



Cusgarne Primary School

Head of School: Mr T Barnard



STARTING SCHOOL 2020

T: 01872 863563

E: hello@cusgarne.org

W: www.cusgarne.org

Cusgarne Primary School, Cusgarne, Truro, Cornwall TR4 8RW

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Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD





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Hello

My name is Mrs Turner, and I am the Class 1 teacher. Starting school is an exciting time but can also be daunting for the new children and their families. The staff and pupils at Cusgarne look forward to you starting your journey with us as your child joins the Foundation stage and welcome you and your child to our lovely school. I hope that this booklet will give you some useful information; but if you have any questions, please ask!

The School Day:

Our school runs a Breakfast Club which opens at 8am. (If you are interested in using this club, please ask for separate information.) At 8.30am until 8.45am, school is open and ready for the arrival of the children. All children normally stay in the playground where there are staff on duty. The school bells rings at 8.45am to signal the start of the school day. I will then register the children and gradually introduce them to our school routine. During the morning, we have a 15 minute playtime at 10.30am; during which the children are offered a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable. If you prefer, you can send a small, healthy snack in with your child each day. We encourage the children to drink plenty of water throughout the day so please send your child into school with a refillable drinks bottle each day. Lunchtime is from 11.50am until 1pm. Lunchtimes are friendly at our school and the older children help the younger children with their dinners. Your child is entitled to a 'universal free infant school meal' and the menu changes each day and on a termly basis. A sample menu is included for your reference. Please let me know if your child will not be having a school dinner each day. The afternoon session runs from 1pm until 3pm. At the end of the school day, I will get the children ready and bring them out into the playground to meet you.

Class 1:

Our classroom is a bright and lively classroom made up of Foundation Stage children and pupils who are in year 1. I am supported by Mrs Denton who is an Early Years practitioner; Mrs Lanyon our morning teaching assistant and Mrs Northey our afternoon teaching assistant. During the school day, the Foundation Stage children will make good use of the outdoor space as their learning is extended beyond the classroom. The children will need a pair of wellies that can be left at school since the children will try to go outside every day (we usually change into wellies especially after it has been raining). During the school year, we have a half-termly topic and I send home a 'topic web' which gives you information on what we will be looking at. Please have a read so you can support your child's learning by asking questions!

Friendships:

Some of you will already know children at school, but even if you or your child doesn't know anyone – please do not worry! Your child will soon settle in and make friends at school. One of the great things we do at Cusgarne is that we arrange for a year 6 child to be their 'buddy'. This is someone who will be a friendly face and help them during play and lunchtimes. Our buddy system works really well at Cusgarne and your child will soon become good friends with their buddy. Enclosed in your folder is a short booklet 'All About Me'. I would be grateful if you

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could complete this and return it to me before the end of the summer term. The information you supply will help me know how to best support your child when they start in September.

General bits 'n' bobs:

School life does take a while to get use to the routines! At the start of the year, there is always a lot of paperwork and most of this can be returned to either Mrs Hall or Mrs Holmes on reception. We also have an on-line payment system for paying for school trips etc. The system we use is called ParentPay and you will receive details of how you can log on to your account. School staff are always on hand to answer your questions and queries so please do not be afraid to ask. It is really helpful if you can pop a name label in all of your child's uniform items. It makes life easier for staff (and your child!) to re-unite uniform to the correct owner!

The school encourages the wearing of uniform and sees it as a positive statement by both parents and children towards being part of the whole school community. We like to promote a smart and tidy appearance.

The uniform requested is as follows:

- Red sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece.
- White shirt/blouse or polo shirt.
- Grey or black tailored trousers or skirts - trousers are perfectly acceptable for girls.
- Red checked summer dresses for girls.
- White socks or red/grey tights for girls.
- Black or grey socks for boys.

Sweatshirts, fleece and polo shirts are preferable with the school badge and can be ordered via on-line sites. The office holds a stock of book bags. Please see Mrs Holmes for more information.

Our school uniform suppliers are My Clothing and SchoolTrends.

FOOTWEAR

Sensible school shoes should be worn. Trainers and skate shoes are discouraged as are open toed shoes.

P.E. KIT

This consists of a white T-shirt, black shorts, trainers and a spare pair of socks which should be in school in a labelled bag every day as we often need to be flexible with the time tabling. For PE during the winter months the children can wear a tracksuit or tracksuit bottoms.

