



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2023-24

February 2024

In This Issue:

- From The Headteacher
- News from the Classes:
 - Ladybirds
 - Butterflies
 - Parrots
 - Squirrels
 - Tigers
- Parent's Information
- Dates for Your Diary

From The Headteacher

January and February can be tough, with dark, dank days and the post-Christmas slump, however, apart from a lot of illness from both pupils and staff, everything at Roxeth has been remarkably upbeat, covering our topics of "Winter", "Space" and "Nursery Rhymes". I am privileged in my job to be able to pop into every classroom regularly. I always come out feeling uplifted by the wonderful things your children are doing. I am able to see first hand the progress that they are making and how well they are supported by our wonderful staff team. This week I saw our amazing Nursery pupils writing their names and reading a wide range of CVC words without breaking a sweat! This newsletter shows some delightful photos of the children enjoying their learning.



National Story Telling Week - Story telling always features heavily in our work and especially this half term for National Story Telling Week 27 January to 4th February. Sharing and making up stories with children is a great way to help them relax, develop empathy, and learn about the world. It also boosts their vital literacy skills. A love of reading is so important for educational success, so please encourage your child to read, read, read! One of my favourite children's books is "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". Why not take some time during half term to watch the author Michael Rosen perform this book via this link... Enjoy!
<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/going-bear-hunt/>.

As I write, we are celebrating Chinese New Year. The children are making colourful Chinese lanterns, eating Chinese food and doing some lion and dragon dances to bring in the year of the Dragon. Mrs Kalsi produced this wonderful display...



Have a wonderful half term break everyone. Best Wishes, Mrs Mackintosh

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

News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



Well what a joyful half term we have had. The children have all been showing lots of skills and interests whilst at nursery. They have all been a delight to have.



The majority of this term we have been learning about Winter. Firstly the children created a snowman, penguin and a polar bear using different art materials. The children also explored with ice as they were developing their sensory skills. During the activity we asked the children what the ice felt like, some children were able to say 'cold'. We also provided the children with a tuff tray of fake snow and arctic animals for them to explore. We showed the children different items of clothing that we use in winter on a daily basis such gloves, scarves and hats. Some children were able to name the items. Lastly we read a book about a snowman and identified different winter objects in the book such as snow, hat and penguin.

Our next topic was Nursery Rhymes. We learnt the "5 little Ducks" song. It was lovely to hear the children try to sing some words and do some actions. For this topic the children created a duck using tissue paper and glue. They were able to develop their fine motor skills by using their hands to pick up the glue stick and manipulate the tissue paper to create the duck. We also provided the children with a tray of water and rubber ducks. The children loved splashing the ducks in the water and hearing the staff count the ducks. We also read a book about 5 Little Ducks and encouraged the children to say what sound a duck makes and also to identify what colour a duck is.



As I write, we are learning about Chinese New Year. We have some colouring sheets for the children to colour – lots of red - and plan to create a Chinese lantern using tissue paper. We will also be providing the children with spring rolls for them to taste.

I hope you all have a lovely half term week and for those children that will be attending holiday club, I am sure they will have lots of fun! Mrs Sheikh & Miss Gabby



News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



Happy New Year from Butterfly class. What an amazing start to year we have had. The children have all settled extremely well into the routine of being back at nursery and Butterfly Class have been very busy taking part in fun filled activities. Our first theme, Winter, gave us lots of opportunities for sensory play - we created a snowman, penguin and a polar bear using different art materials and also explored with ice and fake snow. The children's language is developing beautifully with all of them saying two and three word sentences. We have read a variety of books on the penguins, polar bears and snowmen, and all sat enthralled and listened beautifully. Even on cold days, we have taken advantage of our lovely garden to ride tricycles, kick balls and climb, to build gross motor skills. During our next topic, Nursery Rhymes, we learnt to sing "5 Little

Ducks". The children used the musical instruments to accompany their singing. The children loved floating ducks in water, counting the ducks with the adult support and using tissue paper to create their own duck picture. This week we are celebrating Chinese New Year and are making lanterns and tasting some Chinese food. Have a great half term break.

From Miss Gordon and Miss Hayes.



News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

As Christmas now seems to be an age away and, with the recent milder weather, spring seems not too far away. This term has seen us welcome Ruh and, as usual your lovely children have welcomed him with open arms and helped him settle and enjoy his first weeks at Roxeth Mead.



