

Ringshall School

Newsletter March 2010

Dear Parents & Carers

I can't believe we are almost at the end of another term. Where does the time go?! We have been busy preparing for our musical extravaganza, Eddie the Penguin Saves the World and we hope to see you either on Tuesday 30th at 10am or Wednesday 31st at 2pm.

Saplings will take part in our morning performance. The children are very excited about it and have worked hard on props as well as in the rehearsals. The PFRS will be selling teas and cakes before both of these performances. We are looking forward to seeing the bags that they have designed with the children. Please buy one; it's all in a good cause! I will take this opportunity to thank the PFRS for all the fund raising they have been doing recently which all goes to benefit the children.

We are holding an Easter Garden Competition this year. The children can make a model garden, no bigger than a cereal packet size to bring to school on Wednesday 31st. There will be an Easter Egg prize for the winners in each class.

I wish you all a very happy holiday and look forward to seeing you back for the new term on Tuesday 20th April.

Monica Gibbs

Our whole school focus next term will be:

Curiosity

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 30th March 10am &

Wednesday 31st March 2pm

Eddie the Penguin Saves the world

Thursday 1st April

Easter Garden Competition

Last day of term

Tuesday 20th April

Term begins

Whole school topic for the Summer Term: **Castles**



Ringshall's Sport Relief 'Mile'

Many thanks to the families, and their dogs, who joined us Sunday 21st March to raise money for Sport Relief. It may not have been as amazing as water ski-ing across the channel but a good time was had by all and we raised £58.23. The sun shone on us as we followed some paths around Ringshall and worked up an appetite for Sunday lunch. Thanks again for your support.



World Book Day

On Friday 5th March the whole school spent the day in their pyjamas and slippers to mark World Book Day.

Thanks to your generosity we raised £89.34 which will go to support Book Aid International which works with partners to ensure that primary schools in sub-Saharan Africa have access to good quality school books to help their children gain an education for life.

New School Office email address:
admin@ringshall.suffolk.sch.uk

PFRS

As usual the PFRS have been working hard to improve your child's learning environment and have recently made some donations to the school: £400 for a nurture group, £1000 for the library and £1000 for the picnic benches in the school playground. The race night, held at Ringshall Village Hall on 27th February, raised a fantastic £1007.50. We would all like to thank Nick & Sam Banks for organising this event and to all the people who supported it especially Sally Fuller who helped with the hampers, ticket selling, tote and clearing up and Barry Aldous, Dawn Gerrard and Hayley Hedges-Quinn who all helped with the tote.

Jo Willsher has put together activities for a Quiet Area in the pergola which can be used at lunchtimes. The activities include dot to dots, colouring, word searches, numeracy games and more! Many thanks to Jo for her hard work putting together packs of pens and paper and for sourcing the activities.

You will have had a letter recently about the re-usable canvas bags that the children have helped to decorate with the PFRS. Please get your orders in to the office or to Olive Gibb by 1st April. The bags cost £5 each. Cheques payable to PFRS.

PFRS Committee: next meeting Monday 10th May at 9.15. New volunteers welcome.



Changes to the beginning of the school day

From the beginning of next term we will be making some changes to the start of the school day. Rather than waiting in the playground with your children we would like you to bring them to the outside classroom door from 8.45am to be met by the teacher or teaching assistant. If your child arrives later than 9am please take them to the office as normal. Children who come to school on the bus will be met at the library door and taken to their classes. The end of day arrangements will remain the same. As our school continues to grow in size it is necessary to change some practises and we feel this will give the children a calmer start to the day. There will be a learning activity for the children to do as soon as they get in to class followed by assembly at 9am.



Coffee Drop Ins

Back in February Willow Class re-launched the Friday Coffee Drop In. It was so successful that it got us thinking! Next term each class will take it in turns each half term to host the drop in following a short assembly to celebrate what they are learning about. This will not be a big production but an informal chance to share their learning. You are welcome to drop in even if it is not your child's class who are hosting it. The dates will be as follows:
Rowan Class 30th April & 18th June, Willow Class 7th May & 25th June, Elm Class 14th May & 2nd July, Cherry Class 21st May & 9th July and Saplings 28th May & 16th July.

In Willow Class we have been busy learning about elephants. We found out how tall a baby elephant is and then used our measuring skills to draw this out. We are planning a mural, which will have elephants in it, to go around the school. We are hoping we can start work on this next term!

We have been learning to use THRASS to help us with our reading and spelling. We love the raps that we use. We are going to teach Mrs Atkins and Rowan class how to use it. Do you have any old tee shirts? We need them as painting shirts to keep work us clean during Art work next term.

A word from Elm Class:

In science we have been looking at the main parts of a plant which led on to us making a non-fiction book and using ICT to create pictures for display. In art we have used mirrors to create self-portraits with the focus being on the differences from young to adult. We then looked at the changes in animals. At the moment Elm are in the process of creating frames for their self-portraits based on patterns and colours found in Africa. The visit from Africa Alive was exciting and we all had the opportunity to touch a snake! We have also been busy making a Spring display which is up in the hall and of course practising for Eddie the Penguin Saves the World!

West Suffolk Youth Orchestra are holding a free concert for Primary School Children at the West Suffolk Performing Arts Centre, King Edward VI Upper School, Bury St Edmunds, at 5.30pm on Friday 21st May. They would like an estimate of seats required so if you are planning to go then could you let the office know by Thursday 1st April please. On Sat 22nd May they are holding an Open Morning. For any enquiries please phone them on 01284 723105.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the visit from Africa Alive this week. Emma taught us about African habitats and let us handle a Royal Python, Spiny Backed Mice, a Giant Cockroach and Snappy the crocodile (deceased)!

A word from Saplings & Cherry Class:

As we come to the end of our learning about Africa, we had a special visitor on Thursday 25th March who came to talk to us about living in Ghana. Cherry Class prepared questions to ask Mrs Kaye-Essien and a lively discussion was had! Later in the morning Edem & Elorm took their mum to Saplings where she showed the children pictures of life in Ghana and how to play a variety of different African instruments. The children had the opportunity to try on traditional Ghanaian clothes. In Saplings Mrs Citrine-Booth helped the children to make some great tribal style masks to add to their African display. They have also started to make headdresses for their part in Eddie the Penguin! Saplings will only be performing on Tuesday morning.

A word from Rowan:

Rowan Class continued the African topic by finding out about life in Ancient Egypt. This involved researching daily life, Ancient Egyptian beliefs and its geography. We have also learnt about the significance of Nelson Mandela's life and discussed the issues raised by this. In literacy we have used stories which raise issues, such as the African tale 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters', to inform our discussions and have also been learning to write discussion texts. In maths we have worked with symmetry and angles and, more recently, finding different ways to present data. We have also been busy preparing for Eddie the Penguin in rehearsals and making props. Rowan Class have enjoyed their swimming lessons this term and I would like to thank Mrs Fuller, Mrs Wigglesworth, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Gibb for coming along each week to help. We would not have been able to go without their help and we are very grateful. Next term we will begin our topic on castles which will include studying the historical use of castles and their importance in British history.