We would also ask that children keep an old shirt at school for art.

We ask that if your child is going to be collected from school by someone else that you let us know in advance. We **will not** release a pupil to someone we do not know or if we have not been told they are to collect the child at the end of the day.

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Early in the morning, our class gets very busy as we settle the children and I do not always have the time for long conversations with parents. If you need to have a longer chat with me about your child or any concerns, please make an appointment to see me at the end of the school day. If your child is unwell and unable to come to school, please 'phone the school by 9.15am to let us know. If your child has been ill and suffering sickness and diarrhoea, we ask that you keep your child at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. This helps stop spread infections across the school.

As the school year progresses, we may go on school trips and outings. We will write to you with information about the trip and if there are costs incurred. If there are costs, we ask for a voluntary contribution. Our letters home are normally sent home via book bag post so please check your child's book bag to make sure you haven't missed anything important. The weekly newsletter is available on our website and can be emailed direct to your inbox if you wish. If this is something you would like to arrange, simply send an email to hello@cusgarne.org requesting that you are added to our newsletter circulation list.

We have a small school library which we make use of and the children can borrow from the range of books we have on offer. These can be exchanged on a weekly basis and pupils from Class 3 are our librarians who help the children choose and swap their books.

Our class:

Our aim at Cusgarne is to make the most of every moment and to provide a warm, secure atmosphere where the children are happy and ready to learn. Play is carefully and progressively structured forming the basis of education. The emphasis is on the need for children to play and develop at their own rate. Together with my assistants, we structure learning and play situations and intervene when necessary to ensure that learning is taking place. This is a very important time when attitudes are formed. Class 1 is made up of year 1 and the Foundation Stage children. The younger children can observe the activities of the older children, and if they wish, join in. The presence of older children is helpful as they often know the new children and take them under their wing and show them where things are kept. For many children the first term at school is spent in learning how to be independent and how to co-operate with others. During the first term the children often have difficulty in being able to dress themselves, especially when we change for P.E. Practical things can help such as polo shirts without too many buttons etc. Zips and laces are tricky but these skills will come in time! Please encourage your children to practice getting dressed and undressed themselves and to know when they need the toilet and to ask in time! The children soon feel comfortable in taking themselves to use the toilet and also washing their hands.

So, what is Foundation Stage?

Your child's first year at school is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage and is the building block for the rest of their time in education. Many children have already been to a nursery, pre-school or childminder who would have started completing a profile of your child. Do not worry – there is no right and wrong. We are looking at how your child deals with situations and how their skills develop. For example, can they look at a book of pictures and

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tell you the story. As they develop, your child will be able to tell you more about the characters of the story and suggest how and why things happen.

Through activities we provide, we encourage your child to explore and develop activities and progress their learning. Your child will learn many things as they follow our topics through the terms, and they can choose areas and activities both in and out of the classroom.

The following gives you some ideas for helping your child before he/she starts school. These activities will continue to be valuable during the first years at school.

Speaking and Listening

- Talk to your child about what you are doing, what you can see, hear and feel, and about experiences you have shared. They will soon give you a running commentary of their own. Use everyday language to explain and repeat words that are new to them.
- Re-tell or make up stories for them to listen to and join in with.
- Nursery and word play rhymes reinforce ideas on the use of language patterns.
- Listen to your child when he/she speaks to you and ask questions which enhance his/her understanding.
- Although children also need to be able to recite the alphabet, when teaching letters please teach the sound rather than the letter name. We use 'Phonics' at school and I will explain more about this as the school year progresses.

Reading

- Most importantly your child should enjoy books and talk about his/her favourite stories.
- Prior to learning to read your child needs to see the purpose of reading, i.e. to communicate in a written form, as an aide to memory and for understanding others.
- Read to your child everyday, make visits to the library a regular activity if you are able.
- Read your own favourite books in front of your child so that he/she will see that you enjoy reading on your own.
- Read signs in the street, supermarket and at all other opportunities, whether a picture or written language.
- Read letters, postcards etc. to your child.
- When your child starts to recognise words, point to them as you read and showing the reading direction i.e. left to right.
- Label items around the house.

