



# ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

*In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning*

Academic Year 2022-23

February 2023

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## From The Co-Headteachers

January and February can be tough; dark, cold days, the post-Christmas slump and financial struggles. However, apart from a lot of illness, from both pupils and staff, everything at Roxeth has been remarkably upbeat this half term, covering our topics of "Winter" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears".

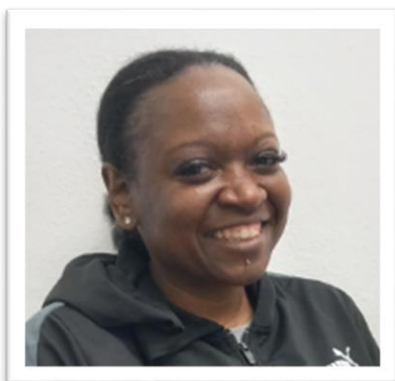
Pupils came back in January to find our new sensory room finished. We have used this a lot with all our pupils, much to their delight. It has been a pleasure to see the children exploring light, sound and texture in a risk free environment. We extend our most grateful thanks to those parents who donated something towards the refurbishment.



We have now converted the hall into a toddler room and split the baby and toddler group, although they still do come together from time to time. Here we see some of our toddlers having a sing song with Mrs Sheikh.



We were pleased to welcome Mrs Ellis back on February 7<sup>th</sup> for Safer Internet Day. She worked with our older pupils. See pages 2 and 3 for more details, or watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl\\_gZTQ9F7w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rl_gZTQ9F7w) to see a short film explaining what Safer Internet Day is all about.



Finally, we are delighted to introduce Miss Gordon who has joined the Roxeth team to work at afterschool club and holiday club. She also helps out if we have staff absences for any reason.

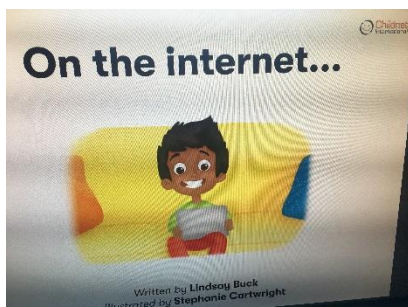
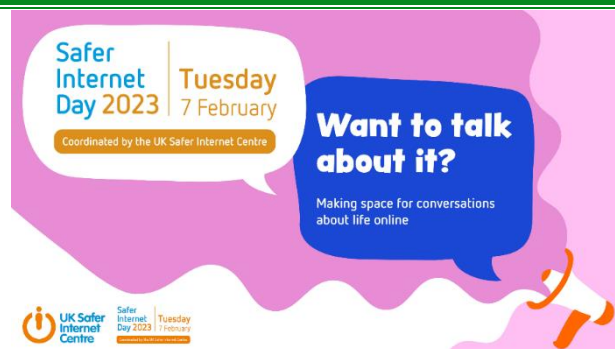
Wishing you a lovely half term. We look forward to seeing you at holiday club or back after half term on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Best Wishes, Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

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## Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February the children in our Squirrel and Tiger classes joined schools and youth organisations across the UK in celebrating Safer Internet Day 2023. This is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Roxeth Mead School and celebrating Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. The activities used during this session were the perfect way to kickstart conversations about life online.

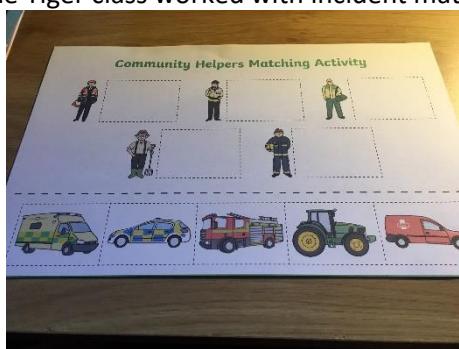


We started our morning by looking at an e-book called 'On the Internet' – this is published by Childnet International ([www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)) and highlighted some of the many ways we use the internet. The children spoke enthusiastically about seeing people use mobile phones, iPads, smart speakers and laptops. They also took part in activities to consider who they could talk to if something made them feel sad or worried.

This message was reinforced by 'Hanni and the Magic Window' – Hanni's home has a very special magic window but when Hanni sees something that upsets her, she struggles to explain what has happened. Can she find the words to get the help she needs? It highlights how important it is that children know not only who to ask for help but also how to ask. 'Hanni and the Magic Window' can be found at [www.childnet.com/hanni](http://www.childnet.com/hanni).

The board game 'Can you help me please?' gave the Tiger class a chance to practise asking for help when they were presented with various situations. The children thought about how each scenario might make them feel and who would be the best person to talk to. They also put together a sentence asking for help with that situation.

