

## News from St Mary's Primary School

The summer term has been very busy at St Mary's C of E Primary School – there has been no time to recover from our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in the spring term! We hope everyone has a restful, fun summer break. See you in September!

### **Leavers**

Many thanks to Reverend Sue Foster for hosting our annual Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church. This was an opportunity to celebrate the Year 6 children's time with us, sharing special memories and giving thanks, before they embark on the next stage of their educational journey at secondary school. The children reflected on the things they have enjoyed over the years and on which of the school's Christian values were most important to them. It is amazing how quickly these years at primary school have flown by! Reverend Sue gave a talk about how we respond to challenges and some volunteers took part in a 'We're Year 6s, Get Us Out of Here' bush-tucker challenge! The Year 6 leavers have also enjoyed a pizza party with a rounders match against their parents and space-hopper races! On the final day of term, we said a final farewell in our leavers' assembly. We wish all of our leavers lots of luck for their time in secondary school and their future lives beyond school.



### **Sports Day**



Sports Day was won, once again, by the sporting stars in the Blue team. The event was a great celebration of sporting talent and perseverance. Children took part in a range of competitive track events and field events, such as the javelin and standing long-jump. It was lovely to see so many parents and friends in attendance, cheering the children on and giving them lots of encouragement.

We were very lucky with the beautiful weather! One Life Suffolk provided a stall and activities to help the children learn about healthy lifestyles. The children in the Early Years Foundation Stage enjoyed their own event on the same morning. We have never had so many mummies and daddies join in the parents' races! Many thanks to everyone who shared the fun with us!



### **Summer Fete**

This year's Summer Fete was another wonderful social occasion. The children enjoyed so many fun activities, including the bouncy castles, penalty shootout, donkey rides, netball games and a variety of stalls. We are very grateful to 'Less Than Perfect' and Mr Betts and his students from Hadleigh High School, who provided live music for us to enjoy while eating our burgers! There were many incredible prizes in the raffle. Thank you so much to all the local businesses that contributed valuable vouchers and gifts – their contributions were extremely generous. As always, we are enormously grateful to the members of the school community who give up their time to organise and run such a successful event. We raised nearly £2,000 for the school!



### **Art Work for Hadleigh Show**

Throughout the school, the children are very keen on art and there is lots of beautiful work on display, reflecting the school's Arts Mark Gold award. The children really enjoyed participating in collaborative art projects for the Hadleigh Show once again. In Ash Class, their work was based on animals in nursery rhymes and their piece on 'Hey Diddle Diddle' won second prize – well done children!

### **Early Years Trip to Rendlesham Forest**

In the Early Years, children enjoyed sharing the book 'Stickman'. This was linked to a trip to Rendlesham Forest, which included a forest treasure hunt, mini-beast hunting and forest art. Also, the children were inspired to make 'Stickmen' and rainbow cards, using natural objects. The children get such a lot from being outside, learning and being creative while surrounded by nature! Thank you to all the adults who helped on the trip and made it into a fun day out!



### **Oak Class Trip to Hedingham Castle and Banquet**

The children in Oak Class enjoyed their trip to Hedingham castle and learned lots about life inside a castle with the re-enactment and drama from 'Hands on the Past'. They learned about how to attack a castle, how to train to be a knight, music and dancing in the castle and about medicines that they used, including slug slime to help sore eyes! Thank you to all the parents who helped out on the day.



Oak Class finished their Castles topic by thinking about the banquets in the great hall. The children organised their own banquet – they made medieval gingerbread and drank from goblets that they had made. They played a welcoming tune on the Ocarinas and, mid-way through the feast, they performed a medieval dance they had been practising. At the end of the feast, jesters and entertainers told jokes and then the children had a jousting tournament! The children have loved learning about castles and this was a fabulous celebration of all their hard work.



### **Sharing Café**

This term we have welcomed parents in to school for two 'sharing cafés'. The whole school was involved on both occasions, with classrooms open from the Early Years through to Year 6. It was lovely to see so many parents in school, enjoying practical, hands-on activities with their children. The first café had a science theme and, later in the term, we held a creative maths afternoon. Our 'sharing cafés' are great opportunities to get parents involved and to show that we value the children's learning in partnership. They are also great fun! Thanks to everyone who took the time to visit us and to those who helped out with refreshments.



### **Beech Class and Rowan Class Trip to Suffolk Farm Fair**

Years 3 and 4 joined together to visit the Suffolk County Farm Fair where they saw lots of farmers and their equipment. The children sampled lots of different types of food, including gorgeous local sausages and snacks made from peas! The highlights of the day were meeting lots of lovely animals and seeing eggs hatching. The children hitched a ride in a tractor trailer and watched a helicopter take off. All-round, it was a wonderful day, full of fun and interesting information.



