

YAXHAM

Bishop branches out to open new log classroom

There were smiles all round yesterday when the Bishop of Norwich joined excited children in celebrating the unveiling of a new log cabin classroom, which has gone from a dream to reality in only a year.

The eco-friendly building at Yaxham Primary School, near Dereham, was officially opened by the Rt Rev Graham James, in the bright sunshine.

It was six years ago that Bishop Graham opened the school and he was delighted to be back to bless the new £110,000 external learning facility.

The 80 pupils will be using it for a range of activities, including science and computer work.

Chairman of governors Ian Martin said the draft plans for the building had been shown off at last year's school autumn fete – and the opening came just a few days after this year's event.

"None of us thought we would be standing here today in front of this building," headteacher Sandra Nightingale said. "Twelve months is

a long time in the life of a child, but getting a new building designed, planning permission obtained, raising money and getting the building built in that time is a great achievement."

The cabin is guaranteed to last for 25 years and has been made using sustainable wood with high insulation levels to cut energy consumption.

Bishop Graham performed the opening in front of the children, staff, friends, local councillors, and Mid Norfolk MP George Freeman.

Before the unveiling, pupils gave a range of performances, including ukele playing, drama and songs.

The school, in Clint Green, has sent special thanks to its former chairman of governors Mike Chase for all his hard work.

Mr Chase, who has just stood down after three years in the role and seven as a governor, oversaw the project.

"Mike has done so much for the school and he will be sorely missed," added Mrs Nightingale.

"We all wish him good luck in the future."

Pictures: IAN BURT



OPENING CEREMONY: Children, parents and staff at Yaxham Primary School watch as the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Graham James, unveils their new log classroom.