



### INTRODUCTION

Spring has well and truly sprung at the Junior School as the children have 'skipped and hopped' through a variety of academic, sporting and fun events. Meanwhile, the teachers have 'burrowed' through high calibre written work produced by the pupils. (This I saw in evidence when I took home English books from Year 1 pupils through to Year 6 during the February half term. The Heads of Department and I regularly conduct, what is lovingly referred to as, 'work scrutiny' exercises to ensure that standards are high and the teaching matches the children's age, and ability, and also that the schemes of work are being well delivered and contain challenge). It was an absolute pleasure to see how much progress the children make year-on-year. Other guilty pleasures this term have been

the Year 3 Words and Music concert which was superb, as was the fundraising Talent Show - a box of tissues was definitely needed for both as the children can quite simply reduce one to tears with their efforts. Lots of 'good eggs' took part in the dressing up for World Book Day and paraded their characters at the assemblies. We also enjoyed celebrating our Successful Women's Week events. So time and again I am reminded of why I do this job, what a great School community we have and what a broad and balanced spectrum of opportunity is on offer at Ewell Castle Junior School. Enjoy this newsletter, I'm off to 'hatch up' plans for next term. Have a great Easter Holiday!

**Mrs M Phillips**  
*Head Junior School*



### NATURE CLUB

Pupils from Years 3-6 enjoyed participating in the RSPB's Big School's Birdwatch earlier this term. These keen ornithologists spent some time learning how to recognise different types of garden bird and then set off into the grounds of Glyn House to record what they saw. There were plenty of seagulls, pigeons and crows to be seen, as well as a few robins, bluetits and blackbirds. We also made lardy pinecone bird feeders to encourage the birds to come to our gardens. It was great being part of this nationwide event and we look forward to participating again next year. We have also been chitting potatoes and preparing our plot for Spring planting. Nature Club have also been taking advantage of the windy weather by making colourful streamer sticks and seeing how the wind made them dance.

**Mrs N Ludlam**

### SATRO JUNIOR BUSINESS GAME

On 19th January Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a productive and stimulating day participating in the SATRO Junior Business Game. They were divided into teams and had to take on different roles such as: Managing Director, Marketing Manager, Finance Manager and Product Development Manager. The groups were each facilitated by an adult volunteer from the world of banking and business who tried to share their skills with the pupils. Each group ran a stationery company for the day and had to devise bookmarks and cards to impress the buyers from Liberty London and Harrods. During the day, the pupils learnt a lot about the dynamics of business, how to write a cheque and how profit and loss work. Some comments from the pupil

feedback on the day included: "I learnt how a company works and who works in a company. I learnt that teamwork is very important". Another pupil commented, "I learnt how to haggle with a buyer to get a good deal and also how to lead a team". Overall, it was a great day and we are looking forward to holding the event again in the future.

**Mrs N Ludlam**



## YEAR 3 WORDS AND MUSIC

All who watched our Year 3 Words and Music concert on Thursday 5th March were truly astounded and impressed by the extremely high standard of piano playing, reciting of poems and wonderful singing. Tears were shed for the hauntingly beautiful “Somewhere over the Rainbow” and we laughed and clapped to the “One eyed, one horned Purple People Eater”. Credit must be given to the children for learning the very difficult words to Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat which was extremely enthusiastically received. Congratulations and well done to all who took part. It was a truly magnificent evening of entertainment.

*Mrs A Rowe*



## MATHS

Year 6 mathematicians have enjoyed considerable success in a couple of national competitions recently. Congratulations to Ananya Balaji, Alexander Blencowe, Kelechi Nwoko and Junghwan Seo who were the regional winners in the Explore Learning/ NRICH Yr 6 Able Maths Competition. They were presented with their medals and certificates by a representative from the Epsom Explore Learning Centre in Assembly in January.

Two pupils from Ewell Castle Junior School, Ananya Balaji and Junghwan Seo also got through to the Bonus Round of the Mathematical Association’s Primary Maths Challenge. Well done to you all!

Pupils from Years 1-6 have been participating in the Grand Multiplication Challenge in School and we have all been impressed by their excellent tables knowledge.

*Mrs N Ludlam*

## DRAMA WORKSHOP

Reception really enjoyed their journey through the jungle with Perform. Before we left, we packed water, food, telescope, map, binoculars and rope – it’s amazing what you can find in Nursery with a dose of imagination! We



travelled by jeep to our jungle adventure. We were hunting for the golden cat, Blaze – she was the only one of her kind left in the whole world. We searched the jungle trying to find where Blaze was hidden – we looked high and low for her. We talked about the different animals we find in the jungle and then acted out being those animals – we were noisy lions, as well as slithery snakes, cheeky monkeys and graceful giraffes to name a few! We were very brave and went through the crocodile swamp, where we found the grumpy crocodile. We ate his yummy, delicious chocolate cake, before scaring him away and retrieving the key to unlock Blaze’s cage so she could go free.

