



Friday 13th February 2026

Halwin Headlines

What a wonderful way to end a busy and successful half term! Today our whole school enjoyed a truly special visit to Trebah Gardens. The children were an absolute credit to Halwin from start to finish. We explored the beautiful garden walks, spotted fish in the lake, searched for sea glass on the beach, played together in the play area and enjoyed lunch in the amphitheatre surrounded by nature. The children loved discovering different areas of the gardens and learning about the wide variety of plants and flowers growing there. It was particularly heartwarming to have so many visitors comment on how polite, friendly and respectful our children were throughout the day. They represented our small but mighty school beautifully. A huge thank you to the parents who supported us on the trip and helped with transport — it makes a big difference to the experiences we can offer. We are also incredibly grateful to the Friends of Halwin and all of our fantastic families and community fundraisers for funding the trip. Your continued support enriches the children's experiences in so many ways.

This week has been a brilliant end to a very busy term. The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Royal Cornwall Show Farm & Country Roadshow yesterday, which brought farming and countryside learning to life in such an engaging way. In the classrooms, there has been lots to celebrate too. Kingfishers have been producing some wonderful poetry, showing great creativity and thoughtful language choices. Robins have impressed us with their own versions of traditional tales, demonstrating imagination and growing confidence in their writing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff team. They have worked incredibly hard this term to ensure the very best for every child at Halwin. Their commitment, care and professionalism make a real difference every single day. We have not yet had the opportunity to showcase our amazing school to Ofsted, and we look forward to welcoming them next term so they can see for themselves what makes Halwin such a special place to learn and grow.

Congratulations to the Green Team, who are this term's team point winners! It was very close fought, but a final flourish secured their victory. They will enjoy a well-deserved treat in the staff room with Mrs Carr at the start of next term — well done to all teams for their hard work.

We wish all of our families a restful and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 24th February. Please remember that Monday 23rd February is an INSET day, and school will be closed to pupils. We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Riches, the new Headteacher, next term. I will continue to support Halwin next term to ensure a smooth transition and continued success for the school community. Looking ahead, Year 3 and 4 swimming will begin on Wednesday 25th February — we recommend that children bring swimming goggles.

Finally, our uniform helps us show belonging and pride in our school, so please check over half term that your child has the correct uniform including logo jumper/hoody/cardigan and plain black shoes or trainers. Please also ensure your child has a named water bottle every day as hydration is important for learning. Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely half term.

Get in touch

You can contact us via phone or email.

01209 860329

halwinsecretary@croftymat.org

Wrap-Around Care Link

<https://forms.gle/rxXHhHkbz5EdVqcv9>

Attendance

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

Overall attendance for this week was 95.68%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 98.67%

Kingfishers: 93.64%

Congratulations

ROBINS



Next weeks lunch is **week 2**



Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Aimée
Kingfishers	Luna

Confidence	Rupert
Aspiration	Faith
Resilience	Marley
Enjoyment	Chari

Team Points

119	Blue	706
92	Red	516
135	Green	729
124	Yellow	582



Hall of Fame

Robins: Carter

Kingfishers: Amelia, Mason, Nicholas, Eli, Luna, Lukas, Kai, Marley, Maddison, Ina, Rupert

Whizz of the Week

Nicholas



Lukas, Mason and Eleanor

For excellent behaviour and attitude
during the school trip to Trebah

Half term challenge—Design the Future

This half term, we are inviting all children to take part in our creative challenge: *Design the Future*. We would like them to imagine the world 50 or even 100 years from now and design something that could make life better — this could be a future home, school or classroom, city, a new invention, transport system or even a brand-new sport etc. Children should include a labelled drawing of their design and a short explanation of how it works and how it helps people. We are looking for imagination, creativity and thoughtful ideas rather than perfection. We can't wait to see their innovative visions for the future!

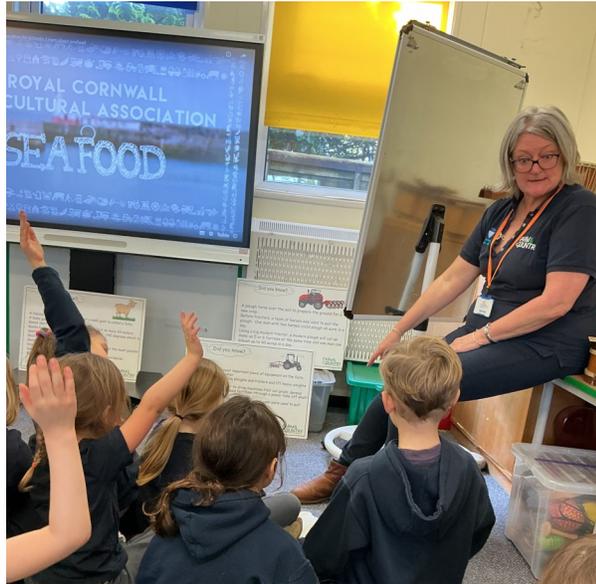
Entries to Mrs Carr by Thursday 26th February



