



Friday 17th October

Halwin Headlines

It's been a busy week at Halwin and, as we draw closer to the end of term, we bring some units to a close. Kingfishers have made their final product in DT and are looking forward to sharing them with Robins next week. Kingfishers have also finished their RE unit on The Trinity and showcased their learning by making a leaflet today. Their science continues with Y5/6 learning about Charles Darwin and his study of finches while Y3/4 demonstrated their prior knowledge of classifying animals and applied this to new learning. Our EYFS children have worked together to create a rocket and enjoyed playing in it this week. Robins have loved using their programming skills in Computing to create algorithms for the indi sphero cars and are busy making their final pieces for their DT project about bridges.

On Tuesday, Halwin received very positive feedback following a reading review. The children who spoke to our visitor shared how reading sits at the heart of our school — opening doors to every subject, sparking imagination, and building the foundations for future learning. Please continue to support this at home by ensuring your child reads regularly and enjoys sharing books with you. If you would like help to build a positive reading culture at home, please speak to Mrs Carr, Mrs Ellis or Mrs Tamblin.

Now we have an exciting final week of this half term to look forward to. The Friends of Halwin have organised a fun Halloween disco for everyone on Wednesday from 5.15pm to 6.30pm. Tickets are only £2 and we hope as many children as possible will join us to support the school. On Thursday, as part of our History curriculum this term, we are taking the whole school to Pendenis Castle where we will enjoy workshops and an opportunity to explore the castle. Please ensure you have returned your permission slip and paid via ParentPay. If you would like a school packed lunch, and have not already ordered one, please contact Mrs Gee by Tuesday 21st October.

As you know, we are always excited to share achievements outside of school from swimming awards to Brownies badges, and home learning and inspiring creations. This week, a special mention goes to Carter, who has completed 6 weeks of trials and been successfully selected for the Plymouth Argyle Elite hub for his age group! Super Star!

From Monday, we will have a selection of poppies and other related items in the school lobby. Please send money in with your child in a named purse or envelope if you wish to purchase anything. Suggested donations range from 50p for a poppy, £1 for a bracelet or keyring, £2 for a snap band to £4 for a pin badge.

Polite reminder, in order to ensure our children are safe in the car park, we ask that you park facing the way you will drive out of the playground. This reduces the need for reversing when there are children returning to cars. When waiting in the car park, please ensure you switch your engine off.

Finally, don't forget next week is the last week of this term and we are closed from Monday 27th October for half term. We have an INSET day on Monday 3rd November so children return to school on Tuesday 4th November.

Have a lovely weekend.

Get in touch

You can contact us via phone or email.

01209 860329

halwinsecretary@croftymat.org

Wrap-Around Care Link

<https://forms.gle/HXJ5WDNdV55diV8HA>

Attendance

We aim for all our children to have at least 97% attendance throughout the year.

Overall attendance for this week was 96.49%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 96.25%

