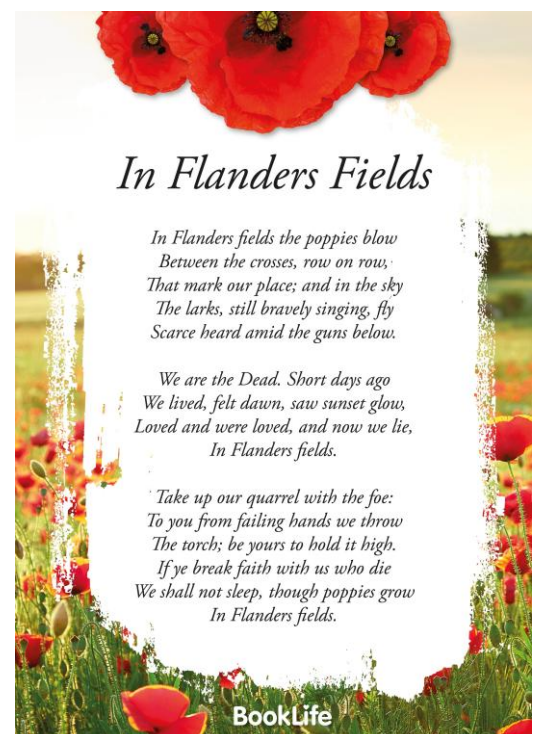
Remembrance Day



Next week, we will commemorate Remembrance Day, a solemn occasion for reflection and gratitude. On Tuesday, we will hold a special assembly to mark this important event. During the morning, our pupils will join millions across the nation in observing the traditional two-minute silence at 11 a.m.

I am especially proud to share that Dart Class has been chosen to represent our school at the village service in the Memorial Hall. This is both a great honour and a meaningful responsibility, one that I am confident our pupils will approach with respect and dignity.

They have been entrusted with the important role of laying the crosses, a symbolic act to honour the people from Mawnan who made the ultimate sacrifice. In addition, they will recite “*In Flanders Fields*”, the moving poem that has become a powerful emblem of Remembrance Day.



Children in Need 2025

We're delighted to be supporting **BBC Children in Need** again this year! On **Friday 14th November**, we're inviting all pupils to come to school dressed in **spots or stripes** to help raise money for this fantastic cause.

If you don't have anything spotty or stripy, don't worry — **anything bright and colourful** will do! The aim is to have fun while showing our support for children and families across the UK.

We'll be **collecting cash donations at the school gate** on Friday morning. Every contribution, big or small, helps make a difference.

Thank you for helping us support this wonderful charity!



Hatch Box Photography

Our School photographer Hatchbox Photography will be here on the morning of Thursday 13th November to take our individual school photos. If you would like your younger children to come in and have photos with their siblings, information will be going out on Monday on Class Dojo.

Tesco Stronger Scheme

Great news!

A huge thank you to everyone who voted for Mawnan School PTA's "Books, Bugs and Beans" project in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme.

We're thrilled to share that our project received the most votes and has been awarded a first prize of £1,500!

Your support means so much and will help us give children more chances to learn, discover nature, and grow their love of reading.

Thank You. Shiona

Parent Teacher Meetings

The meetings will take place in school during the week beginning Monday 17th November. All remaining Google forms to sign up for a meeting will be sent out on Monday. Please sign up quickly to ensure that you get a meeting at time that suits your needs.



Our meeting week is dedicated time in our school calendar when we cancel all professional meetings and personal plans so please sign up, as we want to ensure that we see everyone. Please also ensure that you attend your meeting on time as lateness impacts on other parents. We are really looking forward to discussing your child's progress with you.

Please note there is a slight change to our enrichment clubs due to these meetings and some clubs will not be running because of staff and room availability.

The following clubs will be **cancelled for that week only**:

Monday: Netball

Tuesday: Dance

Wednesday: Lego Club and Creative Club

Thursday: Choir and Cards and Construction Club

We apologise for the inconvenience. All other clubs will continue as normal.

