



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2023-24

March 2024

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From The Headteacher

It has been another joyous half term at Roxeth, but I can't believe that we are now two thirds through the academic year and that our Nursery class children only have one more term left with us!



The highlight for me this half term was seeing our pupils and staff dressed up for World Book Day on 7th March. In the modern world, with all the attractions of ipads and computer games, it feels harder than ever to encourage children to read. And yet, we know just what an impact regular reading can have on how successful children are later on in life. A love of books and reading starts now, when the children are young, this is why I was so pleased



to see so much excitement during our World Book Day celebrations. Thank you parents for supporting reading and showing the children how to love books.

It has been lovely seeing the variety of activities enjoyed by our pupils during our topics of healthy eating, healthy teeth, spring and Easter. Our Nursery Class children also learned about Ramadan and Eid. Here is a wonderful display that they produced.



As an educational establishment, it is important that we offer our staff learning opportunities, as well as our pupils. To enable this, we sometimes move staff to different rooms so that they gain experience with different age groups. We have done this in Pre-School and Toddler rooms recently, so please do not be alarmed if someone else starts sending observations on the EYLog.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter, and for those celebrating Ramadan and Eid, wish you a Happy Ramadan and Eid Mubarak! 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



We can't believe we have come to the end of another amazing half term. Firstly we would like to welcome Anushka to our lovely class. She has settled in extremely well and the children have been very welcoming and nurturing towards her.

We have had a very busy, exciting half term. We started the term learning about healthy eating. The children were encouraged to recognise different fruits and vegetables by taking part in a variety of activities such as fruit and vegetables printing, we also cut out pictures of different fruits and vegetable for the children to create their own healthy eating bowl. We provided a tuff tray with different vegetables to feel the different textures, we also provided child friendly knives for the children to try to cut the vegetables, to use the muscles in their arms and hands, that are so important in fine motor skills. We also made a vegetable wrap for the children to take home, and had a fruit tasting session for the children to try variety of different fruits to eat.



The second topic was nursery rhymes. We chose Miss Polly Had a Dolly and throughout the week showed the children flash cards of the sequence of what happened in the rhyme. We provided a doctor's set for the children to pretend to be doctors, enhancing their social skills by using the kit on their peers. We also provided a tuff tray for the children to bathe dolls using soapy water and sponges and we also created a doll using different art materials.



Our current topic is Spring. We have created a spring tuff tray with different flowers, leaves and pom poms for the children's enjoyment. We have encouraged the children to enhance their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination by providing a peg and attaching a pom pom to create a blossom tree. We created a symmetrical butterfly using spring colours, been on a nature walk to looking at the daffodils in our garden and we have also looked at spring pictures and sung the spring song during circle time. We are also thinking about our forthcoming Easter celebrations, singing some Easter themes songs. We will continue this topic after the Easter break when we will look at mini beasts.

We would like to wish you all a lovely Easter, and for those celebrating Ramadan and Eid, wish you a Happy Ramadan and Eid Mubarak!

Mrs Shiekh and Miss Gabby





News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



What a busy and fantastic term we have had. We did some amazing, stimulating activities during the specific topics, which the children found interesting and have helped in their development.

Firstly, we started the topic Healthy Eating. Children had the opportunity to learn about healthy options and made their very own fruit salad plate. In our circle time, we talked about oral health and how to keep our teeth clean. We gave children a toothbrush and toothpaste to brush the printed teeth. They painted different fruits and vegetables using different tools to develop their motor skills. They really liked the activity of spooning out the vegetables using a wooden spoon which helped them to develop their manipulation and control. Children explored cutting a potato with child friendly knives and had the opportunity to play with them in role play kitchen.



In our second topic, Nursery Rhymes, we chose 'Miss Polly Had a Dolly' and 'Row Row Row Your Boat'. Children were great at singing both whilst holding their favourite toys next to them in our circle time. We had a pretend tea party where children were seated nicely around the table to enjoy their party with teacups and toy food. All the children in butterfly class enjoyed washing dolls with water, sponges and soap and drying them with a towel, they were very careful and gentle with the dolls. Children had an amazing experience when they were checking dolls' heartbeats and pretending to be a doctor, which has enhanced their social skills. Children got to explore different sizes of paper boats and to learn vocabulary of size such as big and small.