Kingfishers: 96.66%



Next weeks lunch is **week 3**



Confidence Aspiration Resilience Enjoyment

Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Freyja
Kingfishers	Ina

Confidence	Ella
Aspiration	Harry
Resilience	Lukas
Enjoyment	Faith

Team Points		
Weekly		Total
22	Blue	499
73	Red	502
69	Green	474
33	Yellow	491



Maths-**Whizz**®

Hall of Fame

Robins: Aimée, Harrison, Carter

Kingfishers: Amelia, Amber, Eli, Luna, Kai, Marley, Sophie, Poppy, Rupert, Ina

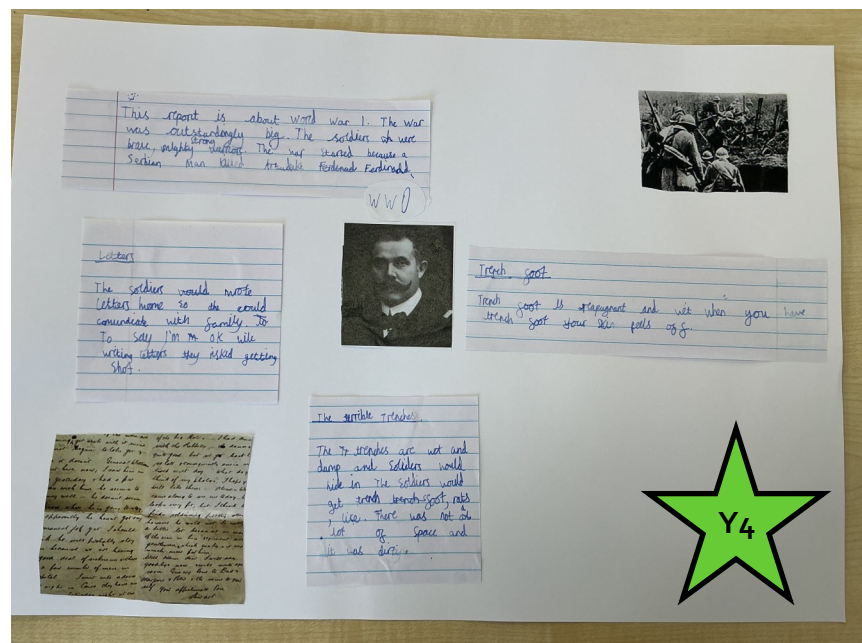
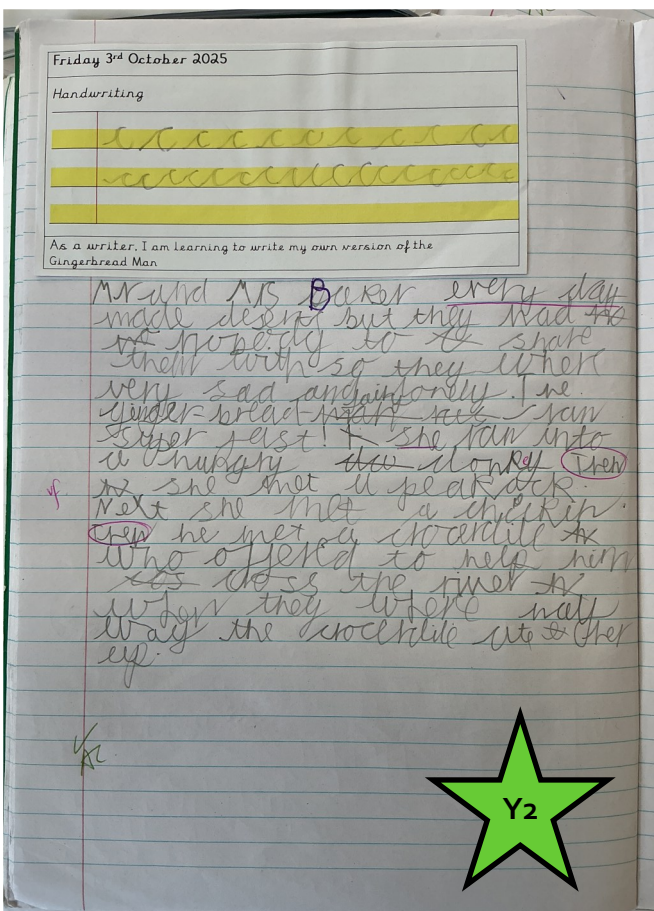
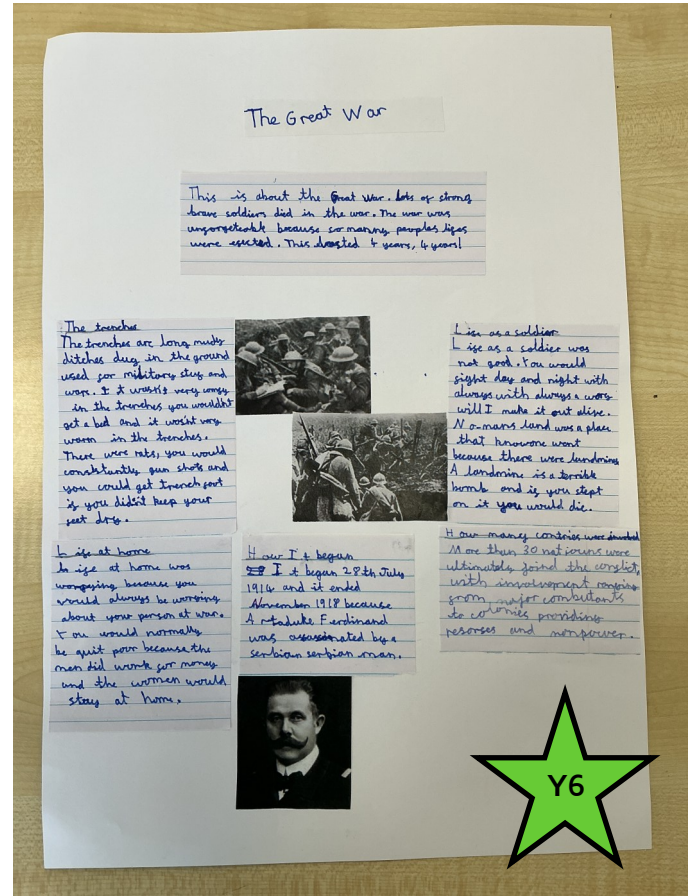
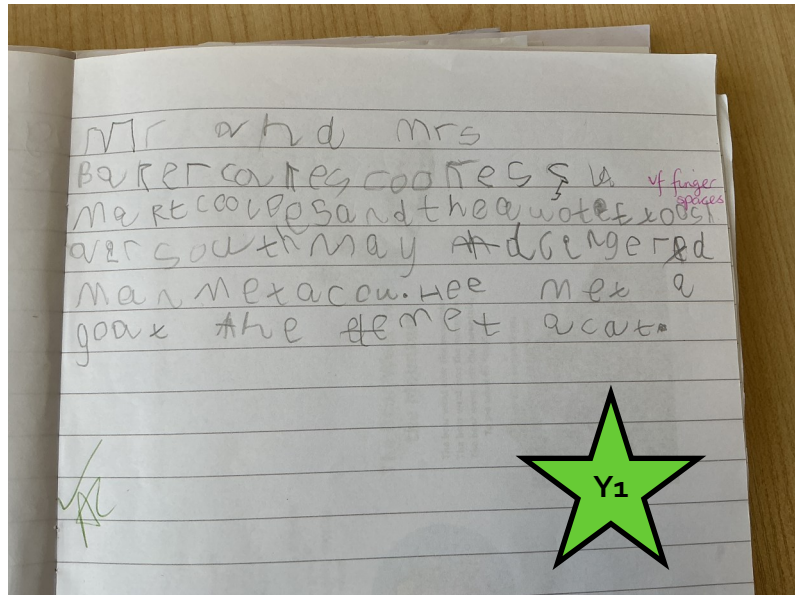
Diary Dates



