



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium - Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2018-19

Issue 3 February 2019

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From The Co-Headteachers

The new term saw the opening of our Baby Room, catering for 6 babies, who are just delightful. Here we see them enjoying their food at snack time. We also welcomed a number of other new children and three new members of staff, Mrs Afsari, Mrs Ahmed and Ms Turei. After half term, we also welcome Mrs Samson to our wonderful staff team. The building is buzzing with laughter, energy, commitment and a wonderful sense of purpose that is a joy to see.



In assemblies this half term we have covered a variety of topics. We started by listening to



one of Aesop's fables, the story of The Boy Who Cried Wolf. We thought about what a lie is, what the truth is, and why someone might lie. We have to admit that this topic initiated some great discussions and disclosures of examples of when the children had told a lie! We have however promised not to tell parents!

Our knowledge and understanding of other cultures increased when Mrs Conway and the Year 1 children led an assembly on Tu B'Shevat (the Jewish holiday celebrating trees). We learnt how the Jewish community eats figs, pomegranates, barley, olives, etc... as part of their celebrations of the importance of the vegetation that helps to feed us. The following week, Mrs Kalsi and the Reception class told us all about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. This year is the Year of the Pig. To the right we can see the pig masks that the younger children made to celebrate this. We are very grateful to Luoling's mummy for generously sending in lucky envelopes containing chocolate money for each of the children. Happy Chinese New Year everyone!



During Safer Internet Week, Mrs Ellis showed us the story of "The Adventures of Smartie Penguin" and taught us how to keep safe online. The children learnt that we should always tell an adult if something on the tablet or smartphone bothers them. We hope you have taken the time to look at the Safer Internet display in our downstairs corridor, but there are some superb resources to help parents to navigate this minefield of a topic

at The Safer Internet Centre <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>

or at <https://www.internetmatters.org/safer-internet-day/>.

Have a lovely half term everyone. We look forward to seeing you again on Monday 25th February.

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

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Harrow on the Hill
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info@roxethmead.com
www.roxethmead.com



Thank you to everyone who donated via baking, organising selling and tidying at the tea after the Nativity last term, it was a major hit. Special thanks goes to Christchurch for the use of their fabulous facilities.

Thank you to Lori (Aiden's mum) for organising a parent get together which was lots of fun in January. She is planning another parent's night out in March – please look out for details via the parent's WhatsApp group.

This term we are looking for volunteers to help organise an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on Thursday 4th April (the day before we break up for the Easter holidays). This will coincide with the school's Easter Bonnet parade on that day too. See page 7.



In the Summer term, we also hope to run a Summer Fair in the grounds of the school. If you know anyone who could offer to hire us a cheap bouncy castle or carousel, please let me know.

Neena Anand, PTA Chair

News from the Baby Room

Our new baby room is proving to be a great success. The children have settled really well. They have made friends with each other and have become very good at sharing and taking turns. Singing songs in circle time is a favourite activity. They absolutely love to sing 'Ring-a-Ring o' Roses' with actions. They are already learning resilience as they discuss what their parents/carers might be doing while they are at school. We have been very pleased to welcome Mrs Ahmed in to the team and she, Mrs Ghatora and Mrs Isaacs have loved being a part of this new venture. The photos show us enjoying Circle time, books and imaginative play!



News from Pre-School

I ended our last newsletter hoping the children would perform in our nativity play as well as they did in the rehearsals and they certainly did not disappoint - what a lovely end to the Autumn term it was! I was so proud of them and all they had achieved in just one term and I am sure you were too.

Again, we have had some new children join our happy little class, they have settled well, and all are clearly enjoying their time in school and all the activities on offer. We have been observing the weather and seasonal changes and have enjoyed all our craft activities as well as simple counting tasks and tracing of patterns to improve our pencil control. Many of our afternoons have been spent enjoying messy play and, as a result, my broom has been well used!!