Wraparound club will still be operating. Please collect your child from the Fusion Class door, the door round the left of the school near the bins and sheds.

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Tax-Free Childcare and Childcare for Service children vouchers

We are finally up and running to enable families to pay for Breakfast Club and Wraparound with **Tax-Free Childcare and Childcare for Service children** vouchers.

Breakfast Club and Wraparound

Service children can use government schemes like **Tax-Free Childcare**: <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> to help pay for after-school and breakfast clubs.

There is also a specific scheme for service children called the **Childcare for Service children scheme**: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-service-children>

This allows you to set up a Tax-Free Childcare account for a child aged 4-11, who is living with the serving person, to claim a top-up on childcare costs.

To use these schemes

- **Set up a Tax-Free Childcare account:** You'll need to create an account with HMRC for each child.
- **Check your child's eligibility:** The child must be between 4 and 11 years old and meet the other criteria for the service children scheme.
- **Top up your account:** You can add money to your Tax-Free Childcare account and HMRC will provide a 20% top-up.

What can be covered

- After-school clubs
- Breakfast clubs
- Holiday clubs (not applicable at Mawnan)

The vouchers are paid by the employer to the parents who then transfer them over to the school's main bank account (please use your reference number) which we then credit against Breakfast Club.

For service children, Mawnan School will create an invoice for you to pay and can then be submitted through the JPA system.

If you need any further help please let Sam at Wraparound or Natalie know.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Social Pressures: Influencers

Social media influencers are people who've established their credibility in a specific industry and therefore have the power to affect other people's decisions. Most commonly associated with YouTube and Instagram, influencers usually have a large number of followers and are viewed as authentic by their audience. For this reason, many influencers are often paid by big companies to promote their products, in the hope of persuading their followers to purchase those goods.

In this guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as body image, bad habits and unrealistic role models.

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



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What parents need to know about SOCIAL PRESSURES LINKED TO 'INFLUENCERS'



AN UNREALISTIC PERCEPTION OF BODY IMAGE

Some of the most popular social media influencers often depict themselves as having the perfect body and are paid to promote items such as health supplements or swimwear, which young people believe can help them achieve the same look. What is not always realised is that these images can be edited or filtered and aren't always a true-life representation. Your child may feel like this is what they need to look like and in some cases, become obsessed with their body image, which could contribute towards a lower self-esteem or even becoming depressed if they can't achieve the same look.

ENCOURAGING BAD HABITS

Although many social media influencers will get paid to advertise brands and their products, they will also post their own material online too, usually depicting their daily life or an activity for example. This may have both desirable and undesirable consequences, with influencers able to inspire both good habits, such as healthy eating, exercise or kindness. However it may also encourage children to adopt bad habits, such as drinking, smoking, swearing or even criminal behaviour, particularly if these are seen to be endorsed by the influencer.

AUTHENTICITY OF ENDORSEMENTS

Social media influencers hold a lot of persuasion with their audience and are often looked up to by younger followers. Many children will see them as credible, authentic and trust what they see online. However, some influencers may not always believe in the product they are promoting and therefore can mislead their followers, abusing their level of confidence in them. Your child may therefore find themselves looking up to people who are disingenuous or who feign interest in activities that they themselves do not actually care about.



BECOMING UNREALISTIC ROLE MODELS

As children become more and more involved on social media and identify who their favourite people are to follow, they may come to see social media influencers as role models, particularly if they are attracted by the lifestyle they see online. This could lead them into developing potentially unrealistic expectations of life and in some cases, using their role models as an escape from reality, particularly if they feel like their own life isn't very fulfilling.

THE NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING

Many social media influencers will take photos or videos of themselves wearing the latest fashion or jewellery which companies want them to promote. They may also be provided with the latest gadgets to promote or, if they are children, toys to play with in order to persuade their followers to purchase them. Many children will be keen to buy these items in order to keep up with the latest trends however if they get left behind, they could be made to feel inadequate or inferior by other children who do have them.



Safety Tips for Parents



FOLLOW WHO THEY FOLLOW

A good way to see first-hand who may be influencing your child is to create your own social media account and follow the same people they do. This will give you a strong indication of what is shaping how your child behaves, what they like and what they are taking an interest in.

DISCUSS REALISTIC VS UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

If you notice your child has suddenly taken a strong interest in the way they look, or you find they are a lot more body-conscious, then it's a good idea to speak to them about why they feel that way. If they seem unhappy, try to build their self-esteem by talking to them and listening to their concerns, helping to build their confidence through praise and positivity. Remind them that looks aren't everything and not everything they see online is actually a true depiction of real life.

TALK ABOUT ROLE MODELS

Role models can play an important part of your child's life, particularly outside of the home. Talk to your child about who they look up to and why. Remind them that not everybody online is who they seem to be and if you do have concerns that your child is being negatively influenced, work with them in finding more positive alternatives.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENT THINKING

Social media influencers can be quite powerful individuals who hold a lot of persuasive power so it's important to encourage your child to think independently about everything they see and engage with online. Talk to them about the dangers of blindly following others and in keeping an open mind when viewing content. Teach them to always question people's motives online, especially when they see individuals are promoting a brand or product which they are likely to have been paid to advertise but may not necessarily personally endorse.

BUILD THEIR SELF-ESTEEM

It's important that your child is aware of how unrealistic perceptions of life can be depicted on social media and that it is easy to be deceived. Discuss with your child how images can be heavily edited, cropped or manipulated to create artificial scenarios and that often the lifestyle that people display on social media isn't always realistic or in fact the truth.

Meet our expert

Pete Badh is a writer with over 10+ years in research and analysis. Working within a specialist area for West Yorkshire Police, Pete has contributed work which has been pivotal in successfully winning high profile cases in court as well as writing as a subject matter expert for industry handbooks.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com
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Secret Santa Gift Collection

Secret Santa special event is organised by our dedicated PTA and gives our children the wonderful opportunity to select Christmas gifts for their family members. Our WI members lend their expertise to wrap and label the presents, allowing children to bring home beautifully packaged surprises to place under their Christmas trees.

To make this event possible, we need your help! **We are seeking donations of unwanted or preloved items to be sold as gifts. To maintain the quality and joy of the experience, please ensure all contributions are in good condition and free from damage.**

We would greatly appreciate donations of toys, puzzles, and gifts suitable for parents. Your generosity will help make this event a memorable and meaningful experience for everyone involved.

We will start collecting donations from next week. **Please bring your items to the donation box in the school entrance.**

PTA Movie Night



Brought to you by
Mawnan School PTA ...

Movie Night

21 November
School Hall

£5

SHOWING 1 (KS1)
3.15 - 5.00PM

SHOWING 2 (KS2)
5.15 - 7.00PM

INCLUDES
PIZZA,
POPCORN & CHOCS!

(BYO DRINKS BOTTLE)

Blankets, bean bags & PJs welcome! :)

Our fantastic PTA will be hosting a school Movie night on Friday 21st November.

Google Forms will be sent out next week for you to sign up your child for this exciting event that is always very popular with the children!

Mawnan Smith Christmas Light Switch-On ✨🎄


Join us for a magical evening of festivities down in the square in Mawnan Smith on Thursday 5th December!


The fun kicks off from 5:15pm with the Children's Lantern Parade starting at St Michael's Church, making its way down to the square where the children will sing a few songs around the Christmas tree.


Enjoy an evening packed with festive cheer we've got:


 A special visit from Father Christmas (arriving in a brand-new way this year!)