Monday 20th Oct	Barnardo's Healthy Relationships Workshop—Y6 (part 2)
Tuesday 21st Oct	5 aside Football Competition—KS2 @ Trannack
Wednesday 22nd Oct	Star Plan reviews—parents with children on the Record of Need will receive individual invites. FoH Halloween Disco 5.15pm-6.30pm
Thursday 23rd Oct	History trip to Pendennis Castle
w/c Monday 27th Oct	Half Term
Monday 3rd Nov	Crofty INSET Day—school closed to Pupils
Monday 17th Nov & Tuesday 18th Nov	Parent Evenings
Thursday 20th Nov	World Children's Day—Non School Uniform
Wednesday 26th Nov	Wellbeing Wednesday
Thursday 27th Nov	FOH Wreath Making 6.30pm—8.30pm
Friday 5th December	FOH Sponsored Santa Run FOH Christmas Fayre 3.15pm—4.30pm
Wednesday 10th Dec	Christmas Performance 6pm
Wednesday 17th Dec	Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 19th Dec	Break for Christmas
Monday 5th Jan	INSET DAY
Tuesday 6th Jan	Return to School

Halwin Celebrations

Great writing from Robins and Kingfishers



WEEK 3

W/C: 05/05/2025, 16/06/2025, 07/07/2025, 08/09/2025, 29/09/2025, 20/10/2025

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Served with Garlic and Herb Bread 	Sausage Hot Dog Served with Potato Wedges	Roast Chicken Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Oat Crusted Chicken Served with Wholegrain Rice 	Battered Pollock Served with Chips 
	OPTION 2	Veggie Supreme Pizza Served with Garlic and Herb Bread 	Veggie Sausage Hot Dog Served with Potato Wedges  	Roast Quorn Served with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 	Meatless Shepherd's Pie Served with Gravy  	Quorn Dippers 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	Flapjack  	Chocolate Brownie 	Lemon Cookie Served with Fruit 	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Comflake Tart
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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

A Halloween-themed poster for Halwin School. The background is light beige with scattered black stars, bats, and spider webs. In the center, a large circular watermark contains the school's name and motto. The main title 'HALLOWEEN PARTY' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, the ticket price '£2 PER CHILD!' is written. The date and time 'Oct 22nd | 1715 - 1830' are listed. The school's name 'Halwin Primary School' is at the bottom. On the left, a cartoon witch in a white dress and black hat holds a broom and a jack-o'-lantern. On the right, a green Frankenstein monster with a black suit is dancing. At the bottom center, a small mummy character is wrapped in white bandages. A large spider is in the top right corner.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

£2 PER CHILD!

Oct 22nd | 1715 -
1830

Halwin Primary
School

Christmas Wreath Making

Join Ruth, Everett & the Friends of Halwin for festive wreath crafting fun!

£20 per person

All proceeds go to supporting the children of Halwin School

Date

Thursday, November 27th,
2025 at 6.30pm

Location

Halwin Primary School

Supplies

All materials provided; just bring your own secateurs & Christmas cheer!

Join us for wreath making, a raffle, refreshments & mince pies!



Don't miss out on the holiday cheer!
Contact Char, 07581191453 to book your space now.



Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

**The Mental Health Support Team warmly
invite you to attend...**

Wild Wellbeing

**During October half term we are offering FREE nature based
creative sessions linked to the 5 ways to wellbeing.**

**This is for parents and children aged 5-12 in Cornwall.
Please book EACH child on to a session.**

Morning and afternoon sessions available at:

The Core at St Ives Community

Orchard - Thursday 30 October

Hayle Family Hub - Friday 31 October

We are also offering a Parentwell session at

Penrose Estate - Monday 27 October

Each session will last approx. 2 hours

**To request a place, please complete the online
form or scan the QR code provided:**

<https://forms.office.com/e/vc2Dtk8C5B>



**Follow us on Facebook for updates and
upcoming events:**

[Cornwall Mental Health Support Team \(MHST\)](#)





**SCAN HERE TO BOOK >>>
OR VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**



OCTOBER FOOTBALL CAMPS

ESTD 2009

SUPASPORT

SOUTHWEST

**Fun football and multi
skill games for children
aged 5-11.**

**Wendron School
Helston
TR13 0PX
09:30 - 15:00**

**TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
28th, 29th & 30th OF OCTOBER**

**PLEASE BRING LUNCH, DRINK AND SUITABLE CLOTHING.
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL MARTYN:
MARTYN.SUPASPORTSW@OUTLOOK.COM**



Halloween Themed Holiday Club

Tuesday 28th October

9:30 - 3:30
£35 per child

 campfire snack
 den building
 flora and fauna ID
 real tool use
 woodland craft
 child led play



Join us on



@cornwallsnatureplayground



naturesplayground@hotmail.com



Kehelland Trust,
Kehelland
Camborne.
TR14 0DD
01209 613153



All Things Batty!

