



Welcome to St Uny C of E Academy Foundation Stage



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to St. Uny C of E Academy. This booklet is intended to provide you and your child with the relevant information that will help to make starting school a happy time. It includes *Top Tips* from the children of this year's Foundation Class.

Parents are their children's first and most important educators. At St Uny CE Academy, we recognise the important role parents play in their child's education. It is, therefore, our aim to establish a strong working partnership between school and home.

Transition

Success during early school transitions is a key factor in determining a child's future progress and development. The move from pre-school or home to school is traditionally seen as one of the biggest challenges for young children. The physical change of environment which children experience when they transition from pre-school to school can represent multiple challenges and changes for 4 and 5-year-olds. The good news, however, is that the curriculum on either side of pre-school to school transition, remains the same, thus providing continuity in teaching, learning and assessment. Throughout their first year at school, your child will follow the *Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum* which is also followed in nursery and pre-school settings.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

During their first year at St. Uny Academy your child will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (DfE 2018). This curriculum is underpinned by four guiding principles. These are that:

- Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured
- Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships
- Children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers
- Children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.

The EYFS curriculum is based on the recognition that children learn best through playful, active learning. It is divided into three prime areas and four specific areas of learning and the children will work towards achieving the early learning goals for each of these areas.

The three **prime areas** are: -

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**, including *Self-confidence and Self-awareness, Managing Feelings and Behaviour, Making Relationships*
- **Communication and Language**, including *Listening and Attention, Understanding, Speaking*
- **Physical Development**, including *Moving and Handling, Health and Self-care.*

The four **specific areas** are: -

- **Literacy**, including *Reading and Writing.*
- **Mathematics**, including *Numbers and Shape, Space and Measures*
- **Understanding of the World**, including *People and Communities, The World, Technology*
- **Expressive Arts and Design**, including *Exploring and Using Media and Materials and Being Imaginative*

Your child will develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and understanding through a combination of both play-based learning and more focused teacher-led sessions. They will be immersed in learning that is relevant, practical, experiential and fun. Their learning will build on what has gone before, whilst creating long-lasting memories for the future.

'I love Tehidy Class because we get to play and learn stuff inside and outside.'



Parents, Carers and Teachers Working Together



Mrs Taddeo – Class Teacher



Mrs Knight – Support Staff

A message from Mrs. Taddeo and Miss Knight:

As parents ourselves, we recognise starting school as a significant milestone for you and your child. We both have vivid memories of our children's first year at school and the rollercoaster of emotions that involved. We remember having to learn the routines, rules, practices and language of school, alongside our children, and how daunting that could be. We also remember how reassuring it was to have someone we could go to with your worries, concerns, questions and ideas. Please know that we are always happy to chat with you about your child and their experiences at school and home. We are also open to your suggestions and ideas. We try to answer any questions immediately or, at the very least, come back to you with an answer as soon as possible.

As working parents, we know that different ways of communicating suit different people. We would, therefore, encourage you to contact us by whichever of the following methods is most convenient to you: in person at the beginning or end of the school day; by telephone (01736 794180) or email via our school office (hello@stuny.org.uk) or on a scribbled note thrust into our hand by a child-minder or family friend.

We know how important it is for you to feel confident, happy and involved with your child's transition to school. We greatly value your knowledge and expertise of your own child and we recognise that working in partnership with you will help to ensure your child's happiness and success at school.



What is Tapestry?

Tapestry is a secure online Learning Journal. We use it to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. The system enables teachers, parents and carers to share information and record children's experiences, play and learning at school and home. Working together with the help of Tapestry, we can create a cumulative, and more complete, record of your child's experiences and development during their time at St. Uny Academy.

How does Tapestry work?

Tapestry provides each child with their own individual Learning Journal, which is held online. Parents and carers are provided with a personal log-in, linked to their email address, and a password (which can be changed to make it more secure). This enables them to access their own child's Learning Journal. They will not be able to view or add to the Learning Journal of any other child/children. Your child's teacher and teaching assistant also have a secure log-in. This enables them to upload observations, photos or videos; recording children's achievements and assessing their learning in reference to the EYFS curriculum.

Parents/carers can change their settings so that an email is automatically generated informing them when an observation has been added so they can have a look and add any comments of their own.

To register for Tapestry, please use the link below:

<https://forms.microsoft.com/FormsPro/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rVOWGVbBBUq60whMGjC2GNQzh8GyMTBDIM8-H3wZjiVUNIIXOU5LMjJZWFBKVzEyWVRGTUILWkgxOC4u>

Absence and Attendance

Illness

Please inform the office before 9am, if your child is going to be absent due to illness. You will be asked why they are going to be absent and when you expect them to return. If your child is off for more than one day, you will need to contact the school office on each day of their absence until they return to school. **In instances of sickness and/or diarrhoea, your child will need to stay at home for 48 hours**, timed from the last occurrence. Call 01736 794180 to report absences.

Medication

We can only administer prescribed medication to children if:

- They are handed in to the office with clear written instructions. Instructions on the bottle is not enough.
- The medicine is labelled with the child's name and dose.
- The timing of the dose is not critical.

