



# ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

*In Discendo Gaudium - Joy of Learning*

Academic Year 2018-19

Issue 2 December 2018

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## From The Co-Headteachers

What a wonderful two months we have had in the lead up to the Christmas break.

At the beginning of November, we celebrated Diwali. The children in Reception, showing their interpretation of fireworks, produced the lovely paintings to the right. They also made and decorated Divas. Then we thought about all those who fought for us in wars and why we buy and wear poppies. The hall was decorated with a wonderful



display of poppies (see left) produced by our Reception children. To mark this occasion, Year 1 children visited Harrow School and remembered the 642 former Harrow pupils who were killed in the First World War. See page 4.



It has been good to see so many of you at the parent teacher meetings. We hope you like the new style reports that are designed to give you information about how the children are currently doing, but also their next steps for improvement.

We were delighted to have been praised in our recent inspection from the Independent Schools Inspectorate. We met all the regulation standards and it was pleasing to hear that, at Roxeth Mead, *"teaching fosters in pupils, self-motivation, the application of intellectual, physical and creative effort, interest in their work and the ability to think and learn for themselves. It involves well-planned lessons and effective teaching methods activities and management of class time."* To read the full report, please follow this link to our website <http://roxethmead.com/practical-information/inspection-report/>

As the term has ended, we have celebrated Christmas with a party and a heart-warming performance of "Wriggly-Nativity", which at the time of writing is still in its final rehearsal stages! The display to the right was prepared by Year 1 pupils to get us all in the Christmas spirit!



Finally, we say farewell to two well-loved members of staff. Mrs Amin is retiring after 18 busy years at Roxeth; she is planning a long holiday to India and then taking things easy upon her return. Mrs Power, who joined us in 2000, will be moving into consultancy and taking on other exciting projects, including a building renovation! We thank both of them for all their hard work and commitment to the children of Roxeth Mead over many years and wish them all the very best for the future. Consequently, it is all change for children in Reception and Year 1. In January, Mrs Kalsi will move from Nursery to Reception class and Mrs Conway will move to Year 1.

Merry Christmas everyone! Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

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## Roxeth Mead PTA

support it! If you have any great ideas for fundraising for our school, please speak to me. Neena Anand, PTA Chair

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA's first fundraising event – the second hand uniform sale. We raised £280 to go towards the new resources for our children. Thank you! Our next event will be a cake sale following the nativity. Please stay and

### News from Pre-School

This half term has seen two new children join us and I am very pleased to report that the existing children have welcomed them into our happy class and they have settled in beautifully.

We started the half term, with Diwali celebrations that included hearing the Diwali story, decorating rangoli patterns, making Diwali garlands and making firework pictures. We have also continued to learn about Autumn and have again enjoyed our beautiful garden and observed the changes - one of the children's favourite games was trying to catch the falling leaves and stomping through piles of leaves, learning new crunchy and crackly words! We have used the leaves to make some rather unique hairstyles which you can see behind the children in the photograph to the right!! Below you can also see some of the paintings that the children have made.



We are currently rehearsing for our nativity play and I am genuinely impressed with the way your children have behaved, sung and danced during these rehearsals. (Fingers crossed they can perform for you as well on 7th December!!). Mrs Payne and I would like to wish you all a wonderful festive season and a happy new year. Mrs O'Neill

### News from Nursery Class



As we head towards the end of the Autumn Term, the news from Nursery class is that, the children have had a very busy and exciting term. They have made good progress in all the areas of the curriculum and participated in all our topic related activities with enthusiasm. They have celebrated Diwali (the festival of lights) by making cards, rangoli patterns and attending a

special assembly.

They paid tribute to our soldiers on Remembrance Day by making Poppies, finding about their sacrifice and observing two minutes silence, which was quite commendable for such young children. They are quite excited about our forthcoming Christmas Party and Pantomime. They have been very busy rehearsing for our Nativity performance and looking forward to wowing their parents with their talent.

From January I will be teaching Reception class and we welcome Mrs Afsari into Nursery in January; she is very lucky to be taking on such a wonderful group of children.

Mrs Kalsi





## News from Reception Class

At the very end of October (just too late for the last edition of the newsletter) Reception had great fun making (friendly) ghosts for Halloween! We discussed how these could be hung on door handles to decorate our homes. The children were very excited to take these home, as this photo shows!



The children have now spent a whole term in school and we are so proud of them. They have settled really well into the school and classroom routines. The term started with a bang! We made Diwali firework pictures and the children did amazing colouring of Rangoli pictures and Divas! Then it was time to remember all the soldiers who had fought in the war so that we can live freely today. All the children made poppies and we had a Remembrance Day Assembly, and the children observed two-minute silence. The photos on the front page of this newsletter show the great work of the Reception children on these topics.

In maths we have been learning about shapes, weights and measures. The photos here show the children engrossed in this learning and proud to show it off.



