

Five Islands Academy
Carn Gwaval
St Mary's
Isles of Scilly
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Equity, Excellence, Evolution

The Five Islands Academy is an all-age, multi-site, Church of England Academy, serving the island communities of Bryher, St Agnes, St Martin's, St Mary's and Tresco. It is part of the Leading Edge Academies Partnership.

Tuesday 6th January 2025

Welcome back to the Cove for the Spring Term!

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see the children back yesterday, and a warm welcome to our new families joining Dinghies. Please find below some information about the curriculum we'll be covering this term, which is of course very much still play-based. We'll continue to share day-to-day photos and updates with you via Seesaw - the children should have lots to show you along the way and we're looking forward to a great term together!

Structure of the school day

Our mornings will continue to include short carpet-based sessions incorporating Phonics and Maths-related activities, as appropriate for the different ages of our Reception and Nursery children. The afternoons will explore a sequence of topics, starting with Winter and moving on to Around The World, Explorers, Spring, Space, Pirates, Dinosaurs, Growing and Historical Figures.

Throughout the day, the children will continue to enjoy lots of continuous provision time, when they make progress towards their Early Learning Goals through playing with evolving, curated resources around the classroom and outside area. Our days are full of songs, rhymes and stories, and our circle times are well-established now, offering regular opportunities to develop the children's listening and discussion skills. Our PSHE units to cover this term are Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me.

We will also continue to have Show and Tell on Wednesday afternoons with Ms Pritchard, after French. Children are welcome to bring in one item that's meaningful to them in some way - maybe something they've made or found outside recently, something from a hobby, etc. Items stay in bags except during Show and Tell to keep things safe, but very fragile/precious things are best avoided.

All aboard! Navigating together

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Lunchtimes

We will continue to eat lunch together in the Cove Snack Shack area. Over the next couple of weeks, Gigs Class will be transitioning to playing in the main school playground for their lunch break, after eating, while Dinghies will continue to use the Cove play area for this breaktime. Before Gigs children make this step, we will as usual work with other year groups so that older children are ready to be kind and help look after their younger friends and include them in play - something they are always really eager to do. We will spend some time exploring the main playground with Gigs children so that everyone understands the new boundaries and who to speak to for support during playtimes.

Phonics

Gigs Class have now covered all the Set 1 sounds. Alongside consolidation of these, we are working through story-based phonics activities each day, which include putting phonetic knowledge into practice with first steps in writing. Later this term, Gigs will move onto Set 2 sounds.

Thank you so much for your support with reading at home - it really makes all the difference and can be the foundation of a life-long love of reading. Mrs Sandford's phonics slides from last term's presentation, shared on Seesaw in October, may continue to be helpful as your child moves through the different stages of reading books. Please let us know if we can help with individual questions or if anyone would appreciate another drop-in session to run through how best to support any aspect of phonics or writing at home.

Trips

Our first trip this term will be a winter walk through Lower Moors nature reserve on the morning of Wednesday 14th January, so please could children bring wellies on this day along with warm layers. We are looking forward to planning more visits to locations around the island and will continue to share trip information with you in advance.

Communication

As for last term, any essential information will be sent by email as well as Seesaw, and we also put a short general update for the Cove in the weekly school newsletter. If you ever have any questions about your child's education or wellbeing, or queries about school logistics, please don't hesitate to contact either of us on Seesaw or the email addresses below. We are always happy to arrange a chat in person or on the phone at a time convenient to you.

We really loved getting to know your children last term and are excited for a fantastic spring term together, full of adventures! Thank you for all your help and support so far this year.

Yours faithfully

Alison Nimmo (alisonnimmo@fiveisland.org)

Gigs Class Teacher - Reception

Claire Sandford (clairesandford@fiveislands.org)

Dinghies Class Teacher - Nursery