The last couple of weeks have been spent looking at storytelling and books, introducing the children to the concept of an author and the structure of stories i.e. a beginning, middle and end. The children were just superb helping me during my assembly about storytelling and I had 3 wonderful owl babies with Hugh, Dhyaan and Chhavi acting the story of "Owl Babies" and Raphy being their mother. The other children in the class were roaring tigers showing their masks they had made from the book "The Tiger Who Came to Tea" and they then performed to a tiger song.

Once again a happy and busy and productive half term working with your receptive children with your support too.

Mrs O'Neill



News from Nursery Class

My first half term at Roxeth Mead has been a joy, getting to know the wonderful children. In Literacy we have been recalling our letter sounds with flash cards and have introduced the concept of blending CVC words with the help of Tom the Tiger. We have also been matching familiar letter sounds to pictures.

In numeracy, we have been learning to recognise the written numerals 11-20. We have also been ordering numbers to 10 and counting and matching the written numerals to the correct numeral. In KUW (Knowledge and Understanding of the World) we have been learning about winter clothes, winter weather and winter animals – the weather did not disappoint and has certainly given us lots to talk about with ice, snow and gale force winds! We have also learnt about the Chinese New Year and enjoyed making Chinese lanterns and Chinese drums.



Mrs Afsari

News from Reception Class

It has been a pleasure to teach Reception Class this term. The children have been working hard and have risen to the challenges set for them. It has been a very busy term with the children making good progress in reading and writing. In the maths lessons they have been consolidating addition, subtraction, shapes and patterns and learning to measure in centimetres using a ruler.

Our choice of storybooks has been varied and the children have engaged in activities such as putting together a large skeleton, sequencing, learning rhyming words, singing songs and thus increasing their vocabulary.

Our topic work got children involved in finger painting, creating a winter picture with chalk, making lanterns, masks, role playing, thinking of magic spells for the witch in 'Room on the Broom', building houses of straw, sticks and Lego bricks for The Three Little Pigs.

As part of our topic work on winter, our budding scientists were able to tell that water (liquid) when frozen would turn into ice (solid). They were able to state that ice would float and as part of our experiment and to predict that ice would melt the fastest in warm water and slowest in cold water.

The children helped to present the Chinese New Year assembly to the rest of the school with confidence. They have participated in the music and PE lessons with enthusiasm. It has also been a pleasure to welcome Miss Turei to Reception class this term.

Mrs Kalsi

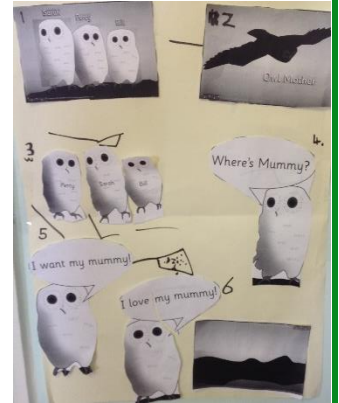


News from Year 1

Year 1 have worked so hard this half term! We have had great fun in Maths, focusing on number facts to 10 and using a variety of techniques to help with mental recall of addition/subtraction. The children particularly loved our games of Bingo to practise these skills and we have spent time working in groups to encourage team-building skills too.



In English this half term we have focused on the book Owl Babies; writing sentences, sequencing the text and sharpening comprehension skills. Everyone has done so well with their homework too and I'm thrilled with how their understanding of different texts is developing. Thank you to all parents who read with their children at home and help them to move up the reading scheme.



In RE this half term we have learnt about the Jewish observance of Shabbat and the children particularly enjoyed tasting 'Challah' as part of our learning. The children did particularly well in our class assembly on Tu B'Shevat, the festival of the trees.

In History, the 'History of Transport' has provided many creative opportunities for the class to consider how people travelled in the past and the class loved designing their own Viking long boats - they had some fabulous ideas about how and why the Vikings would travel. This



subject ties in with our transport paintings, inspired by the artist Vincent Van Gogh. The children loved experimenting with different brush strokes and particularly loved adding glitter and sparkle at the end. We can't wait to send home the finished masterpieces!