Both classes thought about other people who help us too. The Squirrel class completed a stick and paste matching activity while the Tiger class worked with incident matching cards.



The children also put puzzle pieces of people who help us back together whilst talking about how those people help us.





Before being presented with very well deserved certificates, the children watched 'Jessie and Friends: Watching Videos' ([www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)) – this is the first in a series of animations which begins with Jessie and her dog, named Dog, looking at videos online using a tablet. Together they learn that while the internet can be enjoyable and fun, there are sometimes things online that can be upsetting or scary. It includes 'The Funny Tummy Song' which reminds Jessie that she can always speak to a grown-up who will be able to help her and put down the tablet if there is anything she sees or hears online that makes her feel worried, scared or sad.

Mrs Caroline Ellis





## News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



It has been a pleasure to welcome Sophia into the baby room this term. The babies have all welcomed her warmly and we are looking forward to being part of her journey at Roxeth Mead.

This half term has gone by very quickly. We have been learning about winter and the babies enjoyed learning about the cold weather through singing and exploring with ice. We encouraged the babies to feel the different temperature and textures of ice and we have also been using lots of art materials to create some lovely winter pictures.

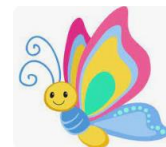
Our next topic was Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The babies developed their fine motor skills by using paint brushes to create a bear, we have also been looking at the Goldilocks book as well as singing the Goldilocks song during circle time.

I hope you have a lovely half term break, and will be looking forward to an exciting new half term ahead.  
Mrs Sheikh and Mrs Azzar





## News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



After Christmas we moved into our new toddler room. We have converted the hall into a bright and inviting space, with enough room for climbing and ride on toys as well as a reading area, craft area and free play. All the toddlers have settled in well into this new room and we have welcomed three new children, Aarin, Arabella & Noah, who seemed to have adjusted well into the daily routines. Without a doubt we can say that music and movement and also story time seem to be the favourites with all of them.

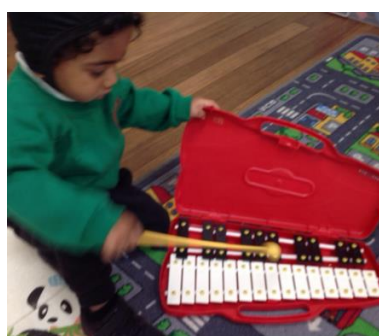


In the first two weeks of term, our topic was Winter. The children listened to songs and also made some winter artwork including snow pictures, snowflakes and snowmen, we also touched ice to feel the cold and slippery texture. After that, we learnt about the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears and learnt a song relating to the story. The children have been comparing sizes and looking at different sized chairs, bowls etc. They have been painting pictures of bears and have used different materials to create lovely artwork. Well done to all of them.



The children are beginning to copy most actions to familiar songs and repeat words time to time of course depending on their mood on the day! We have also been looking at different shapes, colours, numbers, letters and their sounds. The children getting used to Circle Time, and as the days go on, they are getting more and more used to sitting and joining in.

We have had a busy and adventurous half term and well done to all the children for settling in so well. Hope you all have a lovely half term break. Best wishes from Mrs Ranabahu & Miss Gohill.





## News From The Lower Pre-School (Parrot Class)



How can January have come and gone so quickly? Despite those dark, cold mornings we have enjoyed a happy and productive half term and it has, as ever, been delightful to see the children having fun together and seeing their independence increase. I love to see the children make up games and scenarios and, by providing an enabling environment, such as our three bears house, it helps them use their imaginative skills and use the resources available to them.



We started the term with our topic 'Winter'. We have sorted 'snowballs' into size, painted, collaged, printed polar bears footprints in the snow, and used our cutting skills to make snowflakes. We have used scissors for many activities, including cutting tagliatelle to make a delicious and healthy pasta dish.

Our next topic, which ran over three weeks, was looking closely at the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. I cannot believe how much learning we have gained from this! Lots of mathematical language has been used, such as describing size, position and quantity, as well as practising fine motor skills by threading around a bear (an excellent activity to promote the correct pencil grasp) using our senses with dry then wet porridge oats, sequencing events within the plot and listening to the sounds of the voices of the three bears. We have read the story several times, we had fun doing a quiz without the book, and I can honestly say I was amazed that the children knew, and could recall, every detail!

I am sure every member of staff will tell you what a huge success our sensory room has been! The children love it and we try to visit as much as we can.

Wishing you all a very happy half term break and look forward to the next half term.

Mrs L O'Neill, Mrs Pallavi and Miss Hayes.









