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22nd July 2025



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VERY MOMENT MATTERS!



Swifts Taking Flight

In Perran-ar-Worthal's gentle halls,
The Swifts have soared, stood proud and tall,
With laughter echoing through each day,
You've coloured our world in your own special way.

Now, wings unfurl as journeys begin,
To different schools, new places to win,
Though paths may part, your spirits remain—
The memories here, forever sustain.

Each of you shines, uniquely bright,
A tapestry woven of courage and light,
No one the same, each story your own,
Together as Swifts, forever our own.

Goodbye Swifts Class of 2025!

We Will Miss You!

Sports Day 2025!

Respect
Personal best
Co-operation
Resilience
Perseverance
Passion



You are all amazing!



Please see separate Sports Day Newsletter for more pictures and comments about the day. A huge thank you to our amazing Miss Davies for coordinating such a brilliant event!



ROBINS GO CAMPING ON THE SCHOOL SITE! What a wonderful day these children had on Friday making bird boxes, bug hotels, shelters, friendship bracelets, natural mobiles the list goes on! And they even made their own pizzas for lunch! What a great way to end a busy term—so many smiles! A big thank you to Mrs Rawlings and Mrs Hamilton for organising such a wonderfully productive





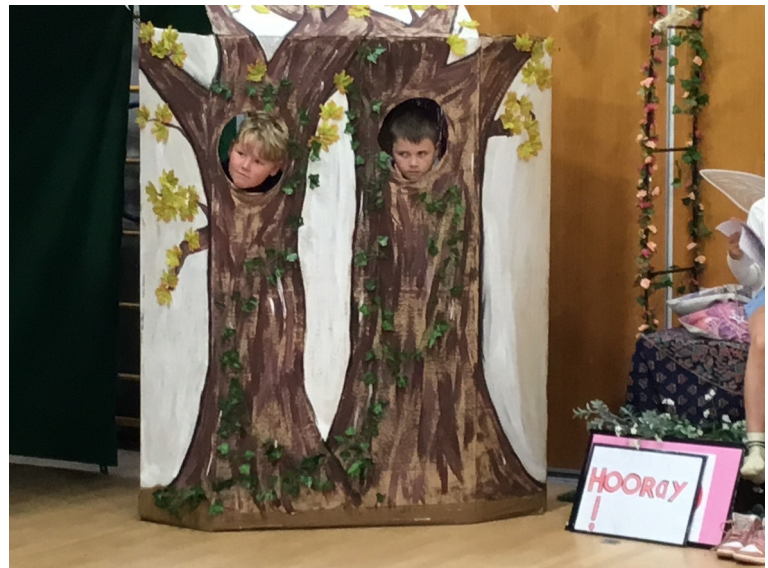
A WEEK TO ROCK ALL WEEKS! Last week, our talented Yr6 pupils started their week with a fantastic musical based on the fairy tale, Snow White, and what an incredible performance it was. Pictures below will give you a flavour of the rehearsals through to the end performance. Tears of laughter

were shared by many members of the audience. A huge well done to our Yr6 for all the effort they have put in to rehearsals and a huge thank you to our amazing Mrs Waddington for inspiring our pupils and to our wonderful Mrs Szepietowska for her additional guidance and support. Also to the fantastic Viv for helping with props and moving of the stage. A huge team effort!

If that wasn't enough to impress, then several of our Yr6 pupils ended the week with an instrumental concert starting with an impressive self composed tuba solo by Will who was followed by our resident Yr6 rock band who also blew us away with their brilliant performance of two of their favourite rock songs. What a wonderful week of talent—we will certainly be very sad to see our Swifts fly off to their secondary schools as their time as PAW primary pupils draws to an end.







RHS Schools' Gardening Award Success

Excitingly, we have just been awarded the RHS Level 5 Schools' Gardening Award and have received £150 in gardening vouchers, seeds, digital logo and plaque to celebrate our success!

To achieve this, we needed to demonstrate and evidence that we are 'gardening through the seasons', 'gardening for the future' (sustainably) and 'gardening with our community'.

Part of gardening with our community involved a group of preschool children (see photos) coming to the Growzone to harvest (and eat!) mange tout, plant out sunflowers and enjoy exploring the biodiversity through play and mini-



A big thank you to Mrs Rolleston who has been instrumental in achieving this fantastic award for the school—well deserved by all involved!





Thank you to everyone who shared their feedback with us this term. Your input is invaluable in helping us make Perran-ar-Worthal Community Primary School the best it can be for our children and families.

