THE CAMELFORD LIGHT

integrity • resilience • aspiration • community

Friday 16th October, 2026 | Issue 6

A Week of Whispers and Croaks



For a headteacher, a voice is one of the most important tools of the job. I use mine to welcome families at the gate, to lead assemblies, to teach and, occasionally, to bring a busy lunch hall back to calm. So when I woke up this week sounding gravelly and hoarse, I knew it was going to be an interesting few days.

It was, and it taught me more than I expected.

It was frustrating. I could still speak, but my voice cracked, faded and vanished altogether in a noisy hall. People leaned in, asked me to repeat myself, or moved on before I'd made my point.
It made me think of the children who feel like that every day: those still learning English, those who need longer to find their words, and the quieter ones who struggle to be heard in a busy room. The people who helped me most simply slowed down and gave me their full attention. We can all do that for our children at home: give them time to finish, and let them know their voice matters, even when it's small.

The other lesson was a much warmer one. Over the week I was looked after in all sorts of small ways: people checking in, cups of tea appearing on my desk, sweets and treats left in my office, and more herbal remedies than I knew existed, from honey and lemon to wonderfully exotic Chinese syrups!
None of it was required, and all of it mattered. Each small kindness said, "We've noticed, and we care." That is exactly the kind of community I want our children to grow up in, one where people pay attention to each other and show up in practical ways. Children learn this best by seeing it, so every time they watch us check on a neighbour, make someone a drink or simply ask "Are you OK?", they're learning what it means to belong to a community.

My voice is on the mend. What I'll remember from this week is how much a little attention and kindness can do, and how important it is that every child in our school feels truly heard.

Dates for Your Diary

- 20/21.10.26: Parents' Evenings
- 22.10.26: Halloween Disco
- 23.10.26: INSET day
- 26 - 30.10.26: Half term break
- 3.11.26: Flu Vaccinations
- 18.11.26: Individual photos

Spotlight on...Polzeath

What a wonderful first half term we have had in Polzeath Class! It has been a pleasure welcoming three new students and seeing everyone settle in, build friendships and enjoy learning together.

This half term, we have focused on developing confident communication through Core Words, including like, help, want, yes, no, I, me and my. Through sensory play, shared experiences and familiar routines, students have practised using these words in ways that suit them best, whether through AAC devices, Core Word Boards, Talking Buttons, Makaton or other communication methods.

It has been fantastic to see growing confidence, independence and self-expression. As these photos show, our learners have particularly enjoyed hands-on sensory activities, from exploring autumn treasures to pouring rice onto drums while modelling the word like, creating meaningful and enjoyable opportunities for communication and learning.





Here's the clue for Monday. What music do you think you'll hear?



You may not know the title, but you'll recognise many of these tunes from the big screen.

Privacy Notice

To help families understand how personal information is handled, our Trust Privacy Notice explains what data we hold, why we need it, and how we keep it secure. It also provides details of your data protection rights and who to contact for further information.

Read more here: Privacy Notice



Parking



We kindly ask parents and carers not to use the ARB car park at drop-off and pick-up times unless they have been given permission to do so.

These spaces are reserved for children and families who require wheelchair access or have additional mobility needs. Having a parking space close to the entrance helps ensure they can make a safe, comfortable and dignified journey into school.

When the car park is full, it can be very difficult for these families to access the building, particularly at busy times of day. We would be very grateful for your support in keeping these spaces available for those who need them most. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Friends Of Camelford School (FoCS)

FoCS AGM – All Welcome!

Join us for the FoCS AGM on Monday 2nd November at 9:00am in school.
Come along for a tea or coffee, find out more about FoCS, and help us continue to grow and strengthen our wonderful school community.
We'd love to see both familiar and new faces there!



Can You Help Us Hear Children Read?



We're looking for parents, grandparents and family members who might have a little time to spare to come into school and help hear our children read.
It's a lovely way to support the children's confidence and reading skills, and even a small amount of time can make a big difference. No previous experience is needed — just a willingness to listen and encourage!
For safeguarding purposes, all volunteers will need to complete a DBS check before volunteering in school.
If you think you could help, please speak to the school office or let your child's teacher know. We'd love to hear from you!

Camelford Community Primary School

Safeguarding — keeping every child safe

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have a concern about a child's welfare or safety — however small it may seem — please speak to a member of our safeguarding team straight away. **You do not need to be certain, just concerned.**

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Stringer

Deputy Headteacher

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

InMrsStringer'sabsence,pleasespeaktooneof the team below.

