



The School gets Smaller

1952 - 1981



By 1952, St Ives Secondary Modern School was able to take more pupils. So, at the end of the Autumn Term all pupils over 11 years old transferred to the new School, along with one teacher.

The number on roll at St Erth fell to just 80 children and the School changed from an Elementary to a Primary. With the transfer of a teacher to St Ives, classes were already reduced to three but by 1958 they were further reduced to just two.



Newly built St Ives Secondary Modern School, with its distinctive 'E' layout.

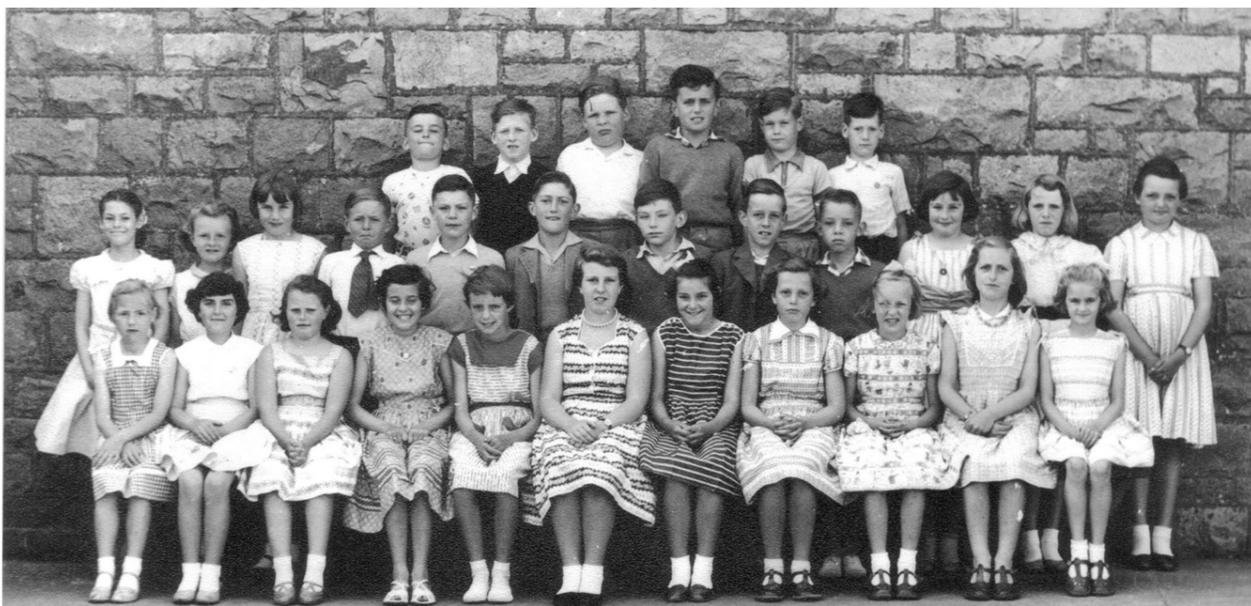
Did you know?

The County provision of free transport to secondary school was withdrawn shortly after St Ives School opened. Secondary pupils and their parents went 'on strike' in protest, returning to St Erth School each day to demonstrate. The Council did not give in and eventually the strike fizzled out.

The fall in numbers impacted the School. The kitchen staff were immediately cut back as demand for School meals fell; Auntie Nellie left for health reasons and Mrs Nicholas became School cook. The Big Freeze of early 1963 caused no end of damage to the School and staff illness also had a severe impact, with a supply teacher left to teach the whole school on occasion.



Auntie Nellie and friend



Class photo 1960

In 1965 Mr Warren retired, replaced by Mr Lever in the Summer Term.

The School was now at its smallest, with only 55 pupils in two classes: Juniors taken by Mr Lever and Infants by Mrs Harvey.



Whole School mid 60s



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At School, academic work progressed well. The children undertook topic work, including a lengthy project on the River Hayle which went on to be displayed at Penzance Library, as did their next project: The Normans.

Do you know what granite is made from?
Mr Lever's former pupils will undoubtedly still recall the answer.
See below if your memory has faded.



Mr Lever's class - 1965



Football cup winners 1970-71

School trips continued, including day trips for the Infants for the first time. The older children also went on their first residential camp, with a visit to Trewothack Farm at Gillan Creek, near Manaccan. Mr Lever felt this was a great success, despite the hard work and bad weather.