All medicines are dispensed centrally at playtime or lunch time. If medicine is required four times a day, it would be helpful if parents/carers can administer the first dose before school and two after school, leaving us to dispense one only in the middle of the day. If a medicine is required three times a day, please administer all three doses at home. Parents should collect medicines from the office at the end of the school day.

Inhalers

Parent/Carers need to complete an Asthma form (available from the school office), which authorises their child's inhaler to be stored in their classroom. We encourage parents of children with asthma to teach them how to take responsibility for their own medication.

Medical appointments

Where possible, medical appointments should be made outside of the school day. If you need to take your child out of school to

attend a medical appointment, you must notify the school office if during the school day and supply a letter confirming the date and time of the medical appointment.

Holidays

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we do not authorise holidays in term time. Parents/carers wishing to apply for a holiday during term time due to exceptional circumstances must complete an Exceptional Circumstances Form, providing appropriate evidence. Their application will be considered at the discretion of the Head Teacher. All requests will receive a response stating the outcome of the request.

Every school day counts

A missed school day is a lost opportunity for children to learn. Regular student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Children who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.

Since September 2015, a new challenge has faced every school with the reduction of the threshold for persistent absenteeism now set at 10%, reducing from 15% in previous years. This amounts to 19 school days in a year. This is a very tight target and is linked to holidays in term time and indiscriminate days off. Additionally, the guidance for issuing penalty notices for unauthorised absence has been revised. **Penalty Notices can be issued in cases where a pupil of compulsory school age has been absent from school and the absence has not been authorised or where a pupil arrives persistently late.**

The minimum level of absence necessary is 10 or more school sessions (5 days) in any 100-day period. Prosecution under the Education Act should be considered as an alternative where 20 or more sessions of unauthorised absence occur. It is, therefore, essential that all requests for 'leave of absence' are made well in advance to enable time to check reasons, evidence and previous attendance information. Do not assume that

authorisation will be given. School term dates are published well in advance to enable parents to make plans for holidays out of school time. These can be found either on the school website or Cornwall Council website.

Please help us and your child by ensuring that their attendance remains above 96%.

Arriving at School in the Morning

Our school day begins at 8.45am.

When your child starts school in September, they will enter the classroom through a separate entrance, situated to the right of the school's front door and accessible via a ramp from the main school car park. This entrance will be open between 8.35am and 8.45am. **Please stay with them until Mrs. Taddeo or Miss Knight has greeted you both at the door and you have seen them safely into the classroom.**

After 8.45am, parents will need to deliver their child via the school's front door, where they should inform the office team of their late arrival and ensure that they are safely received by a member of staff before leaving the premises. Please endeavour to bring your child to school on time. The beginning of the day is an extremely important time for children to settle in and prepare for the day ahead. Children who arrive late at school can often feel anxious or unsettled.

Collecting your child from school at the end of the school day

The school day finishes at 3.00pm.

Foundation Stage children will exit via the main door of the classroom, which faces the main playground. You can find this by entering the main playground, turning left, then left again through another small gate. Your child will not be allowed to leave the classroom until Mrs. Taddeo or Miss Knight have seen you and can

ensure they are handed over safely. **Please make every effort to collect your child promptly at 3.00pm.** Children can become anxious if they are kept waiting and minutes can seem like hours when their peers have already left the classroom. **Top Tip:** Your child will probably have lots of exciting news to tell you about their day at school, so please be ready to greet them. For this reason, **we would discourage you from using a mobile phone at pick up time.**

Safeguarding: We are unable to let your child leave with anyone other than their parent/carer without prior arrangement. Please inform Mrs. Taddeo, Miss Knight or the school office if someone else will be collecting your child. If your child will be regularly collected by someone other than yourself (for example, a grandparent, childminder or family friend), we would ask that you introduce them to us beforehand so that we can put a face to the name.

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is run by qualified and experienced school staff. Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am until the start of the school day. Each session costs £2 (or £3 including breakfast). Children attending our breakfast club will be safely escorted to their classroom and class teacher for the beginning of the school day.

After School Club

After School Club is also run by qualified and experienced school staff. Sessions can be booked in advance through the school office by email, phone call or in person. Although very popular, some places are also available at short notice on the day. Short notice availability can also be checked via the office. Our After School Club runs from 3pm until 5.00pm each school evening. Each day children have a variety of planned activities to suit all primary ages. Children will be given a snack and also

collected from an extra-curricular club if they are attending that first.

The cost is currently as follows:

3.00pm - 4.15pm £4.00 (siblings £2.00)

3.00pm - 5.00pm £6.00 (siblings £3.00)

3.00pm - 5.45pm £8.00 (siblings £4.00)

Extracurricular Clubs

Extracurricular clubs are an important part of school life. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities including sports clubs, art and craft clubs and computer clubs. Pupils can sign up for clubs online at the start of each term. Some clubs are restricted on numbers and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. To provide a good variety, some of our clubs are provided by external providers and may, therefore, be charged for. Clubs are changed each term to allow more children to access a wider range of activities.