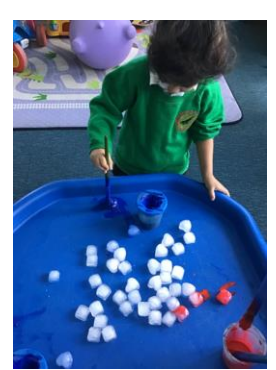
We have spent much of this half term talking about 'Winter' and the weather behaved itself and gave us some frosty, icy days to help the children learn. We have found so many activities to enhance their learning which have included (as ever) utilising our garden to see the changes. We have learnt about caring for wildlife including topping up a bird feeder and hanging it on a tree and this has enabled the children to see generally the greedy squirrels steal the food! It is a welcome sight to see snowdrops emerging through the earth.

Our displays are looking good and the children have completed many craft activities including snipping with scissors a folded circle to make a snowflake, threading in and out, over and under around a snowman, looking at the tracks vehicles make in white paint, sticking onto a giant snowman and collaging a winter picture. We have used pretend snow to make a snow village as well as shaving foam which we used to hide artic animals. The children love any sensory play and can immerse themselves for lengthy periods enjoying various textures. We have also discussed the clothes we need to keep us warm in winter and been practicing putting on hats, coats, mittens and a scarf.

Our cookery sessions have included making a rainbow salad, a snowman's face from rice cakes and some delicious scones. As ever, your lovely children have enjoyed many, many familiar books and stories. Some favourites are 'Owl Babies', 'Peace at Last', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Bumblebear'. We have made lots of noise making music and singing. We thank you for your continued support and wish you all a happy half term.

Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Saimoon and Miss Pallavi





News From The Lower Nursery (Squirrels)

It has been a great start to the new year, despite the number of children being struck down by various winter bugs, however, we have seen a lot of great progress. We are pleased to say that children settled effortlessly back into the routines and are excelling at following instructions and being independent.



Our first topic this half term was Winter. We learnt about different types of clothing we need to wear during this season and how it differs from other seasons. Children enjoyed ice painting and made some 'snow' as well. Children showcased their creative selves by making snowmen, designing their jumpers, mittens, scarfs and hats. We learnt about different arctic animals and the struggles they face during the winter season. Children enjoyed learning about and making penguins, polar bears, arctic foxes and reindeers. While reading the story 'Poles Apart' we learnt about the harsh weather conditions of the North and South poles. We have been looking at the world map and globe a lot

these past few weeks and children have taken a key interest in learning about countries all over the world. Our next topic was Space and the children had a blast learning about the Solar system. We have been looking at unique properties of the different planets. Children enjoyed making rockets and astronauts. They engaged in imaginative play where they pretended to be aliens. Our alien masks have been a hit during this topic and children have made the best use of them. Children were thrilled to enact the story "Whatever Next" and we are so proud of our little theatre artists. As I write, our topic is Chinese New Year and children are making lanterns. We will learn about how each year is named after an animal and they will be making noodles.

In Phonics, we are pleased with the progress children have made and are now confident with most of the phonemes. We are now introducing digraphs and are practising blending CVC words. Children are gradually gaining confidence at writing their names independently.

In Maths, we have been working on our number formation to 5. We will continue to secure counting and number skills. Children have been learning about positional language, patterns, subitising and ordering numbers to 20. We have compared and sorted objects of different shapes and sizes. We have learnt about properties of 2D shapes. Children had the experience of using a weighing scale to weigh different objects. Children have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly cooking lessons and have improved their fine motor skills by chopping, mixing and rolling. We have relished cupcakes, biscuits, salads and scones.



We wish you a very restful break and are looking forward to welcoming your children after the half term break.
Mrs Raza and Miss Gohil





News From The Upper Nursery (Tigers)

What a great start to the new term in Tiger Class. The children have come back after the holidays with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. Our first topic this term was 'Winter' and the children created lovely patterns on winter clothes, cut out snowflakes, learnt a snowman action song, created an impressive list of winter weather words and made snow using cornflour. We had 'snowfall' in the classroom and the children enjoyed throwing cotton-wool snowballs at one another. We made ice cubes and then put them in water to see if they would sink or float along with other objects from around the classroom. The children were fascinated by the animals that live in harsh conditions at the North and South Poles. The storybook 'Poles Apart' about a family of Penguins, out for a picnic, getting lost and ending up at the North Pole and meeting a Polar Bear, was a firm favourite.