Mr Lever took a keen interest in sport, refurbishing the football pitch in his first year at the School. Both the football and towerball teams did well during the period, with a Championship win for the footballers.

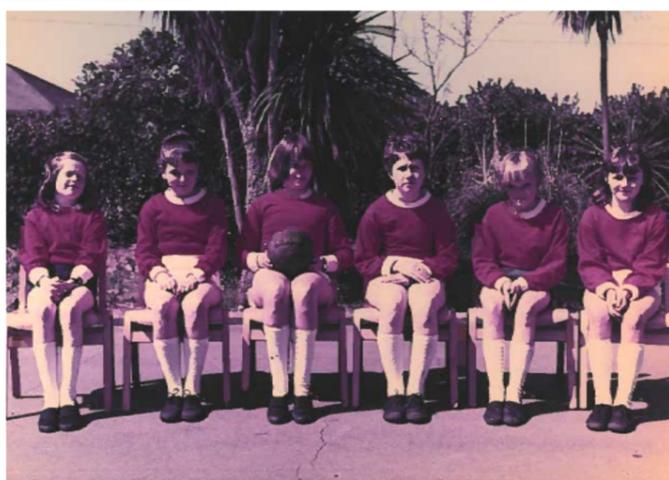


← Towerball Team 1966



Football Team 1968-69

Towerball Team → 1968/9



Answer:
Feldspar, mica
and quartz.



The School gets Smaller

1952 - 1981



Mr Lever with the whole School - late 60s

Eventually the new Headteacher, Mr Chislett, arrived, by which time the school had reverted back to three classes taught by the Head, Mrs Lever (wife of the former head) and Mrs Thomas.

When Mr Lever moved to Bodriggy School in Hayle in the early '70s, there was a short period before the new Headteacher could take up his position. Covering this time, Mr Arnold Derrington was Acting Head. A former pupil from the early years of the St Erth School, he was very fond of St Erth. Many years later, shortly before his death in 2016, he still referred to St Erth as his 'model village'.



In the years between his time as a pupil at St Erth and his return as Acting Head over 40 years later, Arnold had enjoyed a brilliant career in education as well as distinguished war-time service in the RAF, being awarded the DFC.



Christmas Play 1978

Did you know?
The cook at the time was Mrs Care. Pupils loved her meals but, bizarrely, one of their favourite lunchtime treats was ... 'the skin off the custard.'
Yuk!

Academic lessons were stressful for some pupils, as the Headteacher is remembered as being very strict, but outside the classroom sport continued to be a major part of School life, with Rounders a particular favourite.



← Football Team early 70s

Towerball Team 1978 →



School camps continued to various locations, including the Isles of Scilly, and swimming was also introduced to the curriculum at this time, with lessons at the newly opened Carn Brea Leisure Centre.



Did you know?
During the '70s, the School had a visit from popular children's TV personality, Rod Hull, with his puppet, Emu. Despite the aggressive nature of the 'bird' (his pecks were very painful!), the pupils were happy to see him.



A Growing School

1981 - 1990



Following the sudden resignation of Mr Chislett, a new Head arrived in the Summer Term 1981: Mr Mike Garland. Although there were still 3 classes, the number of pupils at the School was now only 54 and Mr Garland's immediate task was to persuade the Local Education Authority of the need to keep the School open.

He fought his case well, with numbers going back up shortly after his arrival, and he was able to celebrate the School's 60th anniversary the following year with the School's future secured. Celebrations took place with the children wearing the new School uniform which had just been introduced.



Mr Garland and pupils



Mrs Lever's Leaving Presentation - July 1984

In November 1985, all the pupils walked a mile to the main A30 to support Ian Botham on his first John O'Groats to Land's End fundraiser, for Leukaemia Research. He had walked slightly more - 874 miles in 5 weeks!



Whole School photo 1987, with Mrs Knight, Mr Garland and Mrs Thomas.



A Growing School

1981 - 1990

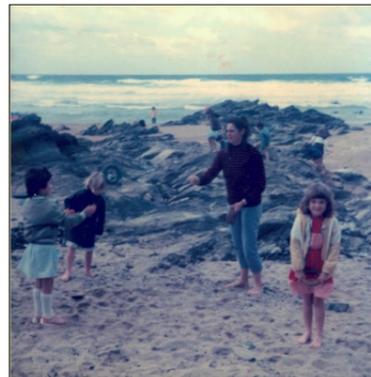


Sport was very much to the fore under Mr Garland's headship, with many wins for the various school teams. Here are the Swimming, Football, Towerball and Rounders teams from 1983.

