

News from St Mary's Primary School – Spring 2020



A warm welcome to the new children who have joined us this term!

At the start of term, a professional photographer came into school to take pictures of every aspect of the busy school day for our new website which has now been launched. Visit us on www.stmaryshad.co.uk.



Once again, we have been pleased to welcome Pastor Chris Todd, Reverend Joyce Willis and Jackie Cork from St Mary's Church to lead worship on this term's Christian values of 'perseverance' and 'justice'. Their contributions were gratefully received! Year 6 experienced 'justice' in a practical way with a trip to Ipswich Crown Court where they took part in the mock trial of Luke Lyre. They played all the different roles: judge, lawyers, clerks and jury and learned lots about the justice system and how a court works.

A professional artist, Jo Chapman, has visited Year 5 to work with pupils on designing a collaborative piece, which will adorn a screen on the exterior of the new swimming pool. The children have worked on abstract designs inspired by the emotions experienced through physical activity.

Active maths continues to be a regular feature: year 5, for example, raced around the hall in teams rounding numbers and challenging each other to get the most questions answered in the time allowed, year 4 took part in beetle maths, which involved putting a multiple in the centre of the beetle and working out 6 possible calculations to make the multiple, and year 3 have been chanting and clapping multiplication by 3s and 4s. Times tables rock stars is also popular, especially when it means 'battles' between year groups!

Our children are encouraged to be physically as well as mentally active: the outdoor fitness equipment and the gym trail are always in use before, during and after school, and this term years 2, 3 and 4 are enjoying weekly swimming lessons.



Just before half term we welcomed two Ofsted inspectors who carried out an inspection under the new framework. It was a very positive experience and we were proud and delighted to receive an overall grade of Good, with the Early Years Foundation Stage rated Outstanding. Congratulations to all staff for their dedication and hard work and a big thank you to the children who demonstrated the school's values so well.

We have maintained strong links with St Mary's Church, with regular visitors to our morning worship and various year groups going to Café Church on Friday mornings, where they have engaged with the church community, and enjoyed refreshments!

Years 3 and 4 have been practicing hard for their production, 'The Bee Musical', with excellent singing and acting. And year 3 also fitted in a day's computational thinking at BT, Martlesham, which was a fantastic experience.

As usual, sport has played a large part in the school curriculum. Years 2 and 3 took part in multi-sports. All classes have finished their swimming lessons and are looking forward to the opening of the new pool. The whole school took part in a week of activities for Sport Relief – the dance-a-thon on the playground was especially popular. The week culminated in the running of 6 laps of the field to complete the Sport Relief mile. Over £100 was raised – a great effort by everyone!

World Book Day was a lovely opportunity for children to dress up as their favourite book character and there were some very inventive costumes on display (from members of staff too!). In the afternoon we were pleased to welcome parents and friends to our sharing café and they were able to help in the creation of the children's reading rivers.



Although school closed to most pupils before the end of term, we have been open for some of our children. They have been fantastic! They have collaborated well, encouraged one another and behaved brilliantly! The children have taken part in a range of activities, such as gardening, making collage rainbows and funny faces and an Easter egg obstacle course challenge. We were really lucky that the local QD store gave us lots of plants. The children really enjoyed planting the flowers – thanks to everyone at QD!

