

St Neot Primary School

'A happy learning environment for all'



Booklet for Parents

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1 THE CURRICULUM

'What the children learn'

School Aims

Within a safe and caring environment we aim to: -

- ✓ Develop independent thinking, learning and an ability to question and reflect upon knowledge and experiences
- ✓ Provide equal opportunities for all children enabling them to gain a broad and balanced view of the world
- ✓ Welcome parents and the community into the life of the school, so our children can see that we work together
- ✓ Encourage respect and an ability to respond to the needs of others
- ✓ Encourage children to listen and speak confidently
- ✓ Provide an education which adapts to new developments and technologies
- ✓ Promote high self-esteem through the acknowledgement of individual qualities and achievement
- ✓ Encourage an appreciation of the environment and our cultural heritage locally and nationally
- ✓ Provide an engaging, broad and balanced curriculum

S e c u r e
T o g e t h e r

N u r t u r i n g
E a c h
O t h e r s '
T a l e n t s



Curriculum Content

The curriculum is organised in year groups:

Infant	Foundation Stage	4+	Year F
	Key Stage 1	5+	Year 1
		6+	Year 2
Junior	Key Stage 2	7+	Year 3
		8+	Year 4
		9+	Year 5
		10+	Year 6

The Foundation Year follows seven areas of areas of learning:

- Prime areas - Communication and language; Physical development; Personal, social and emotional development.
- Specific areas – English; Mathematics; Understanding the world; Expressive arts and design.

These cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations for future progress. Where they have close links with National Curriculum subjects they form an appropriate baseline.

All children from **Year 1** follow the 2016 National Curriculum:

- English; Mathematics; Science; History; Geography; Physical Education; Computing; Design Technology; Art and Design; Languages and Music.
- Religious Education will follow guidelines from Cornwall Council County 2014 Syllabus.
- The Curriculum Map is available to view in school

*The following pages provide a summary of the main Curriculum areas.
These are taught in two ways: as separate subjects, and together using a cross curricular approach.*



English

English unites the important skills of reading and writing, speaking and listening. English has a unique place in our curriculum, as both a core subject and an integral component of all other areas of the curriculum. At St Neot School our concern is with every aspect of the child's language development and with laying foundations for literacy in life. English is timetabled in each class, every day of the week, together with phonics for Foundation to Y3.



We have a comprehensive whole school approach to reading. This enables each child to make progress at his or her own pace through the stages of learning to read. The needs of individual readers are met through structured and colour-coded reading materials. Children who have difficulties in learning to read are given extra help for as long as is necessary.

Phonics teaching is based on the Letters and Sounds scheme, Jolly Phonics and Read, Write inc. This teaching provides a basis of secure reading skill from which children can progress towards higher order skills.

The children have access to many books covering a range of genres in the school and class libraries, encouraging pupils to read for pleasure. Children are able to borrow these and we ask that parents share responsibility for them, using their child's reading record. We provide book bags to encourage the children to borrow books to read at home.

By means of a stimulating school environment we aim to encourage children to become independent and creative writers, whether recording factual information or responding creatively to a given stimulus, such as visits to places of interest, drama, listening to music, stories or poetry. Children explore, plan and create structured texts that cover a range of genres for a range of audiences.

Children write every day, and throughout the school children are supported to build their skills in writing. They are taught the tools of spelling, grammar and punctuation together with creative skills which enable them to write imaginatively.

The aim in handwriting is to promote the sound development of letter formation leading to fluent cursive writing. From Year 1, weekly spelling lists are learned as part of homework and tested in school. Speaking and listening are an integral part of the development of language. We use drama, role play and peer discussions to encourage children to speak clearly and with confidence and also to train them to concentrate on the spoken word.



Parents and carers are vital partners in helping children with reading and writing and we appreciate the assistance they give with reading and homework.

Mathematics

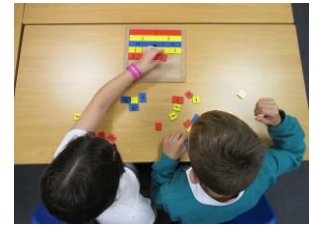
Maths is a vital life skill. Our aim at school is to help children to acquire this skill and use it with confidence and competence. Children are encouraged to work accurately and to recognise the patterns involved in mathematics. There is an emphasis not only on learning number facts but also on developing mental strategies to solve mathematical problems. The ability to calculate mentally lies at the heart of mathematics, and this is what we aim to do.





