



Every week is special at All Saints' it's such a vibrant learning community. However, in this newsletter we would like to report on two very special weeks; one before and one after half term. The school celebrated its 150th Birthday in October and then, in November, pupils were part of "Wow" week. If you are intrigued, please read on.

All Saints' is 150 Years Old!

We started the term by sending a newsletter to the parents which contained some of the research that our Vice- Chair of Governors, Dr Rachel Wood, had unearthed about the founding of the school.

Some of the documents that she has found are a fascinating insight into the minds of those who set up the school. The Rev TR Govett who was the vicar at All Saints' Church in 1869 must have been a great man of vision and purpose. Under his leadership and following donations of land from the Duke of Rutland, the foundation stone of the school was laid in May 1869 and the school opened in the November of the same year. I have been thrilled to read some of the speeches during the ceremonies and am particularly pleased to see how, one hundred and fifty years later, the school is still meeting the vision of the parishioners all those years ago. Below is an extract from a newspaper report of the speech given by the Duke of Rutland: *He felt that it had been somewhat of— he would not say a disgrace, but an oversight on the part of the inhabitants of All Saints parish, to have been so long without a National School. (Hear, hear !)* In these days all must acknowledge the great benefit of a good and sound education ; and when he said a good and sound education he emphatically meant an education based on religion. (Cheers.) ...He had therefore, as he had said, experienced the greatest pleasure in laying the foundation-stone of their new school, and hoped that when the building was completed thousands would obtain a sound and useful education therein. (Cheers.)

Thousands of children have studied here over the years and we believe that they have received a "sound and useful education.

To celebrate, we held a number of events: a Victorian School Day, a celebratory Eucharist Service in school with invitations to past pupils and staff and then the children enjoyed a birthday disco later in the week.

We had a fascinating day recreating the "feel" of education during Victorian times. Staff and children dressed in Victorian costume. Classes were seated in rows, friendly teachers became more formal, boys and girls were separated and cheerful, bright plastic playground toys were exchanged for slates, marbles and wooden hoops.

The Eucharist was a very special occasion presided over by the Rev Max Osborne and lead by Miss Bacon. Our cook, Mrs Rix had made a fabulous cake to share with all our guests and 150th Birthday cupcakes. It was lovely to meet past pupils and staff. The oldest past pupil (98 years young!) and one of our youngest pupils cut the cake. We rounded off the three-day celebratory event with a disco organised by our PTA. A good time was certainly had by all.





“Wow – what a busy week!” the All Saints’ children exclaimed as Miss Bacon announced all the events happening in the same week in November!



As I am sure you are aware Monday 11th – Friday 15th November was jam-packed with lots of different events, some you may have heard about and others perhaps not. We tried our very best to embrace all of these events linking them together and celebrating in true All Saints’ style. We always call this week in our school calendar ‘Wow Week’ allow us to explain why;

Our week began with a chance to reflect and remember the many that have sacrificed their lives for us. We enjoyed a special Collective Worship session and every single child had an opportunity to take part in this mark of respect. Each class read a ‘Poppy Poem’ and every individual pupil also came forward in a response time and placed a poppy at the front of the school hall to make a field of remembrance. This is always a special time for the children and we were very proud of the respect and reverence they showed.



Anti-bullying was another theme we covered this week. Our children wore odd socks on Tuesday and embraced the theme for this year ‘Change starts with us’.

Wednesday was a chance to get together and enjoy ‘Faith, fun and friendship’. Every year we try to celebrate Interfaith Week. We have many different faiths represented at All Saints’ and are always seeking ways to celebrate our similarities and respect our differences. This year we had an after-school event which involved children and their families coming along and enjoying each other’s company. There were art and craft activities (mostly ‘friendship themed’) and bracelet making was a firm favourite amongst children and adults alike. Lots of families baked at home and brought in all kinds of delicious snacks to share with each other. The atmosphere was electric and it was great to spend time with old friends and make new ones too.



Do you know anybody that has diabetes? It was ‘World Diabetes Day’ on Thursday 14th November. As we have previously had children in our school with Type 1 Diabetes we chose to learn more about it on this special day. We try to do a disability awareness day each term and we call these days ‘Fearfully and Wonderfully Made’ Days inspired by Psalm 139. Our Collective Worship was led by Will

Wright who works for Suffolk County Council and we learned how we can look after our friends who have diabetes.

Friday 15th November was Children in Need Day. This year we chose to collect money and write letters to our brand-new link school in Zambia called Taonga School. We are helping them to develop their school library at the moment. Lots of children wore Pudsey bear accessories to enhance their uniform that day and we even made the local newspaper!



So, after an extremely busy week we were all ready for a rest- but what a lot of learning, fun and a chance to be involved and included. We certainly were inspired with the events of WOW Week and hope you feel inspired reading this. How can you share fun, faith and friendship with others?