



Friday 6th March 2026

Halwin Headlines

What a busy week it has been at Halwin! This year we are celebrating the **Year of Reading 2026** with the theme "Go All In." Throughout the year we have a range of book-related activities and author visits planned, but World Book Day provided a wonderful opportunity for us to truly go all in with a whole week of book-themed excitement. We started the week with an exciting visit from the Screech Owl Sanctuary. While not strictly linked to book week, we could all think of a few famous owls from stories (Hedwig from *Harry Potter* quickly came to mind!). The children loved meeting the owls, ferret and polecat and learning more about them. A huge thank you to the Friends of Halwin, who organised and funded this fantastic experience for the whole school.

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Kirsten Shanks, a local author and illustrator who has recently published her first book. Kirsten led some engaging workshops for the children, sharing her book *Mouse and Kestrel*. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to the story and then using their imaginations to create their own sequel adventures for the characters. Kirsten hopes to create an exhibition of the children's designs and digitally collate with others from local Crofty schools to share. We will keep you updated!

Thursday brought World Book Day itself, with many opportunities for the children to share stories and learn more about different authors. One of the highlights of the day was the lovely buddy reading session, where Kingfishers and Robins classes came together to read and share books. The children also enjoyed a special pasty lunch to celebrate St Piran's Day, which added a very Cornish touch to the day. All children received their World Book Day voucher, and we hope they enjoy choosing one of the special World Book Day titles or using it for £1 off a book of their choice. Today the school was wonderfully colourful, filled with book characters, creative costumes and comfy reading clothes. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm for books and stories. Congratulations to the 28 children who took part in the challenge to create a book-inspired potato. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Roadley, who many of you will remember from Owls class last year, back to Halwin to judge the entries. Mrs Roadley now works at Parc Eglos School, another Crofty school, and she had the difficult task of choosing our winners. Congratulations to Rupert and Chari, who each received a new book. Thank you also to the children who shared their favourite books in class. Alongside all of these exciting activities, there was still plenty of time for learning across the curriculum. Years 3 and 4 enjoyed another great swimming session, pupils showed fantastic effort during basketball in PE, and classrooms were busy with maths, writing and many other subjects throughout the week.

Looking ahead to next week, there are a few reminders to share. On Tuesday, Years 5 and 6 will be visiting Helston Community College for a careers event as part of their PSHE learning. Our Lego team will be taking part in their competition at Cudrose on Wednesday; please refer to the letter for timings. We ask that the Lego team wear warm clothing and their Halwin logo hoodie or jumper so they can proudly represent the Halwin team. Parents' Evening slots are now available to book on Arbor. Finally, Mr Riches will be running an Online Safety 'pop-in' session on Monday morning to support parents with parental settings on children's devices. Thank you, as always, for your continued support, and I hope you all 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/jDpeGznrULmWKGqB9>

Attendance

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

Overall attendance for this week was 98.96%

See below for the attendance for each class last week.

Robins: 100%

Kingfishers: 98.29%

Congratulations

ROBINS



Next weeks lunch is **week 1**



Halwin Heroes



Confidence **Aspiration** Resilience Enjoyment

	Star of the Week
Robins	Skylar
Kingfishers	Tate

Confidence	Maddison
Aspiration	Carter
Resilience	Faith
Enjoyment	Benjamin

Team Points

71	Blue	172
67	Red	145
127	Green	223
108	Yellow	196



Hall of Fame

Robins: Faith, Aimée, Harrison

Kingfishers: Amelia, Nicholas, Eli, Luna, Bryn, Marley, Maddison, Poppy, Rupert, Ina

Whizz of the Week

Harrison



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—book via Arbor
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



The whole school enjoyed a visit from the Screech Owl Sanctuary and met 'Stinky Pete' the polecat and his friends!





Author and Illustrator, Kirsten Shanks, led creative writing workshops in Kingfishers and Robins



Congratulations to all the children who took part in the design a book themed potato challenge and well done to our winners!

HALWIN SCHOOL
'POP IN' EVENT
**"PARENTAL SETTINGS
& GUIDANCE"**

QUICK TIPS
& TRICKS

MONDAY 9TH
MARCH

THE AI
ADVENTURE

9:00 – 9:20 – After morning drop off
School Hall



Join Mr Riches for the session

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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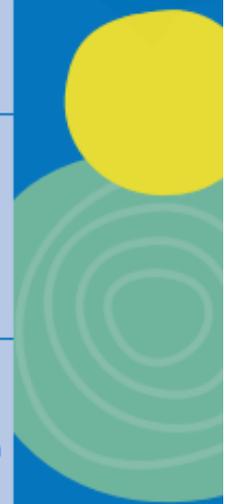
BAKED POTATOES SERVED DAILY

With a choice of toppings  



AVAILABLE DAILY

Fresh fruit, salad, yoghurt and water





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