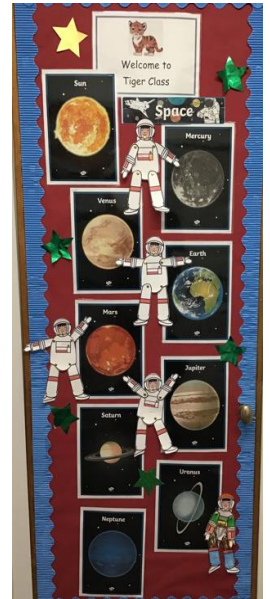


Our next topic was 'Space' and it caught the children's imagination where they packed their bags, ready for a space adventure. The children enacted out the story 'Whatever Next!' and flew on an imaginary rocket for a picnic on the Moon. They learnt the 'Planet Song' and decided which planet was their favourite. They made spaceships, rockets and aliens using shapes and junk modelling. They enjoyed weighing Moon rocks and asked if I had been to the Moon to get them and promptly told me it wasn't possible. They thought about the feelings of an alien if he came to visit them and how welcoming they would be.

We celebrated Chinese New Year at school and the children made lanterns, cooked noodles, performed the ribbon dance, made a dragon and learnt how people celebrate it around the world. The children enjoy the weekly cookery lessons and are always excited to find out what they are cooking next.

In Phonics we have continued to practise the sounds of the letters and the children are now beginning to read CVC words with growing confidence. They have been practising forming letters, listening out for rhyming words in stories and poems. In our Maths lessons the children have been consolidating their understanding of the topics covered. They are getting good at number recognition, putting them in the right order, learning about 2D and 3D shapes, creating repeating patterns, counting out, writing numbers and playing number games. They have been working hard and have made great progress in all the areas of the curriculum. Their growing confidence and independence is a testament to their hard work. Well done to all the children in Tiger Class. Wishing you all a restful half-term. Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.





Parents' Information

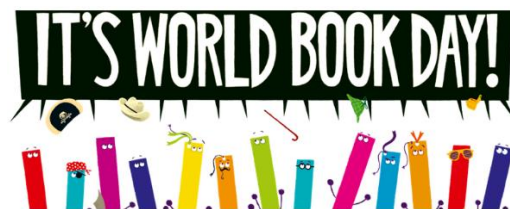


Topics for Next Half Term:

SPRING TERM 2			
W/b	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
12 Half Term			
19	Healthy Eating - Fruit & Vegetables. Book - Orange Pear Apple Bear	Healthy Me Keeping ourselves healthy (eating, exercise, dental hygiene) Orange Pear Apple Bear Daisy Eat Your Peas Mother's Day Cards	Healthy Me/ Healthy Planet: Keeping ourselves healthy (cleanliness, eating, exercise, dental hygiene) Planet – Recycling, looking after our oceans. Mother's Day Cards
26			
4 March 7 th – World Book Day Day . Mother's Day 10 th March	Nursery Rhymes: Twinkle Twinkle; Hey Diddle Diddle; Hickory Dickory Dock Mother's Day Cards		
11	Vehicles & Transport incl. Song Wheels on the Bus	Vehicles & Transport incl. people who help us Wheels on the Bus	Vehicles & Transport incl. People who help us
18			
25 Ends 28 th	Easter	Easter	Easter

Advance Notice - World Book Day

On **Thursday 7th 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.



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.

Easter Fun

Parents are invited to join us on **Tuesday 26th March at 10.45 – 11.45** 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 in the last week of term, **week beginning Monday 25th 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 the progress your child is making. Please liaise with the class teacher at drop off or pickup to book a mutually convenient time for your meeting, or email info@roxethhead.com.

Hot Meals

A reminder that meals are available to book for £4.50. All meals are either Annabel Karmel or Little Dish Range, as shown below. Both ranges promise 1 or more of your 5 a-day, low in salt, 100% natural ingredients and no added sugar. We serve the meals with mixed vegetables. You can also book morning snacks for 50pence each.

