



PORTHLEVEN SCHOOL

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Warm Welcome Back!

I hope you and your family enjoyed the summer break and managed to find some time to relax together. Even though the holidays now feel like a distant memory, we are delighted to have the children back in school, full of energy and ready for the year ahead.

We were so proud of the effort, resilience and kindness shown by our pupils last year. Their achievements, both in and out of the classroom, made a real difference to the life of our school. This year, we are excited to build on that success and continue to create an environment where every child can thrive.

Our Focus This Year

At Porthleven, our priority remains to ensure that every child feels safe, respected and that they truly belong here. We are determined to provide a rich education that every pupil can access, enjoy and succeed in.

For families who are new to us, The Porthleven Way underpins everything we do. It is our shared approach, rooted in the affirmations:

- Feel Safe – physically and emotionally.
- Belong – knowing you matter and will be missed when not here.
- Responsible – taking ownership of learning, behaviour and relationships.
- We Learn – a commitment to growth for both children and adults alike.
- We Can – achieving more when we work together as a community.

These values shape daily life at school and help us all to be the very best version of ourselves.

Key Information for the Term Ahead

Uniform: Please ensure children wear the correct school uniform each day. Full details are available on our website.

School Day: The bell rings at 8:40am and the school day ends at 3:15pm. Punctuality helps set a positive tone for learning.

PE Days: Children should come to school in PE kit on their PE or sports club days. This term's schedule is on the following page.

We will also be holding Meet the Teacher sessions next Wednesday after school. These provide an excellent opportunity to hear what the year has in store and to ask any questions.

Staying Connected

Good communication between home and school makes a huge difference. Teachers can be reached via their class email or through the school office, and our website and newsletters will keep you updated on upcoming trips, events and activities.

Looking Forward

This promises to be a year full of learning, discovery and memorable experiences. With your support, I know our children will continue to shine.

Thank you, as always, for working in partnership with us. I look forward to greeting you at the school gate and sharing another exciting year together.

Warm regards,

Dan Clayden
Headteacher

Porthleven Notices & Reminders

Class Open Doors – Wednesday After School

This Wednesday, each class will have their door open to parents.
It's a great opportunity to:

- Hear what the year has in store
- Meet your child's class teacher
- Ask any questions you may have

We look forward to welcoming you!

PTA Meeting – Thursday 18th September

We would love to invite all parents, both new and returning, to join us in the school hall on **Thursday 18th September** after school pick up.

This will be a great opportunity to hear about this year's PTA plans, share ideas, and look ahead to new events to help raise valuable funds for the school.

Children are very welcome to come along – we'll have colouring activities available to keep them busy while we talk.

Your support makes a real difference, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Bags2School Collection

Don't forget! Our next **Bags2School collection** is coming up. This is a great chance to have a clear-out at home while helping raise funds for our school.

Please bring in any unwanted:

- Adults' and children's clothing
- Shoes (tied in pairs)
- Hats, belts, handbags
- Soft toys, bedding, curtains, towels

Collection Date: Thursday 9th October 2025

The more we collect, the more funds we raise – thank you for your support!

Porthleven Notices & Reminders

Online Games and Voice Chat

As a reminder, most Xbox, PlayStation and Nintendo Switch – as well as many mobile games and apps – will now include 'chat rooms' or open mic areas within their games. This has been popularised by Fortnite and Call of Duty, as well as games like Rocket League and Roblox.

Unless you have explicitly changed settings, both on the game console settings AND the individual games' settings, there will be full access to written and/or voice chat between your child and the other people playing the game. Settings can be selected that allow only friends to speak to or hear your child - or a blanket 'muting' of all other players so that they cannot be contacted.

There are multiplayer aspects being included in single-player games more often now, including Nintendo games like Mario Kart and the new Donkey Kong. Many games now include features where other players can leave messages or voice notes that your child can access as they play. This is even happening in games when you have not paid for Xbox, PlayStation or Switch online membership. Again, checking both the console settings AND the individual games' settings. You can select offline or muted options to prevent this from happening, as will disconnecting the console from your WiFi.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/>

PE Days this term

Reception - Monday

Year 1 - Thursday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Monday

Year 4 - Wednesday

Year 5 - Friday

Parent Cycling from Lands End to John O'Groats

Mr Reddan will be cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats with 3 friends (Matt Swain, Shaun Parker and Tim Burley), a distance of over 1,000 miles from the 12th September to the 25th September 2025.

They all know each other through their collective time in the Royal Navy, 3 of them (Matt, Tim and Myself) have joined the Royal Navy Reserves after leaving the Royal Navy and Shaun is still serving.

They are taking on this challenge because all of those taking part want to complete a challenge together. We are paying all of the costs involved so EVERY penny you donate will go to the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity.

If you would like to donate please find the links below.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/shaunandtim-lejog-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

https://www.justgiving.com/page/chris-reddan-2?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Porthleven Notices & Reminders

School Photos – Tuesday 16th September

School photos will take place on **Tuesday 16th September**.

- If you would like a **sibling photo** with a child who does not attend Porthleven School, please complete the form using the link below and arrive at school for **8:30am**. <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/gm2jbyAnxL>
- Please ensure you have completed your **photo consent form on Arbor**. Without this permission, your child will not be able to have their photo taken.
- All children will need to be in **school uniform**. If it is your child's PE day, please send their PE kit in a clearly labelled bag.

Thank you for your support in helping the morning run smoothly!

Cross Country – Tuesday 16th September

We're excited to let you know the **Cross Country League** is starting soon – a great chance for children to stay active, support the school, and enjoy friendly competition.

