

ST ISSEY C OF E SCHOOL

PARENT & PUPIL HANDBOOK



2017-18

INTRODUCTION



On behalf of the staff and governors it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to St Issey C of E Primary School.

Our school is a place of learning, laughter and fun. We strive to nurture independent lifelong learners who are creative, confident and happy in an inclusive environment where the St Issey core values – Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity are paramount.

We aim to provide a vibrant and exciting learning environment in which high achievement, positive self-esteem, respect and educational excellence are valued by all. We are an ambitious, forward thinking school who constantly strive to find new and innovative ways to explore and extend our curriculum.

The children of St Issey are the life of our school, all decisions and developments are made with their well-being and success at the forefront of our minds. We know that children only get one childhood, and our goal is to make sure that each learning journey is a positive and rewarding one. We encourage all of our children to work to the very best of their ability and offer an extensive range of stimulating experiences to ensure that every child has access to an exciting and inspirational education.

Our school staff are hard-working, dedicated and committed to providing an environment where pupils make good progress, are engaged and achievement is guaranteed. They are enthusiastic about making learning fun, and every child is valued and encouraged to develop to their full potential and be the best they can be.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH VENTURE MAT

Here at St Issey we are lucky enough to be partnered with Trevithick Learning Academy, a large primary school in Camborne. This partnership enables us to share curriculum systems and learn best practice from one another. Our children are able to visit Trevithick and experience what it is like to learn in a big school, as well as foster friendships with other children outside of our immediate community. Furthermore, children from Trevithick are able to visit us to become an extended part of our St Issey family and see how we learn in our wonderful, small school environment. Each year, our children also get the benefit of attending residential trips with their corresponding yeargroups, alongside taking part in sporting competitions and exciting topic days.

This partnership has been legally agreed upon for the next three years (in the first instance).

OUR SCHOOL VALUES & AIMS

The St Issey core values – **Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity** are implicit to everything we do and are demonstrated in all aspects of school life. These values are also echoed by the Church of England.



WHO ARE WE?

St Issey is a wonderful small school rooted in the heart of the local community. We provide a vibrant and exciting learning environment in which high achievement, positive self-esteem and respect are valued by everyone in a caring and supportive atmosphere. We are an ambitious, forward thinking school who constantly strive to find new and innovative ways to explore and extend our curriculum.

We aim to secure transformational outcomes for our children by combining challenging personalised academic learning with a holistic approach to personal development, rooted in Christian values.

We share Trevithick Learning Academy's motto "Dare to be different" building on the idea of one body being made up of different parts. St Issey school may be small but it has a unique role to play in the community, the locality and the Diocese.

Our curriculum is individually tailored to the needs of each individual child and is highly differentiated to ensure that all children feel safe to leave their comfort zone, enabling them to achieve more than they thought possible. We hope our children will take this with them as they journey through life. We teach the British Values of equality, diversity, democracy and respect for all throughout the curriculum alongside our school Christian values of Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

ELVES



TREVONE

Gnomes



DAYMER

OUR HOUSES...
...AND CLASSES!

HARLYN



CONTACT DETAILS



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Assistant Head: Melanie Wells

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ROUTINES & TIMES OF THE SCHOOL DAY

8:00 – 8:45am - Breakfast Bar (*optional*)

8.45 - 8.55am – Morning Maths

8.55am – Registration

10.00 - 10.15am – First Break

11.15am - 11.30am – Second Break

12.15pm – 1:15pm – KS1 Lunch (Reception to Year 3)

12:30pm – 1.15pm – KS2 Lunch (Years 4 to 6)

1.15pm – Afternoon sessions begin

2:45pm – Assembly

3.15pm – Home time

3.15pm – 4:15pm Optional after school clubs (please see reception for more details)

ATTENDANCE

Children at St Issey enjoy their learning and love coming to school. Pupils are aware that a full attendance record (whenever possible, with the exception of sickness) is necessary if they are to meet the high standards they set themselves. For this reason we ask that parents arrange family holidays to coincide with the school ones. Holiday request forms are available from Reception, if under exceptional circumstances, it is necessary to arrange time away from school.

If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone our absence reporting line on 01841 540232 and leave a message on every day that your child is absent.

We would also appreciate any doctor or dentist appointments are made outside of the school day, however we do realise that Hospital appointments are not easy to rearrange. If you do need to make an appointment during school hours, please bring any appointment letters to Reception so that a copy can be made for our records.

School officially starts at 8.55am (although the classroom doors open at 8.45am for morning maths) and after this time the classroom doors will be closed. If your child arrives after this time, they will be classed as late. Please accompany them to Reception and sign them into the late register as soon as possible. It can be upsetting and uncomfortable for a child to go into class once the lesson has begun, as well as being disturbing for the rest of the children, so we would therefore urge you to get your child into school on time each day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils at St Issey are proud to wear their smart and distinctive uniform. We ask that parents/carers permanently mark all items of clothing and P.E kit to avoid any confusion when children dress after games and swimming.

