

News from St Mary's C of E Primary School, Hadleigh

Summer 2021



The summer term has been really busy at St Mary's. Although school is still a little different from 'normal', the children have enjoyed a range of experiences and activities to enrich their learning. All the classes were able to go on trips, either locally or further afield. It was lovely for the children to be able to get out of their classrooms and the school grounds to see a little more of the world!



A major event this term was Sports Day, which was an opportunity to get all the children outside and involved in the excitement of the day. Although the children remained in their class 'bubbles', they were able to cheer one another along and they created a brilliant sporting atmosphere. Field events included throwing and agility ladder activities and there were lots of very competitive races. This year, the Blue Bats were the winning team, dethroning the Green Gorillas!



Whole school events have included two charity fundraising days. We had lots of maths fun for 'Buddy's NSPCC Number Day Challenge' with lots of activities focused on active learning in maths. In total, we raised £163 for the NSPCC. The children also participated in a reading competition theme day in aid of Home-Start. Older children watched a video of Anthony Horowitz reading an Alex Rider story and then had to create their own 'super villain' for the 'Alex Rider' series of books by Anthony Horowitz. Younger pupils watched a video of Miranda Raison reading 'At the End of the Rainbow' and then had to draw the hero, Alvin, or to create a character that could be Alvin's friend or family. The competition was great fun and the children were excited to see their creations in the online gallery. A number of St Mary's children were shortlisted for prizes and we raised £142 for Home-Start. The children also enjoyed having a non-uniform day to celebrate. Children's writing has been inspired by a 'Character Creations' competition. Several children have gone on to read more Alex Rider novels, as well as write their own spy stories.



Many thanks to all the children and parents who brought in flowers as a big planting project to brighten up the school. Children planted flowers in pots, wellington boots, footballs and a variety of other recycled containers and the results were stunning! It has really helped to create a wonderful atmosphere around the school.



In **the Early Years**, the children have been learning all about mini-beasts. There have been lots of opportunities for bug-hunting, exploring and investigating, which has been very exciting! The children also enjoyed growing beans that they took home to continue looking after. The children had a lovely time on a local trip to the park to play.



In **Year 1**, the children have been learning all about castles. The highlight was a visit to Hedingham Castle, where there was a drama re-enactment and the children met soldiers, archers and Lady Oxford. Lady Oxford explained what life in the castle was like, including information about jobs and clothes. Towards the end of the term, the children enjoyed a banquet in school, complete with medieval dancing and jousting! They also wrote letters to the England football team to thank them for inspiring us. In particular, they thanked the players who were brave and took penalties in the final. We were really proud of them all.



In **Year 2**, the children have been learning about Kenya. This included finding out where it is and investigating the colours of the flag and the shield in the middle. Everyone enjoyed going on a pretend safari and looking at all of the animals we might see in Kenya, which linked in with the science topic about animals and their habitats. Children then designed their own National Park, making sure the habitats for each animal were within the design, taking into consideration what the animals ate, the need for water and what would provide shelter. Linked work included creating travel brochures to persuade people to visit as well as looking at stories based in Kenya.

Children planted beans in plastic bags to see their roots and shoots grow. They placed their plants in different locations to see if this changed how well they grew. Some were left in a cupboard; these did grow but they were yellow and thin whereas the ones that had more light were green with fat juicy looking shoots, and lots of roots. They are now having a sunflower competition!



The class went to Hollow Trees Farm for a fun day to enrich the science curriculum. Children looked at the different habitats and food chains on the farm, as well as looking at plants growing...they even picked some sage for the farm shop!



Year 3 have enjoyed a lovely Riverside walk, looking for bugs and plants, followed by a chance to play in the park. The nature walk was linked to an 'environment' afternoon, involving looking after plants and potting new flowers. The children also enjoyed their history topic on the Romans, which involved making mosaics, creating PowerPoint presentations and re-enacting Boudicca's battle. Their busy term has also included creating computer animations using the 'Scratch' programme, devising and performing playscripts and writing adventure stories based on 'Traction Man'.



Year 4 have been learning about the Victorians and had a trip to the Museum of East Anglian Life this term. the trip began with a Victorian School Room experience led by a member of the Museum's staff.



Throughout the term, the children have practised daily 'mindfulness'. A lot of the children appreciate this and benefit from the time to pause and settle their thoughts. The techniques they have learned will help them in the future. We are delighted that this term has seen the first opportunity for a long time for children to go and compete against other primary schools. Eight of the Year 4 children participated in a 'Quad-Kids' athletics festival at Hadleigh High School. Year 5 also sent a team to the competition, which included sprinting, long jumping and howler throwing. Many thanks to all who were involved in organising this. It was brilliant to be able to enjoy sports events like this once again. The children who attended displayed great team skills, supporting and encouraging one another.



Music has continued to be a regular weekly treat in **Year 5**. The class are doing an amazing job learning to play several pieces on the recorder. Their knowledge of music notation is growing as is their confidence. The number of children volunteering to play a solo and even improvise is impressive. A concert of all the pieces they have learned has been shared virtually with parents and we're immensely proud of their achievements. Several children are now keen to go on to learn the clarinet next year!



Gardening is also a real pleasure for many of the children in Year 5. A small group has begun growing some strawberries and carrots and everyone planted up a recycled container to improve the entrance into school for Year 5. Our containers even inspired a bit of poetry!



Running and Tag Rugby sessions have also been enjoyed after school or during lunchtimes, demonstrating what a sporty bunch Year 5 are. The majority of children have taken part in the Bikeability scheme, learning about the importance of bike control and how to start navigating roads and traffic more safely. The two courses were filled, so 24 children benefitted from the expertise of the instructors. The week was finished off by learning about the Tour de France – making it a completely cycle centred week.



The summer term has been full of activities for **Year 6**. The children attended a multi-skills sports festival at Hadleigh High School. Once again, we are really grateful to everyone involved in putting on this event. The children had a great time and represented the school well through their behaviour and fair-play. The children have also had fun learning about first aid from first responders and completing a chocolate tasting and evaluation. On a local walk, the children learned about the history of Hadleigh, visited the church and enjoyed a picnic lunch. Year 6 worked really hard on rehearsals for their production and they had lots of lines to learn! 'Reach for the Sky' was inspired by the Olympics and had lots of positive messages for the children. All the hard work paid off and we were proud of their final performance, which was recorded for parents.



At the end of the year, the children had a trip to Boxford Spinney where they did grass-sledging, campfire activities, cooking their lunch and a variety of outdoor games. This was followed by a barbeque at school in the evening and then a leavers' service at the church on the last day of term.

