



ST MARY'S SCHOOL Hadleigh

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another



News from St Mary's Primary School

November 2024

This has been another great year of learning so far at St Mary's. Teaching staff have continued to offer a rich and varied curriculum: for example, at our new Forest School at The Withy, where the children have been learning about the seasons, hedgehogs and fungi amongst other things.

In Art, the curriculum this year focusses on 3D art and children's Xmas Card designs have been entered in a competition at Benton End. In Maths we continue to develop and embed the Mathematics Mastery Primary from Ark Curriculum Plus and this is progressing very well.

The school has seen Anglo-Saxon adventures in Year 4; a brilliant Year 6 residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands and expert tulip planting and growing by Year 5 students. These are just some of the highlights of the term so far.

We are part of a national research project involving 100,000 children, which will be looking at pupil engagement in school; their sense of belonging in our school community; and how this might help with ensuring that as many children as possible child are in school every day of term. We had a new cook join us in September and his cooking is proving a real hit with children. He is working with other staff to invite parents and carers to lunch with their child in one week this half-term and had a successful taster session for parents to lunch at the school recently. We are looking forward to more children eating the nutritious school lunches

Our Pastoral Support, Thrive and ELSA practitioners have been more active than ever, offering specialist support to children and parents & carers, along with play therapists and other helping professionals.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead.

Mr Frolish, Headteacher

Forest School at The Deanery and The Withy

This year, we are glad to be able to offer forest school sessions to all year groups in the course of the school year. Our trained forest school staff, helped by some volunteer adults, continue to work with children at The Deanery Gardens in Hadleigh and have also opened The Withy. This is a wooded area in the school grounds which has been lovingly redeveloped as a forest school area with the enormous help of the children, their parents, many staff and friends of staff. The school continues to devote financial resources to this important activity and we have also been helped by some local funders. The children love forest school sessions and go out in all weathers to take part in the specially designed lessons there.



This term, there have been so many great fungi discoveries and children made new friends, learnt about hedgehogs and even opened our own mud face paint parlour!

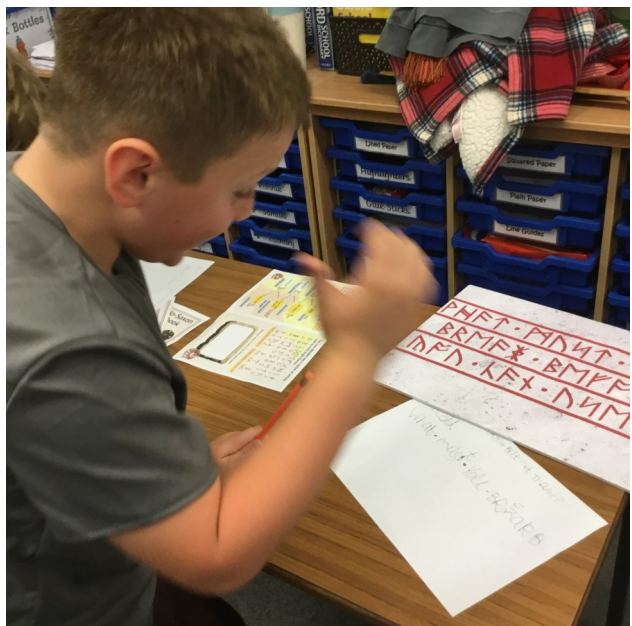


YEAR 4 GOES BACK IN TIME



In Year 4, we were lucky enough to have a visiting Anglo-Saxon workshop from Ipswich Museum. We were amazed by all the artefacts and replicas that brought our topic learning to life. The children created their own Anglo-Saxon name, solved riddles written in the Anglo Saxon alphabet, reenacted a battle, played games and embossed an Anglo Saxon Brooch.

The children were engaged and focused; keen to share their knowledge and to soak up new things. They all looked fantastic in their costumes too!





YEAR 5 BECOME TULIP EXPERTS AT BENTON END

Benton End house and gardens in Hadleigh is the former home of celebrated artist and gardener Sir Cedric Morris and artist, Arthur Lett-Haines, known as Lett; lifelong partners, they met on Armistice Night in 1918.

Together they ran the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing – a sanctuary for a diverse range of influential artists, writers, musicians, and botanists of the 20th century. Lucian Freud and Maggi Hambling were among their students. Vita Sackville-West, Beth Chatto, Paul and John Nash, Elizabeth David, Constance Spry and Benjamin Britten all frequented the house.

St Mary's is glad to have developed an ongoing partnership with Benton End House and its staff. Our young



artists put on an exhibition of their work there in the summer term and we are back again next summer, when children will exhibit alongside the renowned artist, David Downes. Our choir will be performing for an audience at Benton End in December and there is another competition then of the children's Christmas Card designs.

But this term, Year 5 visited Benton End, where they met Polly Nicholson, a trustee of the house and a tulip expert.

Polly told the children lots of fascinating facts about tulips and helped the children to learn how to plant the bulbs. Each child planted their own terracotta pot of tulips to take back to school and care for over the coming weeks.

We are excited to take care of our tulip bulbs and look forward to them blooming next spring.



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THORPE WOODLANDS

The Year 6 residential to Thorpe Woodlands was a great success. The staff at the centre were incredible and ensured the children were safe and felt confident enough to show their vulnerability. The children were a credit to the school and their parents and carers.

A special thanks to Mrs Rose, Mrs S Harvey and Mrs L Harvey for helping Mr Hall to organise the residential and supporting the children over the week to make sure all of the children were able to make the most of this unique experience.