## News From The Upper Pre-School Room (Squirrels)



What a busy start to the year it has been in Squirrel Class. The children came back from the Christmas holidays full of smiles. We have started teaching phonics and the children have really taken well to it and enjoy our fun and interactive phonic sessions. This half term we have introduced the letter sounds m, a, s, d, t and you will find that your child can now recognise these letters phonetically and link them to a familiar object. The children have also had opportunities to develop their writing skills and are currently practising forming these letters with the aid of our reading and writing scheme Read, Write, Inc.

In numeracy, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of counting to quantity and linking numerals and amounts to the right number of objects. We have also been working on our mathematical language of small, medium and large.

Our topic work has comprised of Winter and the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The children have particularly enjoyed learning this topic as they had sensorial experiences with porridge and had the opportunity to feed the bears porridge. The children made porridge and had a little taster session choosing their favourite topping and they also had a chance to act out the story with masks and props. The children were asked to follow a picture sequence of the story showing them that a story has a beginning, a middle and an ending.

Our arts and crafts sessions have been teacher led and the children are able to follow simple instructions and follow a sample in order to achieve the desired outcome. During our free painting and crafts sessions, we encourage the children to use their imagination to paint and create with a purpose in mind.

Wishing you a very happy half term break. Mrs Afsari and Ms Turei







## News From The Nursery and Reception Room (Tigers)

It has been a great start to the new term in 'Tiger Class.' This term we have welcomed Adam and Jia to our class and they have settled in very well.



In Phonics, we have continued to practise the sounds of the letters and the children are now beginning to read CVC letters with growing confidence. They have been practising forming letters and are doing very well. We have been listening out for rhyming words in stories and poems and the children are getting very good at pointing them out.

In our Maths lessons, the children have been consolidating their understanding of the topics covered last term through practical work. They are getting good at number recognition, putting them in the right order, learning about 2D&3D shapes, creating repeating patterns, counting out, writing numbers and playing number games.



Our topic work has been fun and the children have engaged with a great deal of enthusiasm. Our first topic was 'Winter' and the children made snow using cornflour and the snowballs turned into a snowman. They cut out snowflakes, made a snowman dressed in a hat and scarf and helped to create an impressive list of winter weather words. We conducted an experiment where we made ice and put it in warm water, cold water and left some at room temperature to see which one would melt first. The children learnt to make predictions and they were absolutely right when the ice cubes in the warm water melted first.

Our next topic was the storybook 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and the children loved listening to the story and songs. They used the finger puppets to become the characters from the story, made porridge, used oats for learning about measuring and capacity. They have used our story board to put their coloured pictures of the characters. They have made different sized bears, painted porridge bowls and made patterned quilts for the beds.



We celebrated Chinese New Year and the children made lanterns, noodles and performed the ribbon dance to music. The children have enjoyed playing in our Sensory Room and are always very excited to tell others about it. They have been working hard in all the areas of the curriculum and their growing confidence and independence is a testament to their hard work. Well done to all the lovely children in Tiger Class.

Wishing you all a restful half-term.

Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.





# Parents' Information



## Topics for Next Half Term:

Healthy World	Date	Topics	Other Activities
	20 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>How to be Healthy</b> – cleanliness, eating, exercise, dental hygiene. <i>Books - Oliver's Vegetables; Handa's surprise; Daisy Eat Your Peas; The Tiger who came to Tea.</i>	Pancake day 21 <sup>st</sup> February
	27 <sup>th</sup> February		World Book Day 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
	6 <sup>th</sup> March		
	13 <sup>th</sup> March	Babies & Toddlers - <b>Nursery Rhymes</b> 2+ - <b>Recycling</b>	Mother's Day (19 <sup>th</sup> ) 14-20 March Sign Language Week
	20 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Easter</b>	Easter Bonnets and Egg Hunt Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> End of term- 24 <sup>th</sup> March

## Uniform Update

We have a uniform for all pupils except babies. Please ensure your child wears uniform, as uniform gives a sense of community and belonging and ensures that nice clothes are not ruined by messy play. Sadly, Billings and Edmonds, the uniform shop on Harrow on the Hill, have said that they can no longer supply our uniform. They have delivered all the stock they currently have to us and we will be selling it from school until we can source a new supplier. Please carry on wearing the uniform you currently have, but as we no longer have years 1 and 2, we have revised our uniform to make it simpler, as follows:

**Babies:** Any leggings and top

**All Other Pupils:**

### Winter:

Plain black jogging bottoms  
White polo shirt  
Green logoed sweatshirt\* or Green v neck jumper\*  
Grey logoed fleece\*  
Warm, waterproof coat  
Grey woollen beanie hat\*  
Black shoes or trainers with Velcro fitting

### Summer:

White or grey shorts  
Green gingham summer dress (girls)  
White polo shirt  
Green logoed sweatshirt\* or Green v neck jumper\*  
Legionnaires style sun hat\*  
Raincoat (any)  
Black shoes or trainers with Velcro fitting or  
White trainers with Velcro fitting

\* All logoed items are now available from the school. Please email [info@roxethmead.com](mailto:info@roxethmead.com) your requirements.

