

News from Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School

What a busy and productive year we have had at **Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School!** I feel very proud to be the new Headteacher and thought it would be nice to share some of our highlights with you.

Nursery

This academic year we extended our Nursery provision so that children aged 3 years and up can attend full time. Parents can choose to send their children for mornings only, for mornings and lunch club or for the full day. We also introduced a regular 'Stay Sing and Play' session on a Friday morning from 9.10 am – 10.00 am for parents/carers of children already in Nursery and Reception, as well as any parents/carers and their children, who are not at our Nursery or School.

Curriculum changes

We have given our curriculum a complete overhaul. To support our mixed age classes, we now have whole school topics, which focus on a different subject area each term. In the Autumn term, our topic was 'Animals' - driven by the science and art National Curriculum. Saplings Class learned about animals within the local environment, Chestnut Class learned about animals in the rainforest and Oak Class learned about classification and evolution. We made animals prints, looked at the work of Henri Roseaux and made 3D models of animals, which are currently on display around the school.

In the Spring term our topic was 'Storytellers,' with a specific focus on English and DT. The children in Saplings Class looked at a whole host of traditional stories and designed a new house for the three little pigs. Chestnut Class focussed on Rapunzel and designed towers following strict specifications! And Oak Class looked at some of the stories of Shakespeare and designed and made their own puppets to retell the stories.

During Lockdown, we wanted to continue with our whole school topic of 'Time Travellers' as far as possible, so home learning for Saplings Class was based around the space race and Neil Armstrong, Chestnut Class focussed on the Romans and Oak Class learned about WWII.

Enrichment

We want to create as many learning experiences as we can for the children of Stoke throughout each year, so this year we all went to the zoo, we had a travelling Planetarium visit, we had a puppet show and puppet workshop, we visited the Ark in Ipswich and we have been out and about in the local area as much as possible.

We were really proud to receive the 'Gold' Linguamarque award for our achievements in the teaching and learning of French and also the music mark award for excellence in music education provision. The children in Years 5 and 6 have had weekly cornet lessons since January, which have been in addition to the recorder, clarinet and piano lessons already on offer at school. We will be continuing with this next year.

Forest School

As I am sure you are aware, we have some amazing outdoor areas at Stoke by Nayland - in particular our 'wild area'. In order to make full use of our resources, Miss Moore started her training to become a Forest School Leader. Children in Saplings Class have been taking part in 'Wild Wednesday

afternoons' since October and we introduced additional sessions for other groups of children across the school, which they have all loved.

We are fortunate enough to have a wonderful eco team of parents, who run our Green Fingers after school club and were able to secure a grant exceeding £3000 from Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund to continue to develop, expand and enhance our outdoor learning areas for the benefit of the children, wildlife and local community. We are really excited to start work on this as soon as possible.

Spiritual Garden

We have also spent some time transforming an area of our playground into a Spiritual Garden. We are hoping to develop this area even further next year and have been very grateful to receive some donations to help with this.

Sarah Smith - Headteacher