Swimming shifting from Carn Brea to Culdrose Naval Air Station.

Did you know?

When the children went swimming at RNAS Culdrose, the guards had to inspect the underside of the coach for explosives, using mirrors, before allowing it on site.



Classes 2 and 3 visit Newquay and Dairyland in 1985.



School trips took place regularly for each class. Destinations included St Agnes Model Village, Newquay, Plymouth, the Minack Theatre, the Isles of Scilly and St Erth Sewage Works.



A Growing School

1981 - 1990



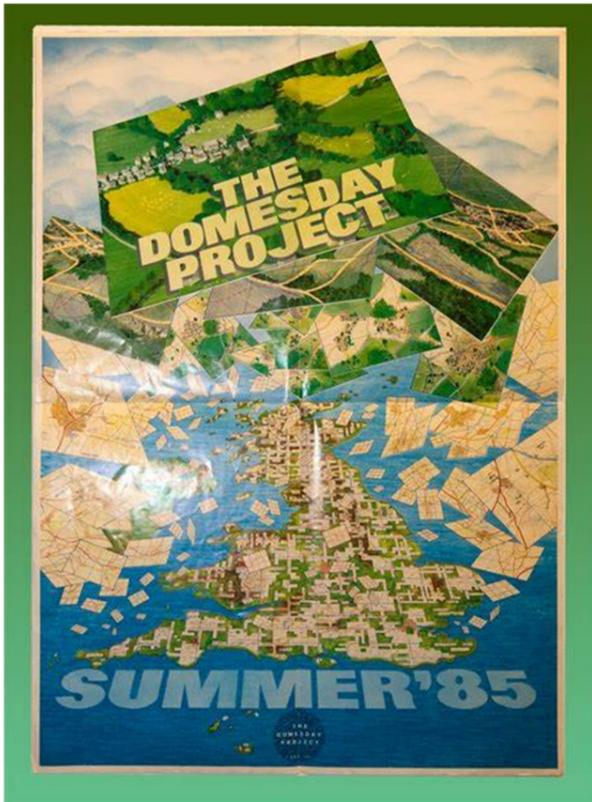
In School, computers were introduced which meant a steep learning curve, not only for pupils but also the staff. Making use of this new technology, the School joined the BBC's Domesday Project in the mid '80s, documenting local life to mark the 900th anniversary of the original



One of the School's early computers. Slightly bigger than an iPad!



Programming Roamer to move around the classroom.



The Domesday (Doomsday) Project

900 years after William the Conqueror's original Domesday Book, the BBC organised the Domesday Project. Using the latest technology, local communities were asked to document their everyday lives to create a digital snapshot of the country. The School took part. Here is part of their contribution.

Traditional events continued with the annual Christmas shows, although over Mr Garland's time the venue shifted from the School (with its central classrooms and their retractable partition no longer big enough) to both the Chapel Hall and the Church.

Below are the casts from two performances in 1983, 'The Enormous Turnip' (right) and 'The Little Sweep' (left).

1986

St.Erth School children

This is a photograph of the entire school amounting to 60 children taken in July 1985. Trenchrom Hill can be seen in the background.



All the contributions to the Project are now stored on the Web Archive of the National Archives, preserved for future generations. This allows people to rediscover and explore images and articles from the original project to find out how life in Britain has changed... and how some things have stayed the same.

St. Erth C.P. School

The village school caters for approximately 70 boys and girls (ages 4 to 11) from the village and surrounds. The school comprises of three teachers, with Mr.M.Garland as Headteacher taking the older children.

The school was built from granite stone from a now disused local quarry in 1922 when the Church of England and Methodist Schools in the village closed and the "new" school opened. At that time the school provided the education for children aged 4 to 14 - it was an "all age" school.

In the war it had evacuees from Plymouth and London. In the mid-50s, when all-age schools were being replaced by separate Primary and Secondary Schools, the school became the Infant and Junior that it is today.





A Growing School

1981 - 1990



After much anticipation, Christmas Lunch was served in the large central classroom.



Mr Garland was the first to call for a School hall but even with the County Architect's support nothing came of his efforts. However, he did manage to make the case, with much publicity and parental support, for indoor toilets, as well as other internal alterations. However, work did not commence until after he had left the School.



One of the two outside toilet blocks.

