



Friday 20th March 2026

Halwin Headlines

It has been such a joy to see the sunshine this week and to feel the lift it brings to the whole school community. A real highlight was today's lunchtime, where the playground was full of energy, imagination and laughter. It was wonderful to spend time outside with the children as they made the most of the weather, enjoying fancy dress costumes, didi cars, a range of sports equipment, and mud kitchen creative play. Moments like these really capture the spirit of Halwin and the joy of childhood. A huge thank you to the Friends of Halwin for organising and funding today's excellent creative workshops with illustrator Emily Luke. The children were completely engrossed from start to finish, showing fantastic focus and creativity as they worked together to create pages for a big book, developing characters, settings, problems and resolutions. Their behaviour was exceptional, something also noted by the RNLI team during Wednesday's assembly, who commented that Halwin was the best school they had visited so far this year.

Year 3 and 4 continue to impress us with their commitment and progress in their weekly swimming sessions. A reminder that next week, Robins class will be swimming as part of Wellbeing Wednesday, and Year 3 and 4 will have their final swimming session on 1st April. During this session, some children may wish to challenge themselves to earn a distance badge, with opportunities to swim 5, 10, 25 or maybe even 50 metres. This week, Robins class have completed their independent writing based on the owls that visited from the Screech Owl Sanctuary earlier this term. They have impressed us with their understanding and application of the reports genre. Alongside this, they have thoroughly enjoyed their art work this week, creating beautiful sea effects using oil pastels and watercolours to explore wax resist techniques. In Kingfishers, the children have been learning about Rosh Hashanah in RE, exploring the symbolism behind traditions such as sharing challah bread, apples and honey. It has been lovely to see their curiosity and thoughtful discussions. Please do keep an eye on our Facebook page for photos. Kingfishers class have also been busy planning and beginning to write their own stories inspired by *The Wind in the Willows*. I am very much looking forward to seeing their finished, published work next week.

As we approach the Easter break, there are a number of important reminders. It is set to be a busy end of term, so please ensure you have booked your slot for Parents' Evenings on Monday or Tuesday. If you attended a Star Plan Review meeting recently, you do not need to book a meeting but are welcome to do so if you wish. Next Wednesday is Wellbeing Wednesday, our termly enrichment and wellbeing day, and children are invited to come to school in their own clothes suitable for outdoor activities, sport and art, including trainers. Please also check children's bags for letters about upcoming trips, especially visits to Trinity Church on Monday 30th March and Songfest (Kingfishers and Choir) on Tuesday 31st March. We would also appreciate your support in ensuring that Parent Pay accounts are up to date. This includes payments for swimming, the *Boy at the Back of the Class* theatre trip for Kingfishers, and the upcoming Year 5/6 residential. Finally, we would love to invite parents to join us for our celebration assembly next Friday. This will be a wonderful opportunity to share some of the Songfest songs with you, as well as to celebrate the children and all their hard work and achievements this term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you have an enjoyable weekend, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the cross-country running event at Trannack School tomorrow, representing Halwin School.

Get in touch

You can contact us via phone or email.

01209 860329

halwinsecretary@croftymat.org

Wrap-Around Care Link

<https://forms.gle/qtJ1CBabTJWgkXrPA>

Attendance

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

Overall attendance for this week was 92.5%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 99.17%

Kingfishers: 89.17%

Congratulations

ROBINS




Next week's lunch is **week 3**



Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Ruby
Kingfishers	Poppy

Confidence	Kai
Aspiration	Zephyr
Resilience	Skylar
Enjoyment	Hudson

Team Points

122	Blue	503
90	Red	360
117	Green	530
108	Yellow	510



Hall of Fame

Robins: Aimée

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

Whizz of the Week

Alfie M

Diary Dates



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

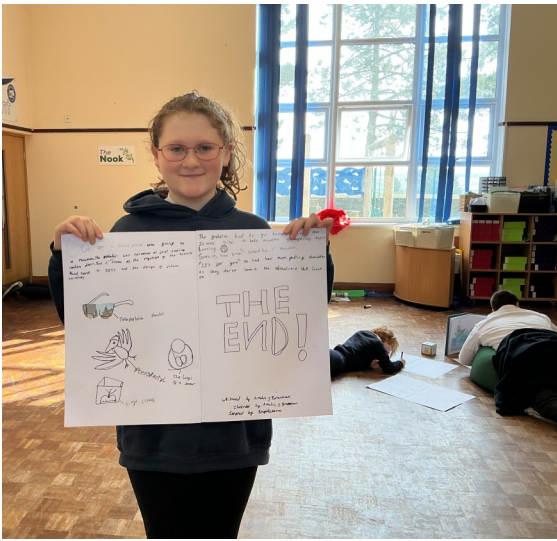
RNLI Water Smart Talk demonstrating key safety message in preparation for summer





Emily Luke
(Illustrator) Creative
workshops for the
Year of Reading





WEEK 3

W/C: 17/11/2025, 08/12/2025, 19/01/2026, 09/02/2026, 02/03/2026, 23/03/2026



		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges	Beef Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Wholewheat Pasta	Roast Gammon with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake	Battered Pollock with Chips
		OR	OR	OR	OR	OR
	OPTION 2	Veggie Meat Feast Pizza with Potato Wedges	Veggie Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Wholegrain Pasta 	Quorn Roast with Mashed Potato and Gravy	Macaroni Cheese	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 	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 Marble Cake	Orange Glazed Sticky Sponge Cake with Custard	Lemon Cookie	Crunchy Chocolate Mousse	Fruits of the Forest Jelly
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BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY

With a choice of toppings



AVAILABLE DAILY

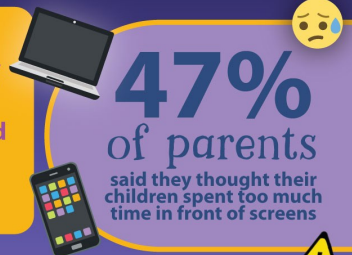
Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

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.



