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he Heffington Post
3rd September 2025



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VERY MOMENT MATTERS!



Dear current and new parents and pupils,

We hope you have had a wonderful summer break and we very much look forward to seeing you back with us tomorrow. The staff have been very busy getting the classrooms and resources ready for the children and we have the added excitement of the new build, which, although won't be ready for some time, is definitely taking shape! The builders have been very busy preparing the ground works and the skeleton of the new classroom is certainly much larger than we expected—we are very excited to see how it will be transformed over the forthcoming few months.

What we are looking forward to!



Where we are up to, so far!



Just a few reminders:

Don't forget your wellies: In a previous newsletter it was mentioned that we will be utilising the lower grass area as additional playground space to allow for more room for the children whilst the build is ongoing. As we move in to the season of more inclement weather, we would like to see all pupils bring some named wellies in to school (which can be left in school) so that they do not ruin their school shoes when playing on the grass. If you are not able to provide wellies, then please do let us know, and we will try to source some spare wellies for your child. Thank you for your support with this.

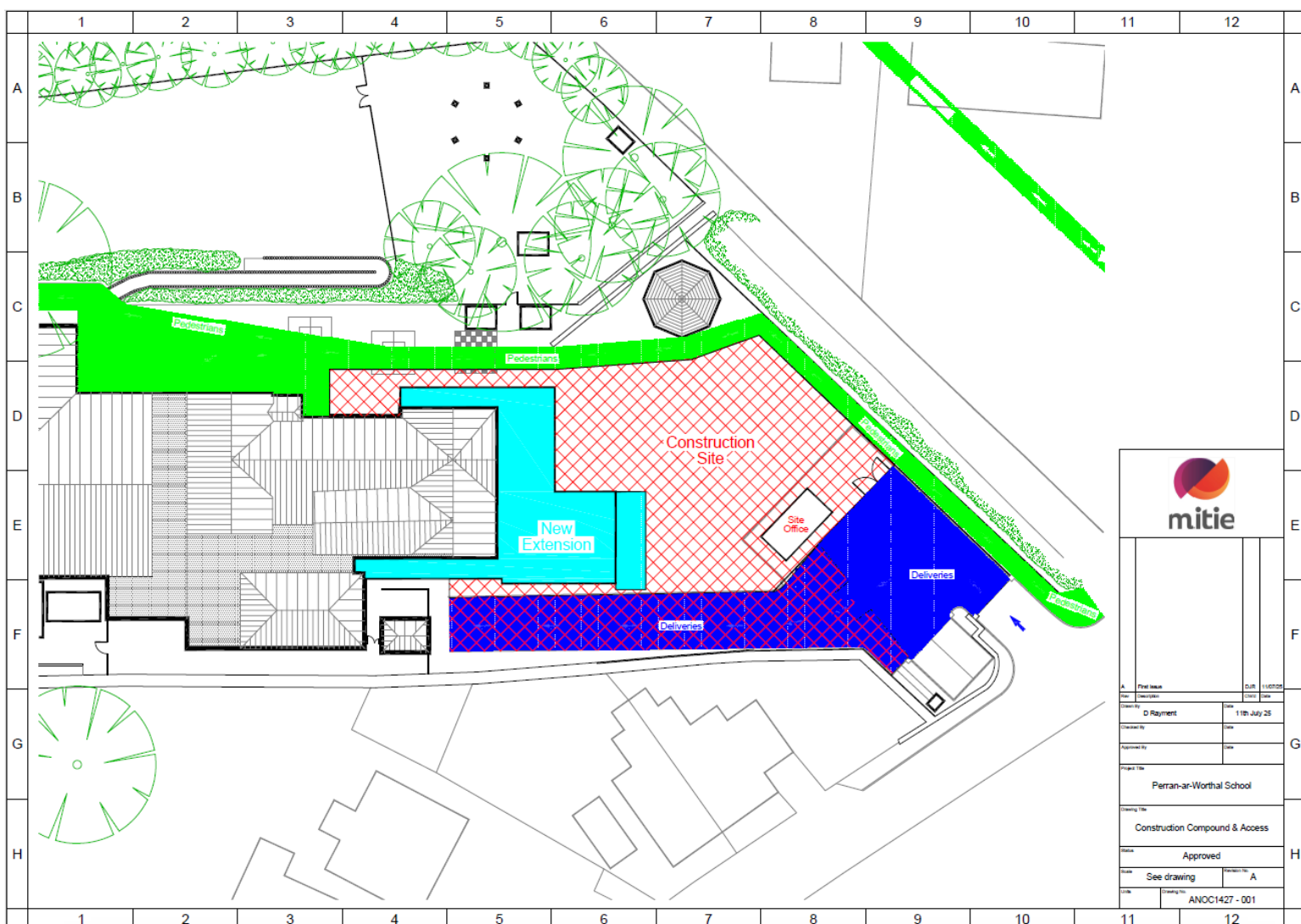
Keep to the designated walkway: We are aware that the very first day of term can be very busy as many, if not all, parents, like to walk their child in to school. The safe walkway route is attached to this newsletter as a reminder and must be adhered to. Thank you.

