



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2019-20

Issue 1 October 2019

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From The Co-Headteachers

Welcome back to the new academic year. What a wonderful first half term; all of the children have settled beautifully into their new classes.

It has been a delight to see so many examples of excellent learning taking place. We have seen superb social skills developing such as sharing, taking turns, listening and good sitting. We have also seen great phonics, number, shape and writing. It has been lovely to celebrate the childrens' successes in our Friday assemblies where every week, four children are awarded with a Superhero Award which is displayed in the hall for a week until they take it home. Our superhero board is shown here.



We have whole school assemblies every Tuesday and Friday at 9am. In our first assembly of the year, we talked about our journey through our school years. We noted that we need courage; courage to face new situations; courage to do the right thing and courage to persevere when things get difficult. This theme was built upon the following week when Mrs Ellis talked to us all about resilience and never giving up. She read the story "Giraffe's Can't Dance" - Gerald would love to join in with the other animals at the Jungle Dance but everyone knows that giraffes can't dance...or can they? Ask your child what happened.



On 1st October we learnt about the Jewish festivals of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. We all had the opportunity to try some apple dipped in honey.

It was great to celebrate Harvest with our children at our Harvest Assembly on October 8th. In the photo you can see three of our pre-school children helping Mr O'Neill to tell the



story of the farmer and how bread is made. We collected donations of food and toiletries for our celebration and were able to send three large boxes to our local Foodbank. Thank you to all our parents for your generosity.

Finally, we extend our warmest wishes to Mrs Payne who has broken her arm. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back with us soon.

We wish you a restful half-term and look forward to seeing you again on November 4th.

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

Buckholt House
25 Middle Road
Harrow on the Hill
HA2 0HW
0208 422 2092
info@roxethmead.com
www.roxethmead.com



Roxeth Mead PTA

We are planning to hold a gathering on the last day of term, Thursday 12th December, at Christ's Church, following the Nativity, just as we did last year. If you have some time to help with this or if you can donate some refreshments, please contact Mrs Anand.

News from the Baby Room

This term the baby room is happily settled with new staff members. The babies have adapted well to the daily routine. They enjoy their day and have had lots of fun learning about nursery rhymes and stories. Circle time has been a great success - it is a great opportunity to count, sing and read stories. All the children run excitedly to the bean bags when they are asked to. We have also had lots of fun doing different creative activities linking to the topics of the week such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

Mrs Sheikh & Mrs Smith



News from Pre-School

We have had a productive and happy half term which has seen our new children settle into school with ease and all now leave their parents happily.

The older children have shown care and empathy to the younger children and we have seen their social skills develop well and it is a delight to observe them playing together and forming good friendships. It has also been a pleasure to welcome Mrs Patel into our happy team.

As usual we have been extremely busy working around our topic work, threading, sticking, painting and cooking as well as introducing the children to our Read, Write, Inc scheme where the children are becoming familiar with some phonics and I know some of you have already been amazed by the way the children have grasped this concept.

We are so lucky to now have the use of the conservatory where we take small groups of children to participate in more formal learning and give them our individual attention.

Without exception the children sit well for stories, singing and responding to the register as well as snack and lunchtime. This group are truly a delight and we thank you for giving us such delightful children to work with.



Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Patel & Mrs Ghatora

News from Nursery Class

The children have settled into the nursery class beautifully. The transition from the pre-school to the nursery class has been very smooth indeed. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children to the school Benjamin and Friya. We wish you a happy and successful time with us.

This half term we have been very busy learning topics on All About Me, My Family, Nursery Rhymes, Story Land, Handa's Surprise and Autumn.

During our topics on All about Me and My family, the children learnt about skeletons and made puppets to represent their families.

During our topic on Nursery Rhymes, the children did lots of lovely art work about Incy Wincy Spider, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Baa Baa Black Sheep and 5 Little Ducks.



For our story land book the children voted on doing Cock a Moo-Moo, a class favourite story book about a cockerel who forgets how to crow. The children had the opportunity to act out the story at assembly (see the photo to the left).

For Handa's Surprise, the children made a lovely collage representing Handa's Basket and we made a fruit salad representing the fruit from the story.

For our topic on Autumn, the children participated in leaf printing, painted autumn trees and made hedgehogs.

In literacy, we are learning to recognise sounds and beginning to link sounds to familiar objects. The children are progressing very well in literacy and are learning a new sound every day. We consolidate the sounds that we have already learnt by repeating them every day.

