



# Bodiam CE Primary School

Annual Report 2023-24

## Terms 1 & 2

We welcomed new pupils to the school as they began their Reception year with us. They had a wonderful start as they learnt 'All About Me' whilst they settled into school, learned rules and routines, made new friends and explored who they were in the world.

The children from Years 1 to 6 all engaged with their new Learning Journey, 'Divide and Conquer', through which they explored key knowledge from important events in British History including about the Battle of Hastings which is particular to our own local area, the impact of the Romans and Anglo-Saxons on Britain, through to consideration of whether the historical representations of the Vikings was fair.

Christmas events were in full swing at the end of Term 2. The children enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Fair which the PTA organised – it was a great success! They also treated the whole school to a trip to the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' where the children very much enjoyed this traditional seasonal event. This bit of theatre was enjoyed alongside a fabulous production of 'The Big Little Nativity' by our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils as they celebrated the Nativity story. We collectively took part in a Reverse Advent calendar and collected a huge number of food contributions which were donated to the Hastings Food Bank and of course the community enjoyed the traditional Carol Service at the church which was a most fitting send off at the end of term.

## Terms 3 & 4

In Terms 3 & 4 our youngest pupils learnt about 'The World I Share' as they explored developing friendships, understood the importance of keeping healthy, became more aware of the past linked to themselves, their families and communities, and explored what people's lives are like in other countries.

The children from Years 1 to 6 embarked on their second Learning Journey, 'Go Wild'. This topic focused primarily on learning progression in Geography as they explored key knowledge as they considered 'What will happen if the rainforests disappear?'; 'Why is the Amazon so important?' and 'What is the most amazing thing about the Amazon rainforest?'

We had a wonderful Reading Afternoon Tea for World Book Day where parents were invited in to the school for tea and cakes, to read with their children. We celebrated and raised money for Red Nose Day by 'wearing something red' to school and ended the term with a wonderful Easter Service led by Rev. Tom, who unfortunately had to conduct it in the school hall as the weather was too inclement for us to walk to St. Giles.

## Terms 5 & 6

The start of Term 5 saw a plethora of new improvements to our school – we launched our new ‘little library’, a tiny but welcoming space for the children to sit and enjoy reading for pleasure; we embraced our ‘calm corner’, a quiet, cocooning space to support children who need some calming time where then can recover and feel safe when they may feel overwhelmed; and our ‘wiggle wall’, a sensory circuit of physical activities designed to alert, organise and calm the child. Alongside this we had our playground repaved with new, exciting playground markings, transforming it into a bright, exciting and engaging space for the children. The responses from the children have been very positive!

In terms of learning, during Terms 5 & 6, our youngest pupils will engage with the topic ‘More than me’ during these terms as they learn about where they live, who they live and work with and their place in History. They will be preparing for their transition to Year 1 later on in Term 6, as we also prepare to welcome our new school entrants.

The final Learning Journey for pupils in Years 1 to 6 is ‘Changing Times’. Through this the children are thinking about big questions such as, ‘How has exploring space been useful for the human race?’, ‘How have the Tudors influenced life today?’ and the ever more pertinent, ‘How does war change a country?’.

We are also preparing for exciting events such as sports day, the summer fun day, the end-of-year play and of course our services to say goodbye to our Year 6 leavers as they prepare to move on to secondary school.

## Gallery