Alexander and Georgia both thought scaring the crocodile and eating her imaginary cake was great fun. Henry was really pleased when we retrieved the key from the grumpy crocodile. Zach found playing the banana game very funny – in the game, every time the lady asked a question, we had to say “banana” (even when she asked someone what their name was).

*Reception (Poppies and Bluebells)*

## HOCKEY COACHING MASTERCLASS



Ewell Castle Senior School teacher and Senior Wales International Leah Wilkinson held a Hockey Masterclass on Wednesday 21st January, where she shared her skills and experience with a group of girls from Ewell Castle Junior School and The Study School, New Malden. The Hockey Masterclass provided the girls with technical tips from a top hockey international, as well as giving them the opportunity to put that advice into practice, as a hockey fixture between the two schools took place at the end of the afternoon.

*Mrs C Cope*

## WORLD BOOK DAY – CHESSINGTON LODGE



## EXPLORING WATER – NURSERY

Nursery has been investigating water for our new topic. The children have explored water at home, at School and in the pond at Bourne Hall. They have been thinking about where water comes from and how we use it. We have also tried out our umbrellas to check they are waterproof.



*Mrs T Blakeman*



## CELEBRATING SUCCESSFUL WOMEN'S WEEK

Successful Women's Week gave girls of the past, present and future the chance to shine and seemed right and just in this the year when Ewell Castle goes fully co-educational. At Chessington Lodge discussions in lessons have included the suffragettes and the children were treated to an assembly by Leah Wilkinson, a hockey champion and contender for the next Olympics. At Glyn House the inspirational speaker was leader of the Coxless Crew cross Pacific rowers, Laura Penhaul and for us adults we enjoyed listening to Adele Parks, successful female novelist, explain about her life and writing. The children were also involved in the Plan UK 'Because I am a girl' fund-raising event. Years 3 to 6 children were challenged to a 'name the woman and her achievement' talk with some very well-known females such as Boudica and Queen Elizabeth I to other less obvious, but nevertheless deserving individuals, such as Doreen Lawrence. The week concluded with our most mature young ladies (Years 5 and 6 girls!) taking part in a one off trampolining special. Hopefully the week gave all children food for thought

*Mrs M Phillips*

## ART

It has been a busy time for the Junior School's Art Department during the Spring Term. All children have worked extremely hard and the high standard of work produced shows how much enjoyment and commitment goes into each child's work. Year 3 worked enthusiastically on their own interpretation of Miro's fantasy pictures showing their own fantasies in colourful paintings. The children also excelled themselves painting the Victory ships, all of which looked splendid sailing across the art room windows. Of course we must not forget the wonderful Victory ships Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed making in 3D.

Year 4 worked hard on Giacometti style figures which they sculpted in pipe cleaners and silver foil making life like scenes such as walking the dog or playing sport. Year 4 also studied the work of Karel Appel, painting very attractive and colourful cats and birds in his childlike style.

Year 5 worked with extreme care when interpreting Monet's Waterlilies producing excellent work from all the year group.

Year 6 excelled themselves working with great enthusiasm and care on Picasso faces with the results speaking for themselves.

**Mrs A Rowe**



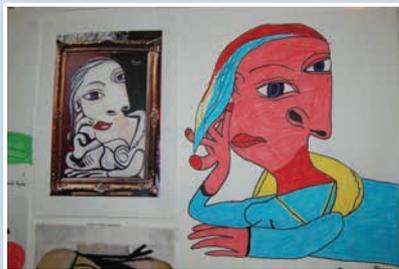
Year 3 Victory ship paintings



Year 4 Karel Appel cats



Year 5 Monet water lilies



Year 6 Picasso

## SPORTS



## SPANISH PENPALS – BENIDORM SCHOOL

Pupils in Year 6 were delighted to receive more letters from their Spanish pen pals who are at school in Benidorm. This time their friends sent photos of themselves and wrote about their families. They also sent Spanish chocolate and two different types of turrón, which is very popular in Spain and is a bit like “nutty nougat”! Our Year 6 pupils thoroughly enjoyed tasting these gifts and practising how to say, in Spanish of course, how much they liked them. We will reply to the letters next term as right now we are preparing, with much excitement, for our residential trip to Spain at the end of this term.

