

Spring News

St Mary's Church of England Primary School Hadleigh

The first half of the spring term was very busy! The Nursery children have continued their regular visits to **Sydney Brown Court** where they share books, help to do jigsaws, and sing and play with the residents. As the weather gets warmer there are plans afoot for gardening and seed-planting. The children look forward to the visits and relate to the residents as great-grandparents!



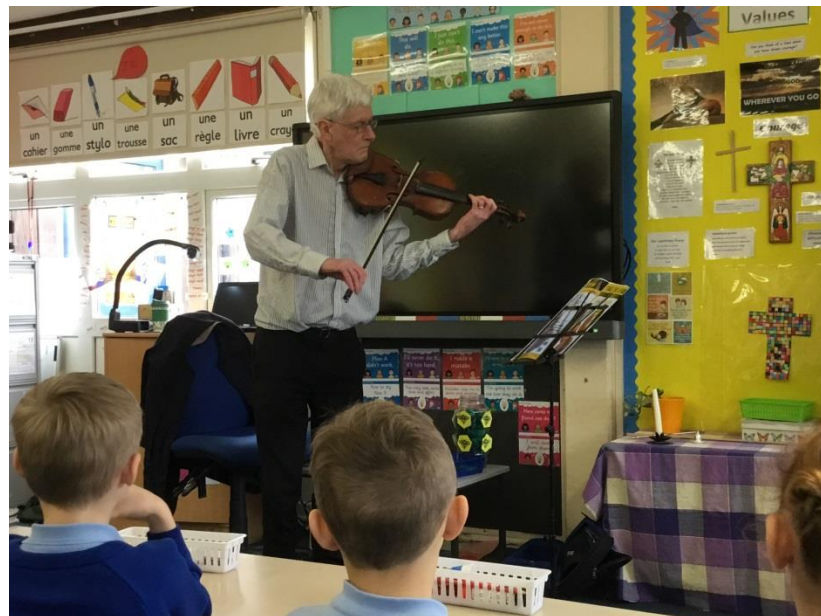
Reception class children have enjoyed the book '**Dinosaurs Love Underpants**' which has resulted in lots of dinosaur exploration, making fossils using clay and other malleable materials, digging for fossils in the courtyard garden, and writing their own dinosaur stories.

Daphne the Story Lady came into Year 1 with her sensory stories to help the children celebrate Chinese New Year. They ate Chinese food, created and performed a dragon dance, and made Chinese lanterns. In RE they have learned about Islam, in PE they have been practising gymnastics and putting sequences of movements together, and they have all enjoyed their topic work on Space.

In Year 2, the children engaged enthusiastically in their topic about '**Wonderful Women**', learning about the life and work of Mary Seacole, Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie and Rosa Parkes among others. They have studied animals, including humans, in Science and loved having the opportunity to ask questions about the development of the babies and toddlers who came into their classroom! We are now using the '**Maths, No Problem!**' scheme throughout the school, and in Year 2 it has certainly helped the children to work together, share ideas, support each other's learning, and use maths vocabulary confidently.



Year 3 had a fantastic trip to BT for a day of '**Computational Thinking**'. The children took part in 8 different workshops, all of which involved algorithms and programming skills. They used Beebots, iPads, laptops and their own minds to create or use sets of instructions. They enjoyed the challenge of programming traffic lights and a propeller. Three lucky children took part in a singing enrichment day at Beaumont School and had a delightful time. One commented, "Singing gives me a warm feeling," and, "I enjoyed singing to the adults and the younger children." Year 3's link governor, Brian Hempstead, brought his violin into the class. He talked about **the history of the violin** and how it makes its sound, and naturally played plenty of music! The children asked him lots of interesting questions and were a very appreciative audience.



Year 4 were really creative in art lessons with their rain forest collages and in Literacy with their rain forest stories. They studied sounds in Science, which involved making 'animal ears', linked to their **topic about rain forests!**



At the start of this term, Year 5 celebrated the New Year in French style by eating cake and crowning their 'King' for the day. They took part in a sports tournament at Hadleigh High School, putting in an excellent, whole-hearted effort and giving good mutual support. They all enjoyed a visit to Suez in Great Blakenham, learning about making **energy from waste**. Much fascinating information and lots of hands-on activities made this a very worthwhile trip. The children were complimented on their behaviour and the interesting questions they asked.



A group of children from Year 6 went to see an evening performance of '**Joseph**' at the High School, which was inspirational for those who are interested in going on to study drama. And excellent team spirit was demonstrated by the participants in the swimming gala. Back in school, there has been much cross-curricular work on blood! The children have made clay hearts, 'blood' smoothies, and some great artwork on blood cells.

We were delighted to welcome Sharon Lockhart from FCC Environment into school for a special assembly and workshops for the whole school all about **the three Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle!** Children learned all about ways to cut down on waste and packaging, and how to look after the environment by making new things from products we have used. The children enjoyed finding out what things we can recycle in our blue bins and sorting lots of rubbish! It was lots of fun and very informative.



Collective worship

We were fortunate again to have had a variety of visitors to our assemblies, including Father Jo Delfgou, who kept the children enthralled with a story about a dragon, David Atkins, Joyce Willis and Brian Hempstead, from St Mary's Church. A representative from Blue Cross talked to the children about how to be safe around dogs, and another from One Life Suffolk encouraged them to look at and understand food labelling. Many thanks to all the people who enrich the children's learning experiences!

