



Friday 13th March 2026

Halwin Headlines

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school, with lots of exciting learning and opportunities for our pupils to take part in new experiences.

On Tuesday, our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended a Careers Event at Helston Community College, where they had the chance to learn about a wide range of different jobs and career pathways. The event linked closely to our PSHE curriculum, helping pupils to think about their futures and encouraging them to develop a sense of aspiration, which is one of our school values. It was wonderful to see the children asking thoughtful questions and engaging so positively with the experience.

On Wednesday, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Carr enjoyed a fantastic day at RNAS Culdrose with our First Lego League team, who were competing in the regional competition. Since October, the team have been working incredibly hard on every aspect of the challenge: designing and building their robot, coding the robot missions and developing their innovation project. Throughout the day the children showed excellent teamwork and confidence, another of our school values, as they presented their work and tackled the robot missions with determination. A special mention must go to Bryn and Ethan, who made particular efforts to help the team score points in the Core Values element of the competition. Their willingness to support the team and step forward when needed showed natural leadership, and they – along with the rest of the team – should feel very proud of their achievements. Mrs Ellis is already looking forward to recruiting some of our current Year 4 pupils for next year's team!

Across the school this week we have also been impressed with the children's positive attitudes and behaviour. On Monday, Mrs Lamb, Crofty Director of Education, visited the school and commented on the lovely calm atmosphere in our classrooms. In lessons, there has been plenty of exciting learning taking place. Kingfishers have been busy in Computing, learning how to animate their names and copy code, while in RE they explored how Shabbat may be celebrated differently by Jewish families within the UK. Meanwhile, Robins have been learning about why oceans are important in Geography, and in English they have been planning their report writing inspired by the recent visit from the Screech Owl Sanctuary. Well done all!

I have updated the diary dates in the newsletter so please take a moment to ensure your diary is up-to date. Parent's Evening appointments are available to book via Arbor. If you recently attended a star plan review meeting, you do not need to book a parent's evening appointment but you are welcome to if you wish.

Finally, Happy Mother's Day to all our mums and special ladies! Have a great weekend.



Next week's lunch is **week 2**



Get in touch

You can contact us via phone or email.

01209 860329

halwinsecretary@croftymat.org

Wrap-Around Care Link

<https://forms.gle/rs6SJJXaGLg2XqRF8>

Attendance

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

Overall attendance for this week was 93.93%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 97.33

Kingfishers: 91.63%

Congratulations

ROBINS

Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Chari
Kingfishers	Harry

Confidence	Aimée
Aspiration	Amelia
Resilience	Maddison
Enjoyment	Valencia

Team Points

209	Blue	381
125	Red	270
190	Green	413
216	Yellow	412



Hall of Fame

Robins: Faith, Aimée, Harrison, Carter

Kingfishers: Amelia, Amber, Eli, Marley, Benjamin, Poppy, Rupert



Ethan

Bryn

For excellent leadership

Congratulations to all these Year 5 and 6 swimmers for receiving their swimming distance awards.

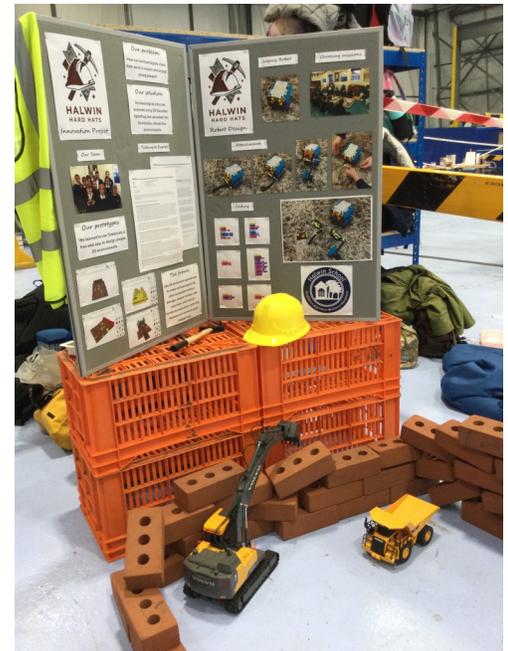


Diary Dates



Wednesday 18th March	RNLI assembly
Friday 20th March	Author Visit—Emily Luke
w/c 23rd March	Parents Evenings—book via Arbor
Wednesday 25th March	Wellbeing Wednesday & Swimming - Robins fun session
Friday 27th March	Celebration Assembly—Parents welcome
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—The Boy at the Back of the Class
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 8th May	Inset Day (Flora Day)
Monday 11th May	SATS Week (including Y6 Breakfast Club)
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

First Lego League Competition at RAF Culdrose





Y5/6 Careers Carousel at Helson Community College

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
		OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
	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 ✓
	OR	OR	OR	OR	OR	
	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
		OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
	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

✓ 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.

Top Tips for... MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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**THURSDAY
9TH & 16TH
APRIL**



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coaching... ..for kids.”

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www.shiltonsoccer.com

Mike Shilton T: 07969 897857 / 01736 755925

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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