Here's what you told us, and how we're responding:

- **Many of you value our caring, dedicated staff** and the positive impact the school has on children's confidence and wellbeing. Thank you!
- **Several families would like to see a greater variety of clubs and enrichment activities**, especially options beyond sport and for all year groups.
- **Some of you would like to see clearer, more regular communication** about school events, staffing, and updates are important to you.
- **Some of you would like to see their child stretched and challenged academically**, with opportunities for more child to shine.
- **A few of you made the suggestion** about improving our play spaces and facilities, and supporting staff wellbeing as our school grows.

What's next?

- We're reviewing our after-school club offer, aiming to broaden the range of activities available, with the view to also include a wider range of external organisations.
- We're refreshing how we keep you informed, including updates on staffing, events, and school developments. We will be keen to know from you the most effective way to communicate information to ensure it reaches as many parents as possible.
- We're looking at new ways to stretch and support pupils in their learning. We will ensure parents are better informed of what is already on offer as well as consider additional provision where needed.
- We'll review the use of our outdoor space, including access to more equipment and structured activities for all age groups.

This year's parent survey only represented 27% of our current pupil population. It is important to us that as many pupils as possible are represented in your feedback to ensure that any changes we implement are relevant to the majority of what our community would like to see.

We will always try to make our surveys quick and easy to complete to help increase response rate.

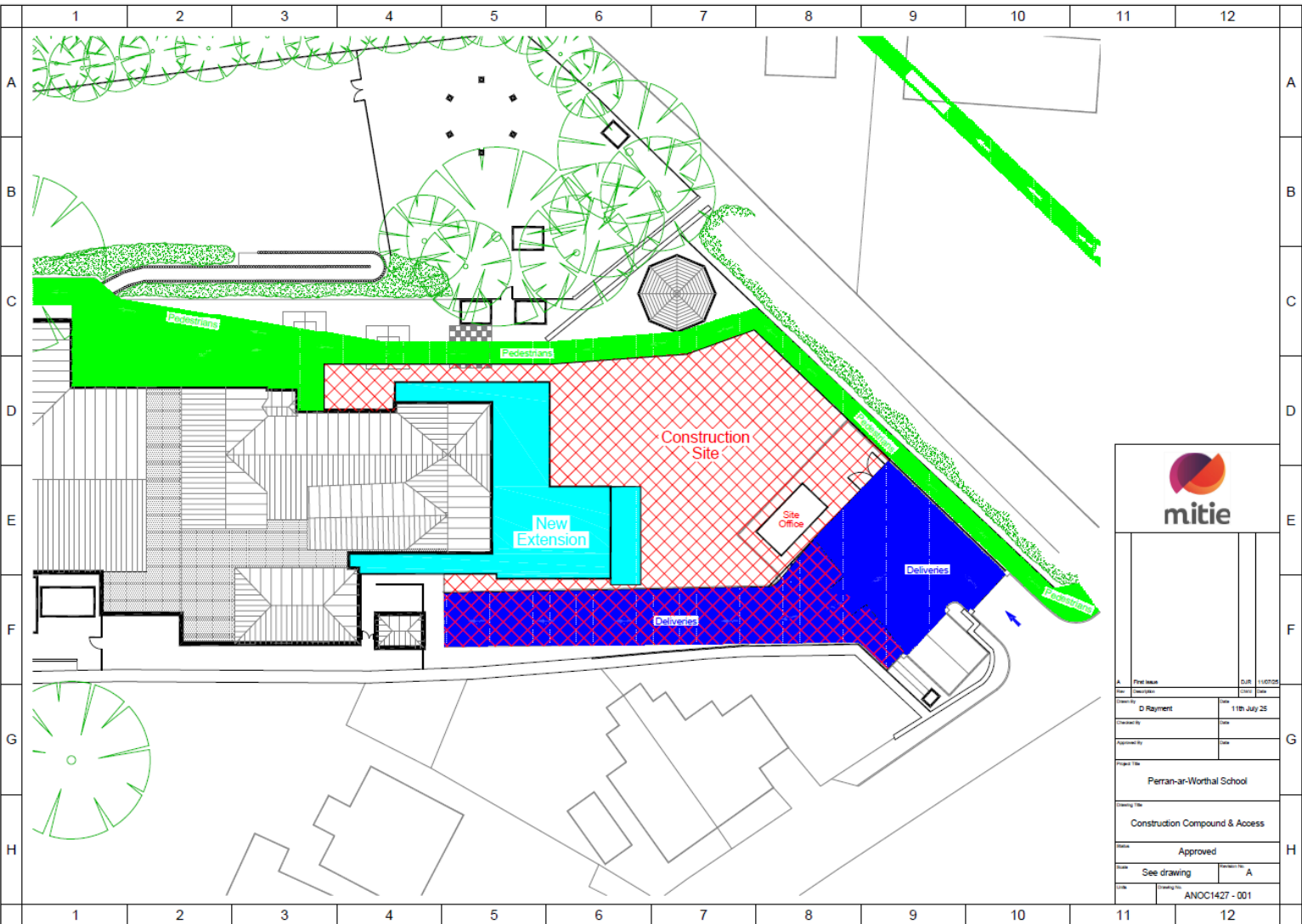
Thank you again for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we can ensure Perran-ar-Worthal remains a great place for our children to learn and grow and a wonderful community for all of us to be a part of.