In numeracy, the children are working towards recognising the written numbers 1-100. They are learning to order the written numbers 1-10 and are working on understanding positional language. We are also working towards recognising 3D shapes.



Mrs Afsari and Mrs Turei

News from Reception Class

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children to Reception class. They have settled very well and are now familiar with the routine. Their enthusiasm and energy makes it a joy to teach them.



In our Phonics lessons they have been practising their sounds, reading CVC words, learning about rhyming words, listening out for initial sounds in words and learning to form letters correctly using the RWI scheme. In the literacy lessons they have listened to stories, talked about the characters and the setting, recalled and retold stories in their own words, recalled the correct sequence of events and thought about a different ending.



In the Maths lessons they have been consolidating writing and recognition of numbers to 30. They have been learning about patterns, 2D and 3D shapes, addition, one more and one less than a given number and measuring height.

Our topic work has had them bringing in their baby and family pictures, making self portraits, painting speckled frogs, putting Humpty Dumpty together again, making Incy Wincy spiders, skeletons, making houses with shapes and weaving Handa's basket and colouring the fruit.

In our Music and Movement lessons the children have played musical instruments, danced to music, followed instructions to perform the stick dance and sung songs. The PE lessons have been about learning to move in different ways and enhancing their ball skills.



The children have worked hard and have had a great start to this new term.

Mrs Kalsi.



News from Year 1 & 2

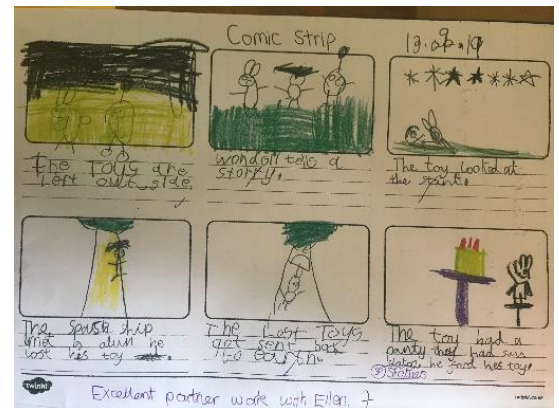
What a fantastic half term we have had. The children have all settled so well into new routines and adapted to the new timetable of Year 1/2. It has been lovely to get to know the Reception children who have joined us and new faces too.

Our topic this term is Toys and we have based a lot of our learning around this theme. In History, we were fortunate enough to have Mrs Isaacs come to talk about the toys she played with when she was younger, including her favourite childhood doll. The children loved writing questions for her, such as 'Where did you buy your toys when you were younger?' and 'What were your toys made from?' which became a lovely question-and-answer session. We have also used the wonderful book 'Toys in Space' by Mini Grey as a stimulus for writing, and the class enjoyed working in partners to create their own comic strips (pictured), based on the book. We are currently writing our own versions of the story, which we can't wait to show you.

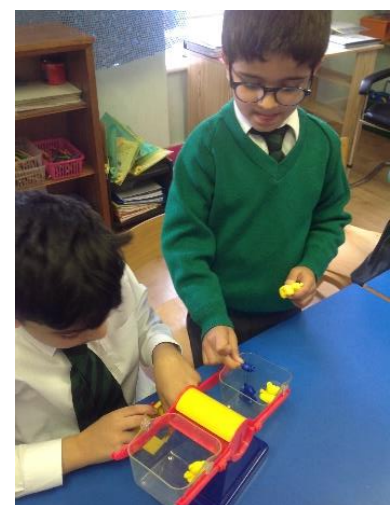


In Science we have been learning about animals (including humans), naming body parts and exploring our senses. We also enjoyed grouping animals into Herbivores, Carnivores and Omnivores (as pictured), which led to animated discussion about the merits and pitfalls of vegetarianism!

In Maths we have been working hard on a variety of topics, including a practical lesson on balancing (pictured) and our weekly Times Table lesson. It would be a good idea to listen to some Times Table CDs or online videos at home in order to make the topic fun for your children and commit Times Tables to memory.



We have been lucky enough to have the help of Mrs Alfano for Art and Music lessons this year, as well as a fantastic PE session on a Friday, with a sports coach, which I know is a highlight of the week. It is wonderful to see the children engage in such a varied and inspiring curriculum. Thank you for all your help with homework and reading this half term, to ensure processes run smoothly. I am very proud of how your children are working and the progress they are making so far. Have a lovely half term and see you for the lead up to Christmas!



Best wishes, Mrs Conway

Computing

I do hope you have had the chance to take a look at our 'Control Technology' display in the hallway downstairs. This highlights many of the exciting activities the children have been working on during the past half-term. It includes some photos of the children in action too!

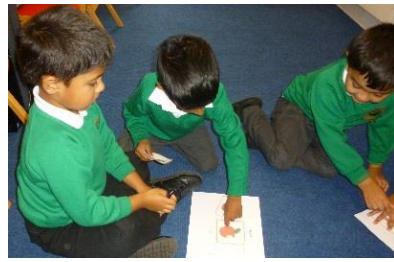
Our pre-school children have had fun finding out about cause and effect. They have used an interactive book about robots and our 'Talking Points' to record and play back their voices. It was lovely to see their faces as their Beebots headed off across the floor after they had programmed them and pushed the all-important 'Go' button!



The Nursery children have been working hard on their mouse skills with on-line activities based around useful topics such as tidying up, sharing/taking turns and selecting the most suitable clothes to wear in different types of weather. Linked to their Harvest topic they have also been finding out where our food comes from.



Reception worked together as a team to create a technology house (also on the display) and have been introduced to 'algorithms'. They were able to sequence various nursery rhymes and enjoyed the 'Tell Me A Story' interactive activity where they put a variety of stories back into the correct order. To link with their weekly topics, they have used an e-book and interactive resources to find out about Harvest time and autumn.



Our Year 1 and 2 children have been finding out about what technology is used for, especially in the workplace. They have discovered what the earliest computers looked like (huge!) and have taken a look inside an iPad to see what goes on...they even built their own paper versions! Our internet safety lessons have focussed on what personal information is and why we all need to take care of it. The children always have so much to add to these lessons which is really encouraging.



Wishing you all a relaxing half-term break!

Mrs Ellis

Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term - EYFS:

			Supporting Books
Celebrations & Festivals	Fireworks & Autumn	4 th November	
	Music Week	11 th November	
	Colours	18 th November	Elmer the Elephant
	Shapes	25 th November	
	Christmas	2 nd December	Snowballs
	Christmas	9 th December	Xmas Stories

Topics for Next Half Term - Year 1&2:

Class Text	Lost in the Toy Museum
Maths	Number: Addition and Subtraction
English	Non-fiction / letter writing
Science	Everyday materials
Humanities	Location knowledge (Geography)
Music	Singing (Nativity)
Art	Painting
PE	Gym and Dance
PHSE / SMSC / BV	Fireworks / Diwali / Remembrance / Children in Need / Thankful at Xmas / Tolerance of different faiths

Christmas Arrangements

I know it seems a little premature to be talking about Christmas, but did you see our letter outlining the arrangements for the run up to Christmas? I have summarised it here...



1) Pantomime

Each term we like to offer the children something a little special, outside of the normal curriculum offer. Last year at this time we went to the pantomime, however, this year, we have decided to bring the pantomime to us instead. We are pleased to announce that the company 'Panto in a Day' will be visiting on the morning of **Thursday 5th December** to perform The Wizard of Oz, in our school hall.

2) Christmas Party

We have also arranged a Christmas Party for the children on **Tuesday 10th December from 9.30 – 11.30am**. This will be hosted by Froggle Parties and will include, comedy magic, puppets, balloon modelling, lively party games and fake snow to get us in the Christmas spirit! After lunch we hope to have a visit from Santa! Uniform is NOT required on this day, the children may wear a Christmas jumper or party clothes to mark this special day.

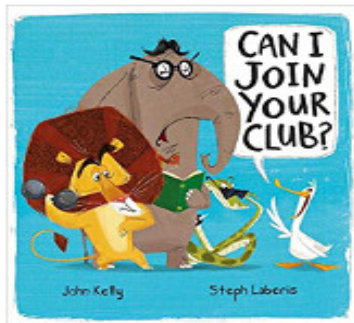
3) The Nativity

The children will be performing "**Nursery Nativity**" on the last day of term, **Thursday 12th December**. Parents, grandpate are invited to join us at Christ's Church, Roxeth Hill (opposite Roxeth Primary School) at 10.45am and stay afterwards for refreshments arranged by the PTA. Children should come to school as normal at 8.30am but dressed in their costumes. They will not need book bags, snacks or lunch on this day (we will provide a mid-morning snack). We will walk to the Church at 9.30am to rehearse and then welcome parents from 10.45am ready for the performance to begin at 11.00am. There will be refreshments available afterwards at the Church, kindly organised by the PTA. Children should be taken home straight from the Church.

Words for Life (National Literacy Foundation)

To mark World Mental Health Day on 10th October and with children's happiness and mental health so often in the news these days, The National Literacy Foundation have a list of books to help children feel happier and more confident. You can find the list here:

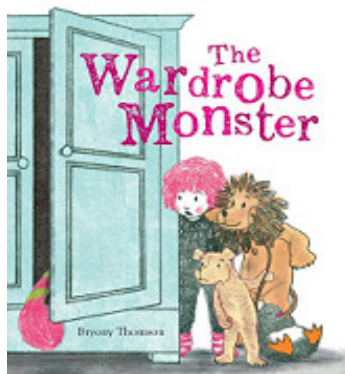
<http://wordsforlife.org.uk/node/1653>. We recommend these from the list:



Can I Join Your Club?

By John Kelly and Steph Laberis

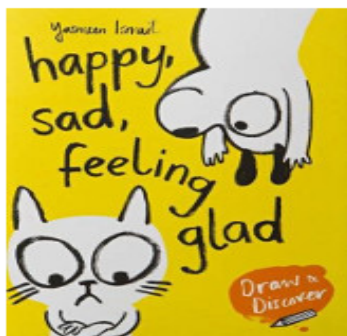
A heart-warming story which celebrates the importance of diversity and friendship. Perfect for little ones who are learning to make friends at a new school or nursery.



The Wardrobe Monster

By Bryony Thomson

A wonderful reassuring story for children who might imagine monsters in their bedroom at night time. What's that knocking sound coming from the wardrobe? Every night, it makes Dora and her toy friends afraid to go to bed and every morning they are grumpy through lack of sleep. Eventually, they summon up the courage to face their fear together and open the wardrobe door to find it's not as bad as they thought.



Happy, Sad, Feeling Glad

By Yasmin Ismail

An endearing and engaging look at emotions and how different situations cause different feelings. What has made Dog happy? Do you know what Cat is scared of? And why is Donkey so excited? A range of fun art activities encourages young readers to explore their feelings and express themselves with drawings, doodles and decorations.

Read Write Inc.

At Roxeth Mead School we use the Read Write Inc. programme. Read, Write Inc is an integrated approach to teaching phonics, reading, writing, handwriting and spelling, devised by one of the UK's leading authorities on literacy, Ruth Miskin OBE. You might like to watch this video first as it explains what Phonics is.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYxnmilvCWc&list=PLRKcpLXEIYB10GICiuAh4xiKZ58ixhZJv>



Here are ten top tips from Read Write Inc.

- Saying sounds correctly** This is really important when you are helping your child to learn the sounds. Just remember not to add an *uh* to the end of the consonant sounds – so say *mmm* not *muh*, *lll* not *luh*, etc. because then later it's easier to blend the sounds together to make words. For an illustration, take a look at the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>
- Linking sounds to letters** Encourage your child to make a link between the sound and the written letter shape. Start with the sounds in your child's name and then look out for them in signs. The sound *m* in McDonalds is always a good starting point too! This video shows what we mean.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qB6SvZscxgg&t=72s>

3. **Sounds represented by more than one letter** Some sounds are represented by more than one letter such as *sh* in *ship*, *ch* in *chat*, *th* in *thin*, *qu* in *quick* and *ng* in *sing*. When you're out and about point out examples of these to your child too. You might see them in posters, signs, or leaflets.
4. **Practise, practise, practise** Build up a knowledge of the letters and sounds quite quickly with your child and keep practising so that it becomes automatic. Keep reminding 'Do you remember when we were talking about the sound *ch*...?', or 'Oh look! There's a big *t* (sound) on that poster!'
5. **Putting sounds together to read simple words** Say the sounds *c-a-t* to read *cat*, *sh-o-p* to read *shop* and *s-t-r-ee-t* to read *street*. If your child gets stuck and is struggling to blend the sounds, say the sounds yourself, quickly, until your child can hear the word! Only beginner readers need to sound out every word as they read all the time. But, they will still need to work out new and long words.
6. **Tricky words** Some everyday words in English have tricky spellings and can't be read by blending. Imagine trying to read the word *said* or *does* by blending each letter! These are sometimes called high frequency, tricky words, or red words. These words just have to be learned by sight and flashcard-type games are a good way to practise these.
7. **Reading books** The RWI books we send home are decodable books. This means the books contain mostly words that children can read by sounding out to get them off to a good start with independent reading. After your child has read a page, you can read it aloud again, to make sure that the story is enjoyed and understood.
8. **Using pictures** Pictures are great for sharing and talking about a story (which is really important too!) but don't encourage your child to use pictures to guess the words that they don't already know.
9. **Writing letters** Teach your child how to write the letters as the letter sounds are learned. And don't forget to show your child how to hold the pencil correctly too!
10. **Common sense... Lots and lots of books!** Carry on sharing and reading lots and lots of stories and information books to and with your child. **Praise and hugs!** Most importantly, remember that your child will learn much faster with encouragement, praise and hugs.