Our uniform can be purchased locally from Tesco Online Embroidery service at (www.tesco.com/ues) who give the school a 5% donation from every order.

Our uniform is: White/pale blue polo shirt; Dark blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan; Grey or Black trousers or skirt and black flat soled school wear shoes.

Our P.E.Kit is: White or pale blue t-shirt and black shorts with suitable plimsoles or trainers.

In order to keep children safe we ask that jewellery and make-up are not worn at school with the exception of small ear studs. We also ask that children refrain from hair colouring, bleaching and extreme styling.

SCHOOL MEALS

All of the children eat with their friends in the hall. They have the choice of a school dinner or packed lunch from home.

School dinners are £2.30 per day and we would ask that all money is sent in a sealed, clearly marked envelope with your child's name, class and the days a school dinner is required.

A copy of the menu can be obtained from Reception. If you believe you are eligible for Free School Meals then please either collect a form from Reception or go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/education and then apply for Free School Meals. The Free School Meals team will then check your details against the Government's Eligibility Checking service.

We encourage children to eat a healthy diet and would ask that all packed lunches do not contain any type of nuts or peanut butter, sweets or fizzy drinks please.

Please inform us if your child has any dietary requirements or allergies.



WORKING WITH PARENTS

We know that close relationships with our parents and carers are vital. You are the people that know your child best, so can help advise us on strategies to support your child. Close working and a consistent approach to each child's needs makes a much greater impact. It is incredibly important that we are aware of any changes at home or to a child's needs, health, medicine, behaviour, etc. so that we can adapt quickly and appropriately. It is equally important for parents to be informed of their child's progress, health and behaviour. At St Issey we celebrate success and try our best to communicate this as often as possible. It is also just as important that parents are aware of the provisions we put in place to meet the individual needs of our children.

In order to encourage positive and productive relationships with parents we operate an open door policy so that you can communicate any issues concerning home and for us to also communicate any successes or issues at school.

Parents are invited to attend Parents' evenings twice a year to review their child's progress. We also send home annual reports in February to highlight progress and successes. Further to this, parents are welcome to arrange appointments with school staff at any time.

We send home a newsletter every week (usually on a Friday). The newsletter will keep you informed of what we have been up to along with any plans, diary dates, sports events, etc. We also have our own school Facebook page with news, successes and fun!

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Our **Breakfast Bar** is open every morning from 8am until 8.45 for just £2 per child, per day and there's no need to book. Just turn up at Reception, ring the bell and come and enjoy your favourite cereal or toast, milk or fruit juice.

At St Issey we also offer a variety of **after-school clubs** which are updated every term including Lego club, Sports club, Choir club, Games club and Gardening with our wonderful St Issey in Bloom ladies!

Children are encouraged to put their names down each term to take part in our clubs. They are normally free of charge and offer a range of extra-curricular activities. If you have a particular interest or skill you would like to share please let us know as we are always looking for new and exciting ideas!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We like to keep our parents and pupils informed in a variety of ways:

- Weekly Newsletter
- Facebook page
- Parents' evenings
- Open Days & afternoons
- Annual school reports
- PTA – our own parent/teacher association
- Regularly updated website – www.st-issey.cornwall.sch.uk
- Parent & child workshops/Fayres (Easter, Summer & Christmas)
- Friday celebration assembly , sometimes at church (all parents invited to attend each week)

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES (SEND)

St Issey C of E Primary School is fully inclusive.

Some children find certain aspects of their learning challenging.

Our Special Educational Needs policy is designed to support these children enabling them to overcome hurdles and achieve the highest standards.

Miss Nicky Garge is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) who offers support to children with special educational needs, as well as guidance for staff and parents.

BEHAVIOUR

The School has a set of 3 Golden Rules or expectations of behaviour which apply to every situation:

- Follow instructions with care and thought
- Care for everyone and everything
- Show good manners at all times

These rules are displayed around the school and in the classrooms and are then adapted within each class to create age appropriate behaviour guidelines. We also tie our rules into our four school values of Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity.

We celebrate success in a variety of ways, with house points, challenge tubes, stickers, medals and certificates.–

Weekly celebration assemblies (held on Fridays) are used to celebrate good work, effort & behaviour, with Dazzle certificates being awarded and WOW work being celebrated.



CURRICULUM

Reading

Reading is a vital skill that we prioritise in the following ways:-

Read Write Inc:

A programme of synthetic phonics in which pupils learn the sounds that individual and groups of letters make using actions, pictures and sounds.

Shared Reading:

Teachers teach the skills of reading and comprehension during 30-40 minute class sessions each week.

Independent Reading:

We use the exciting Accelerated Reader scheme at St Issey, which is an online system that grades reading books according to their difficulty. Each book is given a book level (BL) and a colour to help children choose a book suitable for their level of reading. This enables children to independently choose appropriately pitched books which spark their interest and excitement to therefore foster a love of reading. Upon finishing their book, your child will be able to take an online quiz when they return to school the next day. If successful in quizzing, your child will begin to move up through the Accelerated Reader levels and take home more challenging books, thus improving vital comprehension skills in the process.

Reading Support:

Our staff in school listen to as many children read each day as possible. These children change throughout the week meaning that all children are listened to every couple of days.

We also carry out specific daily interventions with key children identified as needing a little extra provision to enhance their reading and comprehension skills.

Please also encourage and support your child to read every day at home and record this in their daily reading diary. This is vital reading practice which will help children to improve their decoding, fluency, comprehension and speed of reading.



Writing

We use a powerful and effective approach to teaching writing through storytelling based on the 'Talk for Writing' methodology.

We use creative starting points such as drama, film, images & ICT to inspire our children and they are given frequent opportunities to write creatively for a variety of exciting purposes and audiences. We expose and introduce the children to a wide range of exciting texts along with a variety of famous/well-renowned authors.

We know being able to write well is a passport for life and continued learning and at St Issey we work relentlessly to ensure that each child achieves their full potential in all areas of our literacy curriculum.

Mathematics

The aim of our mathematics teaching is for our children to use and apply maths confidently in their learning and in everyday situations. In order to achieve this, we teach using the mastery maths approach, whereby children master one taught skill before moving to the next.

Children are exposed to a wide range of learning experiences, which offer broad scope to develop key mathematical skills. We follow a rich curriculum with achievement at its core, enhanced with stimulating resources, the creativity of our teachers and practical investigations to make lessons effective.

Mental arithmetic is a key part of mathematics. To support the learning of number facts, such as multiplication tables and to develop children's mental arithmetic, we open our doors at 8.45am each morning for children to practise these skills in class.

Support at home is essential to develop confidence and success within mathematics. Children receive daily maths homework to allow them time to practise a taught skill from that day and thus consolidate learning. This is usually only a few questions and shouldn't take the children too long to complete. If children are finding their homework difficult, we ask that they just give it a go so that we can see where any misconceptions exist and thus further support the child in overcoming those appropriately.

Science

We follow a stimulating science curriculum, where knowledge, understanding and the ability to work scientifically is gained through first hand experiences.

Our children are taught to be independent, creative and collaborative scientific investigators by their involvement in exciting practical investigations, which they even sometimes design themselves.

P.E

Physical education is an important part of our curriculum and we deliver motivating lessons delivered by specialist sport coaches.

We provide opportunities for our children to be involved in both competitive and non-competitive sports. All of our children take part in a whole term of swimming lessons to enable them to swim confidently and successfully, a skill we believe has lifelong value.

Topics (History, Geography, Art, DT, ICT)

At St Issey we deliver a creative and enriching curriculum for History, Geography, Art, DT and ICT that is taught through meaningful 'Topics' which are planned to interest, engage and enthuse our children.

Our rich foundation subject curriculum, is creative and allows children to become independent, engaged learners. We know that school trips are a vital part of enriching children's education and a high emphasis is placed on these being central to the children's learning experiences.



HOMework

Pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 are set a short maths task each evening. On Fridays, we replace the maths homework with a spelling homework to provide children with the opportunity to practise their age-appropriate spellings before their test the following week.

Pupils should also read every day after school and this should be recorded in their reading diary and signed by an adult.

SWIMMING

All children swim at Wadebridge Leisure Centre for one academic term, one session each week.

For these lessons, children will require a towel, swimming costume and goggles (if specifically desired).



EDUCATIONAL & RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

Each year our children are offered a wide range of educational visits & trips.

In the first week back in September we hold our annual 'Learning to Learn' week. This is when our children, teachers & teaching assistants get to know each other before lessons begin. A variety of fun activities are organised by our teachers including:

Camping on the field, trips to the beach and woods, camp fires, pyjama days, cooking etc.

Our partner school, Trevithick Learning Academy, hold annual residential trips for children in years 2 to 6 and each year they invite our children to attend with them. In the past, year 2 have stayed at Eden in pods, year 3 have visited Cardiff for a one night residential, Year 4 have visited London and seen the magnificent West End show 'Matilda', and Year 5 visit the football stadium in Manchester (amongst other fun activities) and are away for 2 nights; normally accommodated in Youth Hostels.

Then when the children are in their last year, year 6, they have the opportunity to enjoy a fun-packed adventure-filled few days at Pill Farm. There they will enjoy high ropes, canoeing and much, much more!

