



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2021-22

February 2022

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From The Co-Headteachers

The Nativity was too late in the term to be included in the last edition of our newsletter, so we have included a reminder here for you. We were so proud of all the pupils who gave such a wonderful performance. We hope you enjoyed it.



A new year is always a good time for reflection and resolutions, so our first assembly this term was on the topic of hope and our goals for the future. I shared the story of Harmonie Rose-Allen, age 7, who despite severe disability following meningitis, makes the most of life and has raised thousands of pounds for charity. She is an inspiration to us all because she has never allowed her disability to define her, instead she has used her unique abilities as a catalyst for change – to change attitudes and spread hope. She really embodies our Roxeth “Can Do” philosophy. We then read the story of the Hope-o-potamus who would not give up until he found his dream watering hole. We thought about our hopes and dreams for the immediate future and longer term.



To celebrate Chinese New Year Mrs Kalsi taught us about the Legend of Nian and why the colour red is so important in Chinese culture. We then listened to the story of the animal race and how the twelve successful animals ended up on the Chinese zodiac. This year is the year of the Tiger. We learnt to say ‘Kung Hei Fat Choi’!

We had planned on having Mrs Ellis visit for Safer Internet Day on 7th February, alas this had to be postponed due to COVID. We will welcome Mrs Ellis on February 24th instead.

Welcome back to Mrs Sheik who returns after half term following her maternity leave. She will be in the baby room.

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh



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Baby & Toddler Class

What a lovely time we have had in the baby and toddler group this half term. We have immersed ourselves in our topic "The Three Little Pigs" and had great fun experiencing lots of different materials to engage our senses.



News from Pre-School Class

I am sure you would agree that Christmas now seems a very long time ago! This term we have welcomed Riyan, Shivraj, Eesher and George into our happy class and they have all settled well and are well integrated into our class. It is always wonderful to see siblings of previous Roxeth Mead classes return, often the last time we saw them they were babes in arms and suddenly they are ready to start nursery.

This half term saw the early years work on the topic "The 3 Little Pigs". We were amazed how many activities we have found to motivate and amuse the children as well as linking in the activities to the new EYFS Development Matters. We have looked at the repeated phrases in the book, for example, "Huff and puff" and used this when building houses of various materials, blow painting with straws, blowing bubbles and reenacting the story in our role play area where we made a house of bricks for the children to hide in. Great fun has been had by all and the adults have enjoyed being a wolf on numerous occasions!

We set up an obstacle course using balancing beams and tunnels to move from the house of straw, to sticks and then to bricks. The children have become aware of the sequence of the story, knowing which house is built first, middle and last and we were able to introduce many mathematical activities into this, for example, once the first house was blown down how many pigs were in the next house?

As always, we have danced, sung, cooked and played our way through life in Pre School and it has been lovely to start enjoying our garden a little more on the sunny and not too cold days we have had.

Have a wonderful half term break,

Mrs L O'Neill, Mrs P Patel, Mrs T Bayman and Mrs K Azar





News from Nursery Class

This half term the children have been very active in their learning. They have participated in all aspects of our topic on The Three Little Pigs with such enthusiasm.

The children have engaged in arts and crafts and created their own versions of the pigs. They have acted out the roles of the characters with wonderful memory skills and animation. They are able to retell the story in order and demonstrate this not only verbally, but also using pictures, putting the story in the correct sequence of events.

In literacy, the children are truly excelling. They are forming CVC words independently and are aware of their phonic sounds. In mathematics, the children are beginning to recognise the written numbers 11-20 and learning to form the written numbers 1-10 independently.

Wishing you a very happy half term break.

Mrs Afsari



News from Reception Class

The first half of the Spring Term has gone by very quickly. The children in Reception Class have kept up their hard work. Our topic for this half of the term was the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children enjoyed all the activities related to the story and participated with enthusiasm. They also listened to different versions of the story which included a story from the Wolf's perspective.

They engaged in role play, became architects, construction workers and built a house with bricks. They demonstrated great team work while building it and enjoyed demolishing it too. In their Art lessons they made houses using straw, sticks and paper bricks. They made stick puppets of the characters, painted a cauldron and made masks.

In the Maths lessons they weighed different materials, made a house using shapes, learnt about 'Capacity' and counted how many jugs of water were needed to fill a cauldron. They explored various materials and worked out why some were better than others to build houses with. They also looked at houses in different parts of the world and pictures of famous buildings.

In our PE lessons they ran an obstacle course to run away from the wolf to get to a safe house. They practised throwing and catching skills using balls and beanbags. In our Music and Movement lessons they played and listened to the various instruments and decided which sound was the closest to the sound of a crashing straw, stick and brick house.

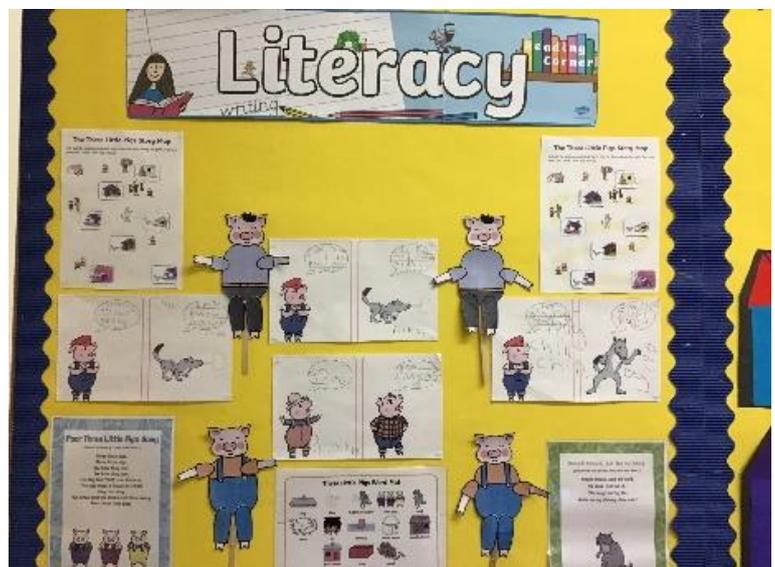
In our Literacy lessons the children helped to build a 'Word Wall' using key words from the story. They put the pictures in the right sequence to tell the story, learnt to use Speech bubbles and wrote parts of the story.

They helped to present Chinese New Year assembly to the rest of the school with great confidence.

It has been a joy to watch their teamwork, ongoing enthusiasm for cooking and learning.

Wishing you all a good half term.

Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.



News from Year 1 & 2

The children settled in well after an exciting Christmas and New Year break. Well done year 1&2 for doing so well in all the assessments.

The children have been very busy learning new topics in maths such as 3D shapes, money, fractions and solving time problems. We have focused more on problem solving and mental maths this term. In English, the children have been focusing more on punctuation and using new words when writing sentences. They have been practising using the dictionary to search for unfamiliar words and their meaning.

In History, we are learning about World War 1 & World War 2, the cause of the wars and how they ended. The children were very keen to ask questions during the lessons and were very interested in finding out facts.

The children are always interested to explore and learn about different musical instruments. We have been learning about string instruments from Violins and Guitars to even a Harp.

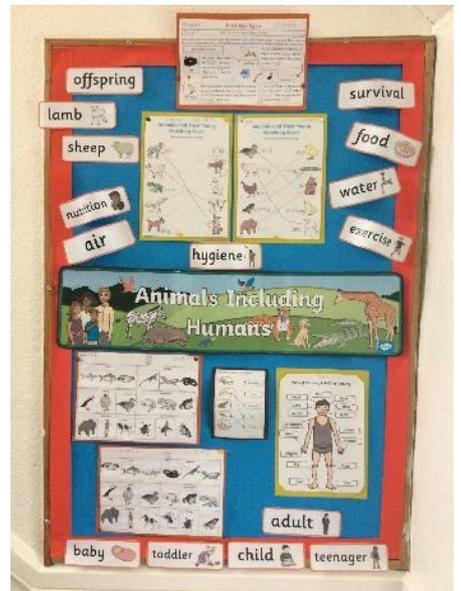
In Science, the children have learnt about Animals and Humans (see photo above). They have studied and researched the differences and similarities between Animals and Humans. They have found out about the different types of animals and their offspring and also the different stages of a human from a baby to an adult. We have learnt the important facts of survival. The children have also learnt new words and meaning such as Carnivores, Omnivores and Herbivores.

