



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2024-25

Edition 2 of 6

December 2024

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From The Headteacher and Nursery Manager

What a wonderful few months we've had leading up to the Christmas break! The laughter, joy, and incredible learning we've shared have made this term truly special. Your children continue to amaze us with their curiosity, enthusiasm, and sense of humour.

This half term, we explored the beauty of Autumn, making the most of our lovely garden to stomp through crunchy leaves and embrace the changing season. In early November, we celebrated Diwali and Bonfire Night, with children across all year groups creating beautiful paintings inspired by fireworks. We also took time to reflect on the significance of wearing poppies, remembering those who have served and sacrificed.

Now, the school is in full festive mode! Glitter and tinsel abound as the children craft cards and pictures to bring holiday cheer. On Thursday, 5th December, we welcomed *Panto in a Day* for a performance of *Cinderella*. "Oh no we didn't, oh yes we did!" The interactive show was a hit, and the children loved being part of the fun.



In the final week of term, we hosted our Christmas Party, complete with a special visit from



Santa, who delivered a gift to every child. Meanwhile, rehearsals for the Nativity are in full swing, and we can't wait for you to see the children shine. Look at these adorable little ones in their cow costumes—how cute!



As the term ends, we bid a fond farewell to Miss Saimoon, who is moving on to a promotion at a nursery in Southall. We are so grateful for her contributions to Roxeth Mead and wish her every success in the future. In January, we are delighted to welcome Miss Layla and Miss Chitra, who will be joining our team to bring capacity to our already wonderful team. Our staffing for January will be as follows:

Class	Staff (Room Leaders in Bold)
Ladybirds (Babies)	Mrs Sheikh Miss Shaheen Miss Pallavi
Butterflies (Toddlers)	Miss Natalie Miss Gohil
Parrots (Pre School)	Miss Zara Miss Chrisy Miss Layla
Tigers (Nursery)	Mrs Kalsi Mrs Ghatora
Mrs O'Neill, as Manager goes in to all rooms as needed	
Miss Renee is our chef / lunchtime supervisor and after school club playworker	
Miss Chitra playworker at After School Club	

Merry Christmas everyone! See you again on 7th January for the new term. Best wishes from, Mrs Mackintosh and Mrs O'Neill

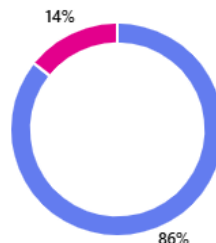
Buckholt House
25 Middle Road
Harrow on the Hill
HA2 0HW
0208 422 2092
info@roxethmead.com
www.roxethmead.com

Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to those 14 parents who replied to our survey. You can see a summary of the results below. If you have not yet had a chance to feedback, you may do so here... <https://forms.office.com/e/R9cfCcfbA>

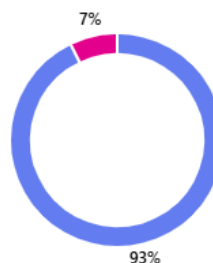
3. My child is happy at this nursery

● Very happy	12
● Somewhat happy	2
● Neither happy nor unhappy	0
● Somewhat unhappy	0
● Very unhappy	0



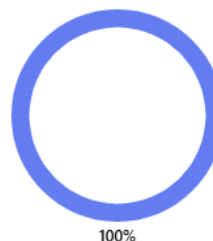
4. My child is well cared for at this nursery

● Yes, very well	13
● Yes, somewhat	1
● No	0
● I don't know	0



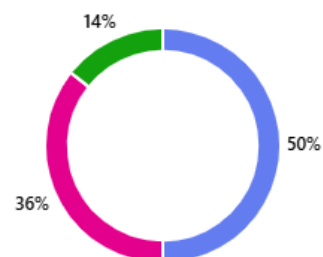
8. My child is making good progress at this nursery

● Yes, very good progress	14
● Some progress	0
● No	0



10. When I have raised a concern it has been dealt with quickly and appropriately.

● Strongly agree	7
● Agree	5
● Disagree	0
● Strongly disagree	0
● I have not raised or concern	2



Free text responses (with names removed for privacy)

████████████████████ will forever remain in mine and ██████████ heart for giving him such good care, interests and ultimately being a key part of shaping the wonderful little person he is and will continue to be. Thank you.

