



Friday 27th March 2026

Halwin Headlines

Despite the rather wintery weather, it's been a lovely week at Halwin, with lots to keep everyone busy. Kingfishers class have created their tiles in art and are looking forward to painting and glazing them next week. In Geography, Kingfishers have been exploring how flooding affects communities, while Robins class have been learning about the UK's place in the wider world. In Maths, Year 1 have been working hard on their number bonds to 10, and Year 2 have been exploring shape.

Wednesday marked our termly wellbeing day. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities including making fruit skewers for their snack, sports with Mr Warran, computing, art, yoga and swimming. As always, we were incredibly impressed with the children's behaviour and the way they demonstrated our school values of Confidence, Aspiration, Resilience and Enjoyment throughout the day. Well done, everyone.

On Thursday, we enjoyed learning about democracy as we took part in the annual Trust Parliament vote. The children had the opportunity to vote for either a Crofty 'Forest' or a Crofty Art Gallery. Ballot boxes were collected from all the Crofty schools, and Nicholas and Kai were chosen to help count the votes. The result remains a closely guarded secret until the announcement on Monday morning!

You may remember that in last year's Trust Parliament vote, the winning choice was to support a charity across all Crofty schools. Earlier this year, we learned about Penhali-gon's Friends, the chosen charity for this year, who support Cornish children and families experiencing bereavement. On Thursday, we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for this important cause.

This morning, Kingfishers and our choir were joined by Angela Renshaw from the ASONE Music Hub for a final rehearsal ahead of the Songfest event on Tuesday next week. They have all worked extremely hard to learn the songs, and we are really looking forward to the opportunity to perform alongside other schools at the Hall for Cornwall.

Thank you to the parents who joined us for celebration assembly this afternoon, and to the Friends of Halwin and everyone who purchased the delicious cakes. Your continued support for the school is always very much appreciated.

It's set to be another busy week as we reach the end of term—and my final week at Halwin—with Trinity Church visits on Monday, Songfest on Tuesday, swimming for Years 3 and 4 on Wednesday, and our non-uniform day on Thursday.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend.



Next week's lunch is **week 1**



Get in touch

You can contact us via phone or email.

01209 860329

halwinsecretary@croftymat.org

Wrap-Around Care Link

<https://forms.gle/Z6vEmRp9XPJNCTjN6>

Attendance

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

Overall attendance for this week was 92.8%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 97.33%

Kingfishers: 89.96%


Congratulations

ROBINS

Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Skylar
Kingfishers	Amelia

Confidence	Alfie
Aspiration	Hudson
Resilience	Amber
Enjoyment	Ruby

Team Points

151	Blue	654
153	Red	520
176	Green	706
204	Yellow	714



Hall of Fame

Robins: Aimée

Kingfishers: Amelia, Harry, Amber, Eli, Bryn, Kai, Marley, Poppy, Rupert, Ina

Whizz of the Week

Poppy

Wellbeing Wednesday
Wednesday 25th March 2026

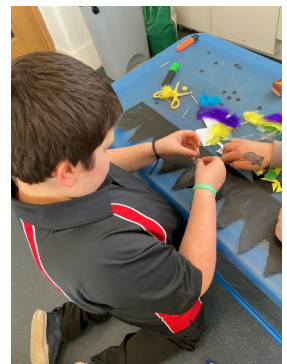
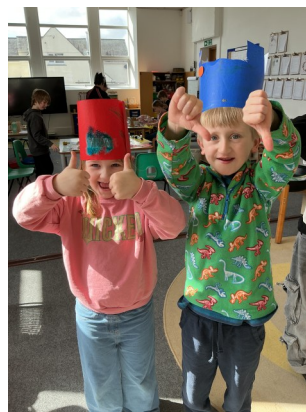
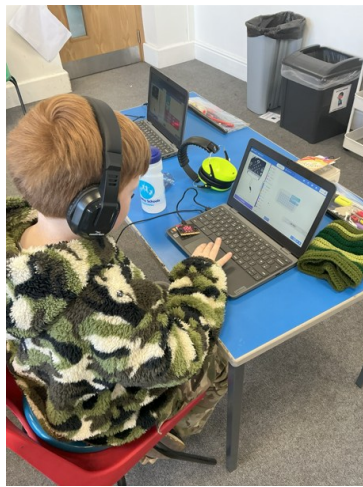


Diary Dates



Monday 30th March	Trinity Church visit—whole school
Tuesday 31st March	Songfest 2026—Kingfishers
Wednesday 1st April	Y3/4 Final Swimming Session
Thursday 2nd April	Non-Uniform Day—Penhaligon's Friends 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