Our teaching is based on the National Curriculum, and we also use Abacus Maths as a resource for much of our work. The two key areas are number and problem solving. Number work includes addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, place value, money, fractions, decimals, and percentages. All children need to have the basic skills in these areas and then need to be able to apply them to real life situations. Other areas covered include data handling, shape, space and measures including length, weight and time.

Problem solving is an integral part of our approach to mathematics, giving children the chance to apply their knowledge to practical situations and to develop their independent working. Mathematics is used across the curriculum and especially in IT, Science, and Geography.



Science

Our Science curriculum covers Living Processes, Habitats, Forces, Materials, Electricity and Magnetism, Light and Sound and the Solar System. These topics are pursued through investigations, classroom activities, technology, environmental studies and educational visits.



The children are encouraged to think scientifically through practical experiments and observations, to make predictions and to test out their ideas. They are taught how to use appropriate measuring devices such as thermometers, force meters and stopwatches.

The school has extensive grounds which are used for a variety of activities such as river studies, weather experiments and observation of plant life. The children are encouraged to develop a concern for their local environment as well as developing an understanding of global issues.

Computing

Computing has links with all areas of the curriculum and is used to support, enhance and extend the children's learning.

We have a variety of computers in school, aimed at the differing needs of the learners. These are used by individuals and groups for a variety of uses including; data handling, art and design, word processing, research and desktop publishing. Children with special educational needs have the opportunity to use the computers to supplement their learning.



We use a variety of interactive programmes to teach IT skills and to promote learning in all subjects. 'Being Safe' while using the internet is an important part of the curriculum and we encourage children to become responsible digital citizens.



There are interactive whiteboards which offer IT technologies in all classes and children use ipads and Chromebooks to assist their learning. Children are familiar with a number of education websites and learn to navigate the internet.

Geography

The Geography curriculum is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical process which shapes them and the people who live in them. We believe that this balanced approach helps the children to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

The local area is used as a source of interest; direct experience and fieldwork plays an important part in this aspect of their studies. The pupils' work is extended to other places which can provide scope for them to learn about other people in different environments. To achieve this the children study other parts of Cornwall, Britain, Europe and countries further afield. This helps to develop multicultural awareness which will prepare pupils for a life in a world where they will encounter people of different cultures, religions and ethnic origins.



History



Through the study of History the children gain an understanding and appreciation of the past. They are encouraged to form balanced judgements about historical evidence. They view the past through a multi-cultural perspective and their expectations that there should be equal opportunities for all.

The scheme of work ensures appropriate coverage of the National Curriculum. Learning takes place in a variety of ways and includes practical and written work. Resources include written evidence, maps, artefacts and library books.

Art and Design

St Neot School encourages pupils to develop their creative and practical skills through a well-balanced programme of art, craft and design activities. We aim to teach our pupils a range of techniques so they have the skill to handle a variety of media.

Children are given opportunities to work from, be inspired by and study work by other artists. All pupils are encouraged to record their observations and ideas and to evaluate their own work and that of others.

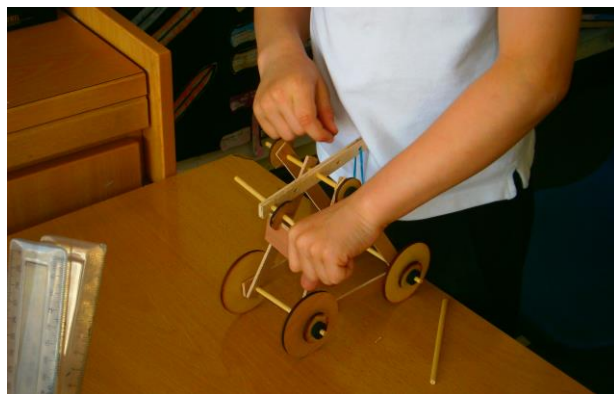
Classroom displays feature the artistic work of the children giving an audience for their work and developing their creativity.



Design and Technology

Design and Technology is about solving problems through the application of knowledge, skills and resources.

All children are given access to this area of the curriculum where they will work with a range of materials in a variety of contexts. They will be encouraged to work co-operatively on projects and will be shown safe ways of working.



Music



Music plays an important role in the life of the school. All children have the opportunity to sing, play percussion instruments, and to compose and perform their own work. Children sing a range of songs, some of which are used in assemblies and productions. They listen to many different types of music in order to widen their experience of musical styles. They are encouraged to develop a sense of rhythm as well as being introduced to musical notation and composition.