Roxeth Mead is a very happy place where children are encouraged to learn in a warm and friendly atmosphere. ██████████ in particular is an absolutely incredible teacher and I am so happy that both of my children have had the pleasure of being in her class.

Term time structure and great messy play/outdoor time

I think ██████████ is exposed to a vast amount of cultures at Roxeth and this will give him a deeper understanding of the world around him as he grows up. He loves learning about different people and different beliefs!

Roxeth Mead creates a happy atmosphere where ██████████ is encouraged to enjoy learning. For us, this is the most important thing for nursery education. He has made many great friends (as have we, with other parents) and ██████████ loves his teachers.

The baby room has been incredible for both of our children and we feel very confident in the care they have received there.

Knowing and caring for ██████████. Thank you!

Cooking classes.

- lots of great photos - staff are amazing, very warm and I feel comfortable with them / know ██████████ is comfortable with them - very pleased with ██████████ development while at Roxeth mead

Update the EY portal regularly giving parents lots of exciting updates

School has a supportive environment where students can develop positive relationships and learn to make healthy choices.

Communicate with parents , and make suggestions . Go the extra mile to help parents when child is being difficult or is not wanting to go to nursery . Give parents confidence that child will looked after well . Love the updates , gives me full comfort and I can see what my child has doing without missing out

Caring and compassionate staff. Excellent communication through EYLog.

<u>Your suggestions for what we could do better...</u>	<u>Our Response</u>
Keep wellies and rainsuits at school so the children can still go outside when it is raining.	Yes, please do send in wellies and waterproofs to keep at school.
More updates on the EYLog during holiday club	Yes, we will do that from now on.
The possibility of later hours. Even to 5.30 would help.	Yes, from January we can do that. You will need to book this a week in advance though, as we have to give staff notice of when they need to stay late.
Having a minimum number of eylogs each day we can expect. Some days we get 1, other days 6 or 7.	This often depends on the activities, but we will try to make this more consistent from now on. We will aim for a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 each day.
More videos and photos on the parent portal	Bearing in mind the above request for more consistency, we endeavour to send at least 2 each day.
Bigger buggy shelter / space	We are limited by space at the front of the school, but we ask that parents fold their buggies so that more buggies can fit in
Longer term times	We operate on Independent School term times, running for 33 weeks per year. This originates from when we were a pre-prep school and changing them would require a review of all staff contracts. Many of our parents either work within the independent school sector or have children attending independent schools, so these term dates are convenient and practical for them. While we cannot adjust the term times, we do offer a holiday club for 15 weeks each year, ensuring we provide care for 48 weeks annually.

News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



We've had a wonderful half-term, and we are thrilled to see how well the children have settled in. It's been heart-warming to watch each child adapt, grow, and thrive in their development.

Our first topic of exploration was autumn. Over a few weeks, we delved into this seasonal theme, discussing autumn leaves with the help of flashcards, which allowed the children to visually engage with different images. We sang our autumn song daily, helping the children participate and recognise it through repetition.



Creativity was at the heart of our activities. We made leaf prints using stamps and crafted beautiful autumn wreaths with various leaves. The children also enjoyed creating hedgehogs and squirrels with paint, glue, and coloured pencils, freely expressing their ideas through art. Our autumn-themed tuff tray, filled with sensory objects, engaged the children's senses of sight, sound, touch, and smell, enhancing their sensory learning. These activities

not only sparked creativity but also helped develop fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Next, we moved on to nursery rhymes, with a focus on *"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."* Throughout this week, the children crafted stars using paint and sequins, sang the song together, and enjoyed star-themed storybooks. Singing this nursery rhyme during our nativity rehearsals has helped the children confidently recognise and participate in the song's actions.



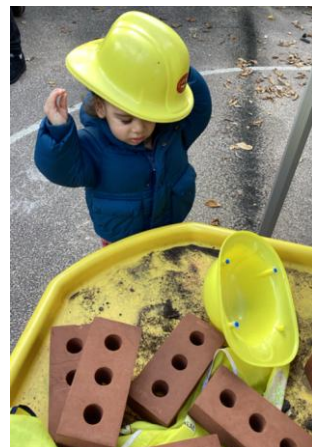
As we approach the festive season, our Christmas activities are underway with great excitement! The children are enjoying a variety of creative experiences—printing, gluing, sticking, and painting—using diverse art materials.

