

News from St Mary's Primary School, Hadleigh

Spring Term 2017

It's been a very busy term at St Mary's! Well done to all the children for their super learning.

Careers Day



Careers Day has been a real highlight at the start of 2017. We were delighted to welcome lots of visitors into school to talk about their jobs. Throughout the school, children learned about different careers and how they might use Maths and English in the work place. We also discussed the skills, qualities and characteristics they are developing now that will help them in the future, such as team work and communication. The idea was to raise children's aspirations and give greater purpose to their learning in school. We had an incredible response from the community and we are so grateful to all those who gave up their time to talk to the children. There were many visitors, covering a wide range of career options, including Youth Workers, a physical trainer, a musician, a PCSO, an astronomer and an Apache pilot. Children heard about working in the theatre, managing a business and working for the RNLI. They engaged really well, asking lots of very thoughtful questions about the various occupations and finding out how the visitors ended up doing their jobs. It was a very successful day, with some really important messages for the children, such as having a positive attitude to work, being willing to try new things and about how we are always learning. Children have followed up Careers Day by thinking about their aspirations for the future and writing CVs and job applications.

The children talked about being inspired and fascinated by what they heard. Children's comments about the day included:

"I really enjoyed this day because I think that it's a chance to get young people to think about their future and what they would like to become."

“Today has changed my mind about things. Don’t give up until you try it!”

“I found it interesting to find out everybody’s story.”

“You learn every day. This really made me think about how much knowledge we have. I have really enjoyed seeing what everyone does and the opportunities out there.”

“I have found a ‘Plan B’ if ‘Plan A’ doesn’t work! I have gathered some inspiration and passion.”

Accelerated Reader



St Mary’s has introduced a new reading scheme for children from Year 1 through to Year 6! Accelerated Reader is a widely used online tool for monitoring and motivating children with their reading. The children’s reading is carefully assessed, with a focus on their understanding and comprehension. Then they select from a range of books at their level. After completing a book, children take online quizzes, using iPads to check their comprehension and knowledge of vocabulary.

Here’s what our children are saying about our new scheme:

“I like Accelerated Reader because the quizzes are fun to do!”

“Accelerated Reader is good because it’s like a game!”

“I like Accelerated Reader because it is challenging and fun.”

“You can pick your own book that you are interested in.”

The children get rewarded for picking up points from the quizzes and for how much reading they do – we have just rewarded our first ‘word-millionaire’! It has been great to see the children’s enthusiasm and enjoyment. Accelerated Reader has helped everyone focus on understanding books and reading for pleasure.

Each half term, we hold a certificate assembly where we celebrate those children who have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for the new reading scheme and their reading. We have given out ‘book dedications’ to the top 3 readers in each class. This means that the children get their own book plate with their name on it which they can stick in their favourite book in school. There will also be a special shelf in the library where these books will be displayed.



World Book Day

The children at St Mary's are really enthusiastic about their reading! Children throughout the school celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite Roald Dahl characters and reading his stories and poems. During the day, the children produced lots of writing inspired by Roald Dahl. At the end of the school day, their work was displayed in the hall for lots of parents came in to see. It was an excellent day for developing children's enthusiasm for reading and stories.



Library visits

During this term, each class will be visiting Hadleigh Library as part of our new reading scheme, 'Accelerated Reader.' Before each visit, the older children will create 'bookbags' to take with them. This is an online tool where children create a list

of books that they would like to read as part of the new scheme. They will print these lists off and look for the books in the library during their visit.

Thank you very much to Sarah Hunt for organising these visits, it has been a very valuable experience for all involved. If any parents would like to visit the library with their children and join, they can then use the computers to access www.ARBookfind.co.uk to find books they would like to read.



E-Safety Cafes



This term, the topic of our Sharing Cafés is E-Safety. We were delighted to welcome so many visitors into our classrooms during the week to share their child's learning with them. The idea was to raise awareness of E-Safety in line with National Internet Safety day on Tuesday. E-Safety is very important at St. Mary's and through lots of fun activities we all learnt how to keep ourselves safe online. In KS2 we created posters and information leaflets to share with others. In KS1 we read 'Digi Duck' and made duck hats to remind us about making good choices online.

OUTSTANDING Inspection!

As a church school, we have SIAMS inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) as well as Ofsted. On February 24th, the school had a SIAMS Inspection, which was a really positive, helpful experience and we are proud to have been judged **OUTSTANDING** overall! This judgement reflects the commitment of the school community and the huge progress the school has made.

