



Newsletter End of Spring Term 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

What a month! All my years as a Head Teacher did not prepare me for this.

March commenced with a special egg delivery. Everyone watched and waited with anticipation as one by one the eggs hatched and we had chickens - ten of them! The Early Years loved having their new class members and new skills were learnt.

On the same day, we had our Spring Term visit from Norah Tattersall our Improvement partner. She undertook a 'deep dive' in Reading and spent time with subject specialists reviewing the progress made to date in their subject. It was a really useful visit and the school has already started to implement many of the 'next steps'.

The busy week continued with Year 4 at the speed stacking festival at Longdean School on Wednesday, World Book Day on Thursday and on Sunday a group of Year 5 children participated in the Hertfordshire Music Concert at The Royal Albert Hall.

Curriculum enrichment activities continued the following week with Year 1 visiting the Tring Museum and Year 4 to Kew Gardens.

Whilst school's were externally demonstrating 'business as usual' internally plans and risk assessments were being written, rewritten and revised again as we responded to the Government's plans. My team were amazing throughout this whole period of uncertainty happily adapting as plans were changed, again and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their patience and flexibility.

As more advice filtered through from the Government, many families commenced the start of the twelve week isolation period. We did manage to have our class and team photographs and concluded the week with our Mother's Day sale. Friday 20th March was the day we closed to the majority of children and commenced our new way of working opening only for the Government identified few.

Mr Battersby has worked behind the scenes to create a learning area on our website and all the teachers have been busily populating this area with a rich diet of learning. In the words of Mark Twain, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education" and at this time these words strike a chord. I know many of you have been exercising with Joe Wicks, my son has been developing his art skills and I have been singing with Gareth Malone as part of the 'big choir'. Should you need any support or guidance or just a chat do not hesitate to email me directly: head@reddings.herts.sch.uk and someone will be in contact.

I am looking forward to opening up the school and greeting each and every one of you - hopefully very soon. In the words of the Sergeant from 'Hill Street Blues' - "let's be careful out there"

Thank you for your continued support and words of kindness.

Tracy Prickett

School Reports

You should have received your child's end of Spring Term report (either by hand or by post). If you haven't received your report by Friday 10th April please drop me an email so that another report can be distributed at the start of the Summer term. Should you have any questions or queries about your report please contact the class teacher directly via their school email address.

Attendance

Just for your information, the Government introduced a new code (Y) for any families that commenced the self-isolation period whilst schools were open. The Local Authority also announced that they are suspending their penalty notices at this time.

Exams

You will be aware that the Government has cancelled all exams this year. This includes Year 6 and Year 2 SATs, Year 1 phonics, Year 4 Multiplication tests and end of Early Years profile data. We are awaiting information from the Government in terms of reporting outcomes.

Government Voucher Scheme

The school has now set up the system which means those of you who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive a voucher code on 20th March 2020. If you are entitled, you would have received an email from me providing you with further information via SchoolComms.

Year 1 – Tring Museum

Year 1 visited the Tring Museum on Wednesday 11th March 2020. We learnt about lots of polar animals as well as other animals too. We did a fantastic workshop where we got to touch the skulls, wings, tusks and ribs of different polar animals. We learnt that the emperor penguin is taller than all of us! We also completed an ispy trail and drew our favourite animals. Our exemplary behaviour and knowledge of the Polar Regions was commented on by many of the museum staff. We all had a great day exploring the museum.



World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2020

On Thursday 7th March, the school celebrated World Book Day in quite some style! As ever, the array of costumes on display were fabulous and reading was celebrated and enjoyed throughout the school.

We were all blown away, however, by the quality and the number of entries into our competition to design a book character using a potato! Judging the competition truly mashed our brains, but we chipped away at the task and eventually decided that there were simply too many a-peel-ing entries to choose from. As such, all entrants shall receive a Headteacher's Merit for their fantastic effort.

Furthermore, we decided to award a prize (a book) per class as well as an overall winner from each phase (Nursery/Reception; Years 1 and 2; Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6).

The individual winners from each class were:

Nursery: Isiah
Reception: Maya
Year 1: Ilaria
Year 2: Zac
Year 3: Amelia
Year 4: Lavinia
Year 5: Alex G
Year 6: Tia

The overall winners (who each received a £10 book voucher) from each phase were:

Early Years: Elena,
KS1: Leo
Lower KS2: Daniel,
Upper KS2: Caleb I

Thank you to everyone who took part so enthusiastically in World Book Day this year. Reading is ever so important to children and adults alike so keep reading!



Achievement Awards – March 2020

The following children received Achievement Awards in March:-

Bronze Award

Mason – Year 4
Freya – Year 4
Harley – Year 6
Ivan – Year 6

Silver Award

Ayaan – Year 3
Eva – Year 3
Nancy – Year 6

Gold Award

Tia – Year 6

Living Eggs

The Early Years have been having an egg-cellent time as we hatched ten chicks from eggs.

We have been learning how to look after chicks and how to hold them safely.

We have also found out about all of the other animals that come out of eggs. Why don't you challenge yourself to come up with as many animals as you can.

(Don't forget to include fish and insects as they too come out of eggs).



Royal Albert Hall Gala

On Sunday 8th March 2020, we took a choir made up of Year 5 children to the Royal Albert Hall to participate in the Herts Music Service gala. After weeks of rehearsals, the children sang beautifully in what was an awe-inspiring concert performed by very talented children and young people from across the county. The children behaved beautifully and were excellent representatives of our school; we are very proud of them.



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Kew Gardens - Year 4

On Tuesday 10th March, Year 4 went to Kew Gardens, London. While we were there, we explored their houses and gardens. Also, we had a workshop by a scientist at Kew Gardens. During this workshop, we looked at Kew's habitat to a rainforest's habitat, which was what their Palm House represented.

The children used a variety of scientific equipment to measure the light intensity, the humidity, the soil moisture, and the air temperature in both habitats and compared them. Furthermore, we were lucky enough to have great weather so we could try out Kew's new Children's Garden which was a huge hit with all the children. Our trip to Kew also allowed us to deepen our knowledge in Geography as we were able to compare Europe (UK) to different continents through their weather variations. Similarly, Kew's beautiful, picturesque gardens and houses allowed us to take great pictures which we used in Art while improving our toning skills through paint.

Miss Biggadike, Mr Battersby and Mrs Wadmore were very impressed with everyone's behaviour and positive attitude to learning on the trip, which made it a very successful day and fun for all!