Peripatetic music teachers come in to school weekly and children have the opportunity to learn guitar, drums and keyboard instruments from Y1 to Y6: currently 30% of Key Stage Two children take advantage of these lessons. Children perform at open assemblies and concerts. Musicians visit the school from time to time introducing orchestral instruments to the children.



Physical Education



Physical Education provides many opportunities for pupils to make the most of themselves and serves to play an important part in personal and social development. A range of activities in school provides pupils with pleasurable experiences which will hopefully encourage a lifelong interest in physical activity and well being.

Our programme for PE includes gymnastics, dance, athletics, swimming and team games. The school is fortunate in having extensive space for football, athletics, cricket and rounders. The children visit the Dragon Centre for swimming, for which parents are asked to make a contribution to cover the cost of transport.

The School has afPE accreditation with distinction, an award which recognises the high level of sport and PE at St Neot School.

Languages



French is taught throughout Key Stage Two (Years 3-6). We aim for the children to speak with increasing confidence, to write for different purposes and to develop an appreciation of a range of writing.

For example, by the end of Y6 the children will be able to appreciate stories, songs and rhymes. They will be able to write phrases from memory and to speak in sentences using familiar words.

Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education is learning for life. It is widely accepted that effective learning takes place from first-hand experience. Much of this experience may be gained by utilising the outdoor environment, not only for acquisition of skills, but for social and personal development. Outdoor education provides a flexible framework to develop essential skills, concepts, attitudes and issues, at all levels, for all children, in an atmosphere where learning is fun.



Children at Key Stage 1 and in years 2-4 investigate the school grounds and the local environment. Children in years 5-6 have the opportunity to take part in a residential visit which offers experiences that extend the normal school curriculum. Activities include orienteering, beach studies, historical and cultural workshops, competitions and team games. The children's social skills and independence are developed through the experience of being away from home with their friends from school.

Wild Tribe

Children in all classes enjoy regular Wild Tribe sessions with a trained leader. Wild Tribe supports the holistic development of the pupil:



- Health and fitness-being active in an outdoor, natural environment
- Increased emotional well-being
- Social development-communicating and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences
- Skills development-developing fine and gross motor skills and co-ordination for real purposes
- Individualised learning-careful observation allows adults to tailor support to pupils' own interests and stage of development
- Curriculum links -Wild Tribe supports many areas of the National Curriculum

Religious Education and Collective Worship

Pupils take part in regular assemblies which are led by the Headteacher, a class teacher, the local clergy or visitors. Individual classes take part in achievement assembly each week when children are encouraged to share their work with all the children.



Religious Education forms part of the weekly timetable of each class. The purpose of RE is to help pupils understand the significance of religion and its contribution to their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. All pupils are encouraged to explore religious belief, practices and values.

We have developed a whole school plan to deliver the Religious Education in Cornwall Agreed Syllabus, 2020. Current strands are: 'Me and Us' 'Festivals and Times', 'Places and Buildings', 'The World', 'People', and 'Books and Stories'.

Parents wishing to withdraw their children from assemblies or RE because of personal religious beliefs should contact the Headteacher.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

In meeting the responsibilities towards children with special educational needs we seek to plan a curriculum which embraces the needs of pupils of all abilities. The school strives towards identifying and ensuring a positive response to those with special educational needs and to establishing a close working partnership with their parents. The work is co-ordinated by the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator).

Parents and guardians are contacted at each step of the process and are kept informed of progress made.

Additional help is given to pupils with a wide range of special needs including, for example, hearing or sight loss, mobility problems, disability, reading difficulties and the needs of the very able pupil. This help may include the provision of suitable resources, additional teaching and classroom assistance, or simply additional monitoring of the child's progress. The school is supported by advice and assistance from specialist teams including Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapists and learning support teachers.

Under the SEND code of practice, children are placed on the Record of Need in the following stages: -

School Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some differentiation within the class after problems are identified by class teacher – parents informed - Individual education plans written by SENCO / Class teachers – additional help or monitoring given - Involvement of outside specialists e.g. Speech and Language Therapist, Dyslexia Advisor
Educational Health Care Plan-EHCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of outside specialists e.g. Learning Support Teachers, Educational Psychologist - Formal Education Health Care Plan is issued by the SEN department, County Hall - Statutory assessments – information collected from all who are involved with the child

Should parents have any concerns about their child's learning they are encouraged to speak to the class teacher or Headteacher.

Where concerns need further advice, the school works closely with outside agencies through Cornwall Council.