Our Wider Safeguarding Team



Mrs Cannon

Headteacher
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Nayeb

Pastoral Support
Safeguarding Level 3 trained

Every member of staff is part of our safeguarding team. Children and families can talk to any adult at Camelford Community Primary School — a teacher, teaching assistant, lunchtime supervisor, or office staff. If you're not sure who to ask, or your first choice isn't around, just speak to whoever is nearest. They will listen, take it seriously, and know exactly what to do next.

Contact the School

Address: Station Road, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9UE

Telephone:01840 212376

Email: dsl@camelford.cornwall.sch.uk

Worried about a child outside school?

Cornwall MARU:0300 123 1116

Email: multiagencyreferralunit@cornwall.gov.uk

Out of hours:01208 251300

If a child is in immediate danger, always call 999.

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Toscana Strings



Toscana Strings Bring Stories to Life Through Music and Dance

On Friday afternoon, we were delighted to welcome Toscana Strings to school for a wonderful interactive performance that captivated children and staff alike.
Toscana Strings specialise in bringing live music to schools through their award-winning Stories Set To Music concerts. Combining beautiful string music with storytelling, movement and dance, the performers introduced our pupils to the string family while encouraging everyone to join in with mime and dance activities.
The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and were fully engaged throughout the performance. It was a fantastic opportunity to experience high-quality live music and to discover how music, storytelling and dance can work together to bring stories to life.

We are very grateful to Toscana Strings for visiting us and to Sound Waves South West, whose support has helped make their North Cornwall tour possible. Experiences like these help inspire creativity, broaden cultural experiences and nurture a lifelong appreciation of the arts.

We hope to welcome them back again in the future!







Christmas Dates

MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Christmas Fair
Wednesday
2nd December

Christmas Shop
7th - 17th December

Christmas Lunch
Wednesday
9th December

Wear your xmas jumper

Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday
10th December

Wear your xmas jumper

Reception, Y1 and Y2 Nativity	Year 3 Christmas Play	Year 4 Lanteglos Community Carols	Year 5/6 Carols at the Bandstand
Tuesday 8th December 9.30am & 2pm	Monday 14th December	Wednesday 16th December	Friday 11th December



Staff Spotlight



The people at Camelford are a huge part of what makes us so special. That's why we want to help you get to know our staff in our new weekly column: Staff Spotlight

This week the spotlight shines on....Mrs Elliott-Stuckey

Name and role	Holly – ARB Teacher
How long have you been at Camelford?	I joined Camelford Primary in April 2026
What do you love most about your job?	My favourite part of my job is that I'm reminded every day that there is no single way to communicate, learn, connect or experience our world.
What's a favourite book from your own childhood?	My favourite childhood book was The Faraway Tree, where every adventure led somewhere new and unexpected.
Do you have a pet?	Muttley, my incredibly affectionate, cuddly and very noisy black and white curly Cockapoo, has decided he's a husky and now howls VERY loudly!
What's something you found hard to learn as a child — and how did you crack it?	I'm dyslexic and found the academic side of school difficult at times (especially spellings!). One of the biggest things I learnt was the importance of asking trusted people for help when I needed it.
What was your favourite subject at school — and your least favourite?	My favourite subject was Sports Leadership because I loved working with the local schools. My least favourite was Modern Foreign Languages, although I wish I'd tried harder, as I'd love to speak another language now!
What's your favourite school dinner (or the pudding you'd never share)?	I love a roast dinner. Sharing the roast potatoes would be asking a bit too much!

Tea or coffee? NEITHER - YUCK!	Beach or moor? BEACH	Sweet or savoury? SAVOURY	Early bird or night owl? EARLY BIRD	Marmite: yes or no? NOT FOR ME

CAMELFORD
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Friends of Camelford (FOCS)

Stronger Together for Our Children

Our School ♥ Our Community ♥ Brighter Futures

WE NEED YOU!

The Friends of Camelford (FOCS) is our school's parent and carer support group. We help out at school events, raise valuable funds for the school and bring our community together. **And we'd love you to join us!**



Friendly Group

Meet other parents and be part of a welcoming team.



Raise Funds

Help us raise money to provide extra resources, equipment and special projects for our children.



Support Events

Help out at fun school events like fairs, discos, festive activities and more!