In 1987 Mr Garland retired and, after the Autumn term under Acting Head Mr Hodson, later to become Head at Penpol, Mrs Sue Cock was appointed. Unfortunately, her short Headship was marred by illness and further Acting Heads covered her absence.



Mrs Cock, flanked by class teachers Mrs Thomas and Mrs Knight on one side and Mrs Archer, Head's Relief Teacher, on the other.

In spite of the interruptions, during Mrs Cock's Headship the entrance vestibule was enlarged, work began to bring the toilets inside and further improvements were made to the building, such as the installation of a fire alarm system.



The School had originally been built with extension in mind.



But it took almost 70 years before this began to happen.

It was also decided to install an intruder alarm, in part due to 2 burglaries at the School.



Project complete, with a little help from willing parents.

Do you know what was stolen?

There is no list of items, but the log book records the generosity of the community in helping to replace things, which does give us a clue:

"Connor Downs [School] have loaned us cleaning items to tide us over. Mrs Harry has loaned us a TV and Mrs Betty Eddy sent £5 into school to purchase another hamster."



A Growing School

1981 - 1990



Whole School Photo 1989

On top of academic work, special events continued to be celebrated.



Christmas Plays were enthusiastically performed each year.



Easter Activities



The School also maintained its participation in sporting competitions and achieved success in the local music festival, when it entered its recorder group for the first time in November 1989. Their performance included a piece from Mary Poppins.



Mrs Knight and the Recorder Group

More change was to come. When Mrs Cock left to take up another Headship nearer her family, the village was growing and with it the demand for school places. The need for greater capacity at the school was recognised.

Just before Mrs Cock left, it was announced that approval had been given for a new classroom to be built, with the start of the building due to coincide with her successor's arrival.



The Dibley Era

1990 - 2009



Mr Keith Dibley started as Headteacher in January 1990. Within a month of his arrival the finishing touches were made to the ongoing alterations and then work began on the new Infant classroom extension.



Pupils watch as work progresses on the new classroom.



The classroom is complete and officially opened in early November 1990.



Mr Dibley presents the cup for the 'Best Dressed Stall' at St Erth Feast, 1992



Over the next few years, further work took place: the central classrooms were reconfigured to provide one large room, with smaller computer and art rooms alongside; the front cloakroom was changed to a technology area; and a new playground was laid to the east of the School.



The front cloakroom became a new Technology area.



The New Playground

Towards the end of his Headship, the School office was moved to a new ground floor extension and at the same time, although independently run, a Children's Centre was built in the School grounds, now St Erth Nursery.

Did you know?
Badgers in the neighbouring quarry repeatedly tried to undermine the new playground. The School could do nothing as badger sets are protected by law.
Over time, the School and the badgers have learnt to co-exist.





The Dibley Era

1990 - 2009

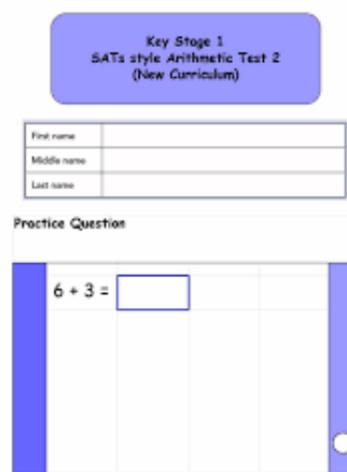


Pupil numbers fluctuated during these two decades, causing the number of classes to rise to four and then fall back to three again, not once but twice.



Whole School 1991

Further change came in the form of a new National Curriculum in which Standard Attainment Tests, or SATs, were an integral part. Alongside this, School inspections were taken over by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) and the management of the School shifted from the District Education Office to become the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors of the School.



"This is a happy school with a welcoming family atmosphere which meets the needs of pupils well. It is led and managed well" - November 2006

"Pupils are at the heart of all decisions. Staff know every pupil and use this information to plan the school's curriculum. Staff keep a watchful eye over pupils' progress and provide further support or challenge in a timely manner. The curriculum is highly relevant to the pupils at St Erth Community Primary School. Furthermore, it engages and enthuses pupils. Pupils behave well and relationships between adults and pupils are rooted in mutual respect." - October 2018

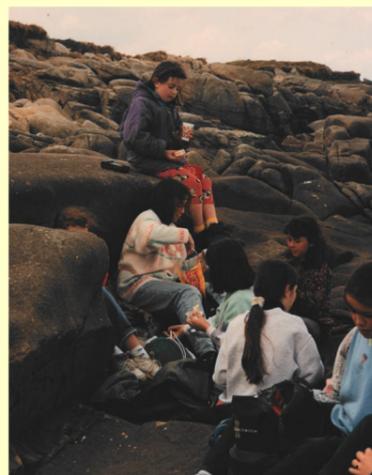
In the early 1990s, the School joined with the newly formed Twinning Association and forged links with the School in Ploulec'h in Brittany. Exchange visits were made: the French came to St Erth twice and we visited them once, before the constraints of the new National Curriculum made further visits unfeasible.



