

News from St Mary's Primary School, Hadleigh – Summer Term

As always, the summer term has been really busy! One of the highlights was the upper Key Stage 2 production of 'Dream On', loosely based on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', was an epic, with lots of songs and lines to learn. There were enthusiastic performances all round, with some impressive solo singing, and getting into the character of the parts.



It is so important to raise children's aspirations and prepare them for future life. During our Careers Day, we invited people into school to talk about their jobs, work-place skills and how they use maths and English to help them in their work. We hope this supports the children in being ambitious and gives greater purpose to their learning. We were pleased to welcome a banker, a film director, an IT technician, and a lifeguard and swimming teacher to school, who talked to the children about their career path and work experience.



The children throughout the school produced some beautiful work for the Hadleigh Show. Year 2 produced some great art work on the theme of 'From farm to fork', and told the 'story' of apples and wheat through their art. Year 1 explored where a roast dinner comes from. Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage investigated all the different kinds of meat produced on Suffolk farms and then made a variety of sandwiches. The brusho ink table cloth they created together won first prize in the schools' tent at the show! Well done!

The children have been working hard in lessons and have made lots of progress this year. As well as topic work on Brazil, the Year 2 children have been looking at seed dispersal and and enjoyed making their own 'helicopter' seeds in science.



The Year 4 children have been studying the digestive system in science and took part with great enthusiasm in a digestion experiment to demonstrate how the digestive process works, using tights, gravy browning, white bread, strawberry jam, butter and coca cola! They have had great fun with their own weather reports – writing scripts, editing them and then filming them. Year 5 have also been studying the Tudors and have immersed themselves in the tragedy of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. Children in the Nursery had great success growing vegetables and have harvested and eaten peppers, cucumber, lettuce, tomatoes and – strawberries!

Everyone had a great time during our outdoor maths theme day. Year 3, for example, made sundials in a cross-curricular link to their science topic on light, and Year 5 linked maths and PE by measuring distances and times in various sports events on the field. It was a great opportunity to have fun and get active while doing purposeful maths.



Two of the most enjoyable whole-school events in the summer term were Sports Day and the summer fete and we were lucky with the weather on both occasions. Nursery and Ash class had their sports morning first which was very well attended by enthusiastic parents, keen to participate in the parents' races, as well as cheering on their youngsters. In the afternoon, it was the turn of KS1 and KS2, who took part in a wide range of field events and races. Excellent team leadership was shown by year 6, backed up by helpful sports prefects from Hadleigh High School, and the atmosphere was competitive but supportive. Congratulations to our overall winners, Green Team!



The summer fete was another lovely occasion, well attended by members of the school and wider community. It was launched with a dance prepared and executed by children who have attended Miss Emma's after school dance workshops. Huge thanks are due to everyone who put in so much time and effort to make the fete a success. Over £1000 was raised for the school support group, Friends of St Mary's, to put towards projects that will benefit all the children in the school; for example, transforming the cabin in the courtyard into a sensory space. As well as fund-raising for the school, the children also had the opportunity to raise money for charity on the 'Wear Something Yellow' day. This well-supported and colourful event raised over £200 for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.



Some children took part in a competition, open to all the local schools, to design a logo for the side of the council's refuse trucks, encouraging no litter or pollution, and the year 5 winner was delighted to see her design on the truck which pulled up alongside the playground, and also to take possession of a large, green frog-shaped litter bin which is now ready for break time banana skins and apple cores.



School Trips

Down in the Nursery the children are keeping up their visits to the residents of Sydney Brown Court. They have been making and sharing pizzas together and, as the weather has improved, gardening has been taking place, including a competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflowers. This initiative has really blossomed, with the children and the old people getting to know each other well. The Nursery and Reception children have also enjoyed a trip to Rendlesham Forest, exploring among the trees and the minibeasts, and making dens for forest animals.

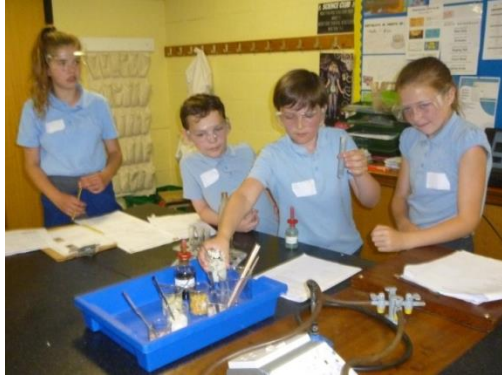
Year 4 enjoyed their trip to Christchurch Mansion in Ipswich, which reinforced their topic work on the Victorians. They looked at the contrast in the lives of rich and poor Victorians. During the morning, they explored the lives of the servants, trying out various jobs, such as being a butler, a maid and a cook. Also, they investigated the equipment people used for their jobs. However, in the afternoon, the children found out about what it would have been like to be the rich family living in the mansion. They looked at toys and inventions, matching modern items to their Victorian equivalents. The children were really interested in learning about deportment and they practised walking while balancing books on their heads and used backboards to help them sit up straight. Many thanks to everyone at Christchurch Mansion for a fabulous experience!