Then we had a fantastic day on 'World Book Day' when all the children listened to lots of different stories and heard a lot of new vocabulary. They also enjoyed singing and dancing and making lovely Mother's Day cards.

As I write, we are learning about 'Spring' and have read the books, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Spring', 'Never Touch a Dragon Tail' and many more. The children are developing excellent self-control and attention during the stories and are



having the opportunity to learn lots of new words. To support the topic, we have made some caterpillars, butterflies, bees and flowers using different tools and materials, sticking different colourful flowers with numbers on each petal and different pictures to make a lovely spring collage. The children loved exploring in the spring tuff tray investigating flowers, leaves and mini beasts, feeling the different sensations of each. They also tried to pick up the bugs with tweezers which will help to develop their hand-eye coordination and muscles in the hand. We went for a nature walk, where we discovered daffodils in our lovely garden and we were able to touch them delicately. We looked at a daffodil in a pot in the classroom and talked about looking after it and we watered it carefully. As always, we continue to focus on children's language development by asking questions during activities and having discussions about their emotions and feelings.



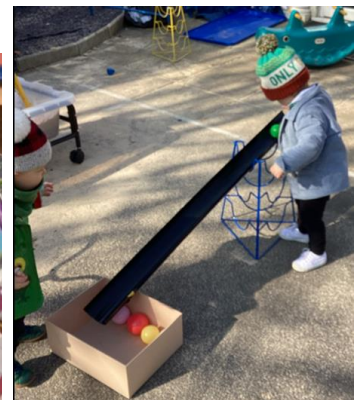
We have encouraged the children to make good choices and show kindness and have been intervening, using the phrase "use gentle hands" if

things get too physical. We will be continuing to learn about spring and mini beasts after Easter holiday, when we hope the weather will be much warmer.

Lastly, we wish you all a very happy Easter and if you are celebrating Ramadan and Eid, a very Happy Ramadan and a very Happy Eid.

Miss Saimoon, Miss Zara and Miss Natalie.





News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

Once again the time has flown and this half term has seen us welcome Mia to Roxeth Mead and, as always, the children have given her their usual warm welcome to help her settle brilliantly! This group are generally a mature group and they understand the need to be kind, take turns and the 'rules' of the class such as sitting for registration etc. without the need to be continually reminded.



We started the half term with our topic of 'healthy me' and were focussing on those foods we should eat more of and those we should just have a little of and the children really did grasp the idea well. The children stuck healthy foods onto a lunchbox, painted pineapples and apples and played a fruit and vegetables snap game. We also looked at dental care and the importance of brushing at least twice a day, visiting a dentist and eating fruit and vegetables to maintain healthy teeth. The children understood the need to drink water and milk in order to keep their teeth strong. The last part of this topic saw us



focus on the need to 'keep moving' and exercise (which comes naturally to young children) and I saw some lovely examples of what mummy or daddy does such as sit ups! We played football and scored goals, basketball putting the ball through a hoop as well as balancing and swinging. All the children love our cookery sessions and this gives them opportunities to cut safely with a knife, scoop, snip and mix.



We have started to look at the changes in our garden during the springtime and have seen our beautiful flowers including daffodils, tulips and forsythia blossom as well as looking at the blossom and emerging leaves on the trees.



As always world book day was a resounding success and the children partook in different craft activities relating to our favourite books such as making bees for the book 'Bumblebee'. Thank you for dressing them in such amazing costumes.

Other activities we have been doing include colour mixing, cheerio art, looking at patterns, counting and identifying objects by size, dancing, singing and lots of bubbles!



Let's hope the sun shines for you all over the Easter break and I know some of you will be travelling to earn a well-deserved break. Have a wonderful time.

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





News From The Lower Nursery (Squirrels)



What a wonderful half term it has been and we can hardly believe how quickly it has gone by. It has been an absolute delight to see how far our children have come and how confident and independent they have become. It is hard to believe there is only one more term before they leave us.