Further School Extension Updates:

We have now had it confirmed that KPK Contractors will be moving on site on Thursday, 24th July rather than Monday 28th. They are keen to start as soon as possible after the school closes as they are working to a fixed time scale build of 6 months and wish to avoid any penalties if they were to run over. We have now also been introduced to the ecologist who will be working alongside KPK to ensure the PAW bats are ‘consulted’ on noise level! The ecologist made it clear in the meeting that they do not wish to create further delays and are keen to work closely with the building team, to keep the project moving, by applying a reasonable solution focused approach to managing the noise and vibration for the bats—clearly this will be beneficial for our children too! That said, we will still consider options as a contingency plan should the noise level adjacent to the Yr6 classroom have an adverse affect on the children’s learning during that first term.

We will continue to keep you posted!

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.





Today, we said goodbye to Mrs Edwards and Mrs Nelson, who are both retiring from education. We will miss them both very much and wish them all the very best of luck as they enter a new and exciting stage of their lives. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank them both for all they have given to the many children they have supported, inspired and impacted upon during the many years they have been in teaching. It is now their time to put themselves first and enjoy a new adventure! Goodbye and good luck, ladies!

DATES TO REMEMBER...

Tuesday, 22nd July: **Last day of term for pupils. Pick up at 3.15pm**

Wednesday, 23rd July: **INSET day—School Closed to pupils**

Thursday, 24th July to Tuesday, 2nd September: **SUMMER BREAK**

Wednesday, 3rd September: **INSET day—School Closed to pupils**

Thursday, 4th September: **First day of school for pupils**

Please see term dates at the end of this newsletter and we must also draw your attention to the WARNING letter and information sheet regarding penalty notices that schools have been instructed to apply to families taking children out of school during term time. Our school has been informed by the local authority that it MUST have this procedure in place as from September 2025.

SCHOOL MEAL PRICE CHANGE FROM SEPTEMBER: Chartwells/Mitie have informed the school that the meal price will increase to £2.79 from September 2025.

Citizen / Learner of the Week – final week

Puffins

Learner – Joshie (For growing in confidence with his writing)

Citizen – Daisy (For showing kindness to others)

Wagtails

Learner – Arthur Ca (For showing excellent knowledge in our topic session this week)

Citizen – Rafe (For being respectful in the lunch hall)

Robins

Learner – Charlotte and Agnes (For always giving everything 100% in every area of learning)

Citizen – Elowen (For working hard to be a kind friend to everyone in our class)

Starlings

Learner – Tristan (For his amazing Medusa painting and Minotaur puppet)

Citizen – Poppy and Emmy (For displaying flexibility, patience and determination in writing playscripts and making puppets)

Skylarks

Learner – Charlie (For showing resilience and great achievement in Maths this week)

Citizen – Tamsyn (For always welcoming people in and being a friendly, smiley face in the classroom, kind to others and a great team player.)

Kingfishers

Learner – Theo (For working incredibly hard during Sports' Day)

Citizen – Eleni (For being positive and encouraging during Sports' Day)

Swifts

Learner – Rosie and Jasmine (For teamwork in Maths!)

Citizen – Will (For helping out when needed, especially in the lunch hall with KS1)



TEAM POINT CERTIFICATE WINNERS 17th July 2025

SILVER CERTIFICATE – 100 TEAM POINTS

Year 5: Fleur

Year 6: Will

GOLD CERTIFICATE – 150 TEAM POINTS

Year 2: Andre

Year 4: Olivia

Year 5: Arthur, Caspar, Annie, Aubrey and Harriet

Year 6: Jamie

MEDALS – 200 TEAM POINTS

Year 1: Arthur Co and Renn

Year 2: Sam, Elowen, Barnaby, Harry, George, Dottie, Jack, Meyer, Agnes and Tilly