*Mrs B Grierson*



## WORLD BOOK DAY – GLYN HOUSE



## YEAR ONE CONSTRUCTION CLUB



The Year 1 children signed up in their masses for Construction Club this term so we decided to set them a few challenges. Over a period of

four weeks, they had to carefully deconstruct their cereal boxes from home, turn them inside out and then re-stick them. They had to work in a cooperative team to decide what to construct and who was going to do what. After an epic battle with real competitive spirit, the girls unveiled a castle fit for a princess. The boys found it harder to agree but eventually settled on a petrol station, complete with a car wash. Very well done to all the pupils for listening carefully to instructions and cooperating with your friends.



*Mrs S Fowler & Miss C Leadbeter*



## ADELE PARKS

Author Adele Parks was our guest speaker during the 'International Women's Week' programme of events that took place at the Junior School. She spoke to an invited audience about her career and how she started writing novels. Her latest book is 'Spare Brides' and tells the story of four women in 1920's England, each struggling with post war life.

## CHARITY

The decision was taken for Years 1- 6 to raise funds for 'Plan UK' this term. The charity runs a support programme for girls in under developed countries who are forced into arranged marriage and denied



an education. So, during 'Successful Women's Week' the children were challenged to choose between certain activities to pursue in order to raise money. It was important that they were actively involved in doing something themselves rather than just having a conventional cake sale or mufti day. It proved to be a huge success with the children choosing between taking part in a Spelling Bee (with up to fifty very difficult words to learn in only a few days), a 'Talent Show' where they performed in front of their peers and 'chores' where they had to decide, with some adult support, which tasks they could complete at home to earn the funds. The children embraced the challenge with some children taking on more than one activity. Highlights? Some marvellous solos, talented boy and girl bands, tidy rooms and gleaming cars. Monies raised are still streaming into School and we look forward to sending off a sizable donation to this worthwhile cause and as a knock on consequence have given children a sense of achievement and personal involvement. Good job, everyone!

*Mrs M Phillips*

## PSFA



**EWELL CASTLE**  
 Parents Staff and  
 Friends Association

Once again, the Quiz Night was a sell out and raised over £800 which helped to contribute towards a new 3D Printer for the Design Technology Department. I am proud that, with your support, we have been able to provide equipment for all three sites during this academic year. As we move into the Summer Term, the first event will be upon us very quickly. In collaboration with the Senior School, we are hosting a Race Night evening on Saturday 18th April. Further details and the ticket order form are available on the Parent Portal. The Summer Ball will be held in the grounds of the Senior School on Saturday 4th July. Please hold the date – it was fantastic fun last year – tickets will go on sale early in the Summer Term. We will be launching the 'Silent Auction' to conclude at the Ball. If you know of anyone who would be able to donate an item, we would be extremely grateful. Last year we were able to raise close to £2,000 with the generous donations of food hampers and tickets for events and experiences. As always, we would be grateful for any extra offers of help, no matter how big or small. I am always keen to hear suggestions for new events so, if anything strikes you, please get in touch!

*Mrs V Craig – Chair, PSFA*

## NURSERY AND RECEPTION VISIT TO POLKA THEATRE



Nursery and Reception really enjoyed their trip to the Polka in January. The story was all about a little girl called Mia and her Grandad.

Mia loves her Grandad very much. He lives far away where it's always warm and hot, but now he's coming to visit and Mia's excitement is growing. Finally Grandad arrives with stories and games to set Mia's world alight. They hopped like a kangaroo, took tea with a duck and jumped aboard a magic carpet ride to the icy North Pole.

The Reception and Nursery children enjoyed the audience participation and loved seeing the performance.

*Miss C Leadbeter*

## VISIT FROM LAURA PENHAUL – COXLESS CREW, ROWER

Coxless crew rower Laura Penhaul visited the Junior School during Assembly and spoke to the children and staff about her forthcoming challenge across the Pacific Ocean. Her team will row the 8,446 miles from San Francisco to Cairns in 5-6 months in a small boat called 'Doris', and are hoping to raise over £250,000 for Breast Cancer Care and Walking With The Wounded. Laura showed us some photos of the boat and her team in training. They'll be away for six months and be rowing for 12 hours a day. What an inspiration to us all! Good luck ladies. If you would like to support them and their chosen charities, you can do so by donating just £10.00 which will get your name added to the inside wall of their cabin, to help inspire them on their journey. To donate please visit [coxlesscrew.com/buy-a-mile/](http://coxlesscrew.com/buy-a-mile/)



## SWIMMING GALA

The Year 3 - Year 6 House Swimming Gala was held on Friday 20th March at Leatherhead Leisure Centre. All junior school children competed in races for their House, with 98% of children swimming two events. The School is very proud of the fact that we have full participation in this event. This level of participation reflects the hard work of the children in swimming lessons throughout the year. Congratulations to all competitors, especially those from Essex House, victors on the day. Congratulations also to our Swimmers of the Year, Tommy Barrell (Boys) and Ananya Balaji (Girls).

*Mr M Darlow*