Full facilities are available for children with disability, including ramps for wheelchair access to all parts of the school site. Disabled children are treated equally.



Personal, Social and Health Education

Through activities, pictures and discussions children are helped to understand themselves and their relationship to others, their place in the family and school, and to develop self-esteem.

There is progressive teaching, covering areas such as citizenship, diet, fitness, smoking, drugs, personal well-being, sex, family life and healthy lifestyles. Subjects such as road, water and fire safety are also taught.



Relationships and Sex Education

The subject of sexual development is handled sensitively as children progress through the school, particularly in Years 5 and 6. We offer our parents the opportunity to view material we may use prior to children seeing them and to discuss related issues with members of staff. The school's RSE Policy is available for parents to view. Please enquire at the school office.

Homework

Homework is a valuable extension of school learning. The amount of home learning depends on age and increases gradually throughout the school. All children are expected to read at home. This may be shared reading with parents or independent reading depending on their age and ability.

The parent's role is crucial-you can help by sharing the activities and encouraging your child to talk about how they are working things out. Allow the child to be the 'teacher', explaining what they are doing. In this way children will better understand the work they are doing.

Parental help is encouraged when necessary. We encourage children to persevere with their homework. If they find something difficult, please ensure your children return their homework in good time so that it can be re-explained or adapted, allowing your child to have another go at home. Children's attitudes to home learning are crucial and it is important that children can 'have a go' at any activity, even if they can't finish without help. Maths and English activities, including spellings and times tables, are set every week from Year 1 and are intended to reinforce classroom learning.

In years 5 and 6 a home learning target booklet is given to each child. This sets out clearly the home learning and reading for the week. There is space for parental comments and a signature at the end of each week. In Foundation, we begin to set one learning activity every week.

Google Classroom is used as a tool to aid home learning.

Standards of Behaviour

Children progress in their learning when they are well behaved and happy at school. All children are encouraged to show consideration and respect at all times, good behaviour being the normal expectation. The School Behaviour Policy details how good behaviour is encouraged as well as procedures when problems occur.

The policy clearly sets out rewards for good behaviour and high achievement, together with appropriate sanctions for children who choose to misbehave.

Golden rules for each class are agreed with the children at the start of each academic year. Here is an example: -

- Listen carefully and follow instructions
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Call each other by first names
- Walk quietly around school
- Raise my hand in class when I want to speak
- Ask for help and report any problems
- Be friendly and helpful

Rewards for good behaviour include stickers, team rewards and taking part in achievement assembly. Sanctions for inappropriate behaviour include missing playtimes and losing privileges. Parents are always contacted when a persistent problem occurs so that school and home can work together.



Inclusion Policy

We are an inclusive school and believe in equal opportunities for all children and adults, and the school does not tolerate discrimination.

Through the curriculum, we seek to recognise the multi-cultural nature of Britain in the 21st Century. The school regards multi-cultural society as a distinctive feature of modern Britain, and we seek to celebrate its rich cultural diversity.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Educational Visits

A programme of activities is organised by members of staff taking place after school hours. They enable children to pursue special interests and widen the scope of activities they can follow.

Activities have included: -

Choir, Tag Rugby, Athletics, Computing, Cookery, Ball Skills, Football, Hockey, Revision, Gymnastics, Archery, Maths, Netball and Cyclewise.

There is a daily breakfast club available to all children which runs from 8.00-8.45am. There is also an after school club available for children both in school and in Nursery, which runs daily from 3.15-5.00pm. There is a cost attached to these clubs.



Children in Years 5-6 have the opportunity to take part in the annual Residential Visit which in recent years has visited Lulworth Cove, The Forest of Dean, Beer and Exford. The residential visit is a fantastic opportunity for children to build independence skills and take part in learning opportunities in a different environment.



Day visits cover a range of curriculum areas and have included Surf Safety Courses on the beach and local visits such as Lanhydrock, Plymouth Dockyard, Newquay Zoo, Truro Cathedral and the Eden Project. We also visit sites in the village such as the church and the Doorstep Green.



We have been invited to be part of the Cornish Kerdroya Project which involves the children building a Cornish Hedge at Colliford Lake. This will form part of the new labyrinth and promotes the use of traditional skills in the County.

Special visitors are invited into school to provide a breadth of learning and experience. Recently these have included the emergency services, a vet, the vicar, Army PT instructors, and a Skype call with NASA to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing.



We regularly hold storytelling evenings for the children to enjoy after school hours.