One of the highlights has been the nativity rehearsals. It's been a joy to see all the children actively involved, singing and practicing together. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and we can't wait to share their hard work with you during the performance for parents and grandparents on December 11th.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to a joyful and festive celebration!

Mrs Sheikh and Miss Shaheen





News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



We've had a wonderful and busy term in Butterfly Class! The children settled in beautifully after the October half-term, embracing a variety of activities with enthusiasm.

Our first topic, "Autumn and Festivals," has been a delightful journey of learning and celebration. From exploring the beauty of the changing seasons to discovering the Diwali festival, the children engaged in such an inspiring way. They enjoyed creating vibrant fireworks using art materials, bringing the spirit of the festival to life. To top it off, they danced wonderfully to Bollywood songs, filling the room with joy. What a joyful, creative, and enriching time it has been!



The children thoroughly enjoyed a wide range of autumn-themed art and craft activities this term! They had fun sticking colourful tissue paper onto autumn fruit pictures and hedgehog templates, as well as colouring and painting beautiful autumn scenes, such as leaf imprints and apple stamps. One of their favourite activities was collecting different coloured leaves, twigs, and small sticks, carefully placing them in their baskets, and then gathering them into one big pile. The excitement was palpable as they jumped into the leaf pile, laughing and playing in the autumn splendour. It was a perfect way to celebrate the season and enjoy the simple joys of nature.



In honour of Remembrance Day, the children created beautiful poppies as part of our activities. They also crawled like squirrels through a tunnel and built a hedgehog house using various construction materials. The autumn tuff tray was a big hit, filled with conkers, pine cones, leaves, chestnuts, and numbered leaves, providing endless opportunities for exploration and hands-on learning. The children have been learning about the changing weather as autumn turned colder and rainier, and about the importance of wearing warmer clothing and raincoats to stay comfortable. During circle time, we read many wonderful books about autumn, helping the children understand the season more deeply. One of the highlights of the term was making autumn fruit salad. The children practiced using knives safely to cut different fruits and created their own delicious fruit salad cups. It was a great way to build practical skills while enjoying the flavours of the season!



Our second topic, "Nursery Rhymes," has been a fun-filled journey centred around "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." The children loved singing the song with actions, decorating their own boats, and pretending to row while sitting in a box. They also enjoyed playing with toy boats in water, bringing the rhyme to life.

During circle time, we sang other favourites like "5 Little Ducks," "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," and "Miss Polly Had a Dolly." The children participated in activities such as sticking yellow tissue paper on duck pictures, creating stars with star-shaped cutters, and using stethoscopes to check dolls' heartbeats. It's been a week full of creativity, movement, and lots of joyful singing!

The children were seated beautifully during the pantomime, eagerly watching the show with great interest and enthusiasm. They were thoroughly enjoying our festive party day, proudly wearing their Christmas jumpers. Each child looked absolutely gorgeous, and their individual styles added to the delightful atmosphere of the occasion.



Currently, we're having a blast with Christmas activities! The children are enjoying lots of arts and crafts, which they'll bring home to show their parents before the break. Our superstars are also shining in the nativity rehearsals, singing and performing all the actions beautifully—it's truly a proud moment for us! We look forward to seeing you all at the nativity play.

Thank you so much for all your support throughout this term. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season!

Warm wishes, Miss Saimoon and Miss Natalie



News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

It is hard to believe we are here writing another newsletter so soon, because time really has just flown by. The children continue to flourish since the last term and it's been a joy to watch their friendships and confidence grow. Each new activity brings excitement, and their willingness to try new things is truly inspiring.

At the start of the term, we explored the magic of festivals with a focus on the Diwali - Festival of Light and Bonfire Night. The children created dazzling fireworks with coloured rice called 'Rangoli' which they loved to create. They also used plenty of glitter to craft fireworks, and created some lovely pieces and their excitement brought a festive sparkle to the classroom allowing them to explore and express their creativity.

Autumn brought us plenty of outdoor fun! The children were so engaged as they explored the seasonal tuff tray and went on a treasure trail in the garden, finding pinecones and conkers to use for art projects. We later used the conkers for "Conker rolling" with paint which was a big hit, and they loved stomping in crunchy leaves and talking about the colours of autumn. We also discussed animal hibernation, sparking curiosity as the children learned how animals prepare for the colder months.

