

SCHOOL DAYS

After the long summer, families are getting ready to start a new school year, some for the first time. For others it will soon be time to choose a new school.

Schools are where tomorrow's world is growing, where today's wonders are discovered; the church wants to build a better world, so we work hard in schools. We have been building schools for hundreds of years. Growing the future and revealing the God-given gifts of children is a Gospel calling.

The diocese works closely with 50 schools in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly; our family of Church schools and their partners. Through our many governors, teachers and parents we also serve hundreds more schools across the diocese.

We are a powerful voice for children, speaking out for the whole child, not just academic success, we stand for genuine inclusion even for the most difficult children.

We are not embarrassed to talk about love, faith, and hope, and we do this while providing an education that is rigorous and compares well against the best community schools, and as a diocese we are determined to drive standards even higher.



OPEN THE BOOK

Stories are always popular with children and at Mevagissey School one type of story has proved so good the pupils chose it as the thing that had impacted them most at primary school.

Open The Book is an initiative which sees teams from local churches go into primary schools to read and perform bible stories. This year will mark the tenth anniversary of Open the Book (OTB) in the Diocese of Truro.

At Mevagissey School they have been welcoming the OTB team from

St Peter's Church for over six years and the assemblies now draw an enthusiastic audience and keen would-be performers from year six. The stories performed come from both the old and New Testament.

Revd Canon Marion Barrett, who is the rector of St Mewan, Mevagissey and St Ewe, said:

"We started taking part in Open the Book because there were less children coming to the church. We decided we needed to go where the children were and we are still doing that."

As well as taking part in fortnightly Open the Book assemblies, the St Peter's team also present bibles each Christmas to the new reception year children and more are given as a gift to the leaving year six pupils at the end of the summer term.

INTERESTED IN OPEN THE BOOK? CONTACT SHELLEY PORTER
01208 892811

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Congratulations to five more Church schools achieving "Good" in the new more challenging Ofsted inspections this summer term:

FLUSHING, LADOCK, GRAMPOUND W CREED, DULOE & ST MADDERN'S

TOP 10 TIPS FOR CHOOSING A NEW SCHOOL

- 1 Visit several schools during the school day.
- 2 Classrooms can be very busy, so watch an individual child, if you were leaving your child here, how would that be?
- 3 Ask if any staff send their children to the school.
- 4 Ask about the things your child needs/enjoys, but ask them to be specific; "tell me about last time..."
- 5 Be prepared to change your mind about a school, good or bad, reputations aren't always fair and schools change.
- 6 Ask parents with children already there, but ask specific questions, about bullying, homework, communication, after school clubs, ask about the things that are important for you and your child.
- 7 Check out the school website, how good is the communication? Are newsletters up to date? Do you get a feel for the school?
- 8 Check the Ofsted website. Remember 2015 Ofsted is much harder than 2013 Ofsted, so a recent "Good" might have been "Outstanding" three years ago.
- 9 If your child was at that school and there was a problem, could you imagine going to the headteacher or class teacher?
- 10 Make a list of questions before you go and take it with you, it is easy to forget what you were going to say.



USEFUL LINKS

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF SCHOOLS AVAILABLE INCLUDING CHURCH SCHOOLS, GO TO:

WWW.TRURODIOCESE.ORG.UK/SCHOOLS/FOR-PARENTS-2/DIFFERENT-TYPES-OF-SCHOOLS/

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY FOR A SCHOOL PLACE OR FOR A LIST OF SCHOOLS IN CORNWALL VISIT:

WWW.CORNWALL.GOV.UK/EDUCATION-AND-LEARNING/SCHOOLS-AND-COLLEGES/

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WORKING TOGETHER IN A MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

Grade Ruan School is a large school by small school standards with 65 pupils from reception to Year Six. Since March 2014, it has been part of the Keskowethyans Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), a partnership of five small schools from across the Lizard caring for 220 children under the leadership of head teacher Tom Harman. Each school also has a lead teacher responsible for the day to day running.



