



STOKE-BY-NAYLAND C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL and NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Volume 17 2019/20 Issue 12

31st January 2020

Dear Parents and Friends,

Christingle Service

The children have been learning about Christingle as part of their lessons and every child made a Christingle this week. On Thursday afternoon the whole school went to the church to participate in a service led by the children. It was a very special moment when the children lit their Christingles by passing on the light. Well done to everyone for such exemplary behaviour.

Slippers

Following the trial of wearing slippers inside the school, we have decided that we are going to return to wearing school shoes all day from Monday please. Changing in and out of the slippers has not been as slick as we had hoped, so to ensure that the children come into school in a calm, orderly fashion, immediately ready to learn - we have decided that the slippers will need to stay at home please, for the children in Chestnut and Oak Class. The children in Saplings class enjoy putting their slippers on for story time so this will continue.

Despite wearing slippers inside the school, we have still had a great deal of mud on the carpets, so, as in many other schools, the children will not be able to go on to the field at break times and lunchtimes until the weather is a little warmer.

Music Mark Award

We are delighted to announce that our school has been granted, Music Mark School Membership for this academic year. The award is in recognition of the value and commitment that the school places upon music, both academically and socially. We are delighted that the value and time we put into music at the school has been recognised in this way.



Athletics Competition

This week the Year 5 and 6 children and, one brave boy from Year 3 went to TGS to take part in an athletics event. The children all performed really well in the different activities. There were eight schools in total and next week, a further six will attend. We will then get the overall results.

Speaking about the day, Claudia said, "The day was really fun. We did obstacle courses and lots of running races. We also took part in an over and under relay race and came third in that. There were a lot of field events too like triple and standing long jump, as well as a chest pass skills test where you had to throw the ball to the sports leader. It was really fun meeting other schools and being part of the competition. There was a great atmosphere with everyone cheering each other on."

Boccia Success

We were delighted to feature in yesterday's free press. The article praised the children's success in the Boccia competition which has seen our team advance to the regional finals. Well done to all involved.



CD Gift

Reverend Mark was in school this week to present a gift of 20 new CD's (nearly 400 hymns and songs) to enable the children to enjoy and use a wider range of music when they have their daily act of Collective Worship. The CD's were purchased thanks to gifts from some parishioners and Stoke's PCC and donated as a way of affirming the much valued close link between the Parish Church and the Church of England Primary School.

Spellings

At Stoke by Nayland we follow the 'No Nonsense' Spelling scheme. The children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will usually have two spelling sessions each week based around a specific spelling rule and are divided up into their Year groups for this. The lessons focus on spotting patterns, learning rules and meanings, identifying 'tricky' parts of the words and looking at ways to try and remember these. It has long been proven that testing children in the traditional way of a spelling test each week is counter-productive. Children will often learn words for the spelling test but are then unable to apply these words in context, and some children score poorly despite having practised the words at home, which affects their self-esteem and has a negative impact on their writing.

At Stoke by Nayland we are moving to a 'review' of spelling words sent home. Children will be sent home words which have been taught in the week to practise at home. At the start of the lessons during the following week, these words are returned to in class. In the review, the children may have to write some of the words learnt in a dictated sentence, they may have a quiz, such as write the words that means 'x', they may also be asked to write a spelling word in a sentence of their choice. This approach then gives purpose, context and meaning to the spelling words and the children are much more likely to remember the words at another time.

We realise that this is a change in approach and at odds with how many parents may remember spelling lessons when they were at school, but we hope you will support us in this more meaningful approach.

Dates for the diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 5 th February	Bag2School Collection by 9.am
Friday 14 th February	Whole school PD day Hadleigh Swimming Gala for Selected Pupils

Best wishes