Thank you also to the staff at St Mary's that worked behind the scenes to contribute towards this residential and to all of the parents and carers that made sure the children had all they needed for the trip.

The children have memories that will last with them for a very long time



PE and Sport



Our sports staff have this term been very active, organising challenging and fun sports activities for all the children.

They had a beautiful sunny morning enjoying a cross country event at Hadleigh High School. Our U9s ran 600M & U11s ran a whopping 1500Ms. Our teams showed amazing resilience & fantastic stamina.

Our U11 boys & U11 girls came in runners up overall

The Sports staff also organise and run many and varied sports clubs after school & other staff are involved in offering well-attended sports and activities clubs at lunchtimes, such as dance, dodgeball, football and multi-skills

A green poster with a white grid pattern, resembling a football pitch. The text is written in a blue, hand-drawn font. At the bottom right, there is a small icon of a football goal.

St Mary's after school sports clubs this term

**Monday - yr 5&6
dodgeball**

**Tuesday - yr 2
multi sports**

**Thursday - yr 3&4
multi sports**

3.15pm - 4pm
Please book via
MyChildAtSchool
app. Can't wait to
see lots of you
there 🙌🙌

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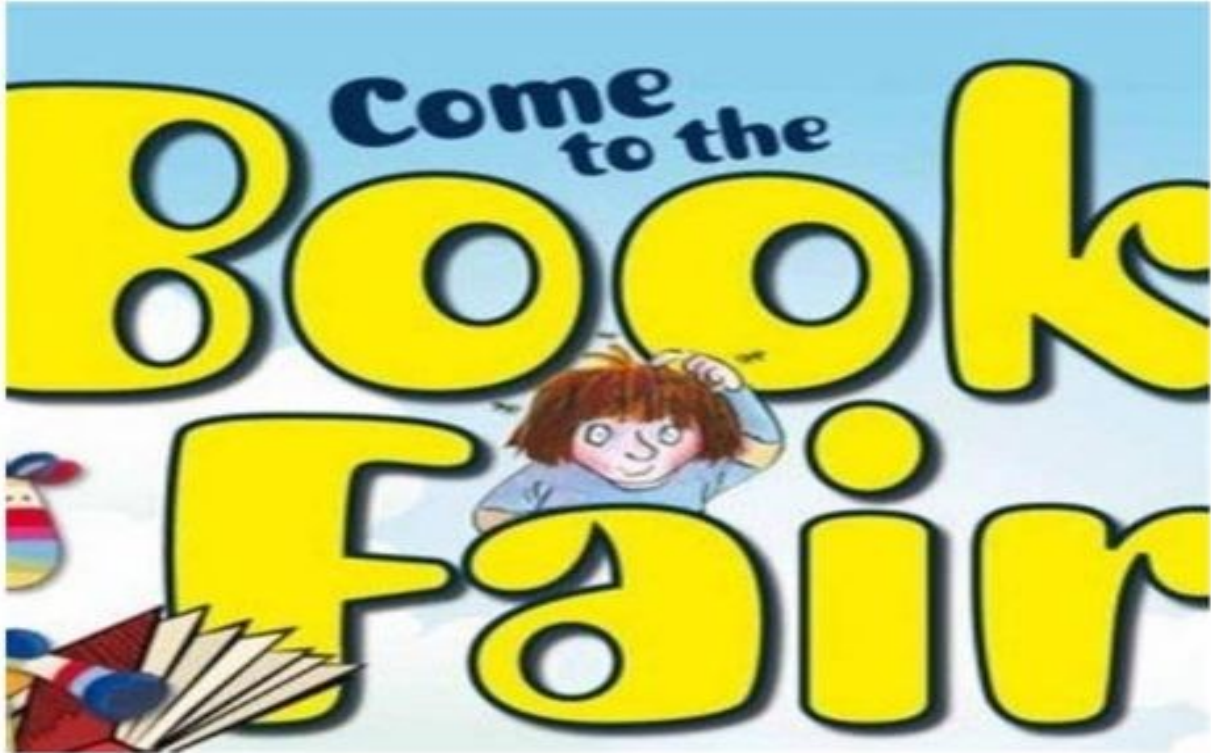
The Choir of St Mary's Primary School

KS2 children have formed a new choir and have been performing in school, including at the Harvest worship.

They are beginning their Xmas Tour, singing at Hadleigh care homes for elders; performing at Benton End; and opening the Xmas Fair at the school, organised by the Friends of St Mary's School



School Main Hall
26th September—1st October
3.15pm-4pm



Every year, Miss Keeble our school librarian lays on a Travelling Book Fair in the main hall at the school.

Come with your children, browse and buy some of the wide variety of books on offer

All funds will help the school library

Miss Keeble's Book Fair was the most successful it's ever been and much money was raised for the school library. There was also a grand give-away of no-longer-needed books to parents and children after school in the Autumn term.

The school has continued its drive on Reading for Pleasure, encouraging all children to pick up a book that interests them, get comfortable and read, just for pleasure. Every class has reading for pleasure sessions which are relaxed, and child-led. We also have a class reader where teachers read every day to the whole class. All our writing sessions start with a text, this helps engage the children and helps us teach all the spelling, punctuation and grammar through these texts. We also use these texts to support creative writing, as knowing a text well gives children more confidence to write creatively. We have a reading shed on the KS1 playground which our year 6 librarians look after. This is really popular with children at lunchtimes.

HARVEST WORSHIP at St Mary's School



In HARVEST worship, we shared the children's artwork, songs and poems all relating to harvest and the importance of celebrating farmers and the crops. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their kindness and generosity in donating so much food that will help people who need it.