The French children stayed with the families of St Erth pupils and joined in with lessons at School. They were also taken to see Land's End.



When St Erth pupils visited Brittany, they went to the Pink Granite coast, with its strange rock formations, Chateau de Rosanbo and Ile-Grande.





The Dibley Era

1990 - 2009

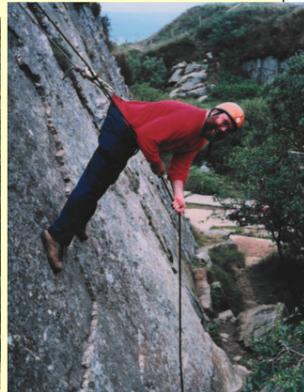


In the Summer term of 1997 the School celebrated its 75th anniversary.



St Erth School joined with other local Schools (Nancledra, Gulval and Gwinear) in a Small Schools Cluster to share resources, expertise, training and planning.

The Cormoran Cluster, as it was known, also collaborated in the annual School Camp which alternated between a mainland outdoor activity centre and the Isles of Scilly.



Activity Camps



Isles of Scilly Camp





The Dibley Era

1990 - 2009



Strong links were forged with the Scilly Schools which resulted in visits to the mainland by the island's pupils to take part in weekend football tournaments at St Erth.

Sponsored by British International Ltd, who operated the helicopter service to the Scillies at the time, the boys literally came for a flying visit.



Mainland trip shows island boys are on the ball

Young football players from the Isles of Scilly put their best foot forward for a mini-tour of the mainland recently.

The soccer enthusiasts, mainly from Carn Gwalval Primary School, took on players from several West Cornwall schools during the two day event.

"It was all packed into a very hectic weekend," says Phil Riley who helped organise the trip. "We flew over to the mainland straight after school on Friday and played in the tournament on the Saturday and Sunday mornings."

The 19-strong team, aged between 7 and 11, was hosted at St Erth junior school, who invited them to the tournament. Their teams came 2nd and 3rd in the first day's competition and 3rd and 4th in the second.

"As well as the football we went to Lands End on Saturday and in the evening had a special coaching session in Penzance. On Sunday we went swimming and to the cinema to watch Toy Story 2!"

Phil and Alan Greenlaw, who coach the boys, were amongst five adults who accompanied them on the trip to the mainland.

"They were absolutely exhausted when they got back to the islands...and so were we! It was a marvellous weekend."

Phil says the whole team were treated to great hospitality during their stay.

"The parents of the boys were playing were incredibly helpful. They transported us around in their own cars and provided us with a lot of free food. We were also grateful for

the help from British International, which also made the whole trip possible."

The tournament provided vital game experience for many of the island players.

"We don't really have any competition on the islands. We continue with the football all through the Winter - but there isn't anybody else to play!"

For 11-year old Sam Fortey, the trip was a great getaway.

"It was fun playing other people, because it can get a bit boring playing against the same team all the time!" he says. "We really enjoyed the coaching session and the chance to get around and do some different things."

The mini-tournament was arranged with help from headmaster of St Erth School, Keith Dibley, following a trip made to the islands by his pupils.

