

THE MAWNAN LIGHT

Friday 11th September 2026



COMPASSION • HOPE • PEACE • PERSEVERANCE • RESPECT • TRUST

What an incredibly positive start we have had to the new school year. It has been a real joy to see the children reconnecting with their friends and teachers, settling happily into their classes and enjoying being back at school.

The children have enthusiastically launched themselves into their learning, and we are already so proud of the positive attitudes, curiosity and enthusiasm they have shown.

A special congratulations must go to our new starters in Reception and to the children who have joined us in Key Stage 2. They have settled into life at Mawnan brilliantly, and we are delighted to welcome them and their families into our school community.

Miss Pridmore

Collective Worship and Celebration Assembly

Collective worship is an important part of life at Mawnan. It gives us time to come together as a school community to learn, laugh, reflect on our values, sing, celebrate and share moments of stillness and thought.

Our weekly Celebration Assemblies will begin next Friday. We gather at **2.55pm** to reflect on the week, present our **Shine Awards**, celebrate birthdays and invite children to share achievements from outside school, such as swimming badges, musical awards and sporting successes.

Parents and carers are very welcome to join us and may arrive from **2.50pm**. Please do not arrive earlier, as the hall will still be in use for PE lessons. Please enter the school via the main reception.

If your child would like to share an achievement, please bring the item to the school office on Friday morning, clearly labelled with your child's name and a few details about the award.

School Uniform

Thank you for ensuring that the children have returned to school looking so smart and proud in their Mawnan uniform. Please continue to ensure that all clothing, footwear and belongings are clearly named so that misplaced items can be returned quickly.

Birthday Celebrations [🔗](#)

We love celebrating children's birthdays at Mawnan. For health and allergy reasons, however, please do not send cakes, sweets or other sweet treats into school.

If your child would like to bring something to share, prepared fruit or vegetables would be very welcome. Alternatively, families may wish to donate a book to the Reading Barn. We will add a special sticker showing who donated the book and the date, creating a lasting reminder of your child's special day for everyone to enjoy.

We wanted to share this wonderfully healthy and creative birthday creation from Ted and his family, a fantastic vegetable train! What a brilliant idea!



Annual Consent Form

Educational visits are an important part of our curriculum. They enrich learning and give children opportunities to develop new knowledge, skills and confidence.

The Annual Consent Form has now been sent to families. Parents and carers need to complete one permission and medical consent form for each child for the academic year. This covers educational visits during term time, adventure activities and off-site sporting fixtures taking place during or outside the school day.

We will continue to send full details of each visit, including timings, transport, clothing and any requests for help. For visits outside our immediate locality, information will usually be sent by email through Google Forms so that we know it has been received.

Please complete the form if you have not already done so. It is also essential that families tell us promptly about any changes to a child's medical needs, emergency contacts or consent for medical treatment.

Enrichment Clubs

We are pleased to offer a varied programme of enrichment clubs for children in Years 1 to 6. These provide opportunities for pupils to explore new interests, develop their skills and enjoy activities beyond the classroom. New Reception children are not included in the enrichment club programme at this stage, as we want to give them plenty of time to settle happily into school and their new routines.

The club sign-up document has now been shared by email and on ClassDojo.

All clubs will begin during the week starting **Monday 14 September**.

Due to a reduction in Sports Premium funding, we now need to make a small charge for enrichment clubs to help us continue offering such a broad range of opportunities. Full details of the costs are included in the sign-up document. Payments are via parentpay.

We are extremely grateful to the staff and volunteers who give their time to provide these activities. Please think carefully before accepting a club place. If your child no longer wishes or is unable to attend, please let us know promptly so that the place can be offered to someone else.

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!



🏃 Run Mawnan – Sunday 20 September 2026 🏃

Get your running shoes—and perhaps your fancy dress—ready for **Run Mawnan!** Whether you are taking part, cheering from the sidelines or simply coming along to enjoy the atmosphere, it promises to be a brilliant community event.

Alongside the running, there will be plenty of family fun, including a **BBQ, cakes, refreshments, games stalls and a tombola**, plus a prize for the best fancy dress!

🏆 **Medals and goody bags are guaranteed for everyone who registers online by Sunday 13 September.**

You can enter on the day, but medals and goody bags cannot be guaranteed.

👉 [Find out more and register for Run Mawnan](#)



Every School Day Matters

Regular attendance gives children the best possible opportunity to learn, build friendships and feel part of school life. Learning develops in a carefully planned sequence, so even short periods of absence can result in children missing important teaching.

