



School Newsletter

Friday 22nd March

Newsletter 12

Dear Parents and Careers,

Being the Head of School of Ramsgate Arts Primary school fills me with immense pride every day and this has been particularly so when seeing what our Year 4 children have recently achieved. They have worked for the past six weeks on a dance theatre project exploring the struggles and power of women in the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) throughout history, when women did not always have the same opportunities as men. They studied the past together, finding out about women such as Mary Anning, a fossil hunter, Elizabeth Garret Anderson –a doctor, and Ada Lovelace –a mathematician.

With the support of Lizzie and Libby, their dance teachers, the children then choreographed a dance which was divided in to three parts, representing 'Electricity', 'the Struggle' and 'Freedom'. The end results were truly amazing and they were given the opportunity to perform these dances in public on two occasions. The first being the opening of the 'Power of Women' week at the Turner Contemporary, which was an emotionally-charged event, commencing with a procession along Margate seafront. This procession was a representation of the national Suffragette movement, which recognised 100 years of suffrage in 2018, when on 6th February, Britain marked the centenary of (some) women being given the right to vote. Our children performed a fantastic flash-mob style dance with Drapers Mills, which wowed the audience and was a perfect way start to 2019's Power of Women festival. A second performance took place at Dreamland, where the children performed an extended version of the dance to parents and the general public.



A couple of parents questioned whether the school made the right choice in being involved in the opening ceremony of the POW festival and taking part in this project. As Head of RAPS, I think this is extremely important, probably more so now than ever, for our children to be involved - firstly so they have some understanding of the struggle of women in history in the fields of STEM, and secondly, as an Arts School, what a fantastic opportunity for our children to gain a real sense of performance to the wider community!

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 24th March-Thanet
Arts Festival -Dance

Friday 29th March - Parent
Council Quiz Night

Monday 1st April-Yr 1 Shell
Grotto

Tuesday 2nd April – Rock
Steady Concert-Parents
Welcome

Wednesday 3rd April-6.00pm
Yr 6 SATS mtg

Thursday 4th April- Yr 2 Kent
Life
Easter Disco

Yr 2 /KS2 Easter Egg
Competition closing day.

Friday 5th April-Children's
Spring Concert.

EYFS/Yr 1 Easter Bonnet
Competition.

Last day: 2.00pm finish

Back to School: **Tuesday 23rd**
April



One of our values is Diversity, and we want to ensure this is reflected in everything we do at RAPS. I will be the first to admit that we still have some way to go on readdressing the balance, but as a team, we are working hard to ensure we offer a diverse curriculum to your children. In our Literacy Festival, new books were selected because they showed a truer representation of society, and our RAPSanory had characters from different cultures and/or were written by women. When rewriting our RAPS curriculum or planning assemblies, we are perpetually ensuring that our children are exposed to different cultures and ethnic groups. Next year, I have already committed RAPS to be involved in POW again, and, especially as a father of two young girls myself, I feel knowledge really is empowerment.

As a school we don't always get things right, but we never intentionally get things wrong or set out to offend. If you wish to raise any issues, please come and talk to the school directly, myself and Mrs Beech are always available to listen to and discuss points that hopefully can improve the school. We really value open dialogue and will always endeavour to have an open-door policy. However, we cannot address concerns if they have been voiced over social media and not broached with the school directly.



Ramsgate Arts Primary School

Mural Art and Graffiti Style

Dear Pupils,

I hope you enjoyed Mrs Walton's assembly this week on 'murals'.

The art competition this term is to design a mural for our school.

Create a design that represents the different elements of RAPS, including Art, Music, Drama, PE and Dance. You could use the school's core values as inspiration. Also, consider including a version of the school's logo. Think about what makes RAPS such a special place to be!

The winning entry will be scaled up and painted on a wall on the school site. Runners-up will be able to take part in painting the mural.

Please collect paper for your picture from the art room as it will be trimmed to the right size and proportions.

You can use ANY medium....coloured pencils, paint, felt tip, collage or pastel.

Hand entries in to Mr Brown by Wednesday 3rd April 2019.

(Remember to label entries with name + class).

I am very excited to see all your marvellous mural masterpieces...

Mr Brown



Important Stage Development

Finally! Our brilliant new multi-purpose stage has been added to the main hall. The modular system was bought following fund-raising by the amazing RAPS Parent Council, who worked tirelessly to organise events such as raffles, quiz nights, fairs and a comedy show. Together, these events generated the £4,500 needed for the large stage. I think both children and parents would have agreed that the stage was a missing part of our performance-space, as previously, pupils have had to perform on the floor which was not satisfactory for either them or their audience. Having a proper raised stage now really helps with productions – the children love it and it means that performances can be better seen by the audience and better lit by our technicians for more impact.



