



# ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

*In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning*

Academic Year 2019-20

Issue 3 February 2020

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## From The Co-Headteachers

A new year is always a good time for reflection and resolutions. Our term started with an assembly thinking about our goals for this year. A number of children shared with me that they were aiming to tidy up their toys after playing with them - I wonder whether they are keeping to this?!

We then celebrated Chinese New Year, made wonderful Chinese lanterns, ate Chinese snacks and did a lion dance to bring in the year of the rat (see right).



In Safer Internet Week, Mrs O'Neil talked to the children about different devices to access the internet and how to keep safe when we are online. There are some superb resources to help parents to navigate this minefield at The Safer Internet Centre if you follow this link: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/resources-parents-and-carers>. We urge you to have a look.

The topic of 'People Who Help Us' has been a joy to see. The pupils have embraced the theme with gusto and have loved reading and talking about the variety of people we rely on, including the police, paramedics, firefighters, opticians, doctors, nurses, teachers and even bakers. Dressing up in the various costumes depicting these many characters has been very popular!

Proudly, we announce that two of our Year 1 pupils, Isaac and Lealla, have had their poems chosen to be published in an anthology of young writers. The photo shows them with their Talent for Writing certificates from Young Writers 2020. Well done!



We are very pleased to introduce Rachael Wilson to you (see left). Rachael has been the Deputy Headteacher at our sister school, The Hall School, for many years and is a key person in our Partnership Leadership Team. Mrs Wilson is now working across both schools, The Hall and Roxeth Mead and you will now see her regularly at Roxeth. Rachael is an EY Professional and expert in the EYFS and the EYLog and has been working closely with us to develop our knowledge and practice. I know you will want to join me in welcoming her into our close Roxeth community.

Finally, thank you for your very kind messages of condolence. Getting back to work to see your wonderful children has helped us both through this difficult time.

Have a lovely half term!

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

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## Roxeth Mead PTA

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.

This term we are looking for volunteers to help organise an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** (the day before we break up for the Easter holidays). This will coincide with an Easter Bonnet parade on that day too. We will hold the parade and egg hunt from 2 to 3pm. Parents are welcome to join us.

Neena Anand, PTA Chair



## Drama Workshop – Around the World

We were very pleased to receive a visit from Perform on Tuesday 28th January. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of Around The World, using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.

You should have received an email on 28<sup>th</sup> January advertising a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of Around The World containing fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. I hope you found this helpful.

Perform run regular weekly classes locally, in Pinner, and are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of Roxeth Mead School if you come along for a free trial session before Tuesday 18th February. To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting RXMS180220 or book online at [perform.org.uk](http://perform.org.uk).

Here are some photos of our children enjoying the workshop.





## News from the Baby Room

The children have settled really well since coming back after the Christmas break. They have been playing together enthusiastically in different areas. They have also been learning to share during free play which has been great to observe. We have been really busy this half term as the children have been learning about winter, arctic animals, Chinese New Year and also people who help us. They have had lots of fun experimenting with ice, food tasting and have also been doing lot of creative activities. We have started doing basic phonics during circle time, which has been going really well. The children had really enjoyed learning different sounds and letters each day. I hope you all have a lovely half term break and will be looking forward to see you all in the spring term, hopefully with some sunshine!

Mrs Sheikh





## News from Pre-School

It is finally nice to see some lovely sunshine after a wet and dull January! This half term we have welcomed three new children all who have settled very well and are clearly enjoying their time at Roxeth Mead. The children who have been in Pre-School for longer, have shown care and empathy towards the new children who have fitted happily into our little class.

We started the term looking at our topics 'Winter' and 'Arctic Animals'. We have developed and consolidated new and old skills such as cutting (making snowflakes), threading in and out and over and under a snowman. This helps to develop the children's fine motor skills especially the tripod grasp. The children have also enjoyed looking at freezing and melting, assembling penguins and imitating seal movements (Mrs Patel will not let us put the photo of her being a seal in this newsletter!!). Our week celebrating Chinese New Year was fun. It is the year of the rat and the children really enjoyed making rat puppets. They also enjoyed tasting Chinese foods and making a Chinese dish.

As we write we are thinking about people who help us and we were surprised that the children were so knowledgeable in this subject and showed a great deal of interest. The children loved wearing police hats and using magnifying glasses to track down some missing teddy bears. I am pleased to report all the lost teddies were located!! We are ready to work around our theme this week 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy.

We look forward to the next half term and hopefully seeing a little of Spring, so we can spend more time in our beautiful garden. As ever, thank you for giving us such delightful children to work with.

Mrs L O'Neill, Mrs P Patel and Ms L Smith





Pre-School Photos continued...





## News from Nursery Class

What a busy start to the new year it has been. We would like to welcome the new children who moved up from the pre-school class, Anouska, Rufus, Penelope and Mackenzie.

