first walked through the doors of Hadleigh Infants school in May 1969, shortly after my Sen birthday I don't remember it myself but my mun tells me I had to be carried up the path solding. However, I did come home and tell her in great detail about all the things I had done. Apparently I continued to come home each day full of news of my day learning to read and sharing books was a particular highlight. The one downside was the days when the school dinner dessent was rice pudding! Even the blob of jan in the middle didn't lessen my distine of it Il years later I returned to do 3 weaks of work experience, having finished my o level exams. without anyone realising, I was placed with the teacher whose class I had been it all those years previously. I evjoyed this

time so much that I made the decision that I too would like to become a teacher. After training I spent many enjoyable years teaching at a school is southerd. Now happing retired, I have been welcomed back into this wonderful school, supporting some of the children is year I and 2. Hopefully they are enjoying our time together as much as I an

in 1965 there were 333 children over 9 classes in





## Memories from Mrs Thrale, Teacher at HINS 1992-2013 and Commendation Award Holder

I have been associated with HINS for 38 years, not only as a parent and teacher but now also as a grandparent of a current pupil. It is a place very dear to my heart and I have many lovely memories of wonderful children and fantastic staff.

My daughter started at Hadleigh in January 1987. In those days children started school at the beginning of the term in which they would have their fifth birthday. I had offered my services as a supply teacher and soon after began to cover classes when teachers were attending courses, which were introducing them to the new National Curriculum. I soon realised what an amazing, caring, happy, friendly, supportive and above all, incredible learning environment the school was.

After being a supply teacher, I had the opportunity of working first as a job share in the Nursery, now called Explorers, with Val Carracher, and later as a full time teacher in both Year One and Year Two. The Nursery was originally situated where the current Reception classes are in rooms 8 and 9. The building of the new purpose built nursery, at the front of the school, was a very exciting project but very messy and noisy. During my teaching time at Hadleigh we had other building projects, including having a new pitched roof and replacement windows - all during term time! Each class had to vacate their classroom when it was time for the work to begin on it. We were fortunate to have a spare classroom at the time, so each class moved to this room until their classroom was finished. The children enjoyed the experience but I'm not so sure all us teachers did!

I remember, as something a little more unusual, the whole school having an aerial photograph taken from a helicopter. We had arranged with the photographer on the helicopter that we would organise all the children to stand on the playground in the shape of an H (for Hadleigh). Getting every child to stand still in their particular place of the H formation, until everyone was in place, was no mean feat! understandably it took a while, but the results were great, with photos of everyone looking up and waving.

When our late Queen was celebrating her Golden Jubilee we had an incredible party on the playground. Tables and chairs were put in several long rows and all the staff served the children with wonderful party food, which had been prepared by the kitchen staff. Every child and adult in every class had designed and made their own golden crown to wear at the party along with patriotic red, white and blue clothes. It really was a wonderful spectacle and the

weather was very kind.

I remember many of the children I have taught through being a class teacher at HINS. Nothing delights me more than when I meet them out and about locally as young adults, enjoying the next stages of their learning and careers.

I feel very privileged to be a part of the history of HINS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!





Memories from Keely Horn, Hadleigh Pupil 1987-1990

As a pupil from 1987-1990, I have the fondest memories of my time at Hadleigh Infants. A visit from the Mayor, pet rats called Ruby and Pie kept in my Year 2 classroom who we were allowed to name, looking for tadpoles at the school pond and my teacher Mrs Allen playing the guitar as we sang are just a few that spring to mind! I also remember being a sugar plum fairy for our Christmas play 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. I always felt happy and settled at Hadleigh and am so pleased to now be able to have returned to the school as the Book Lady' as I feel so at home there!



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FRONT OFFICE FACELIFT



NEW NURSERY BLOCK 1999 Miss Hoath's first day at Hadleigh Infants in 2004. 21 years later and she is back with us!















Memories from Mrs Pratt, 39 Years Service in Nursery and Counting!

Hadleigh has always been a friendly and welcoming School right from the very first time I walked in back in 1986. Mrs Ball was the Head of the school then. Nursery was situated in Class 8 and 9 (Scotland and England Classrooms) and we had little wooden table and chairs. As the school pupil number increased, the nursery moved to Class 7 (Wales Classroom) and Reception was placed in Class 8 and 9. Most people won't remember that there was a corner shop at the top of Bilton Road where it meets Scrub Lane. The Nursery staff used to walk small groups of children to the shop to buy ingredients for cake making activities. It later became a flower shop so we bought plants to plant around the Nursery garden and around the School. We have always kept links to the local area visiting the local Castle, Fire Station and Police Station. More recently we have ventured to Belfairs Woods too. We have enjoyed many school trips but one that sticks out in my mind was visiting Colchester Zoo on a red double decker bus! Nursery have always loved getting the children involved with animals from hatching duck and chicken eggs and watching them develop, to having rabbits and guinea pigs, not forgetting Herby the pigmy hedgehog. Max the local cat braved visiting the Nursery garden regularly and Mrs Bennett's dog Cookie also spent time with the children throughout the School.