viewpoint
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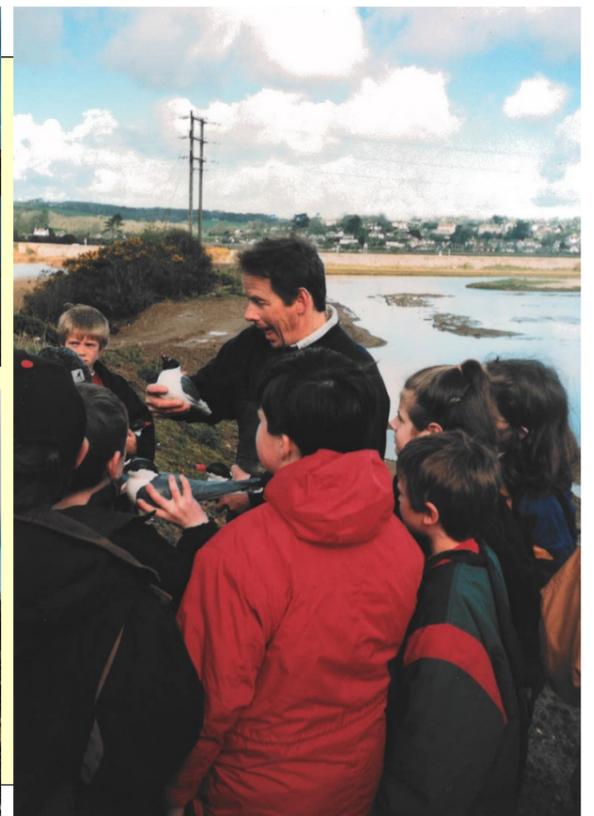
A further Cluster collaboration was the Early Technology Project. The four Schools, along with St Ives Secondary, participated in a week's Iron Age living at Chysauster Ancient Village, near Penzance, learning ancient skills and helping re-roof one of the round houses.



Did you know?
There is still a mini standing stone at St Ives School that was erected as part of this project.



The School worked closely in the 1990s with the RSPB after they acquired Ryan's Field on the Hayle Estuary. In a project to encourage Terns to nest at the site, the children made and placed decoy terns on the islands in the lagoon.





The Dibley Era 1990 - 2009



On top of this there were many local visits by the School, such as those to Geevor Tin Mine, Helston Museum and The Minack Theatre.



In School, alongside curriculum activities, lunch-time and after-school clubs increased. Cookery Club was established in 2007 and is still as popular as ever. For a short while there was a School band, run by a talented and enthusiastic parent. The School even had its own Astronomy Club.



Regular annual events included Book Week in the Spring term, celebrating all things literary and culminating in a dressing up day.



The School participated in fundraising events (such as Children in Need and Red Nose Day), held its annual Sports Day and Summer Fayre, celebrated Feast and Harvest and, of course, held the Christmas end of term play and Carol Service. It was at the Carol Service in 2009 that Mr Dibley carried out his last formal School duty before retiring and handing over the reins to Mrs Niki Rogers.



↑ Sports Day
← Singing at the Feast
↓ Mr Dibley with all the staff, 2009



A close shave for Mr Dibley and Mr Hipkiss for Children in Need

Did you know?
The School bell came to St Erth with Mr Dibley from his previous School. He left it with us when he retired.



Showtime! 2010 - 2018



When Mrs Rogers first came to St Erth, like her predecessor, she fought hard to get a School hall built. But, just as earlier battles had not borne fruit, so too with Mrs Rogers' campaign. Nonetheless, this did not curb her enthusiasm to take the KS2 (Juniors) end of year show to a new level.

There have been several hugely successful shows, using the facilities at both local secondary schools.



Mrs Rogers



Oliver!



Annie



The
Wizard
of Oz





Showtime! 2010 - 2018



Meanwhile, the Infants continued to perform plays at Christmas in the week before the annual Carol Service.



Infants Christmas Play 2017



Christmas Nativity at School

Mrs Rogers also made a change to the residential 'camps'. Although biennial outdoor activity camps continued, the Isles of Scilly trips were replaced with an action-packed stay in London, including a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a West End show and museum visits.



CAMP KERNOW



LONDON



Additionally, a shorter camp was introduced for Years 3 and 4 at Camp Kernow, near Truro, and even an extended day visit to the site for Year 2.



Showtime! 2010 - 2018



Forest School activities were introduced to help boost pupils' self-confidence and were immediately a huge success. They continue still. Run by Shifting Horizons CIC, practitioners Sarah and Peaira take small groups of pupils to nearby Godolphin Woods to experience shelter building, campfire cooking and woodland crafts. They have also worked at the School to give all pupils the Forest School experience.



FOREST SCHOOL

Did you know?

Mrs Rogers was determined to get a minibus for the School. Thanks to a generous donation, she was able to realise this goal in May 2012.