Wednesday
29th October
5.00pm- 7.30pm

Join us for an evening learning about our
night flying residents.

Games

Walk around
site

Talk by a
local expert

Bat box building £5 per box

Tickets available from our website

www.kehellandtrust.org.uk

£5 per person including a filled jacket potato

Scan to find us
on Google maps



Well behaved dogs on leads welcome



U18's must be accompanied by an adult



Allantide

A Cornish Autumn Celebration

Wednesday 29th October

10.00am - 3.30pm

Apple Decorations **£1.00**

Site Entry **FREE**

Craft activities **FREE**

Badge Making **£1.00**

Activity Trail **FREE**

Pop up caf serving drinks,
snacks and cakes.

Join us for a fun-filled family day out celebrating
Autumn. Explore our beautiful site and learn about
October festivals around the World

Kehelland Trust,
Kehelland
Camborne,
TR14 0DD
01209 613153

Scan to find us
on Google maps



Well behaved dogs on leads welcome



U18's must be accompanied by an adult

The
deadline for
applications is
**15 January
2026**

Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?**

If so, you will need to apply
for a place in a reception
class in September 2026 for
your child by the deadline
of **15 January 2026**.



Please note: you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions for more information and to access the online application system.



scan me



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Attendance



Attendance

The updated attendance policy is available on the school website: <https://halwin.croftymat.org/>

There are 175 non-school days in a year and 190 school days each year.						
Absence in terms of days	190 school days in each year	7 days absence	10 days absence	19 days absence	28 days absence	47 days absence
	190 days for your child's education	183 days in school	180 days in school	171 days in school and the equivalent of a month not in school that year	162 days in school If it 85% each year, your child is missing the equivalent of a year of education over their time at primary school	143 days in school
percentage	100%	96%	95%	90%	85%	75%
	Good -Best chance of success -Gets your child off to a flying start -Helps their confidence, social development as well as their academic progress -Over 97% is considered excellent attendance		Some Concern -Harder for your child to make progress -School starts tracking your child's attendance closely, <u>Medical</u> evidence may be required to authorise further absences linked to illness		Worrying -Your child is now classified as a 'persistent absentee' - Education Welfare Officer involvement is likely	
	Serious Concern -Having a significant impact on your child's education and well-being -Legal Action may be taken					

Attendance



School doors open at 8.40am and registration is taken at 8.45am. Children who arrive after the registration period has closed (9.05am) may be recorded with an unauthorised absence mark for the morning session.

The Government does not support parents taking children out of school, unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. The DfE does not consider a need/desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure/recreation to be an exceptional circumstance. If you consider that your request for absence is exceptional you will need to complete the 'Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances' request form. Letters will not be accepted. This form should be returned to the school office at least 15 school days before the start of the absence. A response will be sent to you as soon as possible. If leave is not authorised and you nevertheless withdraw your child from school, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised absence. There is now a national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions (equivalent to 5 school days) within a rolling 10 school week period for when a penalty notice must be considered. Under the new rules, taking your child out of school for a one-week holiday will now mean that a penalty notice must be considered. Please note the legal information below:

If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.

If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days.

Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.

Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.

Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

'Parent' as set out in Section 576 of the Education Act 1996, defines parent to include: natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and; any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person with whom a child lives and who looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

How is a Penalty Notice paid?

Penalty notices can be paid by card by calling the office on 01872 324201. If the 21st/ 28th day for payment falls on a weekend or bank holiday, payment will be accepted at the same rate on the following working day.

What happens if a Penalty Notice is not paid?

If a Penalty Notice is not paid within the 28 days of issue (as per the dates listed on the Penalty Notice), Cornwall Council will progress the matter to the Magistrates' Court, for the offence of failing to ensure regular attendance, NOT for failure to pay the fine.

