

Ringshall School

Newsletter January 2010

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the new year at Ringshall School. We've made a great start to the new term with lots of exciting learning taking place. We have the theme of Africa running through the whole school. Children have been reading books set in the different countries of Africa. They have begun to find out about some of the differences between the different countries and some of the similarities with our own country. The children enjoy learning about the wider world.

Thank you to the many parents who are now helping us in school in a variety of ways, supporting the children with many activities. This is greatly appreciated. We are always happy to welcome parents in as helpers; the only requirement is that they allow our office to undertake a CRB check.

As many of you are aware I now teach for the greater part of the week. If you wish to see



Haiti Appeal

Rowan Class have been raising money for the Haiti appeal. The children got into groups and organised events for Key Stage 1 & Foundation Stage. For example there was: an Obstacle Course, Throw the Man, Basketball Fun & many more! Everybody brought 10p to have a go. The children raised £22.85. They have all done very well to raise this amount money.

By Niamh Hedges-Quinn & Hannah Wigglesworth

Our whole school focus is:

Responsibility

Remember!

15th - 19th February

Half term

Wed 24th March

Time to share (Literacy Focus)

9.30 - 10.30 & 3.15 - 4.30

Sat 27th March

PFRS Race night in Ringshall

Village Hall

Tues 30th March

Eddie the Penguin saves the world!

A whole school musical

School Nurse drop in dates in March:

1st Creeping St Mary & Chilton

2nd Combsford

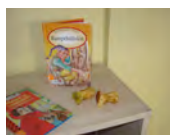
5th Great Finborough

8th Haughley 19th Old Newton

9th Freemans 26th Cedars

12th Mendlesham


15th Wood Ley & Ringshall



Whole school focus

To support all our efforts to improve the children's learning environment, we have introduced a new whole school focus this half term on 'responsibility' to encourage children to take care of their immediate environment as well as the wider one. We have seen great results with children picking up coats and PE bags that have fallen on the floor and being quick to point out if someone isn't being responsible.

A couple of pleas:

- Please could you regularly check your children's hair for headlice and act quickly if you find them. If everyone does this we stand a better chance of being nit-free.
- The parking bay outside school is for coaches not cars so please do not park there. This is especially important on Thursday mornings when Rowan Class go swimming as when their coach returns to school it cannot park outside the gates making it less safe for our children. 



On Sunday 21st March you are invited to 'go the extra mile' for sport relief and join staff and their dogs on a dog walk. Just make a donation and join in, even if you don't have a dog! More details to follow.

A word from Cherry Class:

In Cherry Class we have been using the story of Handa's Surprise as an introduction to the topic of Africa.

We have looked at fruit and the animals. Great fun was had making a fruit salad last week and even more fun eating it! We have weighed, drawn and printed with fruits and even talked about why some float and some sink. We are enjoying our fruit and veg shop in the classroom and have been practising writing our numbers for price labels.

A request please, for any dolls clothes or small baby clothes and also cereal boxes. Thank you.



As part of the school's topic about Africa and as part of National Science Week, on Tuesday 23rd March Africa Alive will be visiting our school. This is an educational programme from the Africa Alive Park near Lowestoft. More details to follow.

A word from Willow class:

In Willow Class we have started the term by reading the story of Chinye, a traditional tale from Ghana. We are now busy finding out about Ghana. We have a visitor coming to school to talk to us and we are ready with our questions! Miss Gibbs & Mrs Gooch were very pleased to find out that one of the crops in Ghana is cocoa! We shall of course be making the chocolate bikkies recipe from the Cool Planet website.

A word from Saplings:

This week we've continued with our investigations with fruit which included weighing, floating and sinking. We also looked at some very unusual and exotic fruit like 'Dragon fruit' which surprised us all when we cut it open! We've also opened our new supermarket. If you have any finished food packaging or containers, especially yoghurt pots etc, they'd be much appreciated in the shop. Next week: We are going to find out more about Africa and the animals that live there and will start our African display.

A word from Rowan Class:

In Rowan Class this week we have deviated from our African theme to develop our understanding of another distant place, Haiti, and to respond to events in the news. We used the CBBC site, Newsround and children brought in cuttings for us to read and discuss. Following this, the children were keen to think of ways that we could help. In maths we have been working with fractions which we will continue till half term along with decimals. The Woodlands Juniors website has some good activities to support many things including fractions & decimals. Also next week we will be starting to put together a presentation for assembly about the problem of water scarcity in one of the African countries.

A word from Elm Class:

Our topic for the spring term is based on the book 'A Balloon for Grandad.' This is a fantastic book which produces lots of cross curricular activities. We have already looked at old and new toys where children were able to use words and phrases like, old, new, very old that relate to passing of time. Children have had the opportunity to work together, plan and make their very own hot air balloons leading to a discussion on why the balloon rises. We will be looking at our own house, the materials used, drawing pictures and comparing our house to mud houses (Grandad lives in Africa). Children will also have the opportunity to use a digital camera to take photos. Please could your child bring in a photo of their house? Your child will use this to create a painting and then it will be used for a display. Thank you.