**News from Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School**

Despite facing a second lockdown, this has not stopped us at Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School and we have enjoyed yet another busy and successful year. Here are some of the highlights:

**Pupil Numbers**

Following a big promotional campaign, including magazine and social media advertisements, the delivery of flyers to nearby villages and several local news articles over the past two years, we are delighted that we have lots more children joining our reception cohort in September than we have had in the last number of years. We would like to extend a huge welcome to the new families joining the school.

**Curriculum Changes**

We are beginning to see the impact of our creative, knowledge rich curriculum. Visitors cannot help but be impressed when they hear our three, four and five year olds talking confidently about the way fossils are formed, the different types of fossils and the wealth of knowledge the children can share about Mary Anning. Chestnut Class have recently become experts in the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic time periods and Oak Class have completed lots of learning all connected to Ancient Greece. We held a celebration of the wonderful learning in the classes at the end of the half term by turning the school into a museum and having all of the children visit each class. The children also enjoyed drama workshops as part of this unit of work to further their knowledge and understanding.

Our focus for the second half of the summer term is going to be design and technology, so each class will be embarking on a different cooking project.

**Wild Area**

Last year we were fortunate enough to receive a grant of £3000 from the Dedham Vale AONB Sustainable Development Fund, to extend our wild garden for the benefit of the children, wildlife and local community. With this investment and thanks to some fantastic volunteers, we have now extended the growing area, adding a poly tunnel and new fencing. The children at Stoke by Nayland enjoy this space as part of Forest School sessions, Eco Club and other lessons in the curriculum, and we have recently welcomed Thrive Adventure Toddler group to use the space on a Monday morning.

**Co-op Fund**

We were successful in our bid to join the Co-op community fund. With local residents supporting our cause, we have raised over £600 so far to develop one of our other outside areas for the benefit of the children and local community. We hope to start work on this project next year.

**Computer Suite**

Earlier this year, we invested over £10,000 in new computer equipment and moved the computer suite to a larger location in the school. The suite was officially opened by the mayor of Sudbury, Jack Owen back in September. Both the computer suite and new resources have made a huge difference to our computing curriculum and other areas of the curriculum too.

**New Headteacher**

It is with a heavy heart that I will be leaving Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School at the end of this academic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the school and am really proud of everything we have achieved over the past two years, but I am looking forward to a new challenge. Mr Frolish, headteacher of St Mary’s C of E School in Hadleigh, will become the interim Executive Headteacher of Stoke by Nayland C of E Primary School for the Autumn term. My thanks go to the Governors, staff, parents and children for the wonderful support I have had, and I wish the school the very best for the future.

**Sarah Smith - Headteacher**