Year 4: Teddy and Lenny

Year 5: Amelia, Violet and Dylan

BADGE – 250 TEAM POINTS

Reception: Elowen, Rowan, Jonathan, Lily, Felix, Joshua and Austin

Year 1: Emelia, Ember, Isabelle and Alfie

**Year 2: Ruan, Suri, Jessica, Charlotte, Elspeth, Rohan,
Isaac, Florence, Nancy, Jovie, Willow, Lettie, Betsy and Freya**

Year 4: Anoushka, Evelyn, Daniel, Genevieve and Thora

HEADTEACHER'S CERTIFICATE – 300 TEAM POINTS

Year 1: James

Year 2: Isla

Year 3: Senara



OVERALL TEAM POINT WINNERS FOR 2024/2025

FIRST PLACE ACHIEVING A TOTAL OF 385 TEAM POINTS

MARTHA – YEAR 3



SECOND PLACE ACHIEVING A TOTAL OF 329 TEAM POINTS

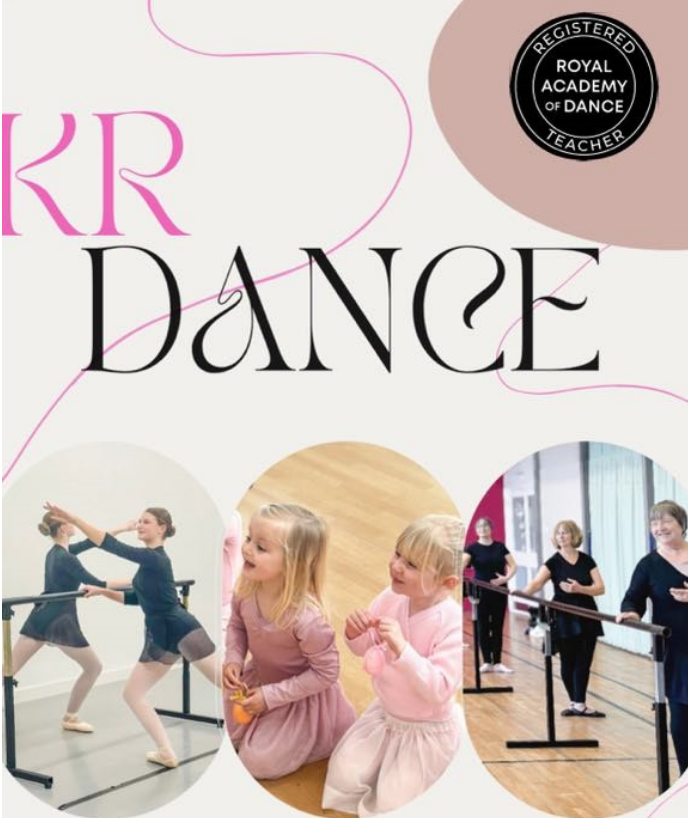
POPPY – YEAR 3



THIRD PLACE ACHIEVING A TOTAL OF 318 TEAM POINTS

JAMES – YEAR 1





Ballet & Dance Classes for All Ages
From ages 3 to 80+ – there's a class for you!

Book a Free Trial Today

krdancecornwall@gmail.com

Pre-school Ballet RAD Grades Vocational Classes Silver Swans
Performances Examinations Demonstration Classes Lyrical Jazz



The Mental Health Support Team warmly
invite you to attend...

Wild Wellbeing

During the summer holidays MHST, in collaboration with Natural England, Cornwall Wildlife Trust and National Trust, would like you to join us on a **FREE Wild Wellbeing session** at various locations across Cornwall.

This is for parents and children aged 5-12 in Cornwall to help understand and support emotional and mental wellbeing.

Please book **EACH** child on to a session

Morning and afternoon sessions available at:

Golitha Falls
Dipping Pond, Goss Moor
Tehidy Woods
Penrose Estate
Heamoor Primary School
Hayle Family Hub

Each session will last approx. 2 hours

To request a place, complete the online form or scan the QR code provided:

<https://forms.office.com/e/NRrN3NXSvH>



Please note: Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis. If you are allocated a place and cannot attend, please let us know so we can allocate your space to someone else



Follow us on Facebook for updates and upcoming events:
Cornwall Mental Health Support Team (MHST)



Musical Theatre Summer Workshops

13th/14th/15th August
at Devoran Village Hall 9-3pm.

Come along and join in the fun
with dance, drama, singing & craft.

£70 for the full 3 days with 1 - 2 day options available

Ages 5-12 years

£35 for 3 Half days with 1 - 2 day options available

Ages 4-5 years

Mini performance on the last day

For further information or to book a place contact

Kathryn on 07891675753 or email

khdapincipal@gmail.com

www.kh-danceacademy.co.uk



MAMMA MIA!