It can be challenging for parents and carers to know whether children are spending too much time on their devices. Furthermore, it's even more of a challenge to know whether a child is addicted to the internet and social media. As technology is becoming more pervasive, children and young people are experiencing tech-related dependencies. Do we as parents and carers have the knowledge to identify and support children and young people who may be developing an addiction to their devices?



What parents need to know about SCREEN ADDICTION



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Children as young as 13 are attending 'smartphone rehab' following growing concerns over screen time. There are now help centers in the UK which deal with screen addiction for children and adults showing the seriousness of device addiction. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has officially recognised gaming addiction as a modern disease. The condition was confirmed as part of their International Classification of Diseases (ICD) which serves as an international standard for diagnosing and treating health conditions.

LACK OF SLEEP

7 out of 10 children said they had missed out on sleep because of their online habits and 60% said they had neglected school work as a result. It is important that children get the sleep they need in order to focus the next day.

LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS

Your child may become less interested in anything that does not include their device. You may notice that your child is missing school time and generally being less engaged with other activities in the home. It is important to discuss this with your child as soon as you notice a behaviour change.



CONFIDENCE, SUPPORT & ADVICE

The Children's Commissioner report 'Life in Likes', explored how children aged 8-11 are using social media today. It showed that children are using their devices to speak to their online friends about their problems and seek acceptance and support, removing face to face interactions.

APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE

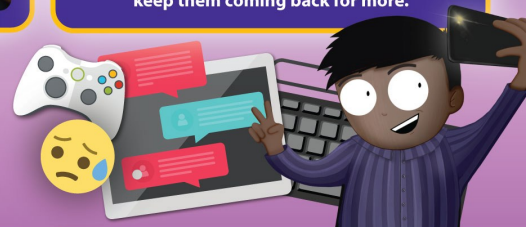
Apps have been designed with 'psychological tricks' to constantly keep grabbing your attention. One example of this is on the app Snapchat, where you can gain 'streaks' when interacting with your friends. If you don't respond, you lose the streak. This addictive nature of apps aims to engage children and keep them coming back for more.



National Online Safety



Top Tips for Parents



LIMIT SCREEN TIME

In today's digital age, technology is an important part of a child's development so completely banning them from their device will mean they are missing out on a lot, including conversations and communication with their friends. Rather than banning them from using their devices, we suggest setting a screen time limit. Work out what you think is a suitable and healthy amount of time for your child to be on their device per week. Remember that your child may need to use devices for their school homework so only set screen limits on recreational time on their device. Once you have established this, have the conversation with them to discuss why you are implementing a screen limit. There will be others in your child's friendship group who will not have screen limits set and will be sending messages when they do not have access to their phones.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children model their behavior on their peers, so if their parents are constantly on their device, they will see this as acceptable. Try limiting your own screen time and follow the same rules you have set for them. If you have asked your child to not use their device at the table, make sure you don't. Try setting house rules that the whole family abide by.

REMOVE DEVICES FROM THEIR BEDROOM

Setting a rule about removing devices from bedrooms will help your child to get the sleep they need and be more focussed the next day at school. 20% of teenagers said that they wake up to check their social network accounts on their devices. Even by having a device switched off in their bedroom, they may be tempted to check for notifications.

LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE

There are many risks associated with devices, such as cyberbullying, grooming, sexting, viewing inappropriate content etc. Less time spent on a screen means that a child will be less exposed to these risks.

MOBILE-FREE MEAL TIMES

Have you tried to settle your child by giving them a tablet at the dinner table or restaurant? This may seem like a quick fix to calm them down but in reality, it is encouraging them to use their device as a distraction from conversation and dealing with their emotions. We suggest removing all technology from the dinner table and having conversations with your family about how their day has been.

ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES



It may seem like an obvious solution, but encouraging children to play with their friends, read a book, or playing outdoors will help them realise they can have fun without their device. Playing football, trampolining, camping, going for a walk or swimming are all healthy replacements for screen time. Try to join them in their Outdoor activities to show your support.

STATISTICS

52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly **9hrs** a week

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly **9.5hrs** a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly **13.5hrs** a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly **20.5hrs** a week

Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018

SOURCES: <https://www.independent.co.uk>, Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report 2018: <https://www.ofcom.gov.uk>, <http://uk.businessinsider.com/how-app-developers-keep-us-addicted-to-our-smartphones>, Journal of Youth Studies: <https://www.mirror.co.uk/tech-one-five-kids-losing-sleep-9693986>, University of Leeds: <https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/news/article/1296/lack-of-sleep-damaging-for-children>



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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