The Year 6 children have had a very busy year and have worked really hard. They were rewarded with a day out in London, a great treat which included a walk along the South Bank, exploring the city's Tudor history, a picnic lunch while enjoying the antics of the street entertainers, and a visit to both the Science and Natural History museums!



Chestnut class (year 5) experienced something quite new – a James Bond day at Hadleigh High School, which was very well organised and gave them the opportunity to sample maths, English, French and, very excitingly, science lab work, using Bunsen burners, all to discover who was responsible for killing James Bond!



It was great to see the children in year 1 so engaged with the Castle Hedingham experience, participating in all the role play situations and showing off their knowledge. Rain didn't spoil the day – in fact, it meant they could eat their lunch in the Great Hall, rather than outside on the grass like the peasants! Year 1's castles topic culminated in a splendid banquet in the school hall where they feasted on the bread, gingerbread and apple flapjack they had made, followed by medieval dancing and a jousting tournament with 'horses' and 'lances'. All the children made their own shields and swords for the occasion.



Collective Worship

Our Christian values this term have been 'Friendship' and 'Respect'. We have had visits from Father Jo, Mr Brisland (one of our former Deputy Headteachers), Jackie Cork and Brian Hempstead to lead Worship to reinforce these important values. Other visitors to our assemblies have included Sian Bendall from Hollow Trees Farm, who talked about the harvesting of crops and how they're used, One Life Suffolk who spoke about the importance of good sleeping habits, and Mrs Sparkes, one of our parents, introduced the children to the concept of mindfulness.



Year 3 kept us spellbound during their class Worship with their version of the story of the paralysed man and the determination of his friends to help him. We all loved the Ash class (Reception) assembly featuring 'The Bad-Tempered Ladybird', linked to our Christian value of 'Respect' – wonderful costumes and artistic props, including a giant whale! Elm class (year 2) also enthralled us with their assembly on the Brazilian rain forest and how we should protect it.



Then there was the excitement of the visit of Jonathan from Brazil, linked with the Baptist Church in Hadleigh, who came into worship bringing lots of information about the language and geography of his country. He taught the children a song in Portuguese and afterwards went to year 4 and year 2 to talk in more depth and answer questions about Brazil.



Music

Music is always a strength at St Mary's, and year 5 have had great success with their recorder playing. They took part in a whole day of music-making at the Delphi Centre in Sudbury with children from other schools, playing and singing together and then performing a concert for parents and friends. In the last week of term, the year 5 recorder players and the year 6 clarinet players gave the rest of the school a taste of their enthusiastic and accomplished playing and singing in a mini concert which put everyone in a happy mood! We also enjoyed an end of term performance from the lunchtime violin group of children from years 4, 5 and 6.



Sport

With the better weather there have been lots of opportunities for taking part in sports tournaments: 10 children from years 5 & 6 went to Quad Kids at Northgate High School, competing with 40 other schools in various athletic events. Our year 5 netball team went to Hadleigh High School for a mini tournament – they demonstrated excellent teamwork and support for each other – and came back as the winners! The Year 5 cricket team also attended a fun tournament, where they supported one another really well! As part of their transition activities, year 6 went up to Hadleigh High School to sample the delights of trampolining, which they all enjoyed very energetically, especially one boy who was cheered on to an unbeaten 23 seat drops with twist!



Year 5 completed 4 days of Bikeability, an extremely valuable activity which teaches children how to cycle safely on the road. All the children who took part enjoyed it and felt much more confident in their cycling ability at the end. Instructors Andy and Chris were impressed with their focus and achievement.



Children from Year 5 participated in a Multi-Skills Sports Festival at Hadleigh High School. They enjoyed playing in mixed teams with children from other schools. There were a range of sporting activities, including hurdles and egg and spoon, to help the children practise various skills, such as balancing. The children really enjoyed the session! Many thanks to all the people at Hadleigh High School who helped the children.



Our end-of-year events included the final achievement assembly, where we celebrated the children's successes in and outside school – lots of certificates and awards for football, dance, karate, open water swimming, gymnastics, and charity fund-raising. The Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 discos were very busy and celebratory.

Finally, the summer term ended in its usual emotional way as we said goodbye to year 6 and wished them well on the next stage of their educational journey. During the leavers' service at St Mary's church they reflected on the Christian values of trust, respect, courage and friendship, which they linked with memories of their time at St Mary's school. Then there was their party, the final assembly and the ritual of shirt-signing and off they went to new challenges and excitements, with our blessing!