If found guilty:

- under section 444(1), it can result in the parent being fined up to £1000
- under section 444(1A), it can result in the parent being fined up to £2,500 and/or receiving a custodial sentence of up to 3 months

Cornwall Council may also apply for costs incurred in taking the matter to court.

Contact us

Education Welfare Service, New County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk

01872 324298

If you would like this information in another format or language please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall,
Treyew Road, Truro, TR1 3AY

e: customerservices@cornwall.gov.uk

t: 0300 1234 100



Sept 2024 jn5-4975
Photo © iStockphoto.com



Together
for Families

Penalty Notices

A guide to Education Welfare Services
for parents and carers



www.cornwall.gov.uk/togetherforfamilies

What is a Penalty Notice?

A penalty notice is a fine that can be issued under section 444A and section 444B of the Education Act 1996. The fine is issued per parent, per child for:

- Leave of absence of 10 school sessions/5 days or more within any rolling 10 school week* period during term time, without authorisation from the school. This can include unauthorised absence for a holiday.
- Unauthorised absence of 10 or more sessions/5 days within any rolling 10 school week* period where a parent fails to provide an explanation for the absence, or where an explanation is provided but the school consider it insufficient to authorise the absence.
- Unauthorised lateness of 10 school sessions within any rolling 10 school week* period, whereby a child arrives at school after the registers have closed.

NB a penalty notice can be issued for any combination of the above reasons where there are 10 sessions/5 school days or more of unauthorised absence within any rolling 10 school week period. The unauthorised absence can be consecutive or non-consecutive and can span over two terms (including between academic years).

Or when

- A pupil is observed in a public place during school hours in the first five school days of a period of exclusion from school, without reasonable justification.

* a school week is any week in which a school meets at least once.

Who can be issued with a Penalty Notice?

Parents and carers of a child can be issued with a Penalty Notice. The definition of a 'parent' as set out in section 576 of the Education Act 1996: By virtue of this section 'parent' includes: all natural parents, whether they are married or not; any person or body who has parental responsibility for a child (as defined by the Children Act 1989) and any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child. Having care of a child means a person who lives with and looks after a child, irrespective of what their relationship is with said child.

How much is a Penalty Notice fine?

As of the 19th of August 2024, a penalty notice is £80 if paid within 21 days. If the fine is not paid in 21 days, it will rise to £160 if paid within 28 days of being issued.

If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period, the fine will automatically rise to £160 with no option to pay the lower rate of £80.

If a parent then commits a third offence in a three-year rolling period, Cornwall Council will need to consider other enforcement options available. This could include prosecution under section 444(1) or section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996. If found guilty a parent would receive a criminal record and substantial fine.

Penalty Notices are issued per parent, per child.

Therefore, if there are two parents and two children, the fines will total £320 if paid within 21 days or £640 if paid after 21 days but within 28 days (or for a second offence).

Can a Penalty Notice be paid in instalments?

No. Penalty Notices must be paid in full, within the designated dates. However, if a parent has more than one child and is therefore issued with more than one fine, they can pay the fines separately if they wish.

Who is responsible for issuing Penalty Notices?

It is a Headteacher's decision whether or not to authorise an absence and, if their decision is not to authorise, they have the right to request a Penalty Notice in line with their attendance policy process. Cornwall Council's role is to check that the evidence submitted is compliant with Cornwall Council's Code of Conduct for Education Related Penalty Notices and, if so, to issue as appropriate.

Can a parent appeal a Penalty Notice?

There is no statutory right of appeal once a Penalty Notice has been issued. If you believe that the Penalty Notice should not have been issued, you should make contact with the school or academy that your child attends at your very earliest convenience after receiving the Penalty Notice. If you wish to discuss the Penalty Notice procedure, you can contact Cornwall Council's Education Welfare Service on **01872 324298**, or email educationwelfare@cornwall.gov.uk