If you have questions about RWI, please ask.

How to Help Your Child at Home

The most important thing you can do to help your child at home is to read, read and read! Reading every single day is so important and a great routine to get in to. It can be a lovely time to spend with your child, not only with their reading book but with story books from school or home. Help your child to be as independent as possible – holding the book, turning the pages, pointing to the text and joining in with familiar phrases. When sharing a story with your child you can model key skills which will support them in their learning. For example, finger pointing to the words, scanning from left to right, spotting tricky words and familiar sounds, picking up information from illustrations and making predictions.

Useful Websites for Home Learning:

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/2010/10/29/hear-the-letter-sounds/>

<http://www.rainbowresources.co.uk/#/letters-sounds/4549552053>

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize

www.topmarks.co.uk

www.ictgames.com/literacy

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>

<http://jollylearning.co.uk>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

<https://www.mathplayground.com/>

Online Safety

If you would like more help and support with how to keep your children safe online, the following website has some use links and ideas for supporting families
<http://www.langshott-surrey.co.uk/page/?title=E-Safety+%28Online+Safety%29&pid=32>



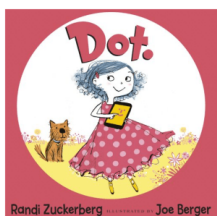
Family Link App

If you have older children, this app may be useful to families who would like to know more about their child's online activities. Family Link is a free app that works on Android and iOS devices to allow parents to keep track of their child's digital activity. This app allows you to view their activity, showing you how much time they are spending on their favourite apps. You can receive notifications allowing you to approve, hide or block apps as well as allowing you to manage in-app purchases on their device. The app allows you to set limits on their screen time and enables you to remotely lock their device when a break is needed. You can also see where they are by viewing their location. This app is free to download and if you would like more information, please visit <https://www.internetmatters.org> and search for family link app.



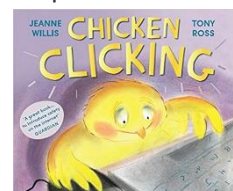
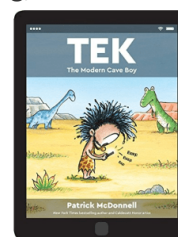
Books to Support Online Safety

In school, we use stories to show children how important it is to stay safe when using the internet. The books below can be purchased at most online retailers, if parents and carers want to use them to reinforce the understanding of these concepts. We hope that you will find the recommendations useful.



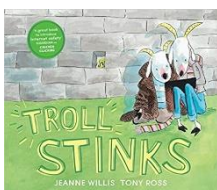
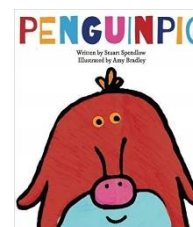
"Dot" is a lovely picture book for young children about getting the right balance in your life between Online and Offline activities. It is written by Randi Zuckerberg, Mark Zuckerberg's older sister. It is delightfully charming and wise.

In a similar vein to Dot, "Tek: The Modern Caveboy", by Patrick McDonnell, tells a similar tale of how enlightened you can become by the real world, if you only put the phone, tablet or game controller down for a while and be enchanted with what's happening in the real world. This is a board book and is iPad shaped.



Jeanne Willis is a family favourite children's author and Tony Ross is a celebrated children's illustrator so what's not to like about this charming (but sinister) tale of a young chick who loves to surf the web, "Chicken Clicking".

"Penguinpig" (by Stuart Spendlow and boldly illustrated by Amy Bradley) is a cautionary tale about not always believing everything that you read and see online.



Billy Goat and his best friend Cyril are messing about with the farmer's mobile phone, taking selfies and playing games... until they discover the number for a troll. Grandpa Gruff says all trolls are bad, so Billy and Cyril decide to get their own back by sending mean messages. After all, trolls really do stink! Don't they?

