



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2020 – 21

December 2020

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From The Co-Headteachers

This is the last newsletter before the end of term, and we wish you all a wonderful time over Christmas and the New Year.

This has been an unprecedented year in the life of us all and we continue to pray that all of us reach the end of the pandemic in good health. We have all had to make adjustments which were at times unwelcome, but we are so pleased at how everybody, children, staff and parents have adapted to the new situation. We cannot thank you all enough. Let us hope that the vaccine can be rolled out soon, so we can all resume our normal lives.

We remain amazed at the resilience and adaptability of the children. We are sure you are as proud as we are of them. When we see them come into school unaided, have their hands treated with sanitiser, transfer their belongings to one hand and follow the school rule to hold on to the bannister to climb the stairs, we are so impressed. We have worked very hard to remain open to as many pupils as possible throughout the pandemic, because we recognise that school is the only place at the moment where the children can socialise outside of their household. It is so lovely to see them playing so happily with their classmates.

We were pleased to send a detailed report home recently. I'm sure you were amazed by the progress that the children have made this term, especially since so many of them missed out on education since March, due to the pandemic. This progress is testament to the wonderful staff here at Roxeth, who care deeply about each and every child and the tiny class sizes that enable the learning to be tailored to each child as an individual. The family feel is something that parents tell us is so important to their child's happiness – something that is imperative in these challenging times.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Mrs Sheikh and to Mrs Conway who are both expecting babies. Thankfully, we have managed to cover both posts with our existing staff; this is so much better for the pupils than trying to bring in supply teachers who don't know the children or our Roxeth ways. Mrs Conway starts her maternity leave in January, so we will not see her again now, therefore we wish her all the very best for the new arrival. Mrs Sheikh will be back again in the new term, so we will be able to extend our best wishes to her then.

It is sad that we cannot have our normal Christmas festivities, but I can assure you that every teacher has worked very hard to give the children a happy and exciting end of term. Look out for the video that you will be receiving of the class singing a Christmas song – we hope you enjoy it!

Merry Christmas everyone! We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 5th January.

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh



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



News from Pre-School

I feel I always start our newsletter stating how quickly the time has gone and this half term has been no exception! We have welcomed Anaisha into our happy class and I am pleased to report that the children have welcomed her in their usual friendly fashion and all have continued to enjoy their time at Roxeth Mead.



It occurred to us at the start of this latest lockdown that, other than family and home, school is the only place the children are now gaining experiences outside of the home and we have been aware of the need to offer a wide range of activities to hopefully compensate for the shutdown of hobbies and other activities, which have sadly had to close. As well as our usual literacy and numeracy lessons, the children have enjoyed lots of music, dancing, outside play, cookery, parachute, hoop and bean bag games, imaginative and messy play as well as creative activities such as painting, cutting, threading and sticking. Obviously this is all beneficial to the children's development, but it is also a great pleasure for the three staff in Pre School to come and work with the children and genuinely be so happy in our work.



It has been a shame that during these times the children cannot be part of the wider school community and partake in such things as assemblies and outside play with the older children, but of course their safety is paramount and it will not be too much longer before we can all mix again.



Paddy is leaving our class to relocate to another area and we will miss him - last summer the nursery grass area somehow became known as 'Paddy's grass' by the older children and this has continued! We wish him, Penelope and his parents the very best of luck for the future.

Finally, Mrs Sheikh, Ms Smith and I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and hope that 2021 sees some of you reunited with your wider families who you have been unable to see this year. Let's all hope and pray for a healthy new year.

Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Sheikh and Ms Smith

News from Nursery Class

It's the most wonderful time of the year! We have been super busy this half term with our learning and our arts and crafts. Thank you all for your support and your lovely comments regarding the EYLog. It's a great way to communicate with you how your children are learning and progressing in all areas of their development.

In Literacy the children have been working really hard learning the phonic sounds and are beginning to form the letters correctly. We are now on our way to segmenting sounds and reading three letter CVC words.