- **KS1:** 4 races (500m each, non-competitive)
- **KS2:** 6 races (competitive or just for fun – Race 4 is a Peninsula qualifier)
- **Fun Run:** Open to all!
- **Start time:** 4:00pm (please don't arrive before 3:45pm)

Prizes include: endurance medals, top 3 medals per age group, school trophies, and raffle tickets for every runner.

First Race: Tuesday 16th September – Helston South Site, 4pm

Children may wear their **PE kit to school** on cross country days.

Please complete the form to let us know you're joining: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/xWRgsrmdiZ>

Let's get as many runners as possible out on the course – every runner earns points for our school!

Porthleven Notices & Reminders

Reporting Absence

If your child is absent from school, please **telephone and email the school office by 8:45am** to let us know.

- For **planned absences**, an absence request form must be completed in advance (available from the school office).
- A **reason must be provided** for all absences.

Thank you for helping us keep our records accurate and up to date.

As a reminder to parents about attendance

If you book a holiday in term time which is 5 days or more, and is not approved as an exceptional circumstance, our policy - in line with DFE guidance, is to refer this to the local authority for a fine to be issued. Please also be aware that schools need to consider fining if a child has 10 unauthorised sessions in a rolling 10 week period. Please do contact the school if you have further questions.



Google Classrooms Update

Our Google Classrooms have been updated this year to follow the school email system.

- Children's Google accounts now end with **@ple.croftymat.org**
- Passwords remain the same – only the username has changed
- On **Monday**, a copy of your child's username and password will be sent home as a reminder
- Reception pupils will also receive their account details

Thank you for supporting your child with online learning.

Lego League

We're excited to be running the **Lego League** again this year!

- Mrs Blight will be holding an assembly on **Monday** for Years 4, 5 & 6 to introduce this year's season: "**Unearthed.**"
- Lego League isn't just about building Lego – children will also **code, research, and present a project** to a panel of judges.
- Team selection will be based on **teamwork, contribution, and commitment** from the 15 children in the club. Only 10 children can be selected for the team at the competition.

We look forward to seeing our young innovators application forms for Lego Club. The application form will be sent out after the assembly.

COMMUNICATION AT PORTHLEVEN SCHOOL



BY PHONE

Ring 01326 562249 between 8.15am & 3.30pm to speak to Mrs Blight out side these hours please leave a message.



BY EMAIL

Email porthlevensecretary@croftymat.org anytime or your class email. Queries will be responded to between 8.30 and 4pm.

ARBOR

Photo consent and communication from school will be from Arbor please download the app (pls contact the office for support setting up).

OUR NEWSLETTER

Up coming dates for your diaries are shared on the newsletter along with some classroom news.

OUR WEBSITE

Our website contains useful information about our school.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 16th September	School Photos
27th—31st October	Half term
Monday 3rd November	INSET Day
Friday 12th December	Whole School Panto
Monday 5th January	INSET Day
Wednesday 4th—6th Feb	Year 5 School Camp
Monday 23rd February	INSET Day
Friday 8th May	INSET Day
Friday 5th June	INSET Day
Wednesday 10th—12th June	Year 4 School Camp
Thursday 25th—26th June	Year 3 School Camp
Monday 13th –17th July TBC	Year 6 School Camp
Wednesday 22nd July	Last day of Term
Thursday 23rd July	INSET Day



UK Health
Security
Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Next Week's Menu

WEEK 1

W/C: 21/04/2025, 12/05/2025, 02/06/2025, 23/06/2025, 14/07/2025, 15/09/2025, 06/10/2025

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Garlic and Herb Bread 🌱	BBQ Chicken Served with Rainbow Rice 🌱	Roast Chicken Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Classic Beef Burger Served with Potato Wedges	Battered Pollock Served with Chips 🍷
	OPTION 2	Cheesy Bean Tortilla Toastie Served with Potato Wedges 🌱	Macaroni Cheese 🌱 🍷	Roast Quorn Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 🌱	Quorn Burger Served with Potato Wedges 🌱 🍷	Veggie Fingers Served with Chips 🌱 🍷
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta 🌱 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta 🌱 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta 🌱 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta 🌱 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta 🌱 🍷
HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD						
DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	Ham Wrap	Ham Baguette	Cheese Wrap 🌱	Ham Baguette	Ham Wrap
	OPTION 5	Cheese Baguette 🌱	Tuna and Sweetcorn Wrap	Egg Mayo Baguette 🌱	Cream Cheese and Cucumber Wrap 🌱	Cheese Baguette 🌱
DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD						
DESSERT		Shortcake 🌱	Chocolate Brownie 🌱	Banoffee Pie	Ginger Biscuit Served with Fruit 🌱	Strawberry Ice Cream



BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY

With a choice of toppings 🌱 🍷



AVAILABLE DAILY

Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water



Vegetarian



Vegan



Oily Fish



Wholegrain



Fruity!



Nutritionist's Choice

Our menu is subject to change. Please be assured that all notified medical diets and allergy requirements will be safely catered for

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Tablets remain a staple of children's digital lives – and Apple's iPad is by far the most popular model. According to Ofcom, over half of younger children regularly use a tablet to play games, watch online content or access apps. With their broad functionality, iPads can be helpful tools, but without supervision, they may expose children to risks ranging from inappropriate content to screen overuse.

COSTLY TO REPAIR

Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its slim design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.

DATA PRIVACY

While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question, bypassing certain filters previously set by adults.

SCREEN ADDICTION

iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of overuse might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.

REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT

Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.

FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES

Parental controls in iOS let you block explicit content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.

USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY

Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device overuse. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits sets daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.

PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING

Children can accidentally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing ensures you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including WIRED, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®