Healthy Packed Lunches

I know it can sometimes be difficult to satisfy children's taste buds, particularly if they are fussy eaters. However, pupils need a full stomach in order to concentrate and be active during the school day. We are a healthy school and aim to teach pupils to make choices which are beneficial to them. Please do not put chocolate bars, crisps or sweets in the lunchbox, nor provide jam or chocolate spread sandwiches. For more information on healthy packed lunches go to: <http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>. Please ensure your child's lunch box is clearly named and placed neatly in the lunch box area daily.

Allergies

As a school we support those children with a variety of medical needs. We have a number of children in our school who are allergic to nuts & nut related products. For some children it can be a mild reaction to this food item. However, for other children it can become life threatening. We are therefore, seeking your support in ensuring nuts and nut related products e.g. Nutella, are not brought into the school. Many thanks!

Absence from School

If your child is going to be away from school due to illness, please telephone or email to let us know. If your child has had sickness or diarrhoea, it is important that they do not return to school for 48 hours from the last episode, this is to ensure complete recovery and reduce the possibility of infection for other children. If your child is of compulsory school age i.e. 5 or above, please note that we are not permitted to authorise any time away from school for holidays or treat days. If you do take your child out for a holiday we will mark this as "unauthorised". Thank you for your cooperation.

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:

https://www.thepantrycatering.co.uk/school_meals/register.php
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.

Half Term Activities

FREE Special Exhibition until 23 February 2020

Booking Required: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk
Basement Gallery Level -1

Discover the remarkable world of codebreaking, ciphers and secret communications in a free exhibition at the Science Museum. From the trenches of the First World War to the latest in cyber security, Top Secret explores over a century's worth of communications intelligence through hand-written documents, declassified files and previously unseen artefacts from the Science Museum Group's and GCHQ's historic collections.



Trace the evolution of the gadgets and devices used to conceal crucial messages and to decode the secrets of others. Hear from GCHQ staff doing top secret work to defend against terror attacks and serious crime and discover the challenges of maintaining digital security in the 21st century.

Explore the story of Alan Turing and the team of Bletchley Park codebreakers who broke the Enigma code in 1941, uncover spy-craft from 1960's Cold War espionage and challenge your friends and family to become codebreakers in our interactive puzzle zone.

Cooking and Crafts Workshop for 6-11 year olds

Make and bake workshops - Activities include making yarn monsters, painting, decorating and baking a range of sweet and savoury pastries, cupcakes and cookies. 10am to 3pm Daily. **Monday 21st October until Thursday 24th October 2019.** £29.50 per daily session - 15% off for additional siblings. All you need to provide is a packed lunch for your child on the day. For more information please contact us on 020 8736 6810 or email cooking.school@harrow.gov.uk. Harrow Cooking School, Civic 7, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2XY



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



OCTOBER

Monday 21st		Half Term Begins (2 weeks)
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NOVEMBER

Monday 4 th		Return following half term
Wednesday 13 th	All day	Year 1&2 trip to Headstone Museum (see separate letter already sent home)
Monday 18 th		Reports home this week. Please book a time with the teacher to discuss the report if you wish to.

DECEMBER

Monday 2 nd		Last week of after school clubs
Monday 2 nd		Christmas post box in entrance for children to post cards to each other. Please ensure the name and class is clearly written on the envelope.
Thursday 5 th	am	Pantomime "Wizard of Oz" in our school hall. Children who do not normally attend on a Thursday may swap their days to attend.
Tuesday 10 th	All day	Christmas Party with professional entertainer (am) and a visit from Santa (pm). Children may wear Christmas jumpers or party clothes. Children who do not normally attend on a Tuesday may swap their days to attend.
Thursday 12 th	10.45am	Nativity at Christ's Church. Children to come to school at normal time but dressed in their Nativity Costume. Parents invited for 10.45. Followed by refreshments organised by the PTA.
Thursday 12 th	12noon	Break up for Christmas

JANUARY 2020

Tuesday 7 th		Staff Training Day
Wednesday 8 th		Children back for new term

FEBRUARY

Mon 17 th - Friday 21		Half Term
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MARCH

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APRIL

Friday 3 rd April	12 noon	Break up for Easter
Monday 20 th		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 21 st		Staff Training Day
Wednesday 22 nd		Children back for new term

MAY

Mon 25 th – Friday 29		Half Term
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JUNE

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JULY

Friday 3 rd July	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
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