Parking: The staff will no longer have any parking during the build. That said, we wish to limit any additional congestion of traffic by car sharing and parking further away from the school where necessary. This is to allow for parent cars to continue to have the remaining available spaces to park. We would like to remind parents to please park with care and consideration especially when parking near the drive-ways of the houses near the school and on Chyvogue Lane to respect the residents in the village. With potential additional congestion of large vehicles moving throughout the village and in and out of the school gates, if parents can support each other with car sharing, this will certainly help to reduce the traffic problem.

Walking bus: To further reduce the congestion, as from Monday, we will be introducing a walking bus facility for any parent who wishes to 'drop and go'. This service will be run by our own team where parents will be able to drive in to the playing field car park where two members of staff will be by the village hall between 8.20am and 8.30am. We hope this service will help many parents with the morning rush.

What can you offer: If you have further suggestions regarding how we can help to reduce our traffic congestion and ensure the safety of all our community on the roads outside our school gates, then please do let us know.

Please see below the site plan of school grounds showing the extension, areas that will be out of bounds and the safe pedestrian access point and walkways.



Cornwall Council 2025/2026 School Term Dates for Community and Voluntary-Controlled Schools

September 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thurs	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

October 2025						
Mon	6	13	20	27		
Tue	7	14	21	28		
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

November 2025						
Mon	3	10	17	24		
Tue	4	11	18	25		
Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thurs	6	13	20	27		
Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	



School holidays

Bank holidays

Christmas Day	25 December 2025
Boxing Day	26 December 2025
New Years Day	01 January 2026
Good Friday	03 April 2026
Easter Monday	06 April 2026
May Bank Holiday	04 May 2026
Spring Bank Holiday	25 May 2026
Summer Bank Holiday	31 August 2026

AUTUMN TERM (73 days)

3 September - 19 December 2025
(HALF TERM 27 - 31 October 2025)

SPRING TERM (59 days)

5 January - 2 April 2026
(HALF TERM 16 - 20 February 2026)

SUMMER TERM (63 days)

20 April - 22 July 2026
(HALF TERM 25 - 29 May 2026)

December 2025						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thurs	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

January 2026						
Mon	5	12	19	26		
Tue	6	13	20	27		
Wed	7	14	21	28		
Thurs	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	4	11	18	25		

February 2026						
Mon	2	9	16	23		
Tue	3	10	17	24		
Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thurs	5	12	19	26		
Fri	6	13	20	27		
Sat	7	14	21	28		
Sun	1	8	15	22		

March 2026						
Mon	2	9	16	23	30	
Tue	3	10	17	24	31	
Wed	4	11	18	25		
Thurs	5	12	19	26		
Fri	6	13	20	27		
Sat	7	14	21	28		
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

April 2026						
Mon	6	13	20	27		
Tue	7	14	21	28		
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24		
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

May 2026						
Mon	4	11	18	25		
Tue	5	12	19	26		
Wed	6	13	20	27		
Thurs	7	14	21	28		
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	

June 2026						
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thurs	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

July 2026						
Mon	6	13	20	27		
Tue	7	14	21	28		
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thurs	2	9	16	23	30	
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	
Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	5	12	19	26		

August 2026						
Mon	3	10	17	24	31	
Tue	4	11	18	25		
Wed	5	12	19	26		
Thurs	6	13	20	27		
Fri	7	14	21	28		
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

195 days are included on the school calendar. Schools will be open to pupils for 190 days. The five additional days are allotted for In-Service Training (INSET). Schools allocate their own INSET days.

