



17th January 2025

Dear parents/carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. We have yet another great week at Chacewater School this week.

We were delighted to welcome Katy Rowe to the school on Monday afternoon to showcase her talent with the violin. This was really inspirational and we loved listening to her play, followed by a lot of questions from the children! Our other assemblies this week have focused on our next learning behaviour – resourcefulness. I shared the fable of the Crow and the Pitcher, hopefully your children can tell you about this story!

I am also incredibly proud to be able to share our newly published OFSTED report from the inspection that took place before Christmas. This was an ungraded inspection and under the recently revised inspection framework and because it was ungraded the report isn't huge but nonetheless it is an incredibly positive report. Thank you to our amazing staff team who rightly recognised in the report and also thank you to all of our parents/carers for their kind words during and after the inspection. The report can be found [HERE](#).

This week we have seen a bit of sickness bug in the school, which is not unusual in schools at this time of the year. We are making sure that we are having a renewed focus on regular handwashing to try and prevent any spread of germs. Please can I remind everyone that in the cases of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, children should stay home for at least 48 hours after the last episode.

Finally, well done to our brilliant Mighty Oaks who took part in a modern foreign language workshop at Richard Lander this morning. Lots of fun was had and they represented our school fantastically well!

I hope you all have a great weekend!



Mr Hick

Term Dates

Please see below the term dates for 2025-2026. You will see that TPAT is using a different pattern of dates next year which creates a two week break over the October half term. This has been achieved by returning to school in September two days early and adding an additional day to the end of the summer term. We are also using two training days (which teachers will work as 'twilight' training). Overall, the number of days the school is open to children has not changed. We feel this pattern has a number of advantages for children and families:

1. The Autumn Term felt very long this year. We found children were tired and flagging for the final week before half term and noticed that across our Trust, pupil absence increased. We think it will be helpful therefore to lengthen the holiday in this term, ensuring children get a good opportunity to recuperate mid-way through.
2. We know that families are increasingly asking us for term time holidays. In line with Department for Education guidance, we cannot authorise absence for term time holidays. We have noticed how expensive holidays are during school term times, and how much cheaper they are in other weeks. We also know that some parents find it difficult to take time off during school holiday periods. We hope that the additional week in the October half term will help families have a chance to take a more affordable holiday, and reduce the time children miss from school.

By having all our TPAT schools using the same term dates, we hope this will help families who have children in both our primary and secondary schools. This pattern of term dates has been used really successfully by a number of primary and secondary schools in Cornwall and we hope it will bring similar benefits to our pupils and families. We will review this at the end of the Autumn Term in 2025 before deciding on our dates for the following year.

Chacewater School Calendar 2025/26																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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Clubs



Clubs will begin next week. We have worked incredibly hard to try and make sure we offer a range of clubs, while also ensuring that children can access at least one of their preferred options.

Thank you to all of the teachers for running a club.

End of Spring Term

Please note that the end of this spring term will be Friday 4th April at 1pm.

Attendance

At the start of this term, I would like to once again remind everyone about the **importance of school attendance**. Achieving high school attendance is a national priority. Chacewater school data clearly shows a correlation between high attendance rates and high achievement. We want our children to achieve excellent attendance in line with national average. Illness usually appears as a block of time off school. We review attendance patterns each week and look for unbroken and broken weeks as a key indicator. We would not usually expect that children would have more than one or two broken weeks in the course of an academic year. Regular broken weeks are a cause for concern and we will offer support to families where there are more frequent broken weeks, in line with our attendance procedures. The impact broken weeks and missed learning can have on a child's education (taken from national data) is illustrated below for guidance:

If your child misses...	That equals at least...	Which is the same as....	And over 13 years of education that's...	Or at least...
1 day a fortnight	80 lessons per year	4 whole school weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 whole years	1040 lessons
1 day a week	160 lessons per year	8 whole school weeks per year	Over 2.5 whole years	2080 lessons
2 days a week	320 lessons per year	16 whole school weeks per year	Over 5 whole years	4160 lessons
3 days a week	480 lessons per year	24 whole school weeks per year	Nearly 8 whole years	6240 lessons

As a school we follow the Truro and Penwith Academy Trust policy which can be found [HERE](#). You will be aware that there have been a number of changes to the issuing of penalty notices and there is little or no discretion for headteachers regarding these. Attached with this newsletter is a leaflet about penalty notices but it is important to note:

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).

Please also be aware of the 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.

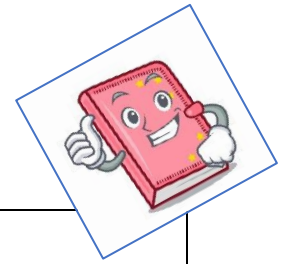
If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. 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.



Dates For Your Diary

14.2.25	Last Day of Term
6.3.25	World Book Day
4.4.25	Last Day of Term (1pm Finish)
22.4.25	Return to school
12.5.25	SATs Week
23.5.25	Last Day of Term
2.6.25	Return to school
18.6.25	Year 6 Camp
22.7.25	Last Day of term



GOLDEN AWARD WINNERS

ACORNS	Cohen and Tommy
SEEDLINGS	Jude and Mia
BUDS	Zac, Charlie and Olive
YOUNG OAKS	Olivia and James
BUR OAKS	Theodore and Jenny
RED OAKS	Zach, Saphena and Alfie E
MIGHTY OAKS	Olly and Harry





Wassail!

Saturday 18th January 2025
4pm - 8pm

Bless, Protect & Celebrate!

Kehelland Trust Orchards TR14 ODE

Music, Dancing, Cider,
Food & More

*sliding scale for entry from £8/£4 adult. Child. No booking required just come along ready to eat, drink, dance & be merry. Dress for the weather!





FEBRUARY HALF TERM CLUB

AT GLOBE VALE HOLIDAY PARK

(Sinns Common, Redruth TR16 4BH)

The Halo Team have partnered up with Globe Vale to bring you a week full of fun half term activity clubs for your little ones. From arts and crafts and baking, to sports days and treasure hunts, there will be plenty to keep your children entertained.

AGES 3 - 14 YEARS

If your child is under 3 years of age, please do contact us as we may be able to cater for them also depending on daily staff ratios.

MON 17TH - FRI 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

9AM - 5PM

£40 PER DAY

For more information or to book please contact:

Email: halochildcarecornwall@gmail.com

Phone: Jess: 07938 839313 or Tam: 07967 938180