In Art, we learned about the work of a range of artists such as Barbara Hepworth and Jill Townsley. The children were using unusual materials to make sculptures., They used pre-made bread dough, cardboard boxes, household sponges, plastic spoons, rubber bands, sugar cubes and cocktail sticks.

Well done year 1&2 for all the hard work during lessons and also for completing homework most of the time. Please continue to do good reading at home every day.

Hope you all have a lovely half term.

Mrs Ranabahu & Mrs Turie





Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term

EYFS:

21 st February	How to be healthy – cleanliness, eating, exercise, dental hygiene. <i>Books - Oliver's Vegetables; Handa's surprise; Daisy Eat Your Peas; Tiger who came to Tea.</i>
28 th February	
7 th March	
14 th March	Spring, Life Cycles & Mini beasts <i>Books: The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Superworm</i>
21 st March	

Year 1 & 2:

Maths	Number, Fractions Measure, Money and Shape
English	R.W.Inc. & English Skills
Science	Animals including Humans
History	Significant People Columbus Mary Seacole
Geography	U.K. Cities, Towns, Villages Rivers
Music	Recorders and Wind Instruments
Art	Big Build
PE	Circuit Training
PHSE	Relationships Diverse Britain
RE	Hinduism
French	Hobbies
Computing	Coding Unit 1 (Espresso)

Easter Fun

Parents are invited to join us on **Friday 25th March at 10.45am** to watch our Easter Bonnet Parade and join in our Egg Hunt. In the preceding week, please can you help your child to make an Easter bonnet or hat that they can wear. Some ideas are shown here.



Parent / Teacher Meetings

We are pleased to invite parents into school on **Tuesday 22nd or Wednesday 23rd March 4 to 6pm** to meet with the teacher. We will not be producing a report this term, but the teacher will be able to discuss with you in detail the progress of your child. We are splitting the classes as follows:

Tuesday 22nd – Babies, Lower Pre-School & Nursey Classes

Wednesday 23rd – Upper Pre-School, Reception & Yrs 1&2

Please liaise with the class teacher at drop off or pickup to book a time for your meeting.

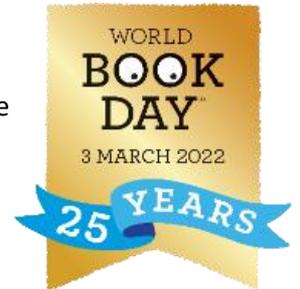
Leavers and Joiners

Whilst we are always sorry to see our pupils move on, we are pleased to report that a number of our pupils have been offered places at several local Independent Schools for September including Orley Farm and Quanton Hall. This is a testament to the wonderful work that our staff have done over the past months and years to prepare the pupils for these much larger schools. For those pupils that need a much smaller nurturing environment, we hope they will stay on with us.

This is a reminder that if you have not already emailed us to let us know that your child will be leaving in July, please do so as soon by as possible, and certainly by April 19th, in order to honour the term's notice as outlined in our Terms & Conditions. In addition, the earlier you let us know, the better, so that we can then allocate your child's space to others who are on our waiting list.

World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

On Thursday 3rd 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, if they wish. Costumes are readily available from supermarkets and online, but 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.



Friday 18th March is Comic Relief

On this day, the children may wear a red nose, or red jumper / t shirt or any Comic Relief merchandise with their normal school uniform to support Comic Relief. Please bring a minimum of £1 to donate to the charity.



Fun Science to try at Home

Erupting Volcanoes 1 (baking powder/bicarbonate of soda and vinegar):

- 1) Watch this supporting video to help you.
<https://www.loom.com/share/7a539f311a2e4c22909e0a85ad2d937d>
- 2) Make a volcano shape out of either playdough or a kitchen roll tube and newspaper. Put it on a baking tray to catch the mess.
- 3) Add a spoonful of baking powder or bicarbonate of soda to the centre of your volcano shape.
- 4) Add some food colouring if you have some. (Red will make your eruption look like lava!)
- 5) Pour in a little vinegar to see the eruption!
- 6) Experiment with different combinations of baking powder/bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to see which makes the biggest eruption.



Erupting Volcanoes 2 (Coke and Mentos):

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/adventures-in-chemistry/experiments/mentos-diet-coke.html>
- 2) Go outside with your bottle of Coke and packet of Mentos.
- 3) Place your Coke bottle on a flat surface somewhere where you are allowed to make a mess.
- 4) Add the packet of Mentos to the Coke bottle and jump out of the way!



Make your own Slime:

- 1) Watch this supporting video to help you. <https://www.loom.com/share/973f34f7bd604f668b27ad336328183c>
- 2) Add some cornflour to a mixing bowl.
- 3) Add some water until you get the desired slime consistency.
- 4) Optionally, you can add food colouring to colour your slime.



Make your own Mini Diver in a Bottle:

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU8wONWjIXg>
- 2) If you don't have straws and paper clips, you could use the top of a biro pen and some blu tac (or any small, waterproof object which can trap an air bubble!).
- 3) Did you know: when you squeeze the bottle, the air bubble is under pressure and shrinks so making the 'diver' sink. When you release your grip on the bottle the air bubble returns to its normal size and the 'diver' returns to the surface.



Dancing Raisins:

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.
<http://blog.philipharris.co.uk/uncategorized/dancing-raisins-experiment-how-why/>
- 2) Place some raisins in lemonade.
- 3) Observe carefully. Can you work out why the raisins rise and fall?



Skittle Rainbow:

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A00zaENb4uU>
- 2) Place some skittles in a circle (or try another pattern) on a plate.
- 3) Add some water and wait to see what happens?
- 4) Why don't the colours mix?
- 5) What happens to the 'S'?



Science Brainteasers

Have a look at this zoomed in mystery image, can you guess what it is?
Answer on page 12.

Something to ponder.... Have a discussion at home.

What if... penguins could fly?

- What would they look like?
- What might they eat?
- Would they still be able to swim?
- Every year emperor penguins walk 70 miles to get food for their young – would flying make this easier?
- Is it better to be able to dive to great depths (450m) or fly to get food?



Half Term Activity

Can you find out the names of these common birds?



How to Help Your Child at Home

Help your child with reading

I Spy

Play 'I Spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of a ...? How many ... can you see?

Ask Questions

Ask questions about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? Why do you think they made that choice? Was it a good choice? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

Make it Fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

Be Seen

Make sure you are seen reading. Keep books magazines at easy reach.

Get Out

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a kid to read together.

Create

Use reading to inspire drawings or new stories.

Go Online

Look online & in app stores for appropriate word & spelling games.

Make Space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

Read everything out loud.

Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper & magazine articles, food labels... anything that is close to hand!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY

Mon 14 th - Friday 18 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available
Monday 21 st	8.30am	Pupils Return
Thursday 24 th		Computing Day (postponed from February 8 th)

MARCH

Thursday 3 rd		World Book Day – Dress up as a Book Character
Friday 18 th		Red Nose Day
Tuesday 22 nd	4-6pm	Meet the Teacher – Babies, Lower Pre-School & Nursery Classes
Wednesday 23 rd	4-6pm	Meet the Teacher – Upper Pre-School, Reception & Yrs 1&2
Friday 25 th	am	Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt
Friday 25 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter - Holiday Club available

APRIL

Monday 19 th		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July
Tuesday 19 th		Staff Training Day
Wednesday 20 th		Children back for new term

MAY

Mon 30 th – Friday 3 rd June		Half Term - Holiday Club available
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JUNE

Monday 6 th		Children back following half term
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JULY

Thursday 7 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday – Holiday Club available
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Zoomed in image – answer:
Bristles on a toothbrush