Make a Difference

Your time, ideas and enthusiasm help enrich school life for all our children.

GET INVOLVED!

Many hands make a huge difference! ♥

A little time goes a long way!

Great Children ★ Great School ★ Great Community ★ Brighter Futures

Together we can do amazing things! ♥

Harvest Festival



Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Harvest Festival. It was a wonderful celebration of autumn, poetry and community, and it was lovely to share it together.

A heartfelt thank you, too, for your generous donations, which will be passed on to The Old Bank to support those in our local community.

Coming next week: A special Harvest edition of The Camelford Light, including never-before-seen photos and all winning and highly commended poetry competition entries.

HALLOWEEN DISCO

Thursday 22nd October

School Hall

ARB + Nursery	1.30pm – 2pm
Reception and Year 1	2.15pm – 2.45pm
Year 2 and Year 3	3pm – 3.45pm
Year 4	4pm – 4.45pm
Year 5 and Year 6	5pm – 5.45pm

CAMELFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAFE INCLUSIVE TOGETHER

At CAMELFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL we are ALLERGEN AWARE

We are committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all our pupils.

Allergies can be serious.

Even a tiny amount of an allergen can cause a severe reaction.



WE ALL HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY



CHECK

Always check labels of packed foods for allergens.



THINK

Choose alternatives that are safe for everyone.



LET US KNOW

Inform the school of any allergies or changes.



BE KIND

Show respect and understanding. We're in this together.

Thank you for helping us keep our school a safe place for every child to learn and thrive.

Care • Respect • Responsibility

TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

This poster has been created in line with Benedict's Law.
It does not list specific allergens to reduce the risk of identifying pupils with allergies.

Our School Values



We are focusing on our school values this year and have begun with a very important one:

COMMUNITY

To help everyone remember and understand our values, we have created some new friends.



Meet: Finn the mackerel! He and his shoal work together to show us how communities work and why they are important. Lots of our messages in assembly have been around Community over the past few weeks.

Help and Advice
from the School Nurse

There is now a **new way** to contact Health Visitors and School Nurses, with three advice lines as follows:



Young people aged 11–19

07312 263 096



Parents/carers of children aged 0–5

07312 263 423



Parents/carers of children and young people aged 5–19

07312 263 499

Message us for **confidential help and advice** about a range of health concerns, including:

- Sleep
- Child development
- Support with behaviour
- Toileting
- Feeding and nutrition
- Keeping safe and healthy
- Childhood illnesses and support with medical conditions at school
- Emotional, mental health and wellbeing
- Relationships
- Smoking and vaping
- Drugs and alcohol

The messaging service is available **Monday to Friday** (excluding bank holidays) from **9am to 5pm.**

When you send a message, you'll receive an **automated reply** to confirm we've received it.

A trained healthcare professional will reply to your message during office hours **within 48 hours.**

You can send a message, **anonymously** if you wish.

We're here to help!

Supporting children and young people to be healthy, happy and safe.

BLACK BELT READER

READ TODAY. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

PRACTICE GROWS PROGRESS PROGRESS BUILDS READERS!



In martial arts, someone becomes a black belt through years of practice, discipline and commitment, not simply natural talent.

They move through White Belt, Yellow Belt and beyond, all the way to Black Belt, by showing up again and again and getting better over time.

HOW IT WORKS

Black Belt Reader (formerly Sparx Primary Reader) borrows that structure. Each belt is represented by a physical bookmark, so the journey is something a child can hold, carry in their book, and fill with stickers.

Build your reading strength one belt at a time!





Every time you move up a belt, you'll receive a **GOLDEN TICKET!**

This puts you in the draw to take home the 'Reading Bag" for the week.



A JOURNEY TO BE PROUD OF

The programme is designed to build steadily across Key Stage 2, so a child in Year 6 can look back at real evidence of the reader they've become.

Let's keep reading, keep progressing and see how far you can go!



What Counts as Good Attendance?

Every day in school counts!

What counts as good attendance?

97%

OUR AIM!

We aim for a minimum of **97% attendance;** this allows for 6 days absence for illness across the school year.



95%

An attendance rate of **95%** is considered **acceptable;** this allows for children to miss 9.5 days for illness across the school year.



90%

Persistent absence (PA) is defined as an attendance rate of **90% or below.**



Unfortunately, we have no choice but to seek **penalty notices** for **10 or more unauthorised absences.**



Good attendance = **brighter futures**