

Healthy Schools Plus



Alverton School is a Penzance Primary School. We have three hundred pupils, grouped into Nursery, Foundation, KS1, LKS 2 and UKS2. Each Key Stage has their own playground. Over the years, KS1 and LKS2 playgrounds have had some playground developments but UKS2 playground, unfortunately, was still waiting.

In Bully Buster meetings incidents of unfriendly incidents were being reported and the Bully Busters felt the school needed to intervene. Also, the School Council and Parliament had received motions to improve the playgrounds, so discussions began. Then Healthy Schools contacted us about being part of Healthy Schools Plus. This then enabled us to develop and improve the playtimes for Year Five and Six pupils.

After discussions with teachers ideas were made into an action plan. The School Council and Parliament wrote an questionnaire to research the opinions and ideas of the pupils in Year Five and Six.

To begin the project the Ministers wrote and illustrated a power point to show the benefits of sport and health and incorporated the ideas of the other pupils. When this was presented to other pupils, the Headteacher talked about the questionnaires, their views and ideas for the playground.



Next, Tesco came and we took part in their 'Great School Run'. Each class warmed up, then ran around the field, with the team from Tesco cheering and encouraging the children to do their best. This was a great start to our Healthy Schools Plus project.



To aid transition, just before the end of term we organised a playtime for the children who would be moving playgrounds. Teachers went with the children and the Year Six pupils supported by playing with and talking with the children. This was very positive and the children were delighted.



As well as including all the Year Five and Six children, we also identified a group of children who needed additional support. For these children we gave them a new role of playground buddies, a system that was already running but the identified group of children would not have wanted to have been part of. With encouragement and support the children began to enjoy and see the benefits for the younger children. They could see the impact their time and involvement had on others. These children became so much more confident and involved.



The Year Six Sports Ministers helped teachers order new playground equipment based on the ideas from the rest of the pupils. These will be sorted and organised by the Ministers.



Where next?

We are hoping to use some Devolved Capital to redesign the Year Five and Six playground. This, together with the new playground equipment will hopefully give all children the chance be active, healthy and happy.