Cottage pie		Chicken & Vegetable pie	
Chicken pasta		Chicken Korma	
Spaghetti Bolognese		Fish Pie	
Chicken Tikka		Macaroni Cheese	

Funding from April for 2 year olds - Code Needed

If parents are working more than 16 hours a week and earn less than £100K, you can apply for funding for your 2 year old for the summer term. **You must apply now for a code.** There is more information on the [Childcare Choices](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/) website, <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

Rise in Measles Cases in Harrow/Brent

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of measles cases in Harrow/Brent. Measles spreads easily and can cause serious illnesses, including pneumonia and meningitis. Your child can be protected from this serious infection by receiving two doses of the MMR vaccine. The first dose is given at the age of 12 months and the second dose is given at around 3 years and 4 months, before starting school. Having both doses gives long lasting protection against measles, mumps and rubella. The MMR vaccine has been protecting children against measles for many years and millions of doses have been administered in the UK. The vaccine has been thoroughly tested and is the safest and most effective way to protect your child against the disease. You can find more information about the MMR vaccination here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

If you are unsure if your child is up to date with all their routine vaccinations, please check their Red Book (personal child health record). If you are still not sure, or if you need to bring your child up to date with their vaccines, contact your GP practice to check and book an appointment

How to Help Your Child at Home 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.

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?



Our Uniform Provider

<https://www.aceclothing.co.uk/products-school/roxeth-mead/uniform-3/boys-girls>

Please note that everything is made to order, so you need to allow 7-10 working days for the order to be ready.

Could You Be a Foster Carer?

Nexus Fostering based in Harrow, is a local fostering agency supporting and training foster carers to help and care for local children that are unable to live with their birth families.

Unfortunately, the number of children being taken into care in London, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Middlesex is increasing so the need for Foster Carers is as urgent as ever.

Message from Nexus:

“At Nexus Fostering based in Harrow, we’re looking for local people like you to become foster carers. By providing a loving and stable home environment, you can support the increasing number of children and young people in the local area who cannot live in their family homes. Not all children require long-term care. We also need foster carers for short-term placements, respite care, and to provide temporary homes to support young parents and their babies. So, if you have a spare room and are ready to change lives, please give us a call on 02088646040 or email Harry Webley on harryw@nexusfostering.co.uk.”



You have what it takes
for a rewarding career in fostering

- Your everyday experiences and skills are transferable into a foster carer role, from providing emotional support to teaching life skills.
- Our fostering roles are suitable for individuals, couples, or families from all walks of life. All children are different, so our foster carers are too.
- We offer many different types of fostering roles, including short-term, parent & child, therapeutic and long-term.
- Be part of our professional team and receive our ongoing comprehensive training.
- Receive generous fostering allowances, benefits and tax relief.

As a foster carer, you could provide a safe and stable home environment for a vulnerable child whilst enjoying a flexible and rewarding career that's literally life changing.

Ofsted Approved | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn | YouTube | Tel: 020 8616 3811 | Web: nexusfostering.co.uk/London



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY		
Mon 12 th - Fri 16 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available
MARCH		
Thursday 7 th		World Book Day. Dress up as a character from a book
Monday 25 th to Thursday 28 th		Book a time to meet with the teacher to discuss progress. No written report this term.
Tuesday 26 th	10.45 – 11.45	Easter bonnet parade and Easter egg hunt. Parents Invited.
Thursday 28 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday . There is NO afternoon childcare provision.
APRIL		
Tues 2nd to Tues 23rd		Easter Holidays (3 weeks) Holiday club available including INSET 22 nd & 23rd
Wednesday 24 th		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July
Wednesday 24 th		Children back for new term
Tuesday 30 th		Zoolab visit to school
MAY		
Monday 6 th		Bank Holiday
Mon 27 to Fri 31		Half Term - Holiday Club available 28 th to 31st
JUNE		
Monday 3 rd		Children back following half term
Tuesday 11 th	All day	Willows Farm Trip
JULY		
Wednesday 12 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday – Holiday Club available

TERM DATES

Spring Term 2024

Inset for Staff: Monday 8th January

Term Begins:

Tuesday 9th January

Half Term:

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Term Ends:

Thursday 28th March at midday

Summer Term 2024

Inset for Staff: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd April

Term Begins:

Wednesday 24th April

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

Half Term:

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Term Ends:

Friday 12th July at midday

Autumn Term 2024

Inset for Staff: Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September

Term Begins:

Wednesday 4th September

Half Term:

Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November

Term Ends:

Wednesday 11th December at midday after the Nativity

Holiday Club – available

School Closed 2 weeks over Christmas