## World Book Day - Thursday 2nd March

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</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, 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.





## Easter Fun

Parents are invited to join us on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 weeb beginning Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March to meet with the teacher. We do not produce a written report this term, but the teacher will be able to discuss with you in detail the progress of your child. Please liaise with the class teacher at drop off or pickup to book a time for your meeting.

## Letters and Numbers Games for 3 to 4-year-olds

Playing games with letters and numbers will help your child get ready for reading when they're older. There are all sorts of games you can play ranging from using the letters shapes and sounds, to learning new words that share the same first letter.

### Top tips

- Count aloud with your child. You could find out how many steps you need to take to get to the front door or the number of lampposts you pass as you walk to the park!
- Look out for numbers your child will recognise, such as your door number or their age, and see if you can find these numbers on buses, shops or road signs. Remember that letters and numbers are everywhere!
- Talk about the letters you can find in junk mail and old magazines. Cut some of the letters out and make a collage. See if you can find the first letter of your child's name. If they can't recognise the letter yet, draw it together and see if you can spot it when you're out and about.

To encourage your child's early reading, use letter sounds instead of alphabet letter names. Using letter sounds when you play games like 'I'm going to the park' or 'I spy' together will help them sound out words as they learn to read.

### Letter game: Going to the park!

- Play a game taking turns saying what you'd take on a trip to the park.
- The rule is that you can only take things with a 'p' sound (for example, 'I'm going to the park and I'm going to take a picnic/parrot/pencil').
- You can have more fun by changing the place you are going. For example, to the seaside, where you can only bring things beginning with 's'.

Have a go at making letter shapes together out of playdough.

### How to make your own playdough:

- Mix together:
- two cups of plain flour
- ½ cup of cold water
- three tablespoons of vegetable oil
- one tablespoon lemon juice (optional)
- any food colouring or glitter



## The Importance of Nursery Rhymes

All children like songs and rhymes, even small babies. They like your voice, the repetitive language and the actions.

- You will be supporting them to learn to talk as they become familiar with the words and rhythm, and begin to imitate the sounds you make, or join in with the words.
- You will support the bond between you to develop as you look at each other and imitate one another's actions. You will be supporting them to develop muscle control and coordination as you help them to follow the actions in rhymes.
- You will be supporting pre-reading and pre-writing skills as they develop phonological awareness by hearing sounds in the rhymes.
- You will support them to learn to count, add and subtract numbers when you sing number rhymes.

## Childcare offers for Parents

The Childcare Choices campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of the support available from the government with the costs of childcare. To ensure you are not missing out, please check this website....<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

## The Book Trust

The Book Trust provides monthly reading tips, and more to keep the whole family reading together! Visit <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/families> to check them out.

## Half Term Activity

Can you find out the names of these common birds? Can you spot them in your garden or in the local park?



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>		Half Term - Holiday Club available 8am to 4pm
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### MARCH

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		World Book Day – Dress up as a Book Character
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Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>		Book a time to meet with the teacher to discuss progress
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Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am	Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Egg Hunt 10.45 – 11.45
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Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Easter - Holiday Club available 8am to 4pm
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### APRIL

Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July
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Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training Day
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Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Children back for new term
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<b>MAY</b>		
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Deaf Awareness week
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Extra Bank Holiday for Kings Coronation
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June		Half Term - Holiday Club available 8am to 4pm
<b>JUNE</b>		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>		Children back following half term
Tbc		Willows Farm Trip
Tbc		Sports day and picnic lunch
<b>JULY</b>		
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday – Holiday Club available 8am to 4pm

## Term Dates 2022-23

### Spring Term 2023

***Inset for Staff:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January*

**Term Begins:**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Half Term:**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February

**Term Ends:**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at midday

### Summer Term 2023

***Inset for Staff:** Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April*

**Term Begins:**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Bank Holiday: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May

**Half Term:**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June

**Term Ends:**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at midday

### Autumn Term 2023

***Inset for Staff:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September & Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September*

**Term Begins:**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

**Half Term:**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

**Term Ends:**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at midday (after Nativity)

*N.B. Holiday Club is available at additional cost for childcare during the school holidays, ensuring childcare for 48 weeks a year. We are fully closed for 2 weeks at Christmas and 2 weeks at the end of the Summer break for deep cleaning.*