The School and Nursery enter displays at the Liskeard Show and St Neot Village Show, with children often winning awards for their entries.



Each year Fowey Class present a play; in recent years there have been productions of Macbeth, Oliver, The Sound of Music and Moana. This year the play was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



2 SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

“Improving and Maintaining Standards”

The Governing Board

The Governing Board is responsible for the day to day running of the school, delegating this task to the headteacher. Governors representing Cornwall Council, school staff, the community and parents meet regularly to review the affairs of the school, set policy and monitor standards. Individual governors visit the school to monitor progress. They are also responsible for appointing new members of staff.

Parent governors are elected to office every 4 years, and anyone having a child at the school may stand as a candidate. Information about this is sent to every parent at the appropriate time.

Safeguarding

The Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website under Policy. The school has a duty of care and therefore a responsibility to pass concerns on to the Cornwall Multi Agency Referral Service (MARU).

No child is allowed to leave the school during the day unless collected by a parent or responsible adult. We would ask you to inform the school if your child is to be collected during the school day, for instance for a medical appointment.

The school is signed up to the Operation Encompass scheme.

Internet access is filtered through NCI and Netsweeper. Social Networking sites are not available at school. All staff, volunteers and children sign an acceptable use policy. Parents are asked to provide consent for use of their child’s image in school and on the school website. There is an exception log kept in each class. Parents are asked regularly not to post photos taken at events such as plays and assemblies on social media.

Children are regularly reminded about road safety during assemblies. Parents are encouraged to park away from the school, possibly in the village car park and walk with their children to the school via the Doorstep Green footpath.

The St. Neot School Safety Code is:

*W*alk at all times in and around the building
*A*lways take special care on the steps
*L*ook after each other
*K*eep off the railings and walls

Security

Our school has a main security door – visitors may only gain entrance after seeking permission from the school office. All visitors are required to sign in at reception and wear a visitor badge when on site. CCTV is installed outside to further ensure the children’s safety. Security is designed for safety and is not a barrier to visits from parents – please turn up and ring the bell if you need to visit!



Professional Development of Staff

We constantly monitor the quality of teaching and learning in our school. This involves careful review of how learning takes place in the classroom together with the professional development of staff. These initiatives contribute to a whole school development plan which is developed by staff and governors each year. Staff keep skills up to date through national and local courses

A summary of the school development plan and policy documents can be read on the school website.