SUMMER ART SESSIONS

Make this summer creative with art-K Truro! Join our Art Club, Young Artists Masterclass and Adult Classes.

Art Club

Joyful, creative weekly class.
Individual instruction.

- » Ages 6-16
- » £15 per 1.25 hr class
- » £18 drop-in
- » Block booking (5 weeks) or drop-in
- » Two sibling discount: £130 for 5-week block
- » Up to 12 students
- » Materials provided
- » GCSE support available
- » Catch-up sessions offered for holiday absences (up to 2)
- » Classes available all year (termly bookings)

Wednesdays: 11.00-12.15pm
Thursdays: 1.30-2.45pm
Fridays: 11.00-12.15pm

Young Artist Masterclass

Full coaching for each student.
Ideal for GCSE support.

- » Ages 10-16
- » £22 per 1.5 hr class
- » £25 drop-in
- » Block booking (5 weeks) or drop-in
- » Two sibling discount: £200 for 5-week block
- » Max 6 students
- » Materials provided
- » Catch-up sessions offered for holiday absences (up to 2)

Wednesdays: 12.30-2pm
Thursdays: 11.00-12.20pm

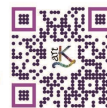
Adult Classes

Weekly classes exploring diverse topics. Individual instruction.

- » 5-week course: £21/class
- » Pay-as-you-go: £24

Wednesdays: 6-8pm

Scan the QR to book!



www.art-k.co.uk/class-truro | sara@art-k.co.uk | 07852 674316
Barras Moor Farm, Perranarworthal, Truro, TR3 7PE

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Behaviour Workshop

Monday 22 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Tuesday 23 September - 11am & 4pm
Wednesday 24 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Thursday 25 September - 10.00am & 4pm

This workshop provides parents with practical strategies to foster positive behaviour and communication at home.

To book a place please complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/gA2jNGbZ4F> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Worry Workshop

Monday 8 September - 9:30am & 1pm
Tuesday 9 September - 10am & 4pm
Wednesday 10 September - 9:30am & 1pm
Thursday 11 September - 11am & 4pm

This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on "What is worry?" and "Why does my child worry?" Also includes practical strategies for helping children manage their worries.

To book a place please complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/hkyaFeuY1Z> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Resilience Workshop

Monday 15 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Tuesday 16 September - 10am & 4pm
Wednesday 17 September - 11am & 1pm
Thursday 18 September - 9.30am & 4pm

This workshop aims to talk about the meaning of resilience, explore building resilience and look at how and when a young person should ask for help.

To book a place please complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/260T74xF2v> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

NHS Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM - MHST

Parents and Carers - please join us at our 1hr online Sleep Workshop

Monday 29 September - 11am & 4pm
Tuesday 30 September - 9.30am & 1pm
Wednesday 1 October - 9.30am & 1pm
Thursday 2 October - 10am & 4pm

This workshop aims to provide psychoeducation on sleep hygiene and sleep routines. Also includes practical strategies for helping children

To book a place please complete the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/6cJiu8PArV> or scan the QR code

This workshop is open to parents/carers of school aged children enrolled in Reception to Year 7 in any school in Cornwall

A Sleep Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/6cJiu8PArV>

Resilience Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/260T74xF2v>

Worry Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/hkyaFeuY1Z>

Behaviour Workshop - <https://forms.office.com/e/gA2jNGbZ4F>

Sign up will close a week before the workshop.

CORNWALL CRICKET PRESENTS

CORNWALL VS SOMERSET

50 OVER SHOWCASE GAME



AUG 4

WADEBRIDGE CRICKET CLUB
DOORS OPEN 9AM | 11AM START

Adults **£10**
Under 18 **£5**



Scan the QR Code or visit
<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/WyOlko>

Parking available at the rugby club for
£5 per car payable on the day when
you park. Other parking available at
car parks in the town.



The Woodland Ways

WHERE OUTDOOR LEARNING COMES TO LIFE



The Woodland Ways offers engaging, hands-on outdoor experiences that help children build confidence, curiosity, new skills and a deep respect for the natural world.



Whether you'd like a one-day adventure or a term-long enrichment programme, we tailor every session to suit your child.

Activities include:

- Forest School sessions
- Bushcraft skills (fire lighting, shelter building, foraging)
- Nature crafts/cooking and storytelling
- Eco-awareness and environmental education



Our experienced leaders foster a sense of wonder and confidence, helping children of all abilities thrive in a private woodland setting, in Mylor.

Learn, Engage & Grow Outdoors

www.thewoodlandways.com

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	

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	



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)

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.

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 **{enter school name}**, 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. **{Enter school name}** 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

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
Photo © iStockphoto.com



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