

I have now been in post as Headteacher of Harleston Primary School for a year and what a busy year it has been. Last summer saw the change in testing for our children in Year 2 and Year 6. We were proud with the way they dealt with a significant leap in the expected standards and as a school we met at least expected national standards in all areas.

In the summer, we were taken over by pirates! As part of our Oceans and Seas whole school project, Pirate Day was a huge success. Everyone entered the spirit of the high seas and dressed up as pirates for the day with the flag of the Jolly Roger flying high over the playground. All pupils were involved in activities during the day including story writing, face painting, cooking, treasure hunts in the woods, craft activities, drama and poetry.

Eagerly awaited auditions have just taken place for parts for cast and backstage crew in our this year's play of "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies". This promises to be a fun-filled production, packed with catchy songs and terrible jokes.....as usual!

We welcomed Amy Dickson to our school. As a professional classical saxophonist, Amy is a twice Grammy Award nominee and 2013 Classical Brit Award winner. She has been developing close links with our school sharing her 'Take a Breath Campaign' with our children. This helps to equip young children in their formative years with simple, yet invaluable, techniques to encourage them how to breathe properly. Our pupils have been learning this 'Elephant Breath' technique to help them remain calm in stressful situations, such as before taking a test.

In October, Year 5 donned their cloaks and walked in the footsteps of the Anglo Saxons as they visited the ancient Anglo Saxon village of West Stow! Even the bad weather couldn't dampen their spirits as they explored the different Anglo Saxon buildings and had the opportunity to practise their weaving and perform the play of Beowulf in the Great Hall.

Our Harvest Festival was in aid of Farm Africa and the children all played their part in telling the story of a family who had received help from the charity. The charity works with families and communities in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Tanzania and Kenya.

Year 6 children had an amazing visit to London in October, enjoying a guided tour of The Globe Theatre on London's Southbank, an incredible drama workshop led by Globe Theatre actors, a boat ride on the Thames which took them to Tate Britain where they viewed world famous works of art. The day was rounded off with a fantastic guided tour by coach of London's famous landmarks.

Year 6 pupils put on both a moving and hilarious performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream to a packed audience of more than 200 people! Every pupil in the year group starred in some way in this magical comedy. All performances were greatly influenced by the drama workshop the pupils were lucky enough to experience in London, led by a true-life Globe Theatre actor.

A wet Thursday saw over 150 primary school children descend on Archbishop Sancroft High School to compete in a cross-country event. The children, all from schools in the Harleston Cluster, were competing for places in the South Norfolk Schools Sport Partnership event.

In November, we were invaded by an army of patterned pupils! Once again, the children did not disappoint in their fundraising efforts for Children in Need, based on our theme of 'Patterns for Pudsey'. This year, a whopping total of £718.49 was raised!

The children celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite children's book characters. There were Horrid Henrys, a varied selection of Harry Potter characters (including a very impressive Hagrid) and even a Dennis the Menace, to name but a few! Over the course of the day, the children

took part in various fun book-related activities, including sharing their favourite book with friends and using the text 'How Many Jelly Beans?' to learn more about numbers.

Last term, over 50 children from across the school braved the weather to walk to school together with their teachers. It was great to see so many people keen to take part - children and teachers alike. Each child who walked 'on the bus' received a luminous snap wrist band for their efforts.

These exciting events, to name but a few, have enhanced our curriculum during the past year and happened on top of the high-quality teaching that goes on daily in our classrooms. This is down to the hard work of a very dedicated team of staff and governors who work tirelessly to constantly strive to provide the very best we can for the children of Harleston.