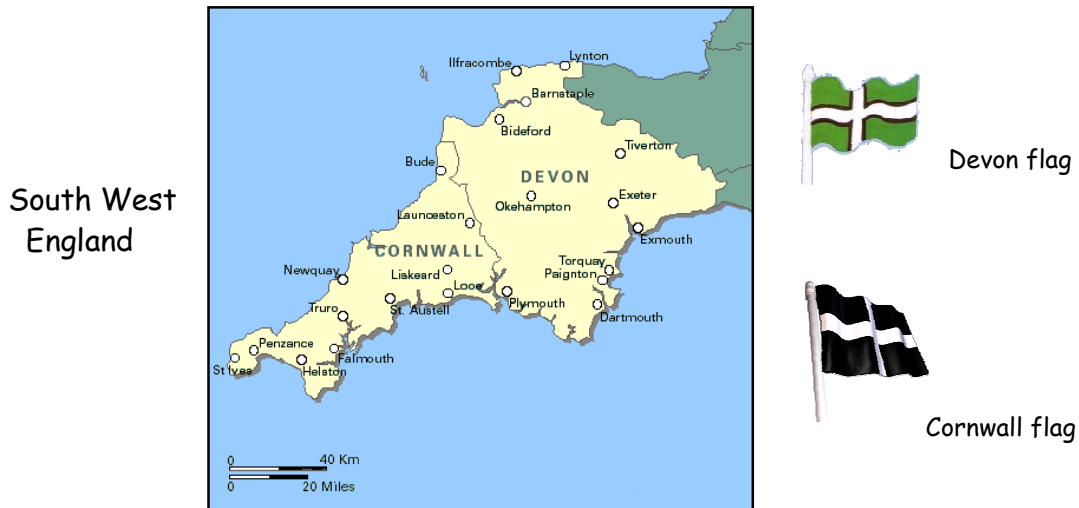




UK - BIDEFORD

The United Kingdom consists of four countries; England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each country is divided into areas called counties.

Bideford is in the county of Devon, which is in the South West region of England. Devon and its neighbouring county Cornwall are popular tourist areas.



South West Region

South West England has a huge range of scenery. There are rocky coastlines, wide, sandy bays and harbours, big and small. There are busy towns, small villages, seaside towns and fishing villages.

Devon and Cornwall are steeped in history, myths and legends. The earliest remains of man are widespread, from the hill forts and clapper bridges of Dartmoor to the barrows and ancient mine workings of Cornwall and Exmoor.

Bideford



Bideford is a small port on the River Torridge, near the north coast of Devon. In the 16th and 17th centuries Bideford was one of the busiest ports in England, but now it is mainly used by local fishing boats landing their catch, or a small collection of cargo boats. Appledore, a village just

down the river from Bideford, is still an important ship building centre.

Bideford's famous Long Bridge dates from medieval times. It was originally made of oak but in 1474 it was rebuilt in stone. Henry Williamson set his well known book, 'Tarka the Otter', on the River Torridge.





St. Mary's C. of E. Primary School Bideford, UK

St. Mary's Primary School serves the community of the estuary town of Bideford (population approximately 30,000) in north Devon. The children in the school come from the central area of the town and live in a mixture of housing types ranging from flats, to terraced houses to detached properties.



The school has 340 pupils divided into 12 groups (classes) each under the direction of a qualified teacher. The groups are allocated to a team which is led by a senior member of staff (team leader).

We employ about 40 staff, of whom 13 are qualified teachers. The others are made up of Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants, Meal time Assistants and Administrators.

We take all children regardless of ability, and therefore the range in each class can be considerable, ranging from very able to those who have a special educational need and qualify for extra support. All children have full access to the curriculum and any activities on offer.

There are also a number of after school clubs run by staff. The school is currently setting up an after school child care facility which will be used by the children of working parents.

Children start at St. Mary's the September following their 4th birthday and leave to go to secondary school the July after they are 11 years old.

We follow the National Curriculum as laid down by law, but within that teachers are encouraged to be imaginative in the way that the curriculum is delivered. The result is that we use relatively few text books and the children generally enjoy their education at St. Mary's.

The buildings are far from satisfactory. The original school houses the children aged 4 - 7 with the ICT suite and Library. The older children are housed in 'temporary' classrooms, which although larger than those in the main building, have fewer facilities.



The grounds consist of 2 hard surfaces and grassed areas which are used for sports and play when the weather is good. We have tried to make the play areas stimulating so that they provide a range of activities for children.