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Writing

- The most important thing you can teach your child about writing is that it has a purpose. Wherever possible actively involve your child in your writing by asking questions, and for suggestions that may be included. Show your child how you write lists, e.g. shopping, things to do, names for invitations etc.
- Write letters and postcards and talk about who you are sending them to and why.
- Let your child use pencils, pens, paint etc. as they explore how to write. At this stage it is important for your child to feel comfortable as they discover how to write. Please do not fuss about the formation of letters since we will develop this in the classroom environment.
- Praise your child's successes at every opportunity.

Mathematics

- Talk about the variety of shapes that you see in everyday life, from round plates to square windows.
- Compare sizes, e.g. bowls and beds, (I think I feel a story coming on here).
- Share out the sweets, drinks and spoons, has everyone got one?
- Share the experience of making cakes, weighing out the ingredients, counting the spoonfuls.
- Talk about the colours of clothing, flowers and crayons.
- Discuss the position of objects, e.g. above and beside, under or over.

Creative Activities

- Encourage drawing and crayoning, using scissors by cutting out pictures from magazines, playing with water in a bowl or sink.
- Use building blocks, Lego, junk modelling and ask your child to show you what they have created.

Once they begin school, the Foundation Stage curriculum will cover seven areas of learning and development. The three prime areas are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

And four specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics

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- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

These seem wordy and long-winded but are all things your children already know and do. We are asked to make assessments against each of these areas which include things like:

- How co-ordinated your child is e.g. can they use scissors
- Ability to match one item with its pair or partner.
- Knowledge of letter sounds.
- Ability to speak and listen to others.
- Counting objects.
- Choosing a task.
- The way he/she relates to and works with others, including other children and adults.
- Confidence and independence.

We make assessments throughout the Foundation Stage and build up a picture of the whole child. We would like to share this information with you, and you can support us by contributing to your child's assessment.

At Cusgarne, we use an online system of recording your child's learning in Reception. Tapestry is a website which can be accessed on a computer, laptop and on any Apple or Android device such as a tablet or smartphone. We have chosen this company because they are a secure and well-known company, and this is also an exciting way of keeping track of your child's development and their time with us.

Instead of using the old paper book style way of recording, we will be able to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children. You are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child's Learning Journal and can log on and view what your child has been up to. A massive advantage of this system is that you can instantly add your own comments to entries and can show your child's online book to members of the family.

The safeguarding of our children is very important to us. Everything that is added to Tapestry will be added to our school account and can only be viewed by school staff that use the system as well as yourselves, using your own log on. You will only have access to your child's own book, and this cannot be seen by other parents. Also, it is crucial that you do not share photos or videos from your child's book on social media or through other online platforms. Any incidents where this confidentiality is broken will be dealt with very seriously and will result in your access to the system being withdrawn.

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On the back of this letter you will find some Frequently Asked Questions about the system. I would also like to signpost you to Tapestry's website where you will find lots of information and videos: <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction>. In order to register your child and email account please follow this link: [Parents registration to Tapestry](#).

Finally, I hope you have found this booklet useful. I am sure that you have lots of other questions and encourage you to 'phone us at school, or email us on: hello@cusgarne.org.

Take care and stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Kind regards.

M Turner

Mrs Marie Turner
Class 1 Teacher/EYFS Lead/SENDCo

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Frequently Asked Questions

Why use an online system?

Hand-writing observations, printing out photos, cutting out and sticking all of these into a paper book is very time consuming. By taking photos and videos that can be instantly uploaded this increases the time that staff can spend with your children, supporting their learning.

We were also impressed with the way in which parents can instantly see what their child has been up to and can also share it with family members such as grandparents.

How do I get onto the system?

If you consent to us using Tapestry for your child, school will set up an account for you and provide you with log on details.

Tapestry can be accessed online at: <http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction>

It is available as a free app from the Apple Store and on Android devices.

We will ask you to provide us with an email address so that we can set you up a personal account. This will be a secure way of logging in, and you will only be able to see your own child's book.

I don't have a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone. How can I access Tapestry?

If you are unable to access the Internet on any device at home, then you will still be able to access your child's book by arranging a mutually convenient time with Mrs Turner to come into school. You will be provided with access to your child's account and support if needed.

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I am not very confident with computers or the Internet. How can I access Tapestry?

One of the reasons for us choosing Tapestry was ease of use. It is a very easy system to use, but should you have any problems, either Mrs Turner or Mrs Denton will be happy to support you.

Why do you need my email address?

Your email address is required in order to set you up with access to your child's account. It is to ensure security on the site and also so that we can email you when a new entry has been added for your child.

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