Our numeracy lessons have included counting reliably objects to 10 and matching corresponding numbers and ordering the written numbers 1-10. Our creative lessons are always fun and full of learning. The children have covered topics on Diwali, Guy Fawkes, Near and Far, Transport, Opposites and Christmas. They engaged with a variety of resources and worked with different forms of media. (Hope you saw the photos on the EYLog).

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year with best wishes.

Best wishes, Mrs Afsari and Mrs Patel



News from Reception Class

As we come to the end of the Autumn term and begin getting into the festive spirit under these unusual circumstances, the classroom is abuzz with activity. The children have worked hard throughout the term, are well settled, confident and happy to take on new challenges. They have participated in all our topic related activities with enthusiasm and their inquisitiveness has led to lessons that were not originally planned. Their question about 'Why do we have days and nights?', led us to create a dark area under the tables, place a rotating globe and point a torch at it to learn first-hand why we have days and nights. Their excitement, interest, concentration and a love of learning was a joy to watch.



They are making good progress in reading and writing and are quickly grasping the Set 2 Speed Sounds. They enjoy their Phonics lessons and participate with enthusiasm. They have been quick to grasp all the Maths topics covered and have been consolidating their understanding through practical and written work. For one of our Maths lesson on Measurement the children had the opportunity to bake bread. They measured the ingredients and practised weighing heavy and light objects.



In our week of 'Celebrations' they learnt about Diwali, made cards and practised a traditional stick dance in our Music and Movement lesson. For 'Remembrance Day' they made a Poppy, learnt about its significance and observed a two- minute silence. They learnt about 'Bonfire Night' and Guy Fawkes and painted pictures of fireworks. We had a visitor to our classroom, an 'Atlas Moth' caterpillar that created a lot of excitement. The children collected Willow leaves just in case he ran out of food.



The children in one of their PE lesson learnt about traffic safety, when they took on the roles of car drivers, tricycle riders and pedestrians.



The children are looking forward to dressing up for our Christmas party, playing games, practising Christmas songs and writing cards to one another. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for your support in helping your child in their learning journey. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Kalsi and Mrs Ghatora.

News from Year 1 & 2

In the short time we've been together this term, Year 1&2 have shown maturity and flexibility with the changes we've had to make due to Covid. Their normal routines have been disrupted on a daily basis and I commend the children for continuing to come in each day with a smiling face and a positive attitude.

It has been wonderful to see such steady progress across the curriculum. Their morning books, for example, display increasingly mature and complex writing skills and showcase a range of writing purposes (to inform / entertain / instruct etc.) I particularly enjoyed reading the questions children set for the Queen, such as 'Which is your favourite Corgi?' and 'Do you like carrots?' (!)



In Maths we have been working hard at mental methods and children are beginning to recall number facts quickly and successfully. There is a great atmosphere in our lessons and the children thoroughly enjoy demonstrating what they know.

In the topic work we have completed, children enjoyed learning about our local area (Harrow) and finding where they live on the map. We have also learnt about the four seasons, deciding what suitable attire is for each season and preparing for our own weather forecasts.

In PHSE, we have had interesting discussions about our mental well-being, labelling feelings and creating scenarios to explore how feelings can change. This is an important part of the revised curriculum, to encourage awareness and openness among the next generation.

Mrs Turei has worked hard with the children in PE, Art and Music and I hope you enjoy the festive song that they have been practising together. I look forward to seeing the recording!