Finally, in Science we have investigated light and dark and looked at the main sources of light. Children learnt the words 'transparent, translucent and opaque' and we looked at many different examples. In addition, they made lovely posters for Reception on how to keep safe in the sun.



The Van Gogh original...

Our interpretations ...



We have certainly kept busy! Thank you so much for supporting us in giving your child the best education possible and being flexible with the changes this term. I wish you a lovely break.

Mrs Conway

Computing

Ofcom's 'Children and Parents Media Use and Attitudes Report' (2018 – released in January 2019) found that:

- 1% of 3-4 year olds have their own smartphone and 19% have their own tablet
- 52% of 3-4 year olds go online for an average of nearly 9 hours a week
- 45% of 3-4 year olds use YouTube

Thus, it is important that we ensure children are learning about the world around them and how to keep safe online, thus Mrs Ellis has been doing just that. She reports...

With Safer Internet Day falling on 5th February, our Reception and Year 1 children have been learning about how to make the best choices when they are online. They have talked about what the internet is and why and how they need to ask permission to do certain things. I hope that you have all had the opportunity to look at the 'Staying Safe Online' display in the downstairs corridor – this highlights many of the resources and activities your children have been using.

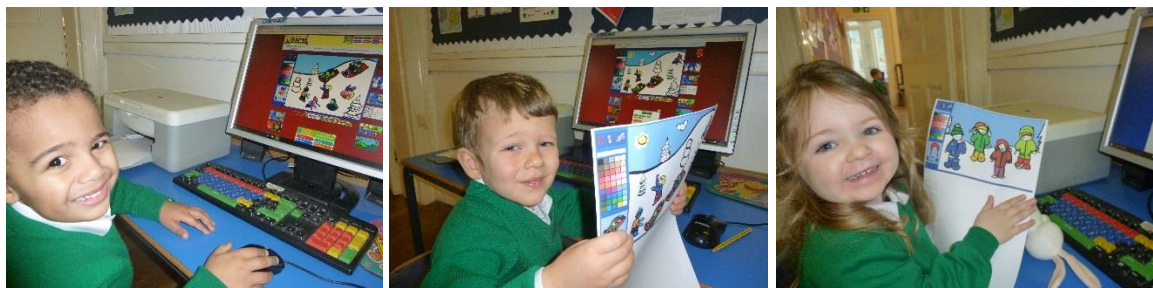
They have also been thinking about the different ways that we gather information from symbols, text, pictures and sounds. Our Reception class had great fun looking around the school to find examples before playing a 'Sounds have meaning' bingo game.



The children in Year 1 have continued to learn about algorithms by helping the Flurbs and Connie the Coder.



Meanwhile, our Pre-School and Nursery children have taken inspiration from the season (and the snow!) to use a paint program to create some wonderful winter scenes.



Mrs Ellis

Parents' Information

F.Y.I.

School Day

In order to facilitate a smooth start to morning lessons in Reception and Year 1, we kindly ask parents not to go upstairs with their child. If you have a message for the teacher, please either write it in the link book or tell Mrs Goodwin or Mrs Mackintosh who will be able to pass the message on. Thank you!

Friday 15th March is Comic Relief

On this day, the children may wear a red nose, deeley boppers, a special T Shirt or any other official Comic Relief merchandise with their normal school uniform to support Comic Relief. Items are available from Sainsbury's, TKMaxx, Argos or at <https://shop.comicrelief.com/>



Easter Bonnets

On Thursday 4th April (the day before we break up for Easter) we will be holding an Easter Bonnet parade. We are inviting all the pupils to wear an Easter Bonnet that they have helped to create. Here are a few ideas...



That afternoon we will have an Egg Hunt. More details from the PTA, nearer the time.

After School Clubs

Flying Yogis is taking off! The children are really enjoying themselves, as the photos show.

For information, Parita, who runs the sessions, teaches an adult Yoga class at The Bushey Arena on Monday evenings 8.30 – 9.30. Email her on PariYogaLonfdon@gmail.com for more details.



Science Club by Mother Nature – The children have loved being mini scientists. Here we can see them making parachutes ready to launch out of the window!



Art Club - The art club is held every Thursday after school from 3 to 4pm. There are plenty of spaces available and we are now able to accept pupils who are 3 and a half or above. The children create something each week to take home. Here we can see our pupils proudly showing off what they made. Let Mrs Mackintosh know if you wish to join.

World Book Day - Thursday 7th March

On Thursday 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. The children are invited to come to school on this day dressed as a character from a book. Please do not feel obliged to go out and spend money on a fancy costume - it is perfectly fine to be creative and use items that you already have at home.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Useful Websites

Below you will find a list of some useful websites with free games and activities that you can use with your child to supplement their English learning:

BBC Spellits (Spelling games) http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/spellits/home_noflash.shtml#

BBC Bitesize (Spelling and Grammar, KS2) <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zhrrd2p>

Arcademic Skill Builders (Literacy (and Maths) games, KS1 & KS2) <https://www.arcademics.com/>

Crickweb (Literacy (and Maths) educational games, KS2) <http://www.crickweb.co.uk/ks2literacy.html>

Fun Brain (Reading, Spelling (and Maths) games, KS1 & KS2) <https://www.funbrain.com/books>

Learning Games for Kids (Spelling and Word games, KS1 & KS2)

https://www.learninggamesforkids.com/spelling_games.html

Eduplace.com (Levelled Spelling and Vocabulary games, KS1 & KS2) <http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmsv/smg/>

PrimaryGames.com (Spelling rules, including vowels, blends and plurals etc., KS1 & KS2)

<http://www.primarygames.com/see-n-spell/see-n-spell.htm>

ICT Games.com (Look, cover, check game, KS1 & KS2) <http://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/lcwc/index.html>

Manythings.org (Aimed at ESL students but includes useful Spelling & Vocabulary games)

<http://www.manythings.org/e/spelling.html>

Spring Term Trip

Our trip this term is to Willows Farm, St Albans, on Thursday 28th March. We will need some parent helpers to ensure that the children have plenty of supervision. If you can help, please email Mrs Mackintosh. More details to follow nearer the time, but please make a note of this in your diary.



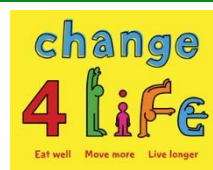
Stamps for the Air Ambulance

A reminder that we are collecting stamps for the UK's Air Ambulance Service, a charity that receives no government funding. Whether they are British or overseas, new or used, bring the stamps 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.



Change 4 Life

Did you know that families can sign up to the Change4Life campaign at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life> where you can find meal ideas, helpful tips, food swap ideas and also download the helpful 'Food Scanner' app? This website also contains information as to what to include in a healthy lunchbox, as we are still seeing some pupils coming to school with chocolate spread sandwiches. Please ensure lunch boxes are healthy!



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 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.



Local Half-Term Activities

At Harrow Libraries:

Creative kids' events across the half term

Free, booking required



Make a Hedgehog

Gayton, Monday 18 February, 11 to 11.45am, ages 6 to 11
Learn the art of book folding and join us to create your very own hedgehog from recycled books.

Desk Tidy Craft

Pinner, Tuesday 19 February, 2.30 to 3.30pm, ages 5 to 11
Come along and enjoy making your very own desk tidy to store all your school stationery.

Design Your Own Picture Frame

Gayton, Tuesday 19 February, 2.30 to 3.15pm, ages 5 to 10
Come and design your own picture frame to take home.

Make a Keepsake Keyring

Stanmore, Thursday 21 February 2.15 to 3.15pm, ages 6 to 11
Come and make your very own unicorn or star keyring.