Our first topic this half term was 'Healthy Eating' where children learned the importance of eating a healthy diet. We looked at various food groups and talked about the significance of eating a diet rich in protein, fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and carbohydrates. Children learned about healthy habits like exercising and maintaining personal hygiene.

Our next topic was about keeping our planet healthy where children learned about the importance of recycling and reusing. Children took part in a litter picking walk around our garden and discovered which items could be recycled and which needed to go in the bin. We discussed the animals who are in danger of extinction and how we can contribute to reducing water pollution.



Spring was this term's final topic and the children have been incredibly excited to talk about all the beautiful seasonal changes they have been seeing these past few weeks. Their curious little minds have shown a keen interest in learning about different minibeasts and they have gained an understanding regarding the life cycle of a caterpillar.

This half term, children have become very confident during circle time and can change the date and day on the classroom calendar. In our PE lessons, children have worked on improving their gross motor skills, balance and coordination. Our music and movement classes have particularly been a hit this half term and children have practised their singing and some very cute dance moves.



We have made some wonderful progress in phonics and children have developed a good understanding of all the phonemes. They are now able to recognise some digraphs and blend words with improved fluency. Children have become confident in recognising the initial sound in words and objects around them. We are now learning high frequency words and will continue to



further develop our reading and writing skills in the summer term. We are immensely proud of the progress children have made with writing their names independently.

In our hands-on maths lessons, we have continued to deepen understanding of concepts like number, 2D and 3D shapes, patterns, positional language and capacity. Children have now become confident in writing their numerals till 5 and we are now encouraging them to write to 10.



It was lovely to see children dressed up in characters for World Book Day. We spent the day reading books and acting out stories. Children are now able to recognise the different parts of a book and can talk about the role of an author and illustrator.

We have been enjoying our cookery classes every Tuesday and had our little chefs make fruit and potato salads, apple tarts and some Easter treats.

Children have learned about Ramadan, Eid and Easter and we would like to take this opportunity to wish Ramadan Mubarak and Happy Easter to the ones celebrating. We look forward to welcoming our children back after Easter. Hope you all have a wonderful break.

Mrs Raza and Miss Gohil



News From The Upper Nursery (Tigers)

As we head towards the end of the Spring term the children in 'Tiger Class' are excited about the Easter celebrations, The Bonnet Parade and the Easter Egg Hunt. The highlight for this half of the Spring term for them has been dressing up as a character from a book for World Book Day. It was a day of listening to stories and talking about their favourite books. The children also said 'Thank You' to their mum by making a present and a card for Mother's Day.



Our first topic of 'Healthy Me' got them talking about healthy food, Exercise, Cleanliness and Dental Hygiene. They sorted fruits and vegetables, learnt about the importance of drinking plenty of water, getting a good night's sleep and good personal hygiene. The children spoke about their personal likes and dislikes and since then have been pointing out the healthy food in their lunchboxes. They enjoyed setting up a shop and engaged in role play. They listened to the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and learnt about the Lifecycle of a Butterfly. Keeping planet Earth healthy and looking after its natural resources was our next topic where the children learnt about 'Recycling'. They learnt to look for the symbol for recycling and sorted litter into recyclable and non-recyclable objects. They listened to a song about the importance of looking after planet Earth and all the beautiful creatures that live on it. The poem 'Animals in Danger' proved to be very thought provoking and the



children have wanted it read to them quite a few times.

For our topic 'Spring' the children went for a 'Spring walk' in the garden looking for blossom on trees, Snowdrops, Daffodils, Crocus, Bluebells, the busy birds and Minibeasts. They helped to make a nest for the birds, learnt about the life cycle of a Frog, looked



closely at the egg and the Chrysalis shell of an Atlas moth. They used 2D shapes to create pictures of Minibeasts, learnt songs, got information about them from non-fiction books.

The children in Tiger class have continued to enjoy their cookery lessons and are looking forward to making chocolate nests. In our Phonics lessons we have continued to practise the sounds of the letters, using the RWI scheme, reading CVC words, practising forming letters and the children are making

great progress. In maths the children have continued to consolidate their understanding of all the topics through practical work. The children in Tiger class have worked hard and it is a joy to watch them enjoying their learning.



Wishing you all a very happy Easter break.
Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.





Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

SUMMER TERM			
W/b	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
Term Starts 24 th April	Spring cont... Zoolab Visit (30 th) Minibeasts cont...	Spring cont...Zoolab Visit (30 th) minibeasts cont Books - What do you see? Wow Said the Owl	Spring cont...Zoolab visit (30 th) minibeasts cont. Books - Hairy Macleary from Donaldson's Dairy Seed to Sunflower (non-fiction)
6 May B/H 6th	Vehicles & Transport incl. people who help us Song Wheels on the Bus	Vehicles & Transport incl. people who help us Song Wheels on the Bus	Vehicles & Transport incl. People who help us
13	Music Week – Clip Clop	Music Week - Going on a Bear Hunt	Music Week - Going on a Bear Hunt
20	Colours	Book: The Gingerbread Man	Book: Handa's Surprise
27 Half Term			

When to keep your child off Nursery

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child away from nursery when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK. These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. Please follow this link to find out more...

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please note that children with diarrhoea or vomiting should stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Suggested Easter Activities

The National Trust has created a list of the top 50 things you should do before you are 11 ¾. You can use the website link to look at the list, these include....

- skim a stone
- explore on wheels
- splash in wellies
- build a den

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>

Headlice

Please check for headlice, we have had a recent case at Roxeth.

Unfortunately, head lice are a common part of school life. As children spend so much time playing and learning together, it is very easy for them to spread. Anyone can get head lice and contrary to popular belief having headlice is nothing to do with your personal hygiene.

Symptoms - Itching, although it is possible to have head lice without symptoms, so it is best to take a look.

How to check - Head lice are tiny and fast! Look behind ears, close to the scalp, at the back of the neck and under fringes. Adult head lice are 2 - 4 mm long; immature lice are even smaller.

What are head lice - Head lice are live insects. Their empty eggs are called nits. Lice are wingless insects that hold on to the hair, feeding from the blood in the scalp.

They spread through head-to-head contact, they do not jump. Adult females live for up to a month and lay around five eggs a day.

How to get rid of head lice - Wet combing:

1. Wash hair using ordinary shampoo.
2. Apply a conditioner to make combing easier (this also makes it harder for the louse to cling on).



3. Lightly towel dry the hair.
4. Using a comb designed for this purpose part hair into small sections and comb hair from the scalp to the end.
5. Wipe the comb each time and check for live lice.
6. Repeat until you are sure the whole head is combed.
7. Thoroughly rinse the hair and comb.
8. Comb every three days for at least two weeks until no more lice are found.

Medicated treatments:

These are available from pharmacies – please follow the treatment's instruction leaflet.

Sharing Books With Your Child - Why not try these top tips?

- Sit close together when sharing a book and encourage your child to hold the book themselves and/or turn the pages
- Turn off the television or anything that will distract you.
- Don't be afraid to use funny voices – it's a great way to make your child giggle.
- And don't be afraid to sing either – they won't care whether or not you sing in tune or know the words!
- When you talk to your child about what's going on in a book, give them plenty of time to respond. Try to ask questions that don't require just yes or no answers.
- For example, ask them what they think will happen next ask or about how a character might be feeling
- Sharing books isn't just about the words - point to the pictures and relate them to something your child knows
- Using a puppet to act out a story can help your child to understand what's going on and learn how to pretend play. Why not pick a character from your book and use the puppet to show what they are doing? Watch the video below for more guidance.
- And lastly – make it fun! It doesn't matter how you read with a child, as long as you both enjoy the time together!
- Look on www.bookstart.org.uk for a wealth of information.



Funding changes from April for 2 year olds and September for 9 month olds

A reminder that, 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 for a code before 31st March.**

If your baby will be **9 months old** in September, you can apply for 15 hours funding for them from September.

There is more information on the [Childcare Choices](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/) website, <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MARCH

Thursday 28 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday . There is NO afternoon childcare provision.
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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. Please let us know which school your child will be joining for their Reception year.
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 31 st
JUNE		
Monday 3 rd		Children back following half term
Tuesday 11 th	All day	Willows Farm Trip (some parent helpers required – please see the teacher)
JULY		
Wednesday 12 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday – Holiday Club available

TERM DATES

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