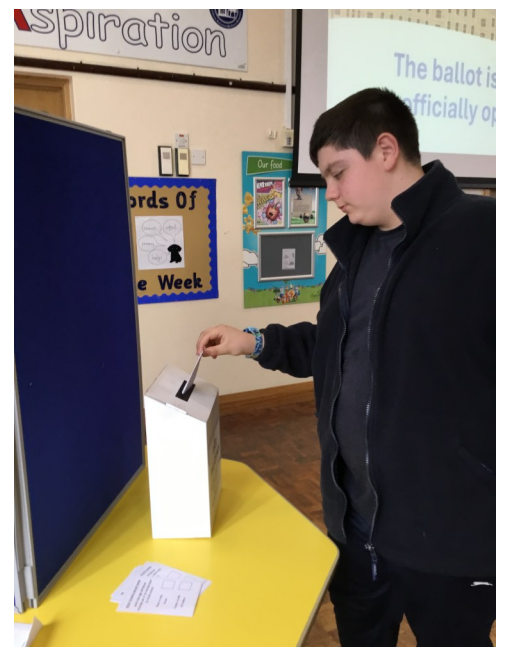
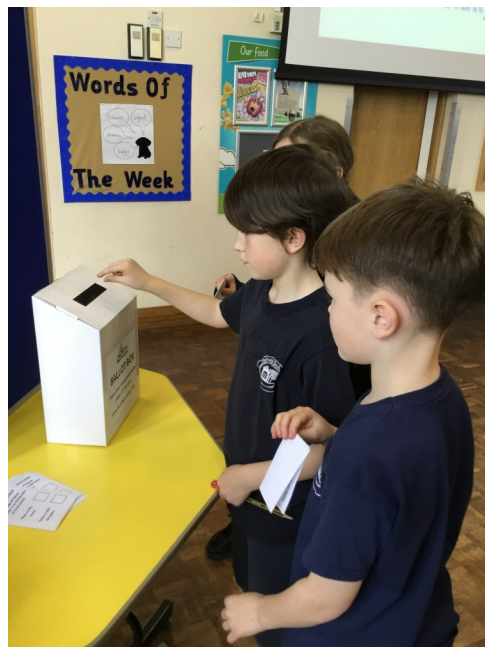
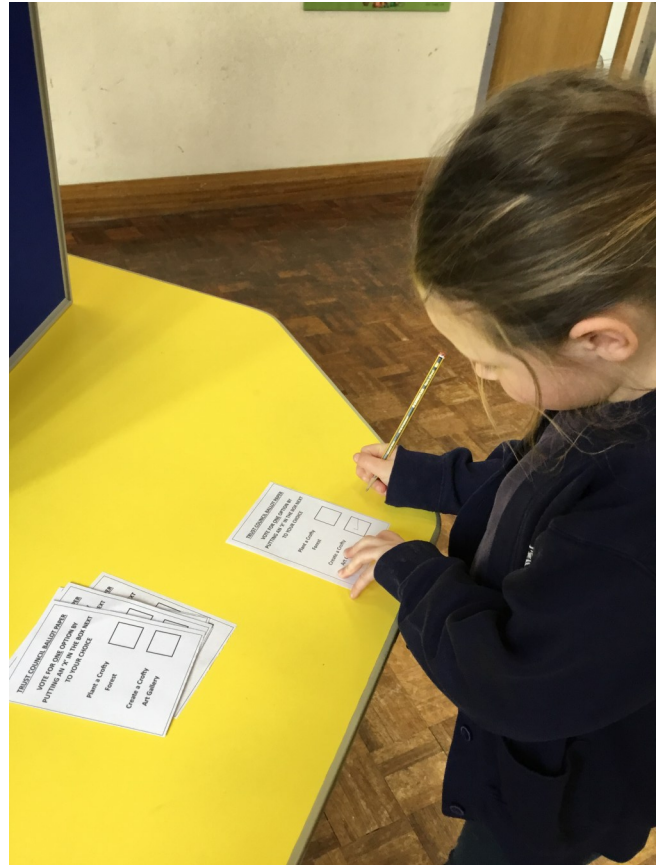
Wellbeing Wednesday



Songfest Rehearsals
























Trust Parliament Voting Day








WEEK 1




W/C: 03/11/2025, 24/11/2025, 15/12/2025, 05/01/2026, 26/01/2026, 09/03/2026, 30/03/2026

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HOT DISHES	OPTION 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Potato Wedges 	Beef Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta  	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken and Vegetable Pie with Mashed Potatoes and Gravy	Southern Fried Chicken with Chips
	OPTION 2	BBQ Vegetable Wrap with Potato Wedges  	Vegetarian Bolognese with Wholewheat Pasta   	Roast Quorn with Roast Potatoes and Gravy 	Cheesy Vegetable Hotpot 	Quorn Dippers 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	Crunchy Apple Slice 	Strawberry Shortcake Mousse	Oat Cookie 	Apple Crumble with Custard 	Berry Blondie
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BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY

With a choice of toppings  



AVAILABLE DAILY

Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
16+

In UK and Europe;
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

ONLINE

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

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



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Wasson Wednesdays



Easter Fun!

Wednesday 8th and 15th April

10am - 3.30pm

Site entry **FREE**

Egg Nature Trail **£1**

DIY Craft Kits **£2.00**

Spring Crowns **£1**

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Join us for a fun-filled day celebrating spring.

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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