We understand that children become unwell and that families can face circumstances that make attendance difficult. Please speak to us as early as possible if your child experiences a barrier to attending school. We want to work with families and offer appropriate support.

Parents must contact the school on every day of absence and provide an honest, specific reason. Where appropriate, we may request evidence of medical appointments or prescribed medication. We use NHS health guidance when deciding whether illness-related absence can be authorised.

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
one and all - oven hag off

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.

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	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 2 – Sports Day Fri 23 – Last day of academic year

Year 6 Hoodies

The long-awaited moment finally arrived today when our wonderful Year 6 pupils received their very special Year 6 hoodies!

Receiving your Year 6 hoodie is an important rite of passage at Mawnan — right up there with sitting on the benches and eating lunch outside when the warmer weather arrives!



They looked absolutely fantastic in their new hoodies. A lovely reminder that they are now our Year 6s and very much the oldest pupils in school!

Top Tips for Promoting Healthy Sleep Patterns

For children and young people, low-quality sleep can become a serious issue. It has been theorised that poor sleep can have a significant impact on children's brain development, affecting them for the rest of their lives. A healthy – and consistent – sleeping pattern, therefore, is incredibly important for children and young people's wellbeing.

With the stresses and distractions that can present themselves to youngsters, it can be tricky to ensure they're in the best mindset to wind down in the evenings for the rejuvenating rest that they need. The right approach, however, can give them a better chance of cultivating a healthy sleeping pattern. Our guide has some practical tips on helping them to achieve exactly that.

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 [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system. Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

- 1 MINDFUL TECH USE**
Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.
- 2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES**
Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example – or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.
- 3 HYDRATION HABITS**
Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night. It's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.
- 4 CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE**
Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.
- 5 OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT**
Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, creating an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.
- 6 RELAXING EVENING ACTIVITIES**
Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low intensity signals to the brain that it's time to rest and makes falling asleep much easier.
- 7 PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP**
Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.
- 8 NUTRITIONAL BALANCE**
Highlight the significance of a healthy, balanced diet – and its role in establishing a more consistent sleep pattern. Try to lean towards preparing meals with plenty of fruit and vegetables, served in reasonable portion sizes: not only is this a lot healthier, but it also reduces the chances of feeling too full to be comfortable in bed.
- 9 PARENTAL SUPPORT**
Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.
- 10 MILITARY SLEEP METHOD**
Look up 'the military sleep method': it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep breathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressive!

Meet Our Expert
Mindie Ahmed design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of the Social Enterprise UK 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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What's happening at Mawnan Park?

Two and a half years ago, Mawnan Parish Council had just £1,000 in the bank to improve the village playground. We're now delighted that a £100,000 tender is live, which means new play equipment will be installed in 2027. We expect to have appointed the play equipment contractor by November, so by then we should have a clearer idea of when the new equipment will be installed.

A huge amount has already happened behind the scenes. A fully Cornwall Council-funded community consultation gave the whole village the opportunity to share their ideas for the future of the park, including around 90 children from Mawnan School and Preschool, who told us what their perfect park would look like.

Thanks to another Cornwall Council grant, more than 200 trees and hedging plants have since been planted, including fruit trees and a foraging hedge, with Year 6 pupils helping out in February this year. Work will continue over the coming months to create new wildlife habitats and nature areas alongside the play space, funded through further grants and last year's community crowdfunder.

Our longer-term aim is to make Mawnan Park a more inclusive, accessible and nature-rich place for children and residents of all ages and abilities.

Despite the soggy weather, our first Mawnan Park BioBlitz on 29 August was a great success. Thank you to all the Mawnan families who helped, came along and supported the event. We even had a visit from our local MP, Perran Moon. In spite of the conditions, we recorded nearly 150 species across the day, including a rare and I think quite pretty fly (*Campiglossa producta*) that has only been recorded in Cornwall once before, giving us a fantastic baseline for the wildlife already using the park. The £100,000 phase will make a big difference, particularly for younger children, but we still need to raise more for additional equipment for older children, accessible paths, seating and further improvements to the nature areas and sensory garden.

We'll be at Run Mawnan on Sunday 20 September with a small cake sale to raise funds for the park. If anyone would like to help with fundraising, donate, or get involved in future events, please do get in touch.

Mawnan Park celebrates its centenary in 2028, so it would be wonderful to have the project completed in time for a big village party and celebration. We'll keep sharing updates as the plans progress, and we'd love as many local families as possible to be part of the journey.

Cllr Shiona Biggin and mum to Ula (Year 5) and Senara (Year 2)
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<https://www.facebook.com/MawnanPark>

<https://mawnan.org.uk/junior-playing-field/>

