

<<title>> <<firstname>> <<lastname>> <<address>>



Ruishton Church of England Primary School

w/b 20th April

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Dear Parents,

The **Shelterbox** money which you so generously donated at Christmas has provided two boxes which have been sent to a flood stricken area of Namibia, near Windhoek. If you want to go on to the Shelterbox website the box numbers are 2432 and 2437.

Windhoek — PRESIDENT Hifikepunye Pohamba yesterday declared the floods in northern and northeastern Namibia an emergency. "Thus, the necessary interventions must be put into operation to face this emergency," a sombre-looking Pohamba told a media briefing at State House in Windhoek. Thousands of people have been displaced, communal farmers have lost around 25 000 animals and 17 schools in the Ohangwena Region alone have been adversely affected. "This situation repeats itself in the Oshana and Omusati regions," Pohamba said. The Head of State said he had no other option but to declare an emergency with an appeal to the international community to assist with blankets, food and tents in the short term, while serious reconstruction of bridges, schools and medical facilities will be needed in the long term. "It is necessary that Government acts immediately and that the necessary steps are taken to avert a crisis which could grow out of all proportion," he said.

As a recognised **healthy school** the school is going to work towards a new status of Healthy Schools Plus. We will be one of the first in the country to achieve this if we are successful and I will send details out very soon.

Emma Strong returns from maternity leave on May 1st and this will give us the opportunity to restructure the staffing slightly to expand French to all children. From that date all pupils will receive some **French tuition** every week, and this will continue into the foreseeable future. We will be trying to find support to employ a French assistant for a short period next year in cooperation with two other local schools in order to develop cultural understanding alongside the language.

Our **phone system** is menu driven and is not an answer phone. We get so many missed calls from many who assume it is, and then hang up. Please listen to the menus and you will only be directed to an answer phone if the extension you require is busy.

All the children will also be having **Samba** drumming tuition this term on Fridays. It sounds really exciting and quite loud. Both Tina and I have bought earplugs and we will be giving each child a set of their own, which they will need to look after.

Neil Dalton