School Houses

All children and staff at St. Uny Academy enjoy being part of a 'house'. We have four houses, each containing mixed aged children and adults from across the school. Children and adults come together in their house on four house days a year and compete together during our Sports Day. All children can achieve points for their house throughout the school week, which are calculated and celebrated every Friday.



Knights



Pirates



Saints



Giants

How can you prepare your child for the transition to school?

All children develop and learn at different rates; however, parents often ask us what they can do to help their child prepare for school. The most important thing you can do to support your child's transition to school is to talk positively to them about the experience of starting school. Our **All About School book** which contains photographs can be used to support your discussions.

If you feel your child is ready, you may also wish to practise the following self-help skills with your child:

- Being able to listen to a familiar adult who is reading a story to them for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Sitting at a table to eat, draw or paint.
- Eating with cutlery.
- Using the toilet independently.
- Washing their hands frequently and thoroughly.
- Putting on their coat.
- Recognising their written name.

Previous experience suggests that children feel more confident in school when they can attempt some self-help skills independently. A child who can recognise their name on their belongings, for example, is less likely to panic if they can't find something.

Pupil Top Tip: 'If you know how to do up your own coat you can get out for play quicker and you can help other children do up their coat'

Pupil Top Tip: 'Hand washing stops you spreading germs and getting poorly'

Pupil Top Tip: 'If you know what your name looks like it's easy to find your things'

However, **it is important not to place pressure on your child**, as this could make them anxious about starting school. **There are always kindly adults on hand to help!**

Mrs. Taddeo's Top Tip: *Please will you help me?* followed by a smile and a *thank you* will brighten everyone's day.

What will your child need when they start school?

- A book bag
- Water bottle
- Wellington Boots (to be left in school)
- A complete change of clothes (to be left in school)
- A waterproof coat

Uniform

Girls

Navy cardigan or v necked jumper with school logo
White polo shirt or blouse
Grey skirt or trousers
White or grey socks
Navy gingham summer dress
Black shoes (not trainers or sandals)

Boys

Navy v necked jumper with school logo
White polo shirt
Grey trousers/shorts
White or grey socks
Black shoes (no trainers)

PE Kit (to remain in school)

White T shirt
White socks
Navy shorts
Plimsolls

Miss Knight's Top Tip: It can be very upsetting for you and your child if their belongings go missing. **Please ensure that all of the items on this list are clearly named.**

Our uniform is available from **Trophy Textiles, Unit 2, Pool Business Park, Pool.**

Tel: 01209b713341 www.trophytextiles.co.uk

Food and Drink

Water

We encourage all children to drink water throughout the day in order to keep them hydrated and support their concentration.

Please ensure that your child brings a named bottle of water (not juice or flavoured water) into school each day. Bottles need to be taken home at the end of the day to be washed and refilled.

Snack Time

Your child will be given a free piece of fruit for their mid-morning snack. There is no need to send in any other food. Milk is available and free to children under 5. If you would like your child to have milk as part of their mid-morning snack, please register online at www.coolmilk.com/register. Children can also purchase healthy tuck from the tuck trolley each morning at playtime.

Lunch Time

Free school meals are available to all children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One. The meals are colourful, varied, nutritious and very popular with our children. Half termly menu options, including vegetarian, are published on our website so that you and your child can select their lunch in advance. By prior arrangement, our resident Chef, Kirsty, can cater for specific dietary requirements. All meals must be ordered in advance via ParentPay by 8.30am each morning. Parents will receive more information shortly regarding the setup of Arbor and ParentPay accounts.

If your child suffers from any food allergies or intolerances, please ensure that you notify our school office as soon as possible.

Pupil Top Tip: 'Fish and Chips on Friday is the best!'

Pupil Top Tip: 'There's lots of adults to help you cut up your food'

‘Explorer’s Club is great because you get to investigate nature on the field’



‘I like bug hunting because you never know what you will find’

‘I remember when we picked apples to make crumble’

‘The best time was when we went on a nature treasure hunt’

Pupil Top Tip: ‘You need wellies because sometimes it’s wet and muddy on the field’

Supporting your child with reading

Picture Books

The first books that your child will bring home will be picture books without words. This is an important stage that every child will experience as it encourages them to tell their own versions of a story, make predictions and build on their vocabulary.

Moving On

When children are ready, they will be moved onto books with short words and sentences. These will be carefully chosen to match the reading they are doing in school.

Top Tips:

- Read at your child's pace. If they quickly become tired or lose interest, keep the sessions short to encourage enjoyment and avoid your child becoming frustrated. You can also read to your child on the occasions where they are tired, as this is also very beneficial.
- Read as often as you can find the time, but please try to read for at least 5 minutes each night.
- Read alongside your child, it is often more fun to read a page together or take turns with each sentence.
- Give your child plenty of time to read to you and give lots of praise.
- Look at and discuss the pictures and allow your child to predict what may happen next.
- Ask your child questions as they explore a book, as this will help to improve their understanding of what they are reading.

Workshops:

During the Autumn Term, Mrs. Taddeo will be running workshops for parents who are interested in finding out more about how we teach reading.