Academy, trust and voluntary-aided schools set their own term dates and INSET days.

The Perran-ar-Worthal Home/School Agreement

The school will:

- Promote each child's health, safety and happiness and encourage each child to do their best at all times
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum, including extra-curricular opportunities, and meet the individual needs of each child
- Inform parents of any concerns or problems that affect their child's work, behaviour, attendance and punctuality
- Keep parents informed about general school matters and, in particular, their child's progress and arrange parental consultation evenings during which progress and targets will be discussed
- Be open, welcoming and responsive at all times and offer opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of the school
- Encourage each child to take care of everyone and everything

Pupils will be expected to:

- Attend school regularly and on time
- Follow the School Rules at all times: *Ready, Respectful, Safe*
- Complete all tasks to the best of their ability
- Wear the correct school uniform and be tidy in appearance
- Be a good representative for the school
- Keep the school free from litter and graffiti and take care of school property

Parents will be expected to:

- Ensure their child attends school regularly, is on time and wearing the correct uniform
- Ensure their child is equipped for curriculum activities i.e. PE kit, reading book
- Provide a timely explanation if their child is absent
- Avoid taking holidays in term time
- Make the school aware of any concerns or problems that might affect their child's work or behaviour
- Support the school to ensure their child conforms to the high expectations of appropriate behaviour
- Support the school's policies and guidelines
- Support their child with Home Learning
- Attend parental consultations to ensure that they remain informed of their child's progress

If any pupil or parent does not consent to the terms of this agreement, they should put their concerns in writing to the headteacher.



PE at Perran-ar-Worthal



Welcome back to Autumn 2025!

We have a very exciting year of sport ahead of us with many opportunities for children to develop and consolidate their skills in a variety of sports.

This term, KS1 will be focussing on developing their Fundamental Movement Skills with a particular focus on jumping and exploring movement through dance.

KS2 will be working on netball and football skills, focussing on improving their passing and receiving skills and attacking and defending strategies, taking their skill development from exploring and developing to consolidating and refining.

On Fab Fridays for this term, Year 4 will be exploring Quidditch (unfortunately, no flying broomsticks) and Year 5 will develop their football skills. Year 3 will have fun learning Dodgeball with PAFC and Year 6 will get the opportunity to play football with PAFC.

In our health sessions this term, KS2 will be looking at 'My Physical Fitness' matters. This will cover the 5 main fitness components and how we can best take care of our bodies in order to stay fit and strong.

During Autumn term, we will have netball and football leagues where teams compete against other schools in the Penryn Partnership. More information to follow.

Being ready and organised for PE.

In order to keep all children safe during their PE lessons, may I ask that any children with longer hair (shoulder length and longer) please come to school with their hair tied back. Jewellery should not be worn for PE sessions and only stud earrings are permitted. Thank you.



With the autumnal weather already upon us, could I please ask that all children come to school prepared for PE in wet and colder weather please with suitable footwear?

Thank you.

In extremely heavy rain, we will conduct PE in the classrooms. These sessions focus on smaller group games and teamwork with an emphasis on the character attributes necessary to be successful in sport.

WARNING LETTER! Local Authority Schools have been instructed to send this warning letter to parents who are taking their child out of school during term time for unauthorised absences. Please could we ask you to read this carefully to fully appreciate the implications of unauthorised absences. As a school we have no choice but to follow this procedure and we thank you in advance for your support with this.

Dear Parent/Carer

Here at Perran-ar-Worthal School we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a pupil is genuinely too ill to attend school.

However, the Government does not support parents taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under '*exceptional circumstances*'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to the Headteacher using the school's '*Leave of Absence Exceptional Circumstances*' request form.

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.

You are welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. Perran-ar-Worthal School is committed to enabling every child to reach their full potential and aims to work with parents to ensure this can be achieved.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Heffer

Headteacher

How is a Penalty Notice paid?

Penalty notices can be paid by card by calling the office on 01872 324201. Alternatively, payment can be made by cash or cheque at any Cornwall Council Information Service. 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
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Together 
for Families

Penalty Notices

A guide to Education Welfare Services
for parents and carers



Decorative image



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