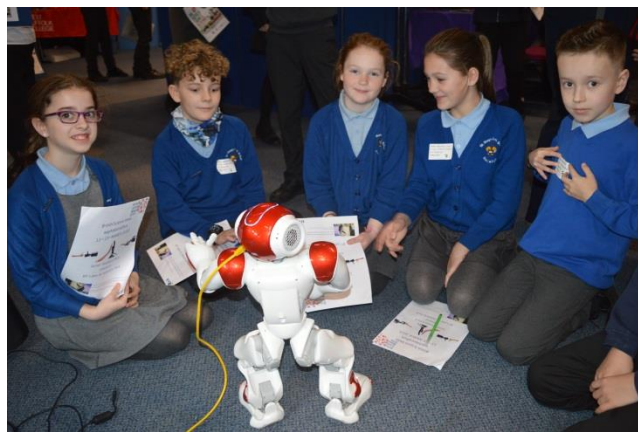
Since the half term break, we have enjoyed lots of whole school activities. **World Book Day** was a great success, with the children (and most of the staff!) dressed up as their favourite book character. We had a very colourful celebration assembly as the children showed off their costumes, catwalk-style, then split up into mixed age groups across the school to share books and stories. After lunch, parents and friends were invited to come in for tea and biscuits and to admire the children's work.



Red Nose Day gave the children another reason not to wear school uniform – who knew there could be so many shades of red! And then there was **World Maths Day**, during which each class took part in an Active Maths session. The children had lots of fun and showed their sense of community and responsibility on our school spring cleaning day when the children put into practice some of the ideas they have talked about as they learn to care about their environment. On 29th March, the children joined all the other Hadleigh schools in 'Wearing Red for Roo' to raise money to support a local girl who is unwell.



Visits: the children in year 2 had a splendid trip to Baylham Farm, getting close to lots of different animals and learning about their habitats, in a link with their science topic this term. Groups of Year 2 and Year 3 children took part in two multi-skills sports festivals at Hadleigh High School in which they were split up into teams with children from other local primary schools. They demonstrated great resilience and co-operation, and had tremendous fun! Another group of children, this time from years 5 and 6, took part in cross-country races at the Royal Hospital School; once again they represented the school with pride. The sloping school field provided a useful training course!



We were delighted to take six enthusiastic Year 6 pupils to the science fair at BT Adastral Park to celebrate **British Science Week**. They had a wonderful time listening to talks and engaging with fun, hands-on experiences about future technology. They particularly enjoyed learning about virtual reality, security, robots, using technology to help a patient and activities to encourage logical thinking. As always, the children behaved superbly and were excellent representatives of St Mary's School. We are very grateful to all the engineers and volunteers at BT, who organised an incredible event!



Year 5 and 6 visited St Mary's Church to find out about the Eucharist and the children from Year also visited the church for an Easter workshop. All the children really enjoyed exploring the church and supporting their RE lessons by investigating Christians' beliefs. Thank you to all the adults from the church community who organised the activities and supported the children. The children from Year 6 enjoyed another super visit to 'Crucial Crew' where they learned all about keeping safe in a variety of situations. They were really thoughtful and sensible in their approach to the scenarios they faced.



Many thanks to the Friends of St Mary's for organising **Film Night** and **Disco** this term. These are important social events for the school community. The children behaved brilliantly and had lots of fun; we are grateful for the funds raised for the school.



Several visitors have helped us by leading **Collective Worship** this term, including Father Jo, Reverend Bryn, Trish Pitt and Brian Hempstead. We are grateful for their help in thinking about the value of 'forgiveness', which has been our focus this half term. We were also delighted to welcome back our friends from the Christian Youth Ministry, who came in to help the children learn the Easter story. As always, their performance was an entertaining, fun way to share the message with the children.



Visitors: the children have benefited from meeting some excellent visitors this term, including a police officer who met the children from the Early Years. He told them all about his car and uniform and helped them to think about keeping safe. A visitor from the NSPCC led and assembly for the whole school and workshops for the older children. Once again, there was strong message about personal safety and lots of information for the children to reflect on.



Once again, we have been pleased to take part in a creative arts project with **Dance East**. This year's project, '**Hullabaloo**', involved two months of dance sessions with Dance East, culminating in a performance at St Mary's Church. They enjoyed creating dances about the wool process and learning about the history of Hadleigh as a wool town. Our friends from Dance East were so helpful and the children were wonderfully creative. Their final performance made us all feel very proud: their effort was tremendous, and they represented the school beautifully.



The Year 3 and Year 4 production of **'Pirates of the Curry Bean'** was hugely entertaining with lots of funny moments and lovely singing. The children did a marvellous job learning their lines as it was a long show with lots of speech. The costumes and props were fantastic – many thanks to everyone involved in organising the production. We all enjoyed sailing to the island of 'Lumbago' to hunt for treasure with the children!



The Year 5 children are all learning to play the recorder this year. They treated the whole school and parents to a **recorder performance** at the end of term, showcasing the tunes they have learned to play and singing some songs too. We were all really impressed by how well they played in time together!



As always, the spring term has ended with a special **Easter service at St Mary's Church**. Well done to all the children who contributed to the service with clear readings, thoughtful prayers and beautiful singing. Father Jo's story really engaged the children and helped the children to understand the importance of this special time of year.



After the service, we returned to school to have an **Easter party** in the hall with lots of craft activities for the children to enjoy with their parents and grandparents. It was lovely to see so many children having fun and being creative! Many thanks to the staff from the after-school club for organising the event. We hope everyone has a lovely Easter break and look forward to seeing the children in the summer term for more fun experiences and exciting learning!