 Festive music and a kids' choir

 A full barbecue with local hotdogs, sausages, burgers, and festive turkey & stuffing rolls

 Mulled wine and mince pies from the lovely WI

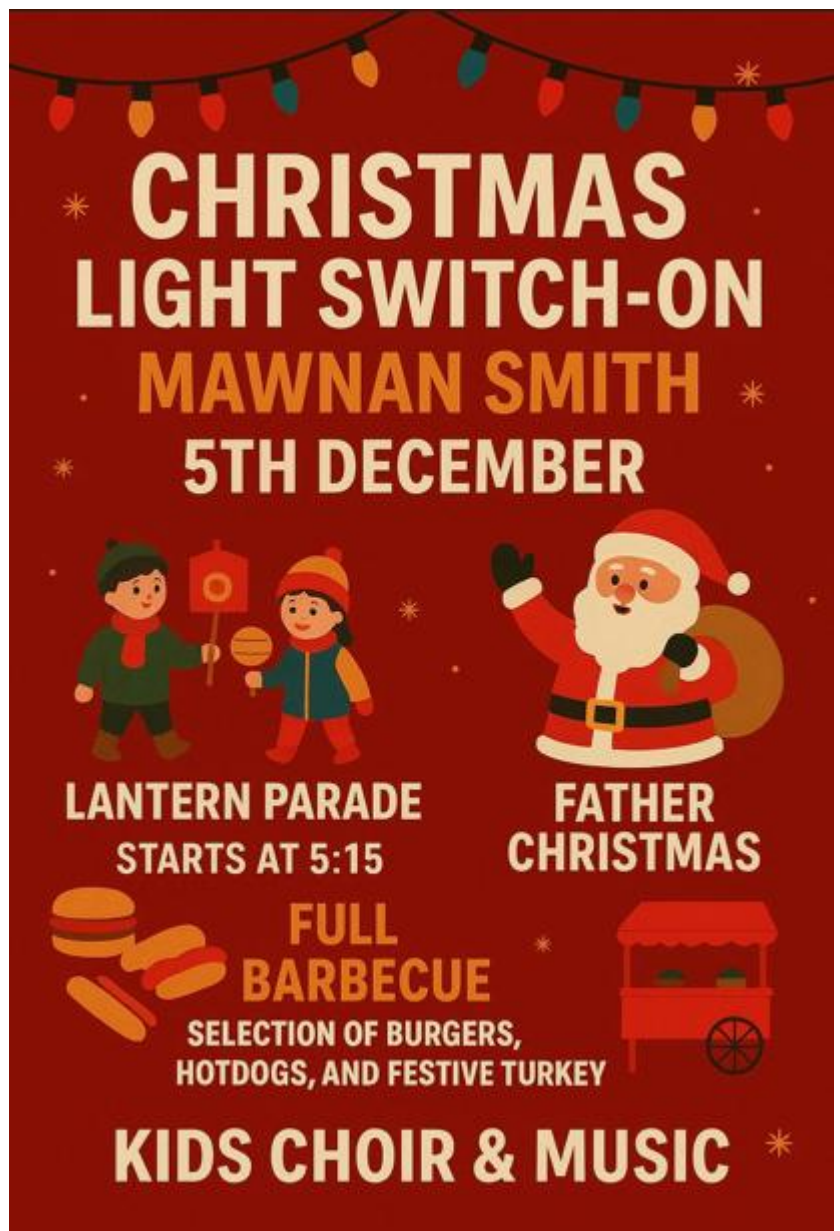
 Candy floss, Pick & Mix, face painting, and a drinks tombola

 Plus lots more festive fun for the whole family!

We encourage everyone to bring cash, but card readers will also be available this year.

Come and celebrate the start of the Christmas season with us it's going to be a brilliant community night filled with lights, laughter, and festive

spirit! ❤️



A festive poster for the Christmas Light Switch-On event in Mawnan Smith on 5th December. The background is dark red with white stars and a string of colorful lights at the top. The main text is in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below the text are illustrations of children with lanterns, Father Christmas, a barbecue cart, and food items like burgers and hotdogs.

**CHRISTMAS
LIGHT SWITCH-ON
MAWNAN SMITH
5TH DECEMBER**

**LANTERN PARADE
STARTS AT 5:15**

**FATHER
CHRISTMAS**

**FULL
BARBECUE**
SELECTION OF BURGERS,
HOTDOGS, AND FESTIVE TURKEY

KIDS CHOIR & MUSIC