There is always great excitement around the school at this time, and this year is no exception. Reception class made Elves – starting the Christmas celebrations! The children even decided to make Elf crowns spontaneously by themselves. Our class kept up with the Roxeth Mead tradition of making paper-chains and the classroom turned into a paper-chain factory as the children once again threw themselves into this activity with such zeal and enthusiasm. The Nativity performance rehearsals are in full swing and the children are thoroughly enjoying taking part in the preparation and excitement of creating a show for their family. We look forward to seeing you all there.



Finally, we both say goodbye to the Reception Class this term as Mrs Conway moves to Year 1 in January and Mrs Amin retires. Mrs Kalsi will teach Reception class from January.

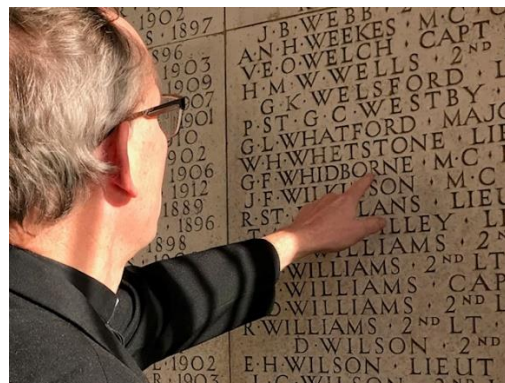
Thank you for being such a lovely bunch of pupils. Good luck for the future.

Mrs Amin & Mrs Conway

## News from Year 1

In Year 1, we started the half term making Diwali cards. The photo to the right shows us proudly displaying these.

On Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> November, two days before the centenary of the end of the First World War, we visited the War Memorial at Harrow School. We learned about the history of the soldiers educated at Harrow who lost their lives fighting on the battlefields of the Somme and Passchendaele. They were shown the Old Harrovians' biographies, photographs and medals.



The children chose to look up G. F. Whidborne in the Book of a Remembrance. He was just 25 years old and a very brave soldier who saved the lives of many men. The children, as ever, behaved impeccably and were extremely respectful in the War Memorial and Crypt Chapel.

Here we see the wonderful portraits they made with Autumn leaves and us looking fabulous in our party clothes ready for our Christmas party!



I will miss the children enormously as I leave Roxeth, but know they will be in safe hands with Mrs Conway who will teach them from January.

Mrs Power



## Autumn Leaves -

It has been wonderful to see the seasons change. We have enjoyed playing in the leaves, as we can see here!



## Computing

Since half-term our younger children have continued to work on developing their mouse control with lots of fun activities on the computer. They have also started to make simple patterns that will help them to learn about directional language and sequencing.



These are important skills which our older children are now applying as they begin to learn about algorithms. Our Year 1 children have been helping to direct the Flurbs to find fruit and thinking about how we use algorithms every day, e.g. the steps we follow when we get ready for school in the morning or even how we go about making a cheese sandwich!



Mrs Ellis

## Christmas Party

A very busy Santa took time away from the North Pole on 30<sup>th</sup> November to visit our Christmas party. The children had a wonderful time as these photos show.



# Parents' Information

F.Y.I.

## PE Uniform

The new sports uniform is available now at Billings and Edwards. It consists of a white polo shirt, a green sweatshirt with school logo, black joggers and plain white trainers. The Pre-School children may wear the sports uniform all the time, as the full school uniform is only compulsory from Nursery upwards. However, of course if parents want their child to be wearing the full school uniform - they are very welcome. In January, in Reception and Year 1, the children will be able to wear their sport's uniform all day on the days they have PE. These days will be confirmed to you in the first week of next term. They will only have to change their shoes into trainers for the lesson. In this way, we hope the children will receive the full amount of time for their sports lesson, without wasting too much time changing.

## Spare Clothes

Next term, every child will require a spare set of clothes - sports or the main uniform. The old plimsolls will become the spare pair of shoes. These they should keep in their new backpack available from the school at a price of £6.00. Just their shoes should be kept in their present sport's bag. I do not expect you to buy new and that is why we held our recent second hand uniform sale for which we thank Mrs Anand and her team for organising.

## School Day

Our plans have not worked out as expected with the staggering of drop-offs, thus from next term, the school will revert to the previous times of 8.30am until 3.00pm. Now the children have had a term to settle in, we will no longer allow parents upstairs in the mornings. Any messages for the teachers should be left with Mrs Goodwin or Mrs Mackintosh downstairs. In addition, please make every effort to get your child to school on time. This will enable a focussed and smooth start to the day for the benefit of all.

## Breakfast and After School Care

The take up of Breakfast and After School care has now increased, so we are pleased to be able to continue to offer this next term. Please let us know if you wish to use this facility.