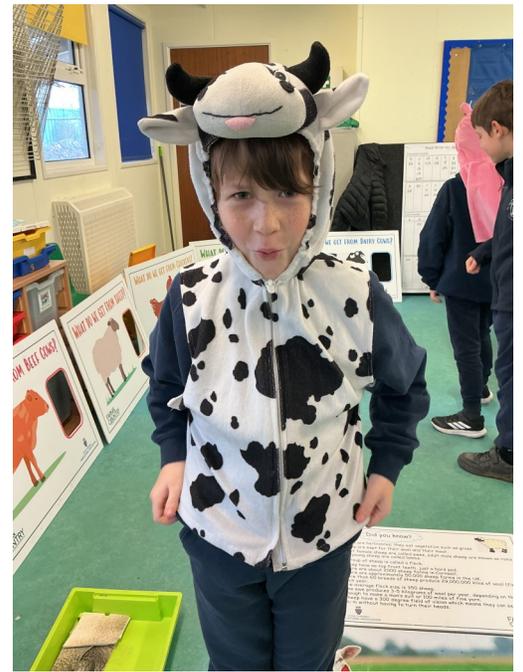
Monday 23rd Feb	INSET DAY
Tuesday 24th Feb	Return to School
Wednesday 25th Feb	Swimming starts for Y3/4 (5 sessions during Spring 2)
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10th March	Y5/6 Careers Event @ Helston CC
Wednesday 11th March	First Lego League @Culdrose (Y5/6 team)
w/c 23rd March	Parents Evenings
Wednesday 25th March	Wellbeing Wednesday Swimming - Robins fun session
Tuesday 31st March	Songfest 2026—Kingfishers
Thursday 2nd April	End of Term
Monday 20th April	Return to School
Wednesday 22nd April	KS2 trip to King Edward Mine
Wednesday 29th April	KS2 Hall for Cornwall theatre show
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Inset Day (Flora Day)
Friday 15th May	Whole School Trip Geevor Mine
Friday 22nd May	End of Term
Monday 1st June	Return to School



Friday 19th June	School Group Photographs
Monday 22nd June	Inset Day
Wednesday 1st July	Wellbeing Wednesday Elemental—Swanpool Beach
Wednesday 22nd July	End of School Year
Thursday 23rd July	Inset Day—school closed



Farm and Country Workshop





Trebah Gardens—Whole School Trip





WEEK 2

W/C: 10/11/2025, 01/12/2025, 12/01/2026, 02/02/2026, 23/02/2026, 16/03/2026

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Macaroni Cheese ✓	Pork Sausages with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	BBQ Chicken with Rainbow Rice	Battered Pollock with Chips
	OPTION 2	Veggie Burrito with Wholegrain Rice ✓ 🌱 🐟 🍷	Vegetarian Sausage with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy ✓	Veggie Shepherd's Pie with Gravy ✓ 🌱 🍷	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Garlic Bread or Pasta Salad	Veggie Fingers with Chips ✓
	OPTION 3	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta ✓ 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta ✓ 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta ✓ 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta ✓ 🍷	Tomato Pasta Fresh, homemade Tomato Sauce with Penne Pasta ✓ 🍷

HOT DISHES ARE SERVED WITH TWO VEGETABLES AND FRESHLY BAKED BREAD

DELI DISHES	OPTION 4	Cheese and Tomato Wrap ✓	Tuna Wrap	Ham Wrap	Cheese and Tomato Wrap ✓	Ham Wrap
	OPTION 5	Egg Mayonnaise Sandwich ✓	Ham Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich ✓	Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich	Cheese Sandwich ✓

DELI DISHES ARE SERVED WITH MIXED SALAD

DESSERT	Chocolate Caramel Crunch	Flapjack ✓	Chocolate Brownie ✓	Apple and Golden Syrup Sponge with Custard ✓	Chocolate Cookie ✓
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BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY

With a choice of toppings: ✓ ⇨



AVAILABLE DAILY

Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water



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 183 days in school	10 days absence 180 days in school	19 days absence 171 days in school and the equivalent of a month not in school that year	28 days absence 162 days in school	47 days absence 143 days in school
	190 days for your child's education				If it 85% each year, your child is missing the equivalent of a year of education over their time at primary 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		



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 jn54975
Photo © iStockphoto.com

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 optional 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