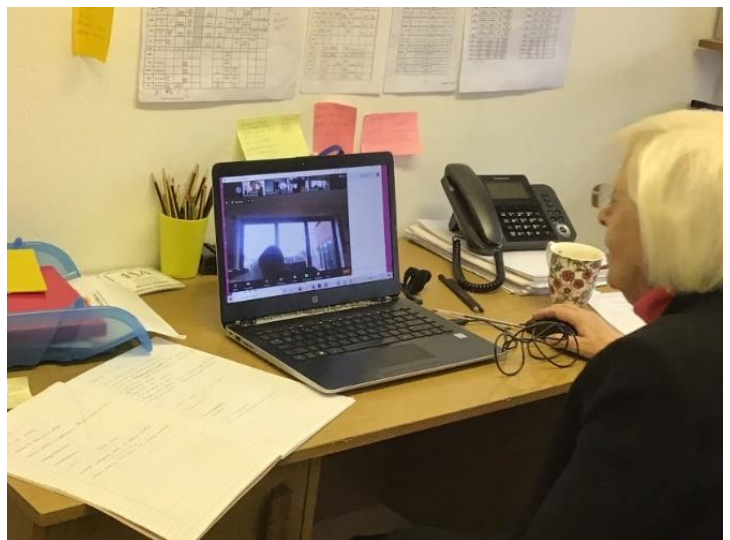
I have greatly enjoyed my time with this lovely group of children and I am sorry to be leaving them to begin my maternity leave. I have no doubt, however, that they will continue to go from strength to strength and work hard to fulfil their dreams.

I look forward to hearing only good things from you all in 2021 and I hope to send through my own good news too. Please keep safe and have a wonderful, relaxing festive break and a happy new year.

Best wishes, Mrs Conway

Congratulations to Mrs Conway who is expecting baby number three! Mrs Conway will be starting her maternity leave next term, so from January 5th the class will be taught by me and Mrs Turei and supported by Mrs Azar, as currently. This change will be seamless for the children who know us extremely well. The pupils have had the opportunity of trialling this new teaching model over the last few weeks, albeit virtually, as sadly, in November we had to close the Year 1 & 2 bubble due to Mrs Conway being unwell. Here you can see me teaching the class via ZOOM during the isolation period. Thank you children and parents who worked so hard during the isolation to maintain a good level of learning. We wish Mrs Conway all the very best for the arrival of her new baby.

Mrs Goodwin



Computing News

The children in Nursery and Reception have been doing many exciting activities this term in their Computing lessons. We hope you have had a chance to look at the photos of the children in action on the EYFS log. The children have learnt how to charge a Beebot (a fun and friendly robot that looks like a Bee) figured out that the on and off buttons are under the Beebot and buttons to direct it are on top. Children in Nursery have had an opportunity to play with and explore the Beebots by pressing the forward and backward buttons. Nursery Class used 'Talking Points' to record and playback their voices. They have learnt names of all different accessories that are connected to a PC, mouse, keyboard, speakers and their uses.

Reception class have learnt to program the Beebot to travel to different locations along the road and building map. They explored how the Beebot responds to each direction and had a go at directing the Beebot to a destination of their choice. Reception class used 'Talking Points' to record, play their voices and used it to record instructions on how to wash their hands during this pandemic. The children have worked hard on their mouse skills. They have used the 'Paint' Program to paint colourful Rangoli patterns and Christmas trees. Reception Class children learnt to use a camera safely to take photos of an object and talk about it with their friends.



Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term (Spring 1 2021) EYFS:

Story World	Settling In Week	5 th January		INSET Mon 4 th Pupils back Tues 5 th
	Winter	11 th January	Winter / A Loud Winter's Nap	
	Chosen by key workers	18 th January		20 th Martin Luther King Day
	Chosen by key workers	25 th January		
	Chosen by key workers	1 st February		
	Chosen by key workers	8 th February		Tu B'Shevat 10 th Chinese New Year- 12 th , Valentine's Day 14 th

Topics for Next Half Term (Spring 1 2021) - Year 1&2:

Class Text	The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith
Maths	Fractions and Maths Workbooks
English	Read Write Inc. / Class Text / Comprehension & SPAG
Science	Plants & Animals and scientific investigations
Humanities	History - Travel and Transport
Music	Musical Appreciation
Art	Observational Flower Study. Artist study – Van Gogh. Link with Science
PE	Gymnastics
Computing	Coding / Using WORD to type up work
PSHE	Keeping Safe

Help Your Child At Home

Did you know that the following 100 high frequency words are in 50% of all written English texts, thus if your child knows how to read and write these words they will be at a great advantage ...

