

East Worlington Primary School Report to Parish Council 26th May 2015

We have had an action packed year so far at East Worlington School. With events such as visits to a space dome, day trips to Paignton Zoo and a fantastic day out at RHS Rosemoor. The School has had a lot of changes this year, starting with a new acting Senior Teacher, Suzie Pinn, and the unplanned closure of the 'old school building'. At the beginning of the autumn term, the staff returned to a mountain of wood in the playground and boxes galore in every space that a box would fit, however with team work and the help of our ever hard working parents we got the school opened for the children so they would hardly know that there had been any problems.

We welcomed 4 new reception children in September, who have settled in beautifully, as well as a further 9 children who have joined us at various points in the year. They have joined a school with a very active social calendar where there is almost never a week without something happening. We enjoyed topics on space, growing, rainforests, seasons, and a local study with close links to the Parish Hall Heritage Committee.

We have been lucky enough to have many visitors to the school, who have all helped us to learn more about our topics or have taught us new skills. We have had basket weaving lessons, the police and community officers, lifeguards, oral story tellers, and a professor of botany who came in and talked to us about the rainforest and showed us artefacts such as baskets and hats made by natives in the rainforest, giant seeds and fascinating pitcher plants, he finished with a display of how to use a blow dart to pop a balloon, to name but a few of our visitors. Our children in Years 2-5 also took part in a new initiative to give younger children first aid skills, training was provided by St Johns Ambulance, and so they each gained a first aid certificate with skills such as; bandaging, stopping bleeding, the recovery position and recognising poisons and much, much more. The Acorns went on a trip to the local farm and the classes are taking part in forest school in the schools forest school areas thanks to the stewardship and generosity of Jean Smyth. We recently had a visit from the Devon Waste Management consultant who helped us to sort our rubbish in order to improve our recycling and reduce our environmental impact as a school.

At the beginning of the year, we visited an enormous space dome set up in our sister school at Lapford, where we were literally surrounded by space and we could zoom in or out to experience the wonders of the solar system. We went on a visit to RHS Rosemoor, where we explored the wonders of the dragon trail, and took part in their workshops on rainbow colours and map reading skills, completing a treasure hunt using maps and orienteering skills. We recently went on a trip to Paignton Zoo where the children enjoyed seeing the amazing creatures: From crocodiles guarding their eggs, to families of giraffes, and even tiny poison dart frogs. Our most recent visit was a shared visit for the foundation and preschool children from Exmoor Zoo. We are lucky enough to have the best PTFA, probably in the country, who pay for all these amazing experiences through wonderful fund raising activities such as jumble sales and the summer duck race.

The children had harvest festival and our Christmas concert in the church next door to the school and the Acorn class and Preschool enchanted everyone with their nativity. The children are really talented singers and performed beautifully for families and members of the community, this was followed by mulled wine and mince pies and the grand prize draw. The children were delighted to be visited by Father Christmas as part of our Christmas party with presents for all.

This year we have introduced a citizenship award to the school. There are 3 parts to the award, the first is contributing to school life, the second it to learn a new skill or take part in a community

club, and the third is to raise money for charity. We already have 5 children who have completed this award raising over £400 between them. With out of school achievements such as up to stage 7 swimming, triathlons, football and tennis clubs as well as passing grade 2 royal academy of ballet gratings with merit passes.

As a whole school we have also taken part in a number of fund raising activities such as raising money for; Onesie day for Diabetes Awareness, a cake sale for Children in Need, Wear a Christmas Jumper for Save the Children and the talent show for Comic Relief.

We are currently taking part in the community project to make a museum in the Parish Hall, and so we had a day as a Victorian school to feel what it would have been like when the school was first opened as a board school back in 1890. This fits in well with the plans to renovate our old school house which is also a grade 2 listed building. The building work has exposed original features such as the lintels, 3 original fire places and an old beam thought to be 500 years old. In other areas of the school we are continuously improving our facilities with work starting on the playgroup enabling us to have a terrific new all-weather facility, and the totally revamped preschool and foundation stage class which is now a bright and lively place for the children to learn and play in. We also have plans for an outdoor classroom and to improve recycling in our school.

We are incredibly lucky to have so many parent and community volunteers from people who help with trips to helping the children with music, daily reading and helping the children change their library books. Thank you everyone.

The children in the year 6 Academy have really benefited from joining forces with the other children from Chulmleigh and Lapford, and benefit from regular lessons at the college with specialist teachers and facilities.

The school has actively encouraged high standards in sports this year with highly skilled sports coaches from; Exeter Chiefs, Arsenal Soccer School and Exeter City Football Club, who have come in to teach the children gymnastics, football, rugby, dance and much more. We have also taken part in several competitions with our children doing very well and achieving some good wins against local schools. We are also lucky enough to have parents who coach the children in netball and football.

This term the whole school has started swimming lessons at Yeatheridge Holiday Park, where Geof and Liz have been kind enough to give the school exclusive use of their pool an hour a week enabling all children to advance their swimming.

Overall it has been an action packed year, with the children working hard on their learning and enjoying school.