

## News from St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Hadleigh



### **The School's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

St Mary's School has reached a huge milestone! We all celebrated the school's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. In 1968, the school was officially opened by Bishop Leslie Brown. We would like to thank all the former pupils and staff members who returned to the school over the last few weeks to meet the children and answer their questions about what the school was like in the past. After interviewing our visitors, all the children took part in an 'Everybody Writes' day and their writing was displayed for parents at the end of the school day. Children wrote all sorts of things, including newspaper reports and diary entries about the school's opening and reports about the school's history.



On the actual anniversary, 15<sup>th</sup> March, the day started with a talent show – the performers showed lots of courage while they entertained us with singing, dancing, gymnastics and comedy.

Then we held an assembly, in which each class presented work they had been doing about the school's birthday, including the papier mache sculpture made by Oak Class – they used made 50 sparkly, coloured balloons to make a big hot-air balloon sculpture with their memories about the school in the basket. Following this, the children had a party lunch, while there was a buffet for all our invited guests, including representatives from the Diocese and the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi Academy Trust; people from the local church; former staff members and pupils; and school governors. The guests included two of our former Headteachers: Mr Mann and Mrs Herbert, as well as three former Deputy Headteachers: Mr Brisland, Mr Girling and Mr Coombs. It was lovely to see so many members of our school community, past and present, come together to celebrate this special day.

We were delighted that Bishop Mike Harrison was able to join us for our celebration! Bishop Mike led us in prayer for the school and blessed our new spiritual garden. The spiritual garden is a quiet, calm place where classes or individuals can go for prayer or reflection.



After this, we had a special 50<sup>th</sup> birthday service at St Mary's Church in Hadleigh. Many thanks to Canon John Parr who welcomed us and prayed for the school and Reverend Sue Foster, who made a film about the school that was shown during the service – it included lots of comments from pupils, former staff members and parents about why the school is special to them. Our former Deputy Headteacher, Mr Coombs, accompanied the children on the piano for the hymns. The service included incredible performances from former pupils, Oliver Woods and Oliver Morris, as well as prayers written by the children and Bible readings based on some of the school's values (Year 6 voted for the values they thought were most important: friendship, compassion, respect and hope). The Bishop did a talk about hope for the future and the message that big things can come from humble beginnings, based on the parable of the mustard seed from the Bible. The service finished with a birthday cake, made by Mrs Tilling from the school office, and a rousing rendition of 'happy birthday'. It was a really special day in the school's history and now we are looking forward to the next 50 years!

## **Dance East**

Rowan Class have been involved in an exciting project with Dance East. Each week, Tom from Dance East supports the children in creating dances about themselves, using their bodies to make 'signatures'. The project will conclude with a video of final performances. Miss Pimm, the class teacher, said: "The children really enjoyed their first week; even reluctant pupils were dancing by the end! The children were active and engaged throughout the whole session, and were immediately excited for the next session." We are delighted to be part of the 'Our Town Dances' project and can't wait to see the finished work.

## **Storytelling**



Oak Class have really enjoyed their regular visits from Daphne the 'Story Lady'! At the moment, they are engaging with sensory stories on seasonal changes. They have also looked at Divali and Chinese New Year through oral storytelling. Children find their story sessions really inspiring, helping to develop their creativity and interest in stories and books. Thank you to Daphne for all her time and creativity!

## **Indoor Athletics**

Well done to the children in Year 5, who took part in an athletics festival at Hadleigh High School. There were lots of track and field events in the school hall. Many thanks to the High School staff and students for hosting another excellent event! The children enjoyed all the activities and were good team-players, giving each other lots of support and encouragement.

## **Collective Worship**



We have been delighted to receive lots of visitors to lead collective Worship so far this term, including representatives from Christian Youth Ministry, Reverend Joyce Willis, Mr Redmon, Mr Mann, Mr Hempstead, Reverend Bryn Rickards, Pastor Chris Todd and Reverend David and Wendy Atkins. They have helped the children to think about this term's values: 'perseverance' and 'justice'. Rowan Class presented an assembly for their parents on the theme of 'perseverance'. We were all entertained by their singing and rapping and their examples of times they have persevered. We have also been lucky to have a number of other visitors, who have shared their expertise in assemblies, including Abbie Smith from the MET Office, Cheryl from One Life Suffolk, PCSO Denise Ford and Anny and Claire, who talked about dental hygiene. Thanks to everyone who has helped us this term!

## **Snow!**



Hopefully, spring will actually arrive soon! However, we have all had great fun playing in the snow this term! The grown-ups couldn't avoid the snowballs for long!



