

Cogenhoe Primary School Newsletter



5th February 2010

- **A New Decade**

Time marches on and we started our new term in the January snow. We coped well and stayed open throughout. Mr Bygrave our Site Supervisor, made a superb job of keeping our paths and the crossing outside the school, clear and safe. All staff members managed to get to school safely. Many thanks to them all for their efforts. Let's hope that February doesn't bring a reprise of the bad weather. If you look carefully in the grass at the front of school you will see the first signs of Spring, with the daffodil shoots just peeping through.



- **Bikeability**

Twenty one children from our Year 6 started their Bikeability training at the beginning of term. The trainees have turned up with the bikes each week and coped admirably in the very cold weather. The course will be completed shortly and this will give the children the skills and confidence to ride their bikes safely. Thanks to Mr Bygraves, Mr Clayson, Mrs Turland and Mrs Westall for their help in supporting each session

- **Swimming**

Lion class have been enjoying their six week swimming sessions and soon it will be Puma class's turn to go to Barry Road Pool.

- **Gifted and Talented Workshops**

Following the success of a previous workshop, the Ashby Cluster, in collaboration with the Wollaston School Art Department, organised a series of Art Workshops.



The focus this time was on creative development through sculptural work which reflects the natural environment around the school grounds.

Mrs Freeth attended the workshop with five of our children. Mr Lloyd, who is the Head of Art at Wollaston School, initially showed the children pictures of insect and amphibian models and demonstrated how they can be made using wire, sweet wrappers, plastic bags, cardboard, bottles, pva glue and pipe cleaners. He showed them the different thicknesses of wire for the basic structure, then left it up to the children to experiment to see what ideas they could come up with. Chloe was pleased with her butterfly which she finished off with leaves and flowers, and William made a dragon fly. He made the wings with plastic bags, the whole



body being made from a wire skeleton with cling film and cardboard.

Emily wanted to push herself by making a frog. She experimented with the shape by bending wire, as the children had been shown to do, then built up her shape into a frog using sweet wrappers, pipe cleaners and glue to cover the structure. Emily was so happy with the result that she thought she would really like to do it all again – perhaps at home. All five models which the children brought back to school show that with application and ideas and tips it is possible to achieve something from nothing.



- **Class Work**

This term each class has a varied and interesting programme of ideas to work on. In **Tiger class**, activities based around 'What were dinosaurs like' are keeping them all interested. What might come out of eggs? They will soon have the chance to watch closely the progress of 'Living Eggs' and see the chicks hatch out before their eyes. **Panthers** are finding out about 'What were homes like in the past. They are hoping to visit older properties in the village to compare them with present day homes. If the children are in **Bobcats** they will be working on Healthy Eating. Food and Farming, where does the food come from? **Puma Class** are going to be digging and delving into our ancient Roman past. Romulus and Remus and stories of Boudicca's rebellion. In March they will be going to see the Roman Villa Museum at Piddington. **Lions** meanwhile are in the wonderful world of chocolate, exploring chocolate in books, maths and the Aztecs who discovered it. There is even going to be a trip to Cadbury World. Last but not least **Leopards** are exploring The Creation with a magnificent display in the entrance hall.

Don't you wish you were back at school now!

- **Steelbacks Day**

Year 5 children had the unique opportunity to attend a fun themed Maths activity day at the Steelbacks Study Centre at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club. The children were involved in an exciting round of maths activities for the whole day. This included a tour of the cricket ground, where they had to hunt for shapes and angles and the reasoning behind their use. They had to take on the role of the Australian Cricket Team Manager and solve the



Cogenhoe Primary School Newsletter



mathematical problems faced by the Manager of a cricket team. The children also experienced some coaching. All the children had an amazing day and really enjoyed working with the children from the other school.



- **Musical Theatre Course**

A very lively and well supported musical theatre course has started on Thursday after school. 22 children are being coached by a professional theatre actress and theatre director to work on 'Seussical the Musical.' At the end of 8 weeks we look forward to seeing a fine performance from some budding actors and actresses.

- **Grendon Hall Study Centre**

Ten children were selected to attend the Grendon Study Centre as part of our extended services programme. This will give the children 2 hours of study support each week for 7 weeks. The unique sports environment and educational programme aims to help the children develop literacy, numeracy and ICT skills as well as raising their motivation and self-esteem.

- **Big School's Bird Watch**

Bobcats recently took part in a bird watch and were pleased to see visiting our bird table area:

- 3 blackbirds
- 1 blue tit
- 2 robins
- 1 house sparrow
- 1 coal tit
- 3 great tits
- 3 pigeons



- **Literacy Activity Morning**

You will have received a letter about the proposed Literacy ICT Mornings to be held on 9th February for KS1 and 10th February for KS2. We hope this will be as successful as the Maths Mornings. We do hope you will take up this opportunity to join your child in some literacy activities.

- **Uniform**

Could I please remind parents of the importance that the children come to school in full school uniform, including school shoes, not trainers. Also if your child is wearing earrings, they must either be small studs and the child be able to take the earrings out on their own, or have tape to put over them during P.E. lessons.

Whilst the field is wet, children must bring in a full change of clothes and shoes/boots if they want to play football on it. They will still be able to practise their skills on the playground, whilst keeping in mind that other children also need to share this space.

- **Safety**

At school we have always taken a responsible attitude to safeguarding the children when in our care. The safety of our children is paramount. Our normal procedures are that Foundation stage children are kept in school until parents collect them at the end of day. Older children are reminded to return into school if you are not there. It is the responsibility of individual parents if they allow their child to walk home or to school alone. We would encourage them to always walk with someone else.

Doors are kept locked during taught time and absences are followed up by the office staff. At lunchtime there are 3 lunchtime supervisors who look after our children. Of obvious importance is the parents' role in picking up and bringing children to school. If these arrangements are varied and the children are to be collected by anyone other than the usual person, the school should be notified immediately so no misunderstandings ensue. We continue to review school safety procedures, and if you would like to be part of a working party to discuss your ideas and concerns please email me or call into the office, to join me and the Governors.

- **Dates**

Monday 8th February. - Yr.6 Handball Tournament

Friday 12th February - Lions Assembly - 9.15 am

FRIDAY 12TH FEBRUARY - SCHOOL CLOSSES 3.15

TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY - SCHOOL OPENS 8.55

Best wishes

Elaine Goldswain

head@cogenhoe.northants-ecl.gov.uk