



## December 2017

### Harvest Festival

Family and friends joined us for our annual Harvest Festival in Stoke by Nayland church – a beautiful



setting for the festival. Items included a song about vegetables from our youngest children in Saplings, to Autumn art work and poetry, harvest for living a 'good' life and a song from Oak class entitled 'Harvest for the World'. The older children wrote their own prayers of thanks and a range of harvest songs, including accomplished solos, were sung. Many thanks to Revd. Val for her contribution. Year 4 children delivered harvest parcels to some of the older folk in the local community, giving them a chance to show service and chat with an older generation.

### The Big Sing

Oak Class (Years 5 & 6) took part in 'The Big Sing' at Snape Maltings Concert Hall, joining many other primary schools from across Suffolk. The concert hall is a fantastic venue for children to listen to professional musicians and actually sing themselves and Oak class acquitted themselves very well! The Snape Big Sing 2017 involved 800 students from 21 schools across Suffolk (including primary,



high and special educational needs schools). Scholars from the Voces Canabiles Music Foundation led the workshops and we heard some superb 'a cappella' singing from professional singers.

The songs included new composers writing especially for the event. One of the songs, From a Railway Carriage - Nico Muhly (2015), can be heard on the following YouTube link.

[http://r1.dmtrk.net/41N2-BLH8-3SGGM8-76R90-](http://r1.dmtrk.net/41N2-BLH8-3SGGM8-76R90-1/c.aspx)

[1/c.aspx](http://r1.dmtrk.net/41N2-BLH8-3SGGM8-76R90-1/c.aspx)

If you look carefully, you will just see some pupils from our school as the camera pans around. We hope to put this link on the website soon.

### British Athlete Visits Our School

We were delighted to welcome one of Britain's top female hurdlers, Serita Solomon on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Serita first represented Britain in 2006 at the European Champion Clubs Cup for Juniors and has since competed in World and European championships including the 2014 Commonwealth games in Glasgow. Children and teachers took part in a sponsored fitness circuit followed by a talk and question and answer session. The aim of the event was to encourage children to take up sport and to follow their dreams. Serita put the children through their paces doing press ups, star jumps and sit ups. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and some of the hard-earned proceeds will go towards purchasing sports equipment for the school.



## Modern Foreign Languages Day

This was a very successful and fun day where children learnt about the culture of 4 different countries-Brazil, Greece, Iceland and Spain. The children got into the spirit by coming to school dressed in the colours of the flag of their country or in national dress. They learned about the flag, customs and food of their country as well as key words in the language. The day also involved arts and crafts and presenting what they had learnt on postcards. The variety of activities meant there were lots of stories to tell at the end of the day in a 'Show and Tell' assembly.



## Christmas Plays

Saplings, Maple and Silver Birch presented fantastic nativity productions this year entitled, 'The Grumpy Sheep' (Years R to 2) and 'The Star Attraction' (years 3 and 4). A Christmas atmosphere was engendered by beautiful costumes (thank you parents), sparkling lighting and sound (Thank you members of Oak class) and the beautiful singing from the cast around the 2 nativity stories. The charity donations at the end of the show will be split between EACH, whom we regularly support and the 'Make a Wish Foundation'. This latter charity was chosen because a family are raising money in memory of a brother of one of our pupils.