TOM HARMAN

HEAD TEACHER AT KESKOWETHYANS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST WITH 30 YEARS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Originally all five schools worked independently. "Some parents were initially concerned by the change to a MAT but once they understood the logistics they were generally very positive. I think everyone realised that to keep a school in the villages compromises were needed."

Keskowethyans is unique among MATs in that it includes a church school and non-church schools working together.

"It has been important that each of our schools has maintained its own identity under the Keskowethyans umbrella but by working together we have been

able to replicate the bits that have been successful across all five schools and ensure best use of the limited resources."

Tom says the life of a small school is challenging. "Fluctuating pupil numbers are always a challenge as are the finances but there are many positives. The perception of small schools is that they are limited in what they can do but we do an awful lot and it's really vibrant. That has definitely been enhanced through the partnership working."



THE LEAD TEACHER'S VIEW



ALISON GOLDSACK

LEAD TEACHER AT GRADE RUAN SCHOOL WITH 34 YEARS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

There are many benefits to being a small school in a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) for pupils, their parents and the schools.

"We follow Values for Life at Grade Ruan. These values have now been introduced to the other schools because we recognise the importance of good basic values such as friendship, honesty and trust."

Smaller class sizes are also a benefit. "We can tailor the learning experience to individuals much more and because we have mixed age classes we are able to teach at the level the child needs rather than just the year group/age they are. These mixed groups also provide a good support network for younger pupils and encourage responsibility among the older pupils who look out for their younger classmates. It's helped create a real family atmosphere in the school where everyone knows each other well."

All the schools within the MAT do everything their bigger peers can. "We go surfing and have weekly swimming lessons and the year six students from the schools get together for camp each year."

The school is also able to offer wrap around care with a hugely successful breakfast club and after school sessions.

"It's self-funding and run by our teaching assistant team. We chose to offer it because we found there was a need among parents who work and were not able to find childcare in the village."

“ THERE IS A REAL HOMELY FEEL AND THE BEST BIT HAS BEEN GOING ON THE LONDON TRIP. WE'VE ALSO DONE SURF LIFESAVING. I'VE MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS AND ALL THE TEACHERS ARE VERY APPROACHABLE. NO ONE GETS LEFT OUT ”

Grace, 11, has attended other small schools

EVENTS DIARY



DIOCESE OF TRURO
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM
GROWING THE CHURCH

AUGUST

29 Piano recital

Truro Cathedral, 1pm

29-31 Liskeard Flower & Music Festival

St Martin's Church, Liskeard, 10.30 – 4.30, £3

29 Concert

St Martin's Church, Liskeard, 7pm, donations

30 Choir/ Classic Concert

St Martin's Church Liskeard, 7pm, £8

SEPTEMBER

4 Alistair Taylor & Lowena Voices

Lanivet Church, 7.30pm

4 Craft Fayre

St Swithin's Church, Launcells (nr Bude), 3-8pm

4-6 "Jungle" Flower Festival

St Breward Church, 10am

5-11 Craft Fayre

St Swithin's Church, Launcells (nr Bude), 10am – 5pm

10 Launch of Dor Kemmyn Interfaith CD

Chapter House, Truro Cathedral, 7.30-9.30pm

21 Filling Station

Penmorvah Manor Hotel, 7.30pm

23 Diocesan Roadshow

Launceston Town Hall, 6.30pm

24 Churches Together in Cornwall Conference

26 Diocesan Synod

County Hall, Truro, 9.30am

29 Diocesan Roadshow

Falmouth School, 6.30pm

OCTOBER

6 Diocesan Roadshow

Penwith College, Penzance, 6.30pm

8 Diocesan Roadshow

Liskeard Public Hall, 6.30pm

12 Diocesan Roadshow

Bodmin Town Council, 6.30pm

13 Diocesan Roadshow

St Erme Community Centre, 6.30pm

19 Filling Station

Penmorvah Manor Hotel, 7.30pm

NOVEMBER

7 Diocesan Synod

County Hall Truro, 9.30am

ROADSHOWS

The annual diocesan autumn roadshows will take place throughout September and October at venues around the county. **So come and Walk the Walk with us at your nearest roadshow.**