



TREWIDLAND PRIMARY & PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 19th January

At Trewidland Primary School, we believe that teaching in mixed-age classes brings numerous benefits to our students' education and development. In a mixed age class, children from different year groups are placed together in the same classroom, promoting a sense of community, and enabling accelerated progress for every child.

Our class structure at Trewidland School is designed to cater to the diverse needs and abilities of our students.

We have the following class arrangements:

- **Pre-School - Gruffalo Wood Class** (Miss Hume & Mrs Oxford)
- **Year R, Year 1 & Year 2 - Hundred Acre Wood Class** (Mrs Bartlett, Miss Hume & Mrs Greenaway)
- **Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, and Year 6 - Farthing Wood Class** (Mrs Moore, Mr Lovell & Miss Hackett)



Research supports the benefits of mixed-age classes for children's development. Studies have shown that children in mixed-age classrooms not only excel academically compared to peers of the same age but also thrive socially and emotionally. By being exposed to a range of ages, children develop a sense of belonging and community, while older children have the opportunity to mentor and take on leadership roles. This dynamic fosters independence and competence in older children and enhances younger children's engagement and learning.



In each class, we have a range of abilities, and our dedicated teachers ensure that every child receives individualised attention and tailored support to maximise their potential. We adopt the following strategies to create a positive learning environment:

- **Avoiding Labelling:** Children are not labelled according to their ability, allowing them to take pride in their individual strengths and fostering motivation to improve.
- **Individualised Pace of Learning:** Our classroom practice ensures that the pace of learning is adjusted to meet the needs of each child, promoting personalised progress.
- **Strengths-Based Approach:** We view each child as a unique individual and focus on what they can do rather than what they can't do. Our teachers teach according to each child's strengths, helping them thrive and reach their full potential.
- **Challenge for All:** We provide challenge at each child's own pace, ensuring that all pupils are engaged and stimulated in their learning.
- **Sense of Family:** By working closely with their classmates, children develop a sense of family within their mixed-age class, fostering supportive relationships and a positive learning environment.





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At Trewidland School, our mixed-age classes follow a rolling programme of study. This carefully designed curriculum ensures a broad and balanced education for children within each key stage. National Curriculum content has been considered to ensure clear progression of skills for children in both years represented within the class.

The decision to mix year groups at our school is based on a thorough review of numbers in each year group, individual pupil needs, staffing, and budgetary considerations. We prioritise meeting the needs of all year groups, ensuring that no group is prioritised over another. Year group arrangements may vary over time due to fluctuating numbers, and bespoke arrangements are made to accommodate these changes.

While teaching mixed-age classes can present complexities, our dedicated staff strive to ensure numerous benefits for our students:

- **Collaborative Planning:** Staff can share planning and preparation across classes with children in the same year group, enhancing collaboration and consistency.
- **Promoting Independence:** Mixed-age classes provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop independence in their learning. They become confident learners who can access tasks without relying solely on adult support.
- **Favourable Staff-to-Pupil Ratio:** With class sizes unlikely to exceed 25 children, our higher-than-average staff-to-pupil ratio allows for bespoke support to promote the holistic development of every child.
- **Peer Mentoring and Role Models:** Older children in mixed-age classes become "experts" for younger children, offering positive role models and support. This arrangement enhances problem-solving skills and nurtures deeper thinking across subjects.
- **Enhanced Communication Skills:** Mixed-age grouping in English lessons exposes children to a wider range of vocabulary and fosters stronger social and verbal competences. As a result, they become confident communicators beyond their current year group.
- **Increased Cooperation and Friendship Opportunities:** Mixing year groups promotes greater cooperation and expands peer groups, allowing children to build friendships across different year groups.



Home School Values are designed to promote spiritual and moral development. Each Value contains fun activities for pupils to do with their friends and family (at school and at home) together alongside topics to stimulate discussion and reflection.