The School also continued to fundraise for outside organisations, such as Children in Need. ↓



St Erth School has long enjoyed the support of an enthusiastic group of parents, helping at School events and raising funds. Under Mrs Rogers' headship the group became more formalised as the Friends of St Erth School or simply FOST, or 'The Friends'. Thanks to this group, children have enjoyed Christmas treats, such as cinema visits, as well as financial support directly to the School to provide IT equipment, reading books and more. The group also organise and run annual events such as the Summer Fayre and a highly successful Christmas Market. Their help at the School's Centenary celebration was invaluable.



**Truro and Penwith
Academy Trust**

When the School became part of Truro & Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT) in 2016 there was renewed hope that a hall might finally be built. Detailed plans were drawn up, not only for a School hall but also for various extensions and alterations around the School. However, with a rising number on roll the hall took a back seat and a classroom extension was given priority, although work did not commence until just after Mrs Rogers moved to St Just School.



The Recent Past

2018 - 2022



The Autumn term of 2018 was a difficult one. The new Headteacher had not yet started, building work for the classroom extension was taking place and the School had an Ofsted inspection.



Mr Coleman

In January 2019, Mr William (Bill) Coleman took up his position as Headteacher. He had previously been Head at Sennen School, another member of TPAT, and the transition went smoothly.



Mary Poppins

The new classroom was now finished. Planned activities took place throughout the year, including a further trip to London and another summer show which was, yet again, a triumph. Mr Coleman eagerly anticipated his first Christmas at the School and, indeed, the Infant performance, Carol Service, Christmas lunch and Christmas Market were happy and successful.



LONDON 2019





The Recent Past

2018 - 2022



2020 began with all the usual plans being made for the forthcoming terms. Some events took place as usual, including a post-Christmas treat for the pupils, with a trip to the cinema, and participation in the St Piran's celebrations.



St Piran's Day



2018/11/03

However, the Coronavirus was spreading and by March it was declared a global pandemic. Eventually a national lockdown was announced and learning shifted to an online platform for most children. Schools remained open for children of key workers and those who were vulnerable. Moreover, just as in the Second World War, this arrangement included the Easter holiday and the following summer half term.



Did you know?
These restrictions and lockdowns received mixed reactions from the pupils but nonetheless the school community became closer throughout this period, despite social distancing.

Home learning was very rubbish because I couldn't see my friends when I wanted to. I was glad I didn't have to wear school uniform.

During lockdown I remember being woken up by Mr Hammond calling me to do my work at 8 am and when I finished the call I fell back to sleep.

What I remember most about home learning is the fact that I could work at my own speed.

I realised it was good to have work because it kept me motivated instead of sitting on the sofa watching TV.

I missed seeing my friends. The only time I got to see them was on Zoom.

During lockdown I remember doing all my work in the morning and doing what I wanted for the rest of the day.

My favourite bit was when my favourite teacher, Mr Hammond, walked all the way down our lane to drop off a little learning pack (It had sweets in!)

When I got back to school I remember feeling amazing even though I didn't show it.

All pupils returned to the classroom in September but School life had changed: pupil mixing was restricted (with the school divided into two bubbles); additional cleaning took place each day; a strict hand washing regime was rigorously enforced; and fresh air was the order of the day. Restrictions lasted throughout the school year and some continued into the 21/22 academic year, which meant online Christmas plays and a carol service on the School field.



MOUSEHOLE CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE



EYFS Performance



The Recent Past

2018 - 2022



Throughout this period, developments at the school were not put entirely on hold. The School's own Wildlife area was completed, allowing all children to regularly get involved in Forest School activities. A new learning space, 'The Cabin', was constructed at the back of the field, providing a further area for small group tuition, assemblies and the occasional PE lesson.



Wildlife Area



The Cabin

The children were also able to take part in two activity weeks in the summer of 2021. This included surfing, climbing and visiting Flambards.