100 High Frequency Words

the	his	be	do	into	house
and	but	like	me	back	old
a	that	some	down	from	too
to	with	so	dad	children	by
said	all	not	big	him	day
in	we	then	when	Mr	made
he	can	were	it's	get	time
I	are	go	see	just	I'm
of	up	little	looked	now	if
it	had	as	very	came	help
was	my	no	look	oh	Mrs
you	her	mum	don't	about	called
they	what	one	come	got	here
on	there	them	will	their	off
she	out			people	asked
is	this			your	saw
for	have			put	make
at	went			could	an



Number Blocks is an animation that will help your child learn numbers 1 to 10. It doesn't just rush to ten, it gives the children time to understand each number, starting with 1. Follow this link. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b08bzzns/numberblocks-series-1-one>



December Fitness Challenge

How about having a go at completing the December Fitness Challenge!



FITNESS CHALLENGE

December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8 Arm Circles 5 Bicycles	2 CARDIO DAY (1 MIN)	3 3 Pushups 5 Crunches	4 8 Arm Circles 5 Bicycles	5 3 Pushups 5 Crunches
6 10 Arm Circles 12 Bicycles	7 5 Pushups 8 Crunches	8 10 Arm Circles 12 Bicycles	9 CARDIO DAY (2 MIN)	10 5 Pushups 8 Crunches	11 10 Arm Circles 12 Bicycles	12 5 Pushups 8 Crunches
13 15 Arm Circles 15 Bicycles	14 7 Pushups 10 Crunches	15 15 Arm Circles 15 Bicycles	16 CARDIO DAY (3 MIN)	17 7 Pushups 10 Crunches	18 15 Arm Circles 15 Bicycles	19 7 Pushups 10 Crunches
20 20 Arm Circles 18 Bicycles	21 9 Pushups 12 Crunches	22 20 Arm Circles 18 Bicycles	23 CARDIO DAY (4 MIN)	24 9 Pushups 12 Crunches	25 20 Arm Circles 18 Bicycles	26 9 Pushups 12 Crunches
27 25 Arm Circles 20 Bicycles	28 10 Pushups 15 Crunches	29 25 Arm Circles 20 Bicycles	30 CARDIO DAY (5 MIN)	31 10 Pushups 15 Crunches		

December Fitness Challenge Calendar – Use these fitness exercise ideas for your program, and encourage kids to continue to stay active with friends and family during winter break!

- Arm Circles – repeat movement in opposite direction
- Cardio Day – Jump Rope, Hula Hoop, Jog in Place (choose 1, a combination, or all activities)

Special thanks to:

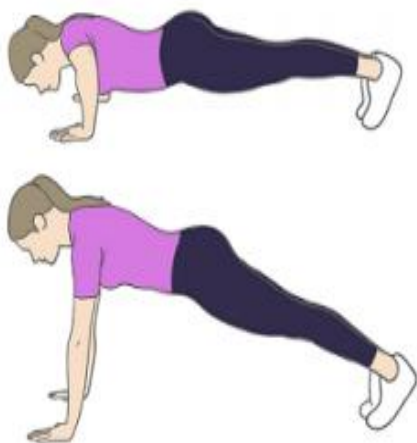


Visit www.healthiergeneration.org for more ideas on how to inspire a healthy, active lifestyle.

HealthierGeneration.org



Push-Ups



Begin in push-up position, on knees or toes. Perform regular push-ups, abs in and back straight.

Push-ups can also be done vertically with hands on the walls and legs positioned out behind the body.