Skills – essential tools that are learned through practice

- Skills underpin ALL learning. It is impossible to have any lesson or any learning taking place that does not involve both skills and knowledge working together.
- Some skills such as the ability to read, write, count and communicate are seen as core and are set as the priority for primary and secondary schools through English and Maths.
- Some skills are specific to one field of learning such as map reading skills, volleyball etc.
- The remaining skills are useful across numerous fields of learning. The SECRET skills model is the most comprehensive description of these and appears in summary below.

SECRET SKILL	Cognitive	Strategic	Emotional	Social
Self-Management	Manage Risk	Be Organised	Go for it, Finish it! (Resilience)	Manage Emotions
Effective Participation	Persuade Others	Find Solutions	Identify Issues	Get Involved
Creative Thinking	Imagine	Make Links	Take Creative Risks	Question Assumptions
Reflective Learning	Set Yourself Challenges	Plan-Do-Review	Invite Feedback	Share Learning
Enquiry	Explore a Question	Evaluate Evidence	Stay Objective	Reach Conclusions
Team Working	Take Responsibility	Manage the team	Build team strengths	Evaluate the team

Secret Skills

	Year A			Year B			Year C			Year D		
	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Home School Values	Generosity	Creativity	Perseverance	Friendship	Compassion	Respect	Generosity	Creativity	Perseverance	Friendship	Compassion	Respect
Secret Skills	Team Workers	Creative Thinkers	Reflective Learners	Self-Managers	Effective Participants	Independent Enquirers	Team Workers	Creative Thinkers	Reflective Learners	Self-Managers	Effective Participants	Independent Enquirers
Curriculum Topics	Marvellous Me	Bloomin' Army	The Big Build	Home & Away	Amazing People	Our Wonderful World	Marvellous Me	Bloomin' Army	The Big Build	Home & Away	Amazing People	Our Wonderful World
Handbook Areas	Marvellous Me	Bloomin' Army	Grand Designs	Home & Away	Amazing People	Flying High	Marvellous Me	Bloomin' Army	Grand Designs	Home & Away	Amazing People	Flying High
Learning World Topics	Roots Shoots & Mudily Boats	Marvellous Me	Grand Designs	Home & Away	Amazing People	Flying High	Marvellous Me	Bloomin' Army	Grand Designs	Home & Away	Amazing People	Flying High

Curriculum Map



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A national study by Simon Veenman titled 'Cognitive and Non-cognitive Effects of Multigrade and Multi-Age Classes: A Best-Evidence Synthesis' found that mixed-age classrooms do not negatively impact student learning. In fact, students in mixed-age classes demonstrated higher scores in attitudes towards school, personal adjustment, and self-concept compared to students in single-age classes.

At Trewidland Primary School, the success of our mixed-age classes is reflected in our academic attainment and progress over time. A large proportion of our children exceed national and local expectations, achieving not only the expected standard but also greater depth. This achievement is a testament to our dedicated teachers' hard work and our commitment to providing an enriching educational experience from Early Years to Year 6.



School Communication

Thank you for bearing with us while we appoint a new secretary and teaching assistant. We appreciate your patience, as this has been a lengthy process to ensure the best possible candidate is in place for our school. We are conducting further interviews this week (and next) and hope to bring you an update very soon. In the meantime, please rest assured that all communication channels are still open for you.

Phoning the School: All telephone messages are checked by staff at 8.30am, 10.30am, 12.15 - 13.15pm, and at 15.30 - 4.30pm. Please do leave us a message, and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Class Dojo: This has proved very popular for directly contacting teachers and the school, and we encourage all of you to use this brilliant service. Teachers check their correspondence during lunchtime, as well as before and after school. Please note that if you contact outside school hours you may not get an immediate response as teachers usually only responding during their working day.

Email: This is the best form of formal correspondence. Mr Lovell checks the current school secretary email across the course of the week. The school email contacts are shared at the bottom of this newsletter. Please note that if you contact outside school hours you may not get an immediate response as teachers usually only responding during their working day.

Reporting an absence: Please do this via email to Mr Lovell or Mrs Moore at the start of the school day. This can also be done through Class Dojo or telephoning the school and leaving a message.

In-person communication: As a small school, we pride ourselves on our community spirit and on face-to-face conversations and communication. Our teachers and support staff ensure they are readily available on the morning door duties and end of day pick-ups for any quick communications and discussions. If you require a longer conversation, please arrange a time (via email or Dojo) to meet with your teacher. Please do come and see us with any of your worries. We love hearing your feedback - positive or negative - as this allows a culture of support and progress in our school. We appreciate your patience during this transition phase and thank you for your ongoing support.

The Trewidland Team



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Trewidland Primary & Pre-school is excited to announce our upcoming **Art Exhibition**, where children have the opportunity to showcase their creative talents. Taking place on the 7th of February, this event promises to be a celebration of artistic expression.

To participate, children are invited to create their very own masterpieces at home for each of the specified categories. The chosen themes for each category are intended to inspire imagination and personal connection.

- *For the Photography category, children are encouraged to capture moments that reflect the theme of "My Family." We hope this gives them an opportunity to explore their familial relationships and create stunning visual representations.*
- *The Collage category is linked to our Home School Value of Compassion. Children are encouraged to use a variety of materials to create collages that depict acts of compassion and kindness, fostering empathy and understanding.*
- *In the Painting category, children are asked to focus on the theme of "Great Britain." This presents them with a chance to showcase their pride and knowledge of our wonderful country through their artwork.*
- *Pencil drawing allows children to explore self-expression, as they create a self-portrait in the category titled "Myself." This category encourages students to reflect on their own identities and express their uniqueness through the power of drawing.*
- *Lastly, the Sculpture/Model category revolves around "My School," providing an opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and artistic skills while representing their school environment.*

To guarantee fairness, we kindly request that each child submits one entry per category. Additionally, each entry will incur a small entry fee of 50p. All artworks and entrance fees must be delivered to the school by the 6th of February. Please pass these to your class teacher. To avoid mix-ups, ensure your child's items are clearly labelled on the reverse or underneath with their name and year group.

On the day of the exhibition, prizes and certificates will be awarded to participants from four different age ranges. These include Pre-school & Reception, Year groups 1 & 2, Year Groups 3 & 4, and Year Groups 5 & 6. This ensures that the achievements of children from all year groups will be celebrated and recognised.

We extend a warm invitation to everyone in our school community and beyond to attend and enjoy our exhibition in the school hall, starting from 1.30pm on Wednesday the 7th of February. Our dedicated PTA will also be present, providing refreshments and hosting a raffle for additional entertainment.

Here are a few of the excellent entries from last year to help inspire you all:





SCHOOL WEBSITE: <https://www.trewidlandprimaryandpreschool.co.uk/>

Changes to Entry and Exit Procedures

We are delighted to inform you about the recent review of our entry and exit procedures for pupils, with the primary focus of ensuring their safety and well-being within our school premises.

New Arrangements for Various Classes:

Farthing Wood Class

Pupils in Farthing Wood Class will now enter their classrooms through their assigned outside classroom door. This modification aims to simplify the arrival process, providing a smoother start to their day.

Pre-School & Hundred Acre Classes

For Pre-School and Hundred Acre Classes, their entrance has been assigned through the outside, lower door. This grants direct access to the cloakroom and their respective classrooms.

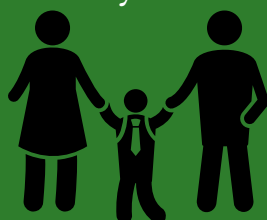
Advantages of the Revisions:

These revisions offer several benefits, especially during school pick-up, where parents can take shelter under the canopy from the weather while dropping off or collecting their children. To ensure the safety and well-being of everyone, parents are kindly requested to drop their children off at the designated door and refrain from entering the school building. In line with our safety policies, we also request that mobile phones are not used on the school premises.

