

TIVETSHALL SCHOOL REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, MAY 2013.

Carol Green, head of Tivetshall School, gave a verbal presentation to the Annual Parish meeting. She has very kindly provided her notes and given permission for me to weave a narrative around them. I can only hope I have done them justice .. Tony Jollans, July 2013.

Before beginning my report on the school year, I would like to thank the parish council for providing funding towards the purchase of a school team strip and an outdoor bench.

The year, as always, has been varied. The teddy bears' picnic gave new Reception children an opportunity to visit the school with their families, while, at the other end of the school, the year sixes celebrated the end of their twelve test papers by organising a party for the whole school. In between parents and friends joined the children in rôle play and topic work by making planes big enough to ride in.

Basic education has been complemented by activities built around a variety of special occasions. Timed more by nature than the calendar, blackberry picking introduces the children to the joys of eating fruit from the bush, despite their denials, and also familiarises them with their local environment. In November, our bonfire party saw the children toasting bread and marshmallows on an open fire. Later the same month we were privileged to have members of the Royal British Legion come and talk to the pupils, as we had been unable to join them for the annual Remembrance service, and the school held their very own service with Rev. Mills, where they laid wreaths, read poems and prayers and joined in the two minutes silence.

Christmas began with the children singing carols on the village green on a freezing evening, and all were very grateful to the Friends of Tivetshall School who, once again, supported the children by providing delicious and warming refreshments. Our star-themed design came second in the 50 trees competition at Dickleburgh church, and we had a Christingle service in our own, candle-lit, church with flower arrangements helping to enhance the lovely atmosphere. Our thanks must go to all the wardens, and especially, Rev. David Mills, Sue Fletcher and Maureen Drury, for helping to make this a special occasion.

The Christmas lunch, with carol singing, was a community event, and "It's a Cracker", as always, a success, packed the Village Hall with families, friends and supporters, and Father Christmas, who had read all the children's letters, was able to respond via a video conferencing link. The year ended with the Christmas Funforce party, provided by the Friends.

In February, the Chinese New Year was celebrated through food, music, craft and cultural activities, and Shrove Tuesday provided another excuse for cooking. This was followed by 'Mothers' Day Café', a French pâtisserie treat for mums and dads, with a selection of freshly baked cakes and refreshments served by the older pupils. The international flavour continued into 'Aeroplane Day', a community event seen by staff as the best activity this year in terms of learning and enjoyment. Pupils brought their passports, tickets and luggage to school, went through passport control and security, and through the wonders of technology and with a bit of help from Dutch and Indian visitors, they travelled to China, Holland and India, eating food and learning about the different cultures. The Easter Garden competition was held on the last day of the spring term and was won by Adam in Y4.

Not content just to learn at school, the children went on outings to learn more. Class 1 walked to the church, with Reception children looking at numbers in the environment and Y1 & Y2 sketching the font; they also managed a trip to the high school for a morning of street dance. Class 2 travelled to Ipswich museum to enhance their understanding of the ancient Egyptians, and thrilled us all with gory facts

about such things as extracting brains through the nose. West Runton was the destination for the Y5 & Y6 residential where pupils tackled their fears and worked on their strengths. Roydon also played host to our children, with Y1 & Y2 learning about programming computers and algorithms, and Y6 attending for ICT lessons.

In sport, Y3 & Y4 children were commended for their excellent behaviour and team spirit at an event hosted by Diss Rugby club, and came back tired, muddy, and happy, having come a very creditable sixth in the Tag Rugby tournament. The netball team, brilliantly coached by Tara Kidd, came second in the South Norfolk small schools final, and Class 1 travelled to the high school for a multi skills festival entailing running, jumping, and throwing, again drawing comments on their excellent behaviour.

Safety, especially for our young children, is always a concern, and was not forgotten. Y1 & Y2 were shown how to cross the road safely during their road safety afternoon, and all Y5 & Y6 passed their cycling proficiency tests in the annual course run by Sarah. We also had a Road and Rail Safety day with a visit from the British Transport police, and under the banner of Safer Stranger, pupils were taught who to turn to if they were lost or scared.

The children did their share for charity, raising £100 at a combined Macmillan coffee morning and harvest festival, while the School Council decided to hold a 'wear it pink' day for breast cancer research, which raised £30. Red Nose day, organised by the children themselves, brought in £36.50, and a cake sale in February raised £35.75 for chicken food!

A Saturday working party involving parents managed to move the raised beds, and the garden shed, weed all the tubs and beds, powerwash the hard surfaces and, most importantly, move the chickens to their new palatial home.

Planned events for the remainder of the school year include a further safety day, about electricity, and sports events including rounders and athletics, sports' day with Burston school, and Class 1's sports' picnic at the UEA. We also have the annual flower arranging competition, the cup for which has been awarded and engraved for over 50 years, and activity week with a potions and experiments theme culminating in an overnight camp.

Carol Green, May 2013.