

QUALITY MARK IN PRACTICE

ST NEOT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lauren Gouge [afPE school member]

St Neot Primary School is an outstanding school in the beautiful village of St Neot in rural Cornwall. We have 93 children on roll and, although we are a small school, our mission is to bring the world to our children by engaging them in creative learning, music, drama and a wide range of PE and sports activities. The physical, emotional and social wellbeing of our children is at the heart of everything we do. We want happier, healthier children who achieve their potential.

This year, we have launched a new initiative: Walk and Talk. Every Friday before break time, all of our children, from Foundation through to Year 6, are paired and spend 15 minutes reading to each other. After this, the whole school spends five minutes outside, walking and talking

with peers from all classes. They learn lots about other children whom they might not usually have the opportunity to mix with and it is lovely to see such animated discussions between our older and younger pupils.

We want our children to be confident and effective leaders and provide our children with many leadership opportunities. We run the Playmaker Award in school and each year train our Year 4s to be Playmakers. Along with our Sports Crew, these children run sporting challenges at lunch times. They are incredibly popular, with Key Stage 1 and 2 children participating and trying to perform to the best of their ability. The Sports Crew and Playmakers enjoy the responsibility of timekeeping, setting up the area and recording scores as well as photographing their peers in action. They

also love awarding certificates based on the School Games Values of Passion, Self-Belief, Respect, Honesty, Determination and Teamwork.

Our children are active participants in a wide range of festivals and competitions including the Cornwall School Games. They relish the opportunity to use the skills they have acquired in a wide range of PE lessons at these competitions. We have two mixed-gender football teams, a girls' football team, a swimming team, two hockey teams, a cross-country team and a large athletics squad. The improvement in the confidence, communication and teamwork of our children from their first encounter with the sport to representing their school in inter-school competitions is phenomenal. Results do not always go our way but the children show great resilience by never giving up.





We are proud of the wide range of PE and sport opportunities we provide for our children using our Primary PE and Sport Premium allocation and strive to introduce the children's suggestions into our curriculum. We have recently had skateboarding, cheerleading and surf lessons and the children have loved trying out these new activities. In a recent pupil survey, the children requested yoga and, this spring, we are introducing yoga lessons into our curriculum. Our Foundation, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5 children will be the first in the school to benefit from these sessions. It is important to us that all of our younger children are given the opportunity for yoga lessons

because the earlier we can instil in our pupils a calm and positive outlook on life, the more likely they will grow into resilient and independent learners and achieve their potential as adults.

Our school is fortunate to have a large and varied outdoor space including a Wild Tribe Area. We have used the Premium money to train one of our teaching assistants to lead our Wild Tribe outdoor learning sessions. All of our children, from Foundation to Year 6, benefit from one hour of Wild Tribe a week in addition to their two hours of PE. In Wild Tribe they work on their team work and communication skills through activities such as building dens and

cooking over a fire. The Year 6 children have created benches from old pallets and other materials and these are now placed in our Friendship Area. The rest of the school painted a scene of something that makes them happy and these decorate the Friendship Area.

We undertake an annual survey with our pupils focusing not just on their PE lessons but on their healthy and active lifestyles as a whole. Our children understand that being active contributes to their wellbeing and some of their survey answers are as follows: "Playing sport makes me feel happy", "I make new friends", "You learn new skills and become stronger". Our displays also reflect the importance that being healthy and active are to our children: our PE and lunch hall contains a display of four life-size templates of a child from each of the four classes. Within these the children have written their suggestions for what being happy and healthy mean to them. We refer to the children's suggestions, such as 'good communication', 'keep hydrated' and 'being proud of our achievements', in our PE lessons. ■



Lauren Gouge is a class teacher and PE Co-ordinator at St Neot Primary School in Cornwall. The school was awarded the afPE Quality Mark in March 2017.