Furthermore, this initiative ensures smooth transitions to learning while effectively managing the flow of traffic through the school building, in adherence to our fire-safety & safeguarding policies.

By implementing this enhanced arrangement, we aim to create a more comfortable and convenient experience for all members of our school community, minimising the presence of unfamiliar adults in the vicinity, and providing a reassuring environment for our pupils whilst ensuring our parents & guardians can take shelter under the canopy from the weather while dropping off or collecting their children.

To ensure a seamless transition, our dedicated staff will offer clear direction and guidance during Monday morning's drop off and pick.





Celebrating Success



Congratulations to **Chloe** for achieving her 3 badges in Rainbows this week! She has been very busy!

To achieve the 3 badges she needed to demonstrate that she could: Recycle, Help at Home & show she was an Animal Lover by completing various tasks & challenges.

Chloe, & her sister Lily, really enjoy Rainbows & we wanted to share their success & celebrate their dedication to this worthwhile community group! Well done Chloe & Lily!



We would like to share in your child's successes (outside of school) please let us know what they've been up to & we will feature their story in our newsletters. Simply, share a photo & any relevant information with their class teacher on Class Dojo & we will ensure it goes in the next newsletter!

Thank you!



Stars of the Week

Alfie (Pre-school) for being inquisitive and determined to complete an activity.

Michalea (Rec) for showing wonderful curiosity in our topic lessons.

William (Rec) for sharing his excellent ideas in Literacy

Kenza (Y1) for her fantastic progress in writing- demonstrating good letter formation and segmenting of words.

Liam (Y1) for his continued enthusiasm for learning.

Angela (Y1) for independently using her phonics knowledge to create original sentences.

Joel (Y2) for using stupendous language in his writing.

Stanley (Y2) for persevering with his handwriting skills- showing such determination.

Ethan (Y3) for showing significant progress with his handwriting skills - creating cursive joins and correct letter formation.

Nyssa (Y3) for making wonderful progress with her multiplication work in Mathematics & using arrays well to further her skills.

Isabelle (Y3) for outstanding progress with her handwriting - demonstrating a good pencil grip and correct letter formation.

Ella (Y4) for an enthusiastic approach to all her lessons - demonstrating interest and curiosity.

Ivy (Y5) for a wonderful attitude to her writing this week - showing creativity and maturity in her writing.

Luna (Y6) for dedication and determination to learn and correctly apply the chunking method for long division.

Lillie (Y6) for focusing on her handwriting style, improving her spelling skills and applying this to her writing.

WELL DONE CHILDREN - WE WILL CELEBRATE ON MONDAY MORNING IN OUR WOW ASSEMBLY.

Dates for your Diary

26th Jan - NCMP for Year 6 and Reception Pupils

2nd Feb - NSPCC Number Day

5th Feb - Children's Mental Health Week 2024

7th Feb - Art Exhibition Afternoon

12th Feb - Half Term 12 - 16th February

19th Feb - School Inset Day - school closed

20th Feb - SWAP Shop

27th Feb - Bags2Schools Collection

7th Mar - World Book Day

8th -17th Mar - School Science Week

18th Mar - Parents' Evenings 15.30 - 17.00

20th Mar - Spring Show Afternoon

29th Mar - Good Friday Bank Holiday - school closed

1st April - Easter Holidays April 1st - 12th

All the details of these events can be found on Class Dojo.



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SCHOOL WEBSITE: <https://www.trewidlandprimaryandpreschool.co.uk/>

CONTACTING US:

Class teachers can be messaged directly via Class Dojo.

You can also emailed us via:

Mr Lovell:
Head@trewidland.cornwall.sch.uk
or
Mrs Moore:
Bmoore@trewidland.cornwall.sch.uk



Events Outside of School:

It would be great for as many of you as possible to register and get your free guide for the 'Big Garden Birdwatch'!

We encourage all families to make some time to get involved by following this link:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Let's all help the RSPB with their Big Garden Birdwatch - the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring.



**Big Garden
Birdwatch**

26-28 January 2024