

Dear Parents and Friends,

It has been a busy term so far. Here is some news and information.

Modern Foreign Languages Day

This was a very successful and fun day where children learnt about the culture of 4 different countries-Brazil, Greece, Iceland and Spain. The children got into the spirit by coming to school dressed in the colours of the flag of their country or in national dress. They learned about the flag, customs and food of their country as well as key words in the language. The day also involved arts and crafts and presenting what they had learnt on postcards. The variety of activities meant there were lots of stories to tell at the end of the day in a 'Show and Tell' assembly.



British Athlete Visits Our School

We were delighted to welcome one of Britain's top female hurdlers, Serita Solomon on 3rd October. Serita first represented Britain in 2006 at the European Champion Clubs Cup for Juniors and has since competed in World and European championships including the 2014 Commonwealth games in Glasgow. Children and teachers took part in a sponsored fitness circuit followed by a talk and question and answer session. The aim of the event was to encourage children to take up sport and to follow their dreams. Serita put the children through their paces doing press ups, star jumps and sit ups. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and some of the hard-earned proceeds will go towards purchasing sports equipment for the school.



Harvest Festival

Family and friends joined us for our annual Harvest Festival in Stoke by Nayland church – a beautiful setting for the

festival. Items included a song about vegetables from our youngest children in Saplings, to Autumn art work and poetry, harvest for living a 'good' life and a song from Oak class entitled 'Harvest for the World'. The older children wrote their own prayers of thanks and a range of harvest songs, including accomplished solos, were sung. Many thanks to Revd. Val for her contribution. Year 4 children delivered harvest parcels to some of the older folk in the local community, giving them a chance to show service and chat with an older generation.



Recreation Ground Committee

A vacancy has arisen for a school representative on the Recreation Ground Committee. The committee have 4 meetings a year, with other communication being completed by email. The representative does not have to attend all meetings, but must be contactable for opinions and representing the school's interests. If you are interested in this vacancy, please let me know and I will put you in contact with the Chair of the committee, Michele Bradshaw.

Staffing News

There will be a few staff changes at the end of this term.

After working with us for 9 years, Mrs Hill has decided it is time to move to another school nearer to her home. I would like to thank Mrs Hill for her hard work and dedication in Saplings class and prior to that when she worked with years 3 and 4. We will all miss her very much, but wish her every success in her new post.

I have recently held interviews and we are in the process of appointing a teacher with experience of teaching Early Years and Year 1 to work alongside Mrs Hall. Her name is Mrs Andrews and you will have the opportunity to meet her nearer the end of term.

Mrs Linton, who has been with us since May will also be leaving. She currently does one morning a week in Oak class. From January she hopes to have the freedom to travel more, but we hope we will still see her from time to time as a supply teacher.

Mrs Barton, a much valued teaching assistant, will be retiring at the end of this term after an amazing 33 years working at our school! For many years she worked almost full-time, but has gradually cut her hours and now feels it is time to take a well-earned rest. Over these many years Mrs Barton has supported hundreds of children with reading, spelling, maths and writing as well as being a listening ear for those in need. Thank you!

And finally, Bernard Bailey who has been our school gardener for over 26 years has, due to ill health, taken the difficult decision to retire. We are extremely grateful to Bernard for all his hard work over the years, going above and beyond expectations to ensure the grounds around the school have been well looked after. He has also worked voluntarily with the Eco-Club, sharing his knowledge, expertise and passion for gardening and enthusing the pupils to get involved with various outdoors conservation projects. We hope to see Bernard at our Christmas Meal on 14th December, so we can all thank him for all his hard work.



REMINDERS

The school photographer will be in school on Monday morning (13th November).

Photographs will be taken of individuals and family groups within the school. If your child has a pre-school sibling and you would like their photograph to be taken together, please bring the pre-schooler in at 8:45 so these can be done before the start of the school day.

- **Christmas Lunch orders and payments need to be in by Monday 13th November.**
- **Oak class 'Big Sing' replies and payment due in by Wednesday 15th November.**
- **Dress down day for Christmas Fayre stall items, Friday 24th November (as per Friends' letter).**
- **Christmas Fayre Friday 1st December.**
- **Oak class Kingswood trip second instalment of £35 is due in by Friday 8th December.**

With best wishes

Jane le Grice
Headteacher