

News from St Mary's C of E Primary School, Hadleigh



Kingswood Residential Trip

At the beginning of the autumn term, The Year 6 pupils enjoyed a residential trip to north Norfolk. This was a great opportunity for them to experience new challenges, such as abseiling, the climbing wall, go-carting and zip wire. They showed lots of courage and perseverance! It was lovely to sit round the camp fire and play on the beach, really bonding as a class. There were also lots of team-building and trust activities. The children collaborated really well, encouraging and supporting one another throughout the week. The focus on team-work continued after the trip, with the children joining 'community service' teams to help out in the school community, assisting with the library, the environment, the computers and sports leadership.



Remembrance has been very much on our minds at St Mary's. On 8 November, year 5 joined children from other local schools at Hadleigh Cemetery. Mark Brennan from the British Legion gave us a brief history of the soldiers buried in the 10 war graves of the cemetery. We learned that one of the soldiers had been a member of a cavalry regiment, which was especially interesting as the class was enjoying listening to 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. One member of the class, who has a connection to the Leeks family, was privileged to place a small wooden cross and a special marker to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1 by the headstone of one of the two Leeks brothers. As the church clock struck eleven, we joined in a short act of remembrance and a minute's silence. Meanwhile, St Mary's and Hadleigh Community Primary School children who live in Layham went to St Andrew's to research the history of the 19 Layham soldiers who died in the First World War. Thanks to Michael Woods, Brian

Hempstead and Sonia Groom for making this a memorable occasion for the children. On 9th November the whole school gathered at St Mary's church, together with many parents and friends, for a service, led by the children, of singing, Bible readings, prayers and an act of remembrance. It was a very moving tribute.



Collective Worship

As usual, we have had many visitors in from local churches and other organisations to lead our assemblies and enrich the children's experience. We are grateful to everyone who gives up their time in this way. Year 6 enjoyed a visit to St Nicholas Centre, Ipswich, to lead worship at the Church School Leaders' Conference for Headteachers and Governors from church schools across the Diocese. They created their own play script and Lego scenes based on the Bible story about Jesus wanting the little children to be brought to him. They spoke with great confidence and helped all those in attendance to reflect on the theme of 'dignity'.



We celebrated Harvest with a service in school and a number of children represented the school at the Harvest service at St Mary's Church. This term our Christian values have been 'generosity' and 'compassion'. We invited parents and friends in to join our 'Kindness' cafes, which linked with schools' anti-bullying week. Year 1 heard the story of 'The Rainbow Fish' and made their own clay fish, lavishly decorated with sequins! Year 2 listened to 'Super Worm' and made pictures and masks of their own superheroes. Year 3 made kindness posters and a kindness paperchain for the classroom which will be added to as they record their deeds of kindness. Year 4 produced art work on the theme of 'Horton Hears

a Who'. Years 5 and 6 joined forces to make a kindness quilt, which shows off their design and printing techniques! It was certainly a busy and fun-packed afternoon, with lots of visitors from our school community to share the activities with the children. Thanks to all the parents and friends who joined us for this special occasion.

Classic Literature Week

During this exciting week, all the children enjoyed a lively production of 'Oliver Twist' given by M&M Theatre Productions. Afterwards, the actors gave workshops to year 6 who learned about lighting and scenery. This will come in handy when they prepare their own summer term production! All year groups produced work based on classic literature for parents and friends to share after school at the end of the week – there was a lovely display of children's writing in the hall.



The Mud Kitchen!

The children in EYFS would like to say a huge thank you to Martin Jarrald who has built them a superb mud kitchen in their courtyard. This will enhance the experience of children in the early years by developing imagination, co-operative play and physical skills, and will also be masses of fun!



Sport

Children from St Mary's have enjoyed attending various events this term, including cross country and dodgeball tournaments. Year 6 took two teams to Hadleigh High School to take part in the rugby festival. These were occasions of brilliant participation, with opportunities for lots of learning and laughing! The children represented the school well, encouraging one another and showing great team spirit.



As always, the run-up to Christmas has been a busy time, with lots to get through before we succumbed to the lure of glitter and tinsel! Year 3 had a trip to Colchester Castle which was linked to their history topic about the Romans. They learned about the influence of the Romans on the local area, explored the museum and had an exciting story tour in the Roman vaults under the castle. Their behaviour was exemplary!



Ipswich Crown Court

Year 6 had an amazing trip to Ipswich Crown Court, as part of their current theme on justice. They performed in a mock trial, taking on different roles, and met a Crown Court judge, who was very complimentary about their level of questioning and understanding. This was followed up by linked

learning in Science, when they looked at forensic evidence, and RE, when they learned about the story of the judgement of Solomon.



Christmas!

The children in EYFS and KS1 delighted and entranced us all with their take on the Nativity story. EYFS performed 'Whoops a Daisy Angel', and years 1&2 'Born in a Barn', which involved much line-learning, singing and inventive costume-wearing! Our new stage lighting was used to great effect, and the children received lots of positive comments from parents, grandparents and friends.



The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage put on an extra performance for visitors from Sydney Brown Court and Magdalen Care Home, and other members of the local community. Year 6 served refreshments to the guests afterwards. This was another fantastic performance and it was lovely to be able to share the Christmas magic with our special guests. We would like to say a huge thank you to all of the children and grown-ups involved in these delightful productions.



As the Christmas excitement mounted, glitter was sprinkled lavishly over hats ready to be worn, along with festive jumpers, at the whole school celebration lunch, to be followed by the after-school discos.



Year 2 went down to Magdalen House to sing all their Christmas songs from our nativity. The elders all really enjoyed their singing and praised us all - year 2 sang with beautiful smiles! As a thank you, the children got a 'Thank you' card and a box of biscuits from Magdalen House and in return, the children will be writing a 'Thank you' card back to the elders to show their appreciation. This term, we have worked hard to develop these links with the local community; the Nursery children also visited a local care home to play with the residents, which was a delightful experience for all involved!



Music

Year 5 have been learning to play the recorder, through the Whole Class Ensemble Tuition programme. They gave an excellent end of term performance to the rest of the school, as well as parents and friends, which included some great singing too that had us all joining in. They have worked really hard and we were all impressed by their timing and how well they performed collectively.

Friends of St Mary's

Our wonderful and hard-working support group organised a highly successful Christmas Fayre, which raised over £1000 to benefit and enrich our children's learning experience. The Fayre began with the whole school singing carols outside on the playground, and then enjoying a variety of food and drink, games and competitions, meeting real reindeer, wrapping presents for loved ones and of course the all-important visit to Father Christmas' grotto.



Collective Worship

As well as our usual visitors, the children have enjoyed an assembly on Christingles, led by Janice White, and the Christian Youth Ministry came in to reinforce the true message of Christmas.



The Achievement assembly on 19th December gave everyone the opportunity to share in all the children's achievements inside and outside school. Term ended on a high note with the school's carol service at St Mary's church, a joyful and festive occasion as always.