HealthierGeneration.org

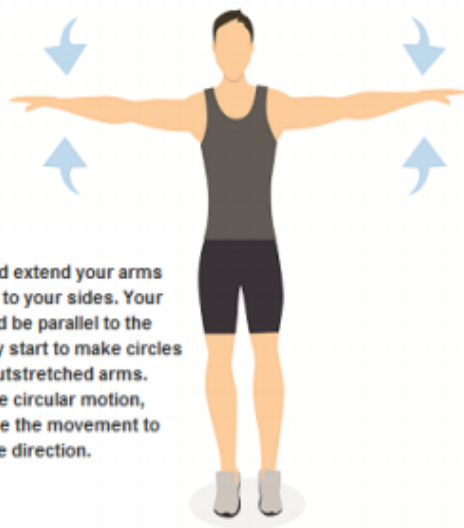


Crunches



Begin by lying face up on the floor with knees bent in the air. Curl the shoulders towards the pelvis and lift your shoulders up off of the ground. The hands can be behind or beside the neck or crossed over the chest.

Arm Circles



Stand up and extend your arms straight out to your sides. Your arms should be parallel to the floor. Slowly start to make circles with your outstretched arms. Continue the circular motion, then reverse the movement to the opposite direction.

Bicycle

Lie face up with lower back pressed to the floor. Lightly touch your head above the ears with elbows out, and bend right knee, pulling it towards your chest while touching the knee with the opposite elbow. Begin a slow pedal motion by touching opposite elbow to opposite knee, alternating each side. Keep the abs pulled in and breath continuously.



Wellbeing Calendar for December



KINDNESS CALENDAR: DECEMBER 2020



MONDAY



7 Leave a positive message for someone else to find

14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy

TUESDAY

1 Share the Kindness Calendar with others and spread kindness

8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member

15 Contact an elderly neighbour and brighten up their day

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people

WEDNESDAY

2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are

9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead

16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why

THURSDAY

3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment

10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them

17 Practice gratitude. List the kind things others have done for you

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh

31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2021

FRIDAY

4 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today

11 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today

18 Give away something that you have been holding on to

25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!

SATURDAY

5 Make a gift for someone who is homeless or feeling lonely

12 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank

19 Buy locally and support independent shops near you

26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature

SUNDAY

6 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about

13 See how many different people you can smile at today

20 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat

Let's look beyond our differences and help each other. Every act of kindness matters



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

#DoGoodDecember



www.actionforhappiness.org

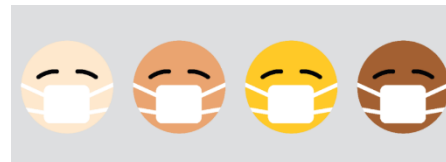
Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/do-good-december

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

COVID-19 Alert

A reminder to please remain 2m away from the front door when dropping off and picking up and to **wear a mask**.

DO NOT send your child to school if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms or has been in close contact with anyone with symptoms. If you are unsure, contact us and ask for advice.



Harrow is in Tier 2 Go to the following website for information as to what that means...

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>



Harrow Go Green 2021 launches in November 2020

A competition for Harrow to raise awareness of, and enhance the borough's biodiversity

Harrow Biodiversity and Environment working with Harrow Council

More information at via the following link:

<https://www.harrowgogreen.com>

Holiday Club

Christmas Craft Ideas



Cut the lines to create a spiral snowman to hang on your tree.

A reminder that we offer breakfast 8.00 – 8.30am and after school care until 5pm daily



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



JANUARY 2020		
Monday 4 th		Staff Training & pm settling for new pupils
Monday 4 th		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving at Easter
Tuesday 5 th		Children back for new term
FEBRUARY		
Mon 15 th - Friday 19 th		Half Term
Mon 22 nd		Children back following half term
MARCH		
Friday 26 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter
APRIL		
Monday 19 th		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July
Monday 19 th		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 20 th		Children back for new term
MAY		
Mon 31 st – Friday 4 th June		Half Term
JUNE		
Monday 7 th		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 8 th		Children back following half term
JULY		
Thursday 8 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday

