



# Stoke by Nayland Governors' Newsletter



SUMMER TERM 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the academic year draws to a close it is a good time for reflection. We have several reasons to celebrate this term – primarily for our strong showing at the first ever Suffolk Children's University graduation and achieving our Gold Linguamarque award. For the second year in a row, all staff are in place ready for September, with no changeover in the summer months. The one exception of course is the arrival of our new Headteacher Sarah Smith. Many of you will have seen Mrs Smith at the concert and open evening. She has been visiting the school, meeting with Mrs Le Grice, teachers and students and is working closely with governors to ensure a smooth transition.

In this issue of the Governors' newsletter we will focus on Mrs Le Grice whose hard work and dedication has benefitted our children in so many ways. At present Mrs Le Grice's focus is tying up loose ends, sorting and readying the Headteacher's office and preparing for the transition. Key areas of focus this term have been preparing for the next Ofsted inspection under the new Ofsted Framework and organising the replacement of the perimeter fencing. Other areas of focus include ensuring High Achievers are effectively challenged, improving pupils' progress and attainment in mathematics through maths mastery and ensuring the curriculum approach is consistent across the school. Students are encouraged to 'Engage, Enquire and Respond' to topics and themes across subjects leading to a greater depth of understanding.

Students have been busy this term engaging in a range of activities from staging the excellent 'Sleeping Beauty-the Ugly Truth' to the Outdoor Maths Day and the recent School History Day which saw everyone travel back in time to the Victorian era. As part of the School History Day students have recorded oral history, asking Mrs Le Grice how the school has changed over the years. Mrs Le Grice has been a member of staff at Stoke by Nayland Primary School for 28 years and Headteacher for almost 12 years. Here Mrs Le Grice shares some of her background and experiences:



## **What is your background in education?**

I qualified as a primary school teacher with music as a specialist subject in 1981. My first post was in Suffolk and I have always taught in Suffolk. Music has always been a part of my teaching but I have taught all subjects. I came to teach part-time in Stoke by Nayland in 1991 as a Head's relief. It was like a job share but I focused on the teaching and not the management side. Over the next 6 or 7 years I gradually increased the amount of time I was teaching until I was teaching full time. I applied for a job as a Senior Teacher which was effectively a Deputy Head role. I maintained an interest and love of promoting music and the arts as well as regular classroom teaching.

**What made you want to become a Headteacher?**

When the Headteacher role became vacant in 2008 the school had been through a lot of changes. I had worked closely with the previous Headteacher and was asked to take on the Acting Headship role. Once I got into the role I found I really enjoyed enabling others to do their best. I applied for the permanent role and was successful in getting it.

**What are your best memories at Stoke by Nayland?**

I have enjoyed seeing 3 and 4 year old children coming in as little more than toddlers and watching how they mature and grow in self-confidence by Year 6. I also enjoy getting to know families and being part of the community.

**How has Stoke by Nayland changed over the years?**

We moved from being a first school up to Year 4 to taking on Year 5 in 2012 and then Year 6. Currently, we educate less children from the village because there are fewer children here now. But the family atmosphere draws people in from other villages.

**What makes Stoke by Nayland special?**

It is family oriented and very inclusive (although we are a Church of England school everyone is welcome). Staff get to know every child and every family.

**What are your plans for September and beyond?**

I'm planning to go on holiday and I have a family wedding to go to as my son is getting married. I'm going to have a long rest until January. I will see where I am in January and where to go next. I believe that when one door closes (even if you have closed it yourself) others will open.

**Any other thoughts?**

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be Headteacher of such a special school. I wish the new Headteacher, staff and families continued success in years to come.

**Governors would like to thank Mrs Le Grice for her many years of commitment to the school. We wish Mrs Le Grice and all of our staff, children and parents a wonderful summer holiday!**