## After School Clubs

Next term, we are pleased to be able to offer the following after school activities for our pupils who are 4 and above, run by outside providers as follows:

**Flying Yogis** is coming to Roxeth Mead! We bring the joys, benefits of yoga to children age 4, and above; yoga is such a fantastic tool to help pupils to focus in class. We explore yoga with stories and games that aid physical development, hone balance and coordination, promote self-esteem and engage children in creative play! We are looking to launch on **Tuesdays from 3-4pm** in the new year, first class Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Classes are £10 per child per session, payable at the start of the new term (but we do need at least 6 pupils to make this viable). To register interest for your child for the coming term please email [vanessa@flyingyogis.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@flyingyogis.co.uk).



## STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Young Engineers

**Programme** - STEM Kids will run a club for 6 weeks, £7 a session for each child. They require a minimum of 12 children to make it viable. The sessions consists of hands on science, engineering and technology sessions. Children get to design and build models such as snap dragons, catapults, air rockets and balloon cars and take them home. If you are interested, please email Mrs Mackintosh at [info@roxethmead.com](mailto:info@roxethmead.com) so we can make a firm booking. **(Likely to be Thursdays after school – to be confirmed)**



**Science Club by Mother Nature** - Mondays after school. They provide 10 sessions for a minimum of 10 children and a maximum of 20 at £10 per child per session. Examples of topics that may be covered: Skeleton Jigsaw - Uses of bones in our bodies, take home a jigsaw skeleton. Use magnetic fields to create 'Unidentified Spinning Objects!' Powerful Water- Make a water wheel to take home. Loopy Lenses- Enter a micro-world and design your own bug magnifiers. Each hour-long session includes science demonstrations, hands-on take-home experiments and parent handouts. If you are interested, please email Mrs Mackintosh at [info@roxethmead.com](mailto:info@roxethmead.com) so we can make a firm booking.





## Stamps for the Air Ambulance

The UK's Air Ambulance Services are charities which receive no government funding and rely entirely on charitable donations to continue flying and responding to life threatening medical emergencies. They have asked us to help to raise funds through the recycling of postage stamps. All funds raised will be donated to the Association of Air Ambulances to be distributed equally to all UK Air Ambulance Services. Whether they're British or overseas, new or used, bring them in to us and we will send them off to turn them into funds to keep the UK Air Ambulance Services responding to life threatening medical emergencies.



## How to Help Your Child at Home

In the last edition we looked at Reading, this time we are looking at spelling.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/help-with-spelling/>

<https://readingeggs.co.uk/articles/2016/05/19/homeschool-spelling-activities/>

### Website – Oxford Owl

For all things relating to English, you will find the 'Oxford Owl' website extremely useful. It has a large number of free resources to engage and support children and parents at home, such as free E-books, online games and useful advice: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

## Help your child with spelling

### Different media

...use different media to write ie. paint & paint brush, chunky markers on large paper, chalk on the pavement or patio, dry markers on a mirror, use the computer and in shaving cream, custard or similar.

### Flash cards

...have flash cards, Scrabble tiles or similar around for spelling out words.

### Make a copy

...copy out the spelling list in alphabetical order or shortest to longest.

### Grab a dictionary

...have a dictionary to hand for looking up unfamiliar words.

### Narrow it down

...narrow down long lists and focus on 4 to 5 at a time.

### Get moving

...use physical activity, for each letter of the word do a star jump, walk up/down a step etc

### Games

...make the list into a game, play Hangman, make word searches or crosswords.

### Shout out

...encourage your child to spell words out loud on long car journeys or walking to school.

Encourage your child to read.  
**Good readers are often good spellers!**

## Online Safety -

The internet is amazing. Children can play, learn, create and connect - opening up a whole world of exciting possibilities. But with the digital world changing all the time, how can you make sure your child's staying safe? Parental controls are an important way to keep your child safe online. These can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up. Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, the NSPCC can help. You'll find lots of information at the website below, or you can call [0808 800 5002](tel:08088005002) to chat to an expert NSPCC and O2 advisors. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

## Reminder - hot lunches are available

Our hot lunches are provided by The Pantry Catering Company. If you wish your child to have hot lunches....



- 1) Visit the website: [www.thepantrycatering.co.uk/school\\_meals/login](http://www.thepantrycatering.co.uk/school_meals/login) and register to create a new account
- 2) Fill in the details requested, choosing 'Roxeth Mead School' from the drop down box
- 3) Choose 'Person eating is in year'
- 4) Enter payments details (please note that no child in an Independent School is eligible for free school meals)
- 5) Select your option each day.
- 6) Follow steps to complete payment and booking.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### JANUARY 2019

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training – school closed to pupils
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Spring Term Starts

### TERM DATES

#### Spring Term 2019

Tuesday 8th January – Friday 5th April at noon

Half Term: Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February

Staff Development Day: Monday 7th January

#### Summer Term 2019

Wednesday 24th April – Wednesday 10th July at noon

Half Term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May

Staff Development Days: Tuesday 23rd April and Monday 3rd June

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL CRAFT IDEA FOR THE KIDS