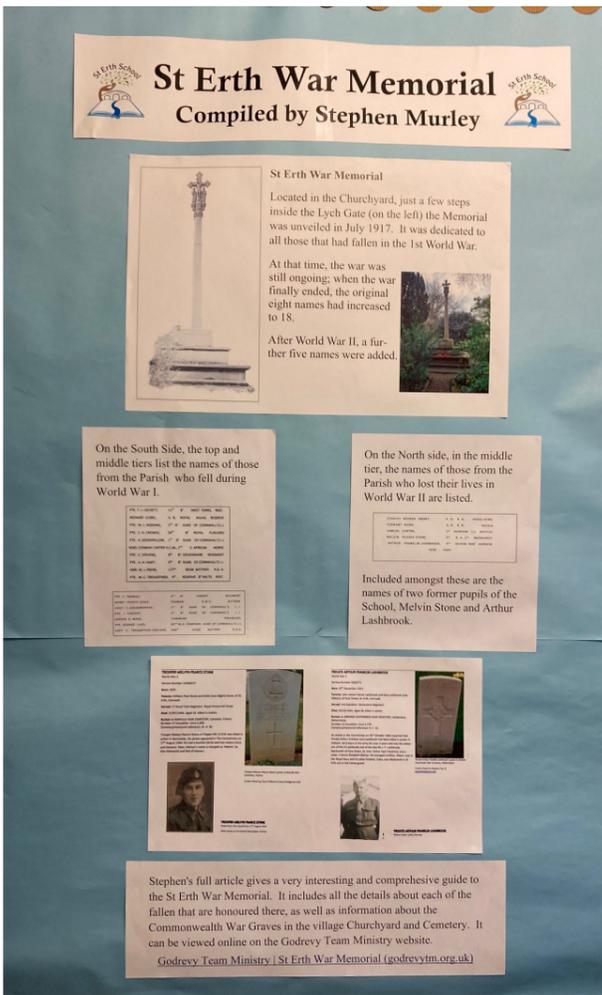
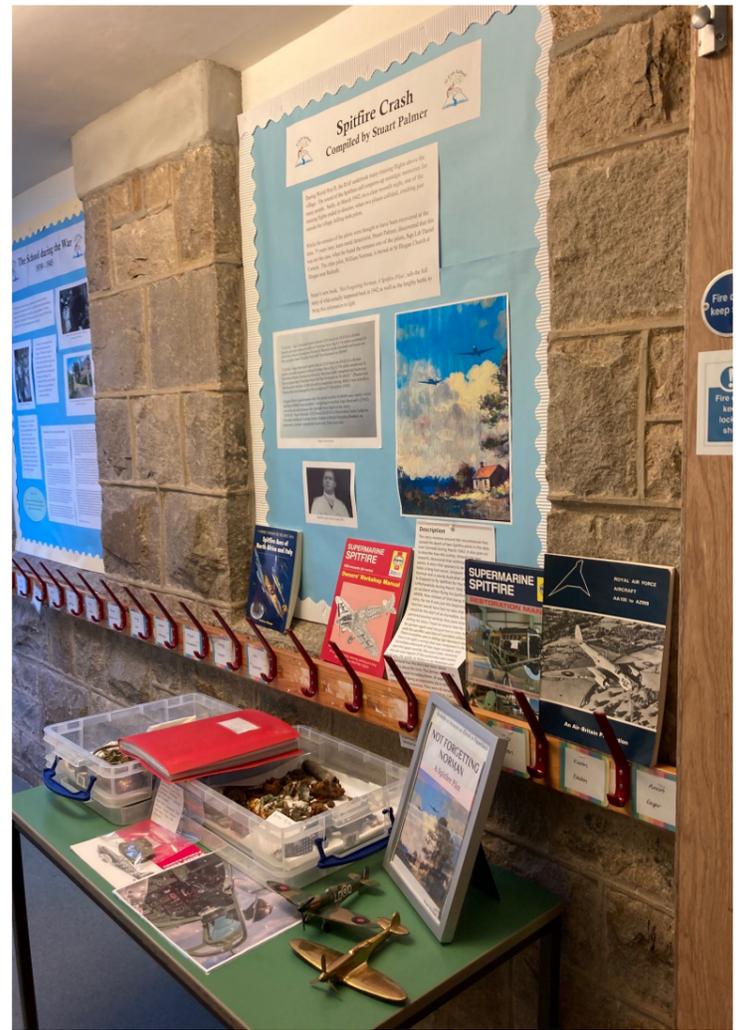
FLAMBARDS



With a stable school population of well over 100 and further housing planned in the village. So there remains the need for further space, not only a School hall but also larger classrooms. In addition, after a century of use, the fabric of the building requires serious attention. As always, funding is the obstacle to addressing the School's problems and often repairs and maintenance are all that can be achieved. Yet, the School remains positive in the face of these challenges. It provides a happy, caring environment in which its pupils learn and flourish. It is looking forward to its next 100 years.



St Erth School
1922 ~ 2022



Some of the other displays at the celebration





Ready to dance



Watching the children



Enjoying the sunshine



Happy that the day went well



A final dance



Packing up