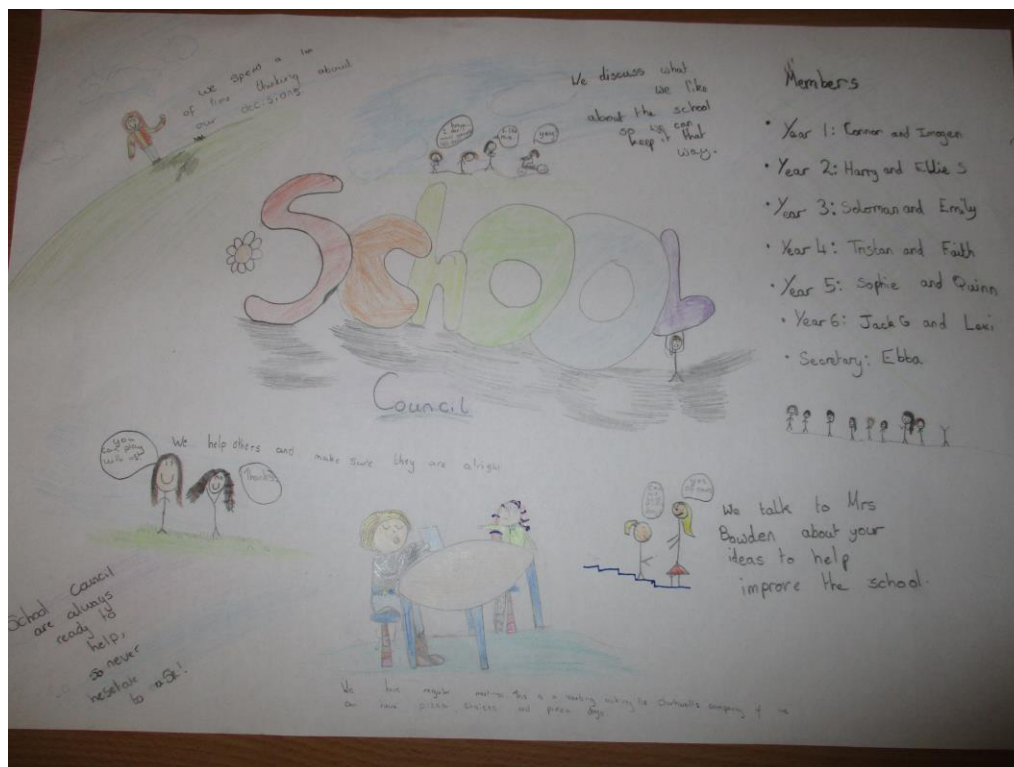
School Council

The school has an active school council which meets regularly. The members are elected by the children and there are representatives from each year group from Y1. The council is an opportunity for the children to raise issues of importance to them and discuss new projects. They have recently been awarded the silver PADL award.

Recent consultations have included:

- Extra-curricular activities
- New classroom
- Behaviour of pupils
- School lunches
- Feeling safe in school

The School Council arrange assemblies to talk about projects with the whole school.



3 STATISTICS AND CONTACTS

NATIONAL TEST RESULTS AND TEACHER ASSESSMENTS

Foundation children are assessed through Baseline assessment and the foundation stage profile. These provide a good indication of future attainment.

2023/24

Key Stage 2

Reading EXS+ 89%

Writing EXS+ 89%

Maths EXS+ 78%

SPAG EXS+ 89%

PHONICS 92.8% of children in Y1 passed the required national standard

Pupil Admission Number:14

Pupil/Teacher ratio 2023/24 24:1

Attendance 23/24	94.8%
Unauthorised absence 23/24	0.63%
Attendance 22/23	95.59%
Unauthorised absence 22/23	0.21%
Attendance 21/22	97.51%
Unauthorised absence 21/22	0.16%
Attendance 19/20	96.65%
Unauthorised absence 19/20	0.32%

Documents Available for Reference

Policy documents are available for inspection by parents and include:

Admissions
Anti-Bullying
Attendance
Behaviour Management
Child Protection and Safeguarding
Complaints
Equal Opportunities
Health and Safety
ICT
Inclusion
Parental Behaviour
RE
Relationship and Sex Education
School Development
Single Equality Scheme
Special Educational Needs

Arrangements for Handling Complaints

Preliminary Discussion

Many complaints or concerns can be best resolved in discussion with the class teacher or the Headteacher. This is where the process should start and unless there are exceptional circumstances there should be full discussion at the informal stage as a first step.

Formal Complaint to the Governing Board

If attempts to settle the complaints informally have failed, the Headteacher will supply the complainant with a copy of the complaints policy. This gives full details of the complaints procedure.



Useful Contact:

Meredith Teasdale, Director Children, Young People
and Families:-

Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY

Phone: 0300 1234 100

mteasdale@cornwall.gov.uk

Staff

Headteacher:	Sam Bowden
Teaching Staff:	
Sarah Bennett	Dewey Class – Foundation
Sam Bowden	Loveny Class – Years 1 & 2
Daniel Walton	Treverbyn-Years 3 & 4
Daniel Jewell	Fowey Class – Years 5 & 6
Office Staff:	
Nic Tamblyn	School Administrator
Teaching Assistants:	
Lisa Hopkins - TA	Jeanette Crawford-HLTA
Claire Roobottom - TA	Charlotte Bunt-HLTA
Jade Hawken-SEN TA	Suzie Johnson-TA
Edward Bennett-SEN TA	
Peripatetic Music Teachers:	
Tom Howarth-Drums	Matt Arundell – Guitar/Ukelele
Caretaking Staff:	
Jenny Tindal	Jane Williams
Nursery Staff	
Jenny Tindal	Jayne O’Neill
Catering Staff:	
Kevin Ackford	Paul Trevelyan
Riverside After School Club:	Jade Hawken
Breakfast Club:	Jeanette Crawford

Governors

Name of Governor	Position
Sam Bowden	Head Teacher
Rebecca Boyde	Chair Co-opted
Monika Hanzlikova	Vice Chair Co-opted
Dorothy Tamblyn	LA
Daniel Jewell	Staff
Phil Sumner	Parent
Monika Hanzlikova	Co-opted
Jaime Straker	Parent
Sue Robins	Co-opted
Garry Swinton	Co-opted
Rachel Kent	Co-opted

PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILST EVERY CARE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF ALL THE STATEMENTS IN THIS HANDBOOK, CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CAUSE CHANGES AFTER PUBLICATION



www.st-neot.cornwall.sch.uk