The inspector observed lessons and Worship, as well as speaking to a number of children. The children welcomed her warmly into the school and should be really proud of their positive contribution to the inspection. The inspector also talked to Governors, representatives from St Mary's Church and some parents. We are enormously grateful to all the members of our school community who were involved in some way.

During the inspection, the inspector praised many aspects of the school's provision and was very positive about all she saw at St Mary's. The SIAMS report has just been published. Amongst other things, the report highlights:

- The school's excellent pastoral care and concern for individuals;
- The school's strong Christian ethos and values;
- The strong link between the church and the school;
- Strong leadership at all levels, which models the school's Christian values.

The inspector noted:

"The excellent pastoral care and concern for individuals meets the pupils and their families at their point of need within an inclusive Christian family environment."

"...providing exemplary pastoral care and concern for every individual..."

"Any vulnerable pupils are integrated quickly and supported..."

"Every child is expected to do well, underpinned by the belief that all children can achieve. Consequently, progress for all groups of pupils is good, with some disadvantaged pupils making better than expected progress."

We are all delighted with the **OUTSTANDING** report and I am sure you will join us in celebrating this fantastic achievement!

Sports and Fitness

We are having a whole-school focus on health and fitness. Many thanks to One Life Suffolk for their support. One Life Suffolk have led a staff training session about healthy lifestyles and all the support they can offer. Also, they led an assembly for us about making healthy choices for our lunch boxes. Recently, One Life Suffolk visited Elm Class to talk about keeping fit and healthy. They will be returning in the summer term to work with Years 3 and 4. Thanks to the staff from One Life Suffolk, who bring such a lot of enthusiasm and get the children really excited about healthy choices! Mrs Warren has been inspired and has started a new after-school fitness club on Fridays. This is really popular and is helping to keep some of the staff fit as well as the children!



Well done to the Year 6 pupils who represented St Mary's at a hockey tournament at St Joseph's School. They participated really well in their hockey league and enjoyed the excitement! The children engaged positively with the other teams. They were very proud to be wearing our new sports kit, which looks fantastic!

We also had a team of ten boys and girls from Years 3 and 4 at the cross country festival at Hadleigh High School. They really enjoyed representing the school and were really good sports, encouraging and supporting one another. They were very proud of their achievements and, like the hockey team, they were delighted with the new kit



We are very proud of our Year 3/4 team of Dodgeball players! They attended the Hadleigh High School Primary PE Partnership, U11 Dodgeball Event and performed brilliantly, bravely and competitively. Thank you To Mrs Girling, Mr Taylor and Mrs Hek for accompanying and cheering on our team – your support is much appreciated! The children competed against teams from five other primary schools. Our young team encouraged one another really well and grew in confidence throughout the afternoon. Many thanks to Sarah Clarke and the High School for organising such an enjoyable, successful event.

Well done to the Year 6 swimming team! They attended the Hadleigh Swimming gala on the 6th February and performed brilliantly, bravely and competitively.

The children competed against teams from eleven other primary schools. Our team encouraged one another really well and grew in confidence throughout the afternoon. We finished 7th overall and it was a very valuable experience for all involved.

Church links

The children in Year 5 and 6 really enjoyed visiting the church to learn about Lent, linking this to the themes of forgiveness and betrayal. We are very grateful to Trish, Jackie and Canon John Parr, who worked really hard to create an exciting experience for the children. The children were very enthusiastic and developed their understanding of Lent through art and drama. They produced some lovely art work and used role-play to link the themes to different everyday situations. One of the children said the visit was 'perfect'! Years 3 and 4 visited St Mary's Church for Easter workshops. They had a really interesting visit focused on the stations of the cross.



This term, we have been thinking about the values of 'courage' and 'forgiveness' in Collective Worship. The children have listened to a range of stories on these themes and have responded really thoughtfully, discussing how they can show the values in their lives. We are grateful to all the people who have visited the school to lead Worship this month, including Pastor Greg, Pastor Chris, Jackie Cork, Brian Hampstead, Reverend Joyce Willis, Philip Mann and Reverend David Atkins. Many thanks to Canon John Parr, who led our whole-school Easter service at the church. The children did a wonderful job of reading and singing clearly and we were really pleased with the thoughtful prayers written by the Year 5s. We wish everyone a wonderful Easter!