Our stage was first used during our recent Literacy Festival, when performers - including children's author, Sandra Agard - 'christened' the stage with a dramatic storytelling session.

Because the stage is modular, it can be laid-out in a number of different systems which is useful. We will use it for shows, displays, school visits, community usage, as well as important events like speech days and presentations.

The work of our Parent Council in providing this resource has been amazing. They have worked so hard and so enthusiastically to ensure that the final piece of equipment needed for our hall was provided. The school, pupils and parents owe them a huge thank you! Thanks also goes to parents and carers and friends who have supported the events which have been organised – needless to say, without your pennies in the pot, we would not have our wonderful stage!

Parent Council

We have had a few changes to the Parent Council Team, sadly Astra Buckley has stood down as chair, she has worked tirelessly for the school and Parent Council since her daughter has been at RAPS and I thank her for all her hard work in putting on some fabulous memorable events such as the Summer and Christmas fayres and discos. Emma Jackson was voted in a new chair at the last meeting and we look forward to working with her on many new projects. Beth Hollow has also been elected as the new vice-chair, Sabrina Littlewood continues to be the secretary and Caroline Donoghue the treasurer. The Parent Council has also chosen to close-down the Facebook page – 'Mummies and Daddies of Ramsgate Arts Primary School'. This page served a purpose when we initially started at Chilton Primary, however is now no longer necessary as RAPS has over 200 pupils. Messages from the Parent Council will now be through the school's official Facebook: (www.facebook.com/RamsgateArtsPrimarySchool) and Twitter: (www.twitter.com/RamsgateArtsPS) accounts, which will be up and running again. Please remember to follow our Instagram page @ramsgate_arts_primary_school

Hola to Mexican Learning

The treat for Year 5 pupils saw them say 'Hola' to the team at Chiquito's Mexican Diner at Westwood Cross Retail Park as part of their topic exploring the culture and heritage of Mexico.

As soon as they arrived, the pupils were encouraged to join in the fun spirit of their visit by wearing colourful sombrero hats. Next, they were shown how to make burritos and tacos, and while they waited for these to bake, they were given some challenges to complete, such as finding Mexico on a map. When the food arrived, they were also given some dips to try such as salsa, guacamole and sour cream.



They all loved the burritos and tacos, even though some of them had never tried them before. The final surprise was two whole trays of churros and chocolate dipping sauce, which, as you can imagine, went down a treat!

The children had a great time and we'd like to say '*muchas gracias*' to the staff at Chiquito's for accommodating us and going above and beyond.

Other School Events

Spring Concert: RAPS is indeed a very talented school, so this year we are going to have our own RAPS Spring Concert run by our Year 5 children. There will be four categories: dance, drama, music and art. Audition forms are to be completed by Monday 25th March (the children have been given plenty of notice!). Auditions will be held during the week beginning 25th April - please note, only six acts will be placed in each category, so ensure that the application forms are filled out fully. From these six acts, three children will be picked to perform in front of their peers on Friday 5th April.

Easter Competition: We are *eggstremely* *eggcited* to announce our *eggstraordinary* 'Decorate an Egg' completion for Years 2 - 6. Children can really go the *eggstra* mile and have fun with this - eggs (these may be hard-boiled or polystyrene!) to be handed into the school office before 8.30 on Thursday 4th April. These will be judged by Mr Brown. Prizes will be given for the most inventive ideas.

Easter Bonnet Competition: Reception and Year 1 will have their very own 'Easter Bonnet' competition. Their Easter bonnets may be shown off to great effect during an Easter parade, which will take place on Friday 5th April. Mr Brown and the office team will judge the best entries.

Thanet Dance Festival: A group of our children are taking part in the Thanet Dance Festival. Those taking part please arrive no later than 8:15am at Birchington Centre CT7 9EG on Sunday 24th March in your RAPS P.E kit to be registered, changed and warmed up. The performance starts at 9am and hopefully should be finished by 10:30am.

Young Arts Festival

Our options Art group have taken part in the annual Rotatory Club Young Artists Festival. The theme this year is 'My Special World'. The work will be exhibited at Sainsbury's at Westwood Cross from Monday 22nd April until Sunday 28th April. If you find the time, please go along to see the wonderful creations.



RAPS PARENT COUNCIL
PRESENTS

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 29th March

 PRIZES FOR TOP PLACES

DOORS OPEN AT 7:00 PM QUIZ STARTS AT 7:30 PM
£5 PER PERSON / TABLES OF MAX 8 PLAYERS

Reservations for teams and payment must be made upfront to secure booking
please contact 

PosterMyWall.com Raising Money for childrens outdoor area