Our topic learning has included learning about: winter wear and weather; arctic animals and their habitats; Chinese New Year, and the emergency services. The children loved doing our Storyland topic, for which we chose the traditional tale, The Three Little Pigs, as it is a favourite classic. We learned about narrative language and joining in with repeated refrains from the story.

In literacy we have been continuing to progress with our phonics. The children have been learning to link sounds to familiar objects and are now blending sounds to read three letter CVC words confidently. The children are beginning to write CVC words independently when they are spelt out such as cat, mat, tin, fin, man, fan etc. Why not try these at home? In numeracy, the children are continuing to work towards counting objects reliably to 10 and recording their answers. We are also working hard to recognising the written numerals 1-100.

We wish you a happy half term break,  
Mrs Afsari and Miss Turie





## News from Reception Class

The first half of this Spring Term has been quite busy and the children in Reception Class have worked hard and with a great deal of enthusiasm.

Our Topic related activities have helped the children to learn about the Arctic and the animals that live there, celebrate Chinese New Year by taking part in it, learning about winter and animals hibernating.



They engaged in role play to learn about 'People Who Help Us'. They donned their baker's hats and aprons to take on the role of bakers for the day. They setup a bakery, made bread rolls, managed the till, took money from customers, served tea and cakes and wrote down orders for birthday cakes. It was a joy to watch them work as a team, taking turns at doing different jobs.

In Literacy the children are making good progress in reading and writing, developing fluency in reading and attempting independent writing. They have written out a recipe, a list of Arctic animals, talked about the characters and setting of a story. They learnt about Fiction and Non Fiction books and looked at a cook book to find out the recipe for making bread rolls. In their Phonics lessons they are currently consolidating Set 2 long vowel sounds and starting to learn the set 3 sounds.

In Maths the children have been learning numbers to 100, counting in tens and simple addition and subtraction, whilst using a number line. They have enjoyed learning about 2 and 3D shapes, the weight of objects (heavy and light) and using scales to measure them. During our lessons on capacity they have been using solids and liquids and making predictions and estimating. In our lessons on money they have learnt coin recognition and how to add to make various amounts. They looked at various coins with a magnifying glass to find a picture of the Queen on all of them.

In our PE lessons the children have been practising 'catching and throwing' skills using beanbags. In our Music and Movement lessons they have played various instruments, attempted the dragon dance, performed to action songs and enacted out stories. The cookery lessons helped to develop their grating, chopping, sieving, mixing, kneading and rolling skills. In the Art lessons the children used chalk to create Winter pictures, cut out Snowflakes, painted polar bears, walruses, made lanterns, dragons, bakers hats, aprons. All of this helping to develop the various skills of drawing, painting, cutting, folding, decorating and creating patterns.

Well done to all the children and a big Thank You to all the parents for supporting your children in their learning journey.  
Mrs Kalsi and Mrs Ghatora.





## Reception Class Photos continued...





## News from Year 1 & 2

I have seen some marked changes in the Year 1 & 2 children this half term. They came back after Christmas refreshed, positive and ready to learn and I have been so impressed with the work they have produced. It has been a real privilege to teach them! We have also welcomed Mrs Azar into our class and we are all very grateful for her help.

In Literacy we have been looking at poetry and the children wrote the most wonderful Winter poems (see pictures below). We spent a great deal of time exploring the features of poetry and this shows through their amazing independent work. Our 'Word of the Day' (see above right) has helped enhance their vocabularies and this is becoming increasingly evident in their writing. The children have also worked hard in RWI, sharpening comprehension skills and practising reading with clarity and expression. It is wonderful to see how they are taking ownership over their work and gaining confidence daily.

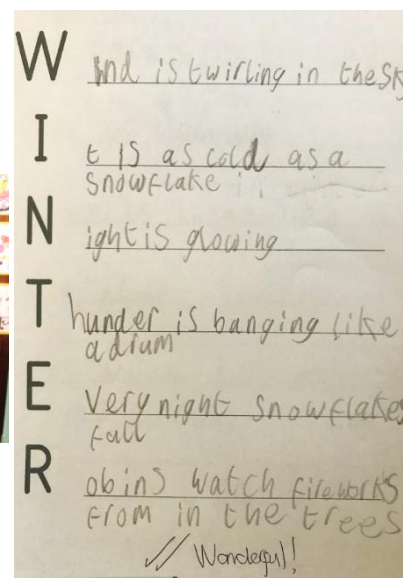
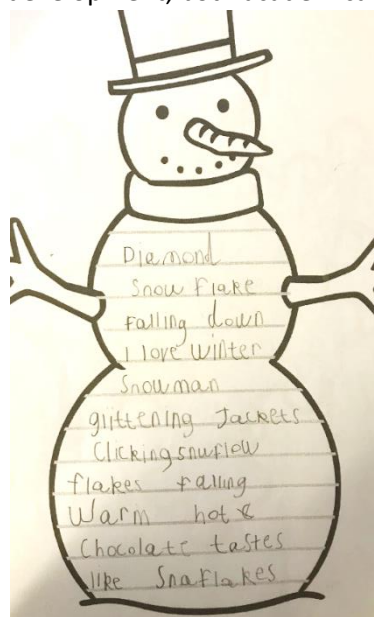
In Science we have been learning about plants and completing our own 'Bean Diaries'. The children loved planting their beans and watching them weekly to document their growth (see photo) and it has made us all very excited for the Spring flowers to bloom.