Free, no booking required

Flower Craft

Wealdstone, Monday 18 February, 2 to 3pm
Children from 5+ can create a vase filled with colourful flowers from recycled material.



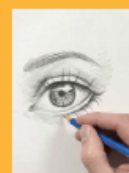
Mother and Baby Elephant Craft Activity

Roxeth, Tuesday 25 October, 11am to 12pm, ages 5 to 11
Come and join us for a fun half term craft activity. We'll be reading stories and singing nursery rhymes, as we do every week, but this time there's an opportunity to get creative too! We invite you to come and have fun crafting and colouring mother and baby African elephants against a jungle background.



Improve your Drawing Skills with an Artist

Wealdstone, Friday 22 February, 11am to 12pm
Ages 7 to 11. Join acrylics artist Mark Ross as he introduces you to the basics of drawing.



Dreamcatcher Craft

Kenton, Friday 22 February, 11am to 12pm
Ages 5 to 11. Make a personalised dream catcher to hang in your room.

Elsewhere:

Exciting half term special – come and enjoy cookery and crafts in our state of the art cookery school!

Make and Bake Half Term Workshop

**£29.50 per daily session
15% off additional siblings**

Cooking & Craft Kids Workshop

Teen Cookery Class

Ages 6-11 10am-3pm Monday 18th Feb -Thursday 21st
11-16 Years 10am-3pm – Friday 22nd Feb
There will be a range of different crafts and supervised baking activities each day

Please book online at
www.harrow.gov.uk/cookeryschool
For more information email
cookery.school@harrow.gov.uk

Harrow Cookery School
Civic 7, Station Road, Harrow
Public parking available on site

www.harrow.gov.uk/cookeryschool

Harrow COUNCIL
LONDON



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY 2019

Monday 25 th	8.30am	Pupils return after half term. Welcome to Mrs Samson.
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MARCH

Thursday 7 th	All day	World Book Day. Pupils may come to school dressed as a character from a book
Friday 15 th	All day	Comic Relief Day. Pupils may wear Comic Relief merchandise.
Tuesday 26 th	-	Term 2 Reports sent home (parents can book in a meeting with the teacher during this or the following week if they want to discuss the content).
Thursday 28 th	All day	Spring Term Visit to Willows Farm. Parent helpers needed please.

APRIL

Mon to Friday 1 st to 5 th		Teachers available to speak to parents re. Spring Term Report
Thursday 4 th	All day	Pupils to wear an Easter Bonnet for Easter parade
Thursday 4 th	2.30pm	Easter Egg Hunt (with PTA)
Friday 5 th	12 noon	School breaks up for Easter holiday
Friday 5 th	12 noon	Deadline for written notice for children leaving at the end of the Summer Term
Tuesday 23 rd April	All day	Staff Training Day – no pupils in school
Wednesday 24 th April	8.30am	Pupils return after Easter Holiday

MAY

Friday 24 th May	3pm	Break up for half term
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JUNE

Monday 3 rd June		Staff Training Day – no pupils in school
Tuesday 4 th June	8.30am	Pupils return after half-term
tbc	tbc	Summer Term Trip
tbc	tbc	Summer Fair
tbc	tbc	Sports Day

JULY

tbc	tbc	Speech Day
Wednesday 10 th	12 noon	School breaks up for Summer Holidays

TERM DATES 2019/2020

Autumn Term 2019

Thursday 5th September- Thursday 12th December at 12 noon
 Half Term: Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November
 Staff Development Days: Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September

Spring Term 2020

Wednesday 8th January – Friday 3rd April at 12 noon
 Half Term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February
 Staff Development Days: Tuesday 7th January

Summer Term 2020

Wednesday 22nd April- Fri 3rd July at 12 noon
 Half Term: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May
 Staff Development Days: Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st April

NB: Term dates may, on occasion, be subject to change, so please check all new term dates sheets whenever they are sent out to you or refer to the School website