### **Victorian Day**

Rowan Class were very excited about their Victorian Day. Alan from Victorian Schools spent the whole day at St Mary's leading a range of fun and informative activities. The children learned Victorian-style reading, writing and arithmetic, using old ink pens dipped in ink pots. They found out about Victorian punishments, including the cane and the dunce's hat. In the afternoon, they played a range of Victorian games and used old-fashioned toys; they particularly enjoyed skipping, spinning tops and walking with stilts. The children looked fabulous in their Victorian outfits, singing the National Anthem!



### **Chestnut Class – clarinet lessons and performance**

Throughout the year, the Year 5s have been learning to play the clarinet as a whole class. Mr Rowe, from the County Music Service, has done a marvellous job of helping the children to master this difficult instrument. Recently, the children attended a celebration with several schools at the United Reform Church in Hadleigh. All the schools present had participated in the 'whole class ensemble tuition' scheme and there was a lot of talent on show! The children from St Mary's performed admirably in front of an audience of parents as well as other children.



### **Chestnut Class Bikeability training**

The Bikeability team visited the school again this term. Bikeability training is a great opportunity for the Year 5 children to learn about maintaining their bikes and how to cycle safely on the roads. During their sessions, the children listened carefully and focused well. Many of the children completed the training and actually riding on the roads, using the correct hand signals, was an exciting experience. Well done to the children for being brave and sensible.



### **Junior Road Safety Officers**

Earlier in the year, four of our children were selected to be Junior Road Safety Officers. Throughout the year, they have organised various activities to promote road safety, including leading an assembly, teaching the younger children and organising competitions. The boys created a scrapbook in which they recorded all their hard work. In the summer term, the Junior Road Safety Officers had the opportunity to go to Endeavour House to attend a conference and celebrate their good work. They were very proud (and surprised!) when it was announced that they had achieved the gold award! Well done to all our JRSOs, who have shown real commitment and dedication.



### **Willow Class Fundraiser for New Hope Children's Centre in Kenya**

Willow Class decided to take positive action to raise money to help the children at the New Hope Children's centre in Kenya. They were very enterprising and organised a fundraising event after school, with lots of stalls and games to play. Our friends in Kenya wanted to take a school trip to Nairobi and they were finally able to arrange it thanks to the money raised by Willow Class. We have seen photos from the trip and they clearly had a great time! The children at New Hope have exchanged letters with us. Also, Karen Harman, who visited New Hope recently, came into school to talk to the children during Worship. She shared photos and interesting stories about her time in Africa. We look forward to continuing to develop this link next year.



### **Willow Class Trip to London**

The trip to London has been a real highlight for Willow Class. For many of the children this was their first visit to the capital and they were amazed by all the sights and sounds, especially the large buildings. They enjoyed a walk along the Thames, spotting famous buildings. The children were particularly excited by the hands-on, practical exhibits and experiments at the Science Museum. It

was a long, unforgettable day! The children have followed up their trip by learning about other capital cities and by developing their own graffiti-style art.



### **Key Stage 2 production**

All the children involved in the marvellous Robin Hood production should be very proud of themselves. The children had a huge amount to learn in a short space of time; their dedication and commitment was fantastic. They performed really well: their dancing was energetic, their singing was lovely and their acting was very impressive. The whole show looked fantastic under our brand new stage lights! The audiences were very appreciative and we would like to thank everyone for their kind comments.



### **Collective Worship**

The children have had a range of experiences in Collective Worship and assemblies this term. We are very grateful to all the visitors who have led Worship for us, including Brian Hempstead, Reverend Sue Foster, Reverend Bryn Rickards, Reverend Joyce Willis Pastor Chris Todd, Philip Mann and Reverend David and Wendy Atkins. This term, our Worship has been focused on the values of 'service' and 'truthfulness'. The children have also benefited from a variety of informative assemblies. These have included learning about healthy lifestyles with One Life Suffolk, learning

about astronomy with Mr Norman, finding out about drowning prevention with Hayley from Hadleigh Leisure, an introduction to Hadleigh Cricket Club and news from Hadleigh Library about this year's summer reading challenge. Also, it has been lovely seeing the children lead Worship for their parents. Year 2 performed a retelling of the story of Jacob and Esau; Year 1 focused on 'truthfulness' with a new version of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' that they wrote themselves; and the Reception children used the story of 'Giraffes Can't Dance' to remind us that everyone is unique and precious.



Finally, we'd like to thank the team from One Life Suffolk for attending our summer fete, sports day and assemblies, as well as teaching sequences of lessons to different classes. The children are developing a good knowledge of healthy lifestyles.