In History we have all enjoyed learning about significant people, including Ibn Battuta, Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. Our work has produced some interesting conversations about what makes someone important and how people can become well-known for such a wide variety of reasons.

In Maths we have been working in small groups and covering an array of topics, including estimating, time, balancing and number work. The class point system keeps children motivated to complete their work and we all enjoy the end of week 'prize giving' for the point's winner.

I know the children look forward to their Thursday afternoons with Mrs Alfano and made beautiful money bags for the Chinese New Year. Along with their PE sessions on a Friday and French lessons with Mrs Isaacs, they are gaining a wide breadth of learning across the curriculum. It is so inspiring to see their progress and personal development, both academically and behaviourally.



I am so looking forward to the next half term with such a wonderful group of pupils.  
Best wishes, Mrs Conway.



# Parents' Information



## Topics for Next Half Term - EYFS:

	Topic	W/b	Texts	Significant Dates
Natural World	Healthy Eating	24 <sup>th</sup> February	Daisy Eat Your Peas	Pancake Day 25 <sup>th</sup>
	The Body	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Various non-fiction / The Growing Story	World Book Day 5 <sup>th</sup>
	Science Week	9 <sup>th</sup> March	Various non-fiction	Nat Science Week 6 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>
	Farm Animals / Mother's Day	16 <sup>th</sup> March	The Little Red Hen	Mother's Day 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	Spring / Weather	23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Spring is Here	
	Easter	30 <sup>th</sup> March		End of term- 3 <sup>rd</sup> April

## Topics for Next Half Term - Year 1&2:

RAINFOREST	
<b>CLASS TEXT</b>	Tree, Seasons Come and Seasons Go
<b>Maths</b>	Measure
<b>English</b>	Story writing
<b>Science</b>	Seasonal changes
<b>Geography</b>	Place knowledge
<b>Music</b>	Exposure to types of music
<b>Art</b>	Collaging
<b>PE</b>	Games
<b>PHSE</b>	Rule of Law; Relationships and Responsibilities; Tolerance of each other and fairness

## Spring Term Trip - Disney on Ice

Our Spring outing this term is to see Disney on Ice on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the SSE Arena, Wembley. What a lovely way to end the term!

Just a reminder that your child will need a substantial snack such as a sandwich, crisps and fruit so they can last until they get home for their proper lunch. Please pack this in a disposable bag so we can throw away all rubbish. We will eat this snack in the interval at 11.30am. Please do not pack flasks or bring lunch boxes, everything must fit into their green school rucksack. The coach will drop us off outside the Welsh Congregational Church (on the main road by Middle Path) at 1.00 - 1.30pm, depending on traffic. You can either pick up from the main road OR from School as we will walk the children back to school through Middle Path.



## School Photographs

We have organised school photographs for the morning of **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. Please send your child in full uniform on that day. We will endeavour to take a photograph of each child plus a sibling photograph for those with siblings in the school. These will be available online for you to purchase should you wish to. The online access details will be sent home on the day of the photos.

We hope these photos will serve as a nice keepsakes for you and perhaps a nice Easter gift for grandparents too.

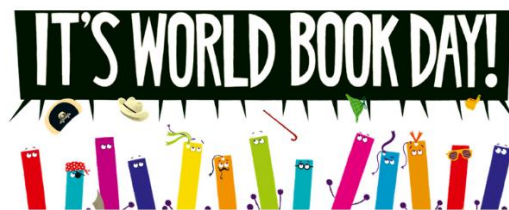
If your child does not normally attend on a Thursday and you would like to have a photograph taken, feel free to bring them in just for the photograph, or swap their day that week.





## Advance Notice - World Book Day

On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March** we will be celebrating World Book Day. The children are invited to come to school on this day dressed as a character from a book. However, we do not want anyone to 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.



## Easter Bonnets

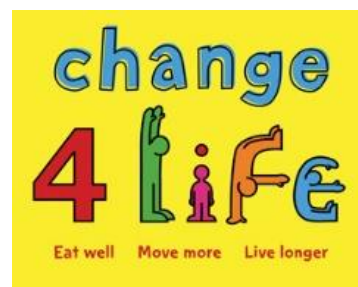
On **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** (the day before we break up for Easter) we will be holding an Easter Bonnet parade. We are inviting all the pupils to wear an Easter Bonnet that they have helped to create at home. Here are a few ideas...



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

## 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 jam or chocolate spread sandwiches. Please ensure lunch boxes are healthy!



## Parent and Carer Online Toolkit (Childnet)

The new non-statutory guidance published in the summer, Teaching Online Safety (2019, DfES), recommends that schools 'Proactively [engage] staff, pupils and parents/carers in school activities that promote the agreed principles of online safety' (see paragraph 42).

Childnet have updated their parent and carer toolkit that will help parents have conversations about online safety. Their booklet 'Let's talk about life online' includes ten key messages that should be shared with children:

1. "You can always come to me if you need help."
2. "What would you do if this happened...?"
3. "Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online."
4. "Keep your personal information safe, and other people's too."
5. "Be respectful to others online."
6. "Think before you post."
7. "Remember to ask if it's okay."
8. "Remember not everything is true online."
9. "The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like."
10. "Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to."

The Parent and Carer Toolkit can be found here: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>.



## Side Gate and Door

The side gate and door is open from 8.20am to 8.45am and 2.50pm to 3.10pm. You may have noticed that a member of staff is now standing by this door every morning and afternoon. This procedure was kindly suggested by a parent to deter intruders at drop off or pick up and we are happy to oblige. Can we ask that parents be extra vigilant when exiting the front door and ensure that the door is closed properly behind you.

## Allergies

We now have 2 pupils in the school who have life-threatening allergies to nuts. PLEASE do not send anything into school that contains nuts.

## Uniform

Thank you for ensuring your children are looking smart in the correct uniform for school. Please can we remind you that the childrens' coats should be **black** and warm enough for very cold days, as we do like to get the children outside whenever we can for fresh air and a run around. Children also need a regulation school hat; we have a few second hand ones that can be purchased for £4.

## Parking

Please be considerate of our neighbours and do NOT park across their drives. We have received a number of complaints from our neighbours recently about this. We would prefer you to be a few minutes late picking up whilst waiting for a suitable space, than block our neighbours' drives.

## Eye Testing Letter from Public Health

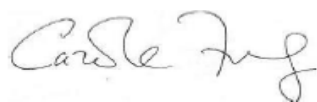
I am writing to you regarding the importance of testing your child's vision, in particular but not only before your child turns 6 years old.

Amblyopia (also commonly called 'lazy eye') affects about 1 in 50 children and can be treated effectively if it is caught early enough. A lazy eye does not usually cause symptoms. Younger children are often unaware that there's anything wrong with their vision and, if they are, they're usually unable to explain what's wrong. Left untreated, this can lead to the eye's central vision never reaching normal levels. You can find more information about amblyopia / lazy eye here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Lazy-eye/>

There are a number of other eye conditions that your child should be checked for. Free NHS eye tests are available at opticians for children under the age of 16 (under 19 if in full-time education) and I would strongly encourage you to make sure you take your child for an eye test on a regular basis. It is recommended that most people including children should get their eyes tested every 2 years unless your doctor, ophthalmic practitioner or optometrist thinks you should be tested more often.

Go online and search "NHS choices find optician" to find your nearest optician.

Yours faithfully,



Carole Furlong  
Director of Public Health

## 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](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.





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



<b>FEBRUARY</b>		
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Half Term
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	Children return from half term break
<b>MARCH</b>		
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	All day	World Book Day – Pupils may come to school dressed as a character from a book
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	a.m.	School Photos – Full school uniform please
W/b Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>		Term 2 Reports sent home this week (parents can book in a meeting with the teacher during this or the following week if they want to discuss the content).
<b>APRIL</b>		
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	2-3pm	Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	am	Disney on Ice Production. Children to be collected at 1pm.
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3pm	Deadline for written notice for children leaving at the end of the Summer Term
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>		Easter Holidays
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>		Staff Training Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.30am	Children back for new term
<b>MAY</b>		
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Half Term
<b>JUNE</b>		
tbc		Parent's Information Evening (for new parents and for those moving classes in September. Parents will meet their new class teacher)
tbc		Sports day (am)
tbc		Summer Fair (pm)
tbc		End of Year Class Assemblies for parents
<b>JULY</b>		
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.00	Break up for Summer Holiday

## TERM DATES 2020 / 2021

### Autumn Term 2020

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon**  
**Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Staff Development Days: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

### Spring Term 2021

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 12 noon**  
**Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February**  
**Staff Development Days: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

### Summer Term 2021

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July at 12 noon**  
**Half Term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Staff Development Days: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**