This term, we've also taken our first steps into phonics, starting with the letter "s." We have introduced the sound of the word and they have great fun sounding it out. We used a variety of different words and with assistance we are beginning to associate and use these sounds in the class.

We have had lots of cooking fun as we created some delicious treats. We really encourage the children to learn about the difference in how a few simple things turn into something wonderful. This not only enhances their vocabulary but also aids to their understanding of the world. This term the children enjoyed making a fruit salad, jam tarts, a "twinkle star" sandwich as well as candy cane cookies.

During nursery rhyme week their enthusiasm for singing and movement has been wonderful to see, and they are growing more confident with every activity they have taken part in. This ranged from singing, actions, dancing and colouring in worksheets. Music and rhymes have been a fantastic way to help them connect sounds and letters while having lots of fun.

Now, as Christmas approaches, the children are fully immersed in the festive spirit! They've been busy making beautiful cards and creating their class wish list for Santa. The highlight of the season has been rehearsing for the Nativity play—they've been singing and signing with such big smiles so fingers crossed it all goes well on the day! It really has been heart-warming to see their excitement as they bring the story of baby Jesus to life.

The children had so much fun being captured by the story of Cinderella as we had the pop-up pantomime visit us. They were left mesmerised with the performance, and sat so beautiful during the entire show. There was plenty of laughter, and engagement throughout the show as the children clapped and sang along.

Finally, the children have worn some special Christmas jumpers to celebrate the festive spirit. Our Christmas party preparations are in full swing and the children have been busy decorating special hats for the party!

We can't wait to celebrate the day of the Nativity with you with you and look forward to seeing you then.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Mrs Zara & Miss Chrisy





News Nursery (Tigers)



As we come to the end of the Autumn term the children are getting into the festive spirit and looking forward to all the forthcoming exciting events. The sight of the decorated Christmas tree and the post-box has already got them thinking about the Christmas party and writing cards to their friends. They have been busy rehearsing for our Nativity and are looking forward to performing for their parents.

When we returned from our half term holidays some children had already celebrated the festival of Diwali and they shared their experiences with their friends. Fireworks was a big topic of discussion which brought us to talk about 'Guy Fawkes' and they watched a short clip to learn about him and Bonfire night. The children learnt about the significance of 'Remembrance Day' and made a Poppy to commemorate it.



The second half of this term started with the topic of Autumn. The children looked outdoors to see all the changes the new season had brought. We enacted out the story 'We are going on a Leaf Hunt' and the children collected Autumn leaves in the garden. They observed that some trees had yellow leaves while some remained green. We read a non-fiction book about 'Hedgehogs' and learnt about hibernation.



The children showed great interest in learning about the lifecycle of a plant and when outdoors they felt the bark of a tree, looked at the branches and talked about its roots under the ground. The children engaged in hands on exploration of pinecones, conkers, acorns and Autumn leaves. We used these for counting, creating a repeating pattern, making a collage and leaf printing. They mixed paints to create Autumn colours and painted leaves, Hedgehogs, Squirrels and a leaf clay tile they had made.

Next was our storybook 'The Gruffalo' and the children listened to the story with great interest and recalled parts they were interested in. They were aware of the setting and characters in the story and questioned if the Gruffalo was a real animal? They looked for the odd one in a set of Rhyming words, coloured pictures of the animals in the story and made a Gruffalo face.

Our last topic this term is Christmas and the children have been listening to and singing Christmas songs, colouring pictures, painting stockings, candles and making Christmas cards.

Our cookery lessons with Mrs Ghatora and Miss Gohil have been very popular and the children are always excited to know what they are cooking next. These lessons have helped them to develop their fine motor skills, taught them to listen to and follow instructions, acquire new vocabulary, learn about capacity



and measurement, notice how ingredients change form when cooked and above all created an interest in cooking.

We have continued to learn and practise sounds of letters in our Phonics lessons and consolidate the children's understanding of all the topics covered in Maths through practical work. Their excellent end of term reports are a testament to their hard work and I know this will continue. It is a pleasure to have this lovely group of children in our class, who come in everyday full of enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. I would like to thank all the parents for their support and cooperation through this term.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous New Year.
Mrs Kalsi, Mrs Ghatora & Miss Gohil.





Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

SPRING TERM				
	W/b	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
WONDERFUL WINTER	January 7 th	Winter / animals	Winter including weather, clothing & arctic animals.	Winter including weather, clothing & arctic animals. The Snowy Day
	13 th	Sensory - hot and cold incl. ice		The Mitten (Jack Brett)
	20 th	Nursery Rhymes 2, Jack & Jill , 3 little ducks ; 10 little monkeys	Book – Snow Bears (Martin Waddell) – First day of Winter	A Loud Winter's Nap
	27 th	Chinese New Year (29 th Jan)	Chinese New Year (29 th Jan)	Chinese New Year (29 th Jan)
	Feb 3 rd	Space – Rocket to the Moon	Space Whatever Next	Space
	10 th			
17 th – 21 st Half Term				

We Recommend Baby Buddy App

<https://www.bestbeginnings.org.uk/baby-buddy>



Reports & Parent / Teacher Meetings - End of Term

We hope you found the reports sent home in November informative and have had the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss any areas requiring further clarification. We are delighted with the significant progress the children have made and trust you share our pride in their achievements.

Thank you for your continued support—education is truly a collaborative effort between home and school, and your involvement plays a vital role in your child's success.

48hr Sickness Rule

A reminder that we have a 48 hour rule regarding sickness. Just to clarify, this is not a quirky Roxeth rule, but one advised by the NHS. Please follow this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>

where you will see this...

• **Vomiting and diarrhoea.** Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone. Most cases of **diarrhoea and vomiting in children** get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

We adhere to this to ensure complete recovery and reduce the possibility of infection for other children and staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

Working Family Funding

If you are a working family and earn less than £100,000 a year, you could be eligible for Government funding for some of your childcare costs for children aged 9 months to 4 years.

Please see the following website to find out more.
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working>.

Or contact Harrow Council, details to the right.

For more information on eligibility criteria and funded early education visit:
www.harrow.gov.uk/childcare
 Email: FIS@harrow.gov.uk
 Telephone: 020 8901 2690 - Option 2



When to apply....

When to apply for 15 hours free childcare

You can apply from when your child is 23 weeks old.

When your child is 9 months old	When you can get your hours from	When to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	The term before 1 January
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	The term before 1 April
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	The term before 1 September

When to apply for 30 hours free childcare

You can apply from when your child is 2 years and 36 weeks.

Your child's 3rd birthday	When you can get your hours from	When to apply
1 September to 31 December	Term starting on or after 1 January	The term before 1 January
1 January to 31 March	Term starting on or after 1 April	The term before 1 April
1 April to 31 August	Term starting on or after 1 September	The term before 1 September

It is the parent's responsibility to get all the relevant codes and information to the Nursery in time, so that money can be claimed. If you do not submit this information, the Nursery cannot offer you the funding and you will be liable for the full fees.

Uniform

Our uniform supplier is...



<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. A reminder that the uniform is...

All Pupils aged 18 months and above:

Winter:

Plain black jogging bottoms

White polo shirt

Green logo'd sweatshirt

Grey logo'd fleece (optional)

Warm, waterproof coat (we will go outside to play even in cold weather)

Grey woollen hat (optional)

Black shoes or trainers with Velcro fitting

Please provide a pair of wellington boots to keep in school, so we can pay outside in all weathers

Why Not Try These Healthy Christmas Themed Snacks



Spread the Word

We have taken on more staff and now have additional spaces, please let your friends and neighbours know...



Roxeth Mead
SCHOOL

Buckholt House 25 Middle Road Harrow on the Hill HA2 OHW Tel. 0208 422 2092

Distinguished Nursery - Harrow on the Hill

High quality education and care that prepares your child for transition to the Independent or State sectors

Pupils go on to top schools such as Orley Farm, Haberdashers, St. Helens, Merchant Taylors, North London CS etc...

Email us at info@roxethmead.com for a tour

Term time only OR all year round provision available
Childcare vouchers and Government funding accepted
Website: www.roxethmead.com

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



DECEMBER		
Wednesday 11 th		Nativity then Break up for Christmas at noon
12 th to 20 th	8 – 5pm.	Holiday Club available. (Bookings now closed)
JANUARY 2023		
Monday 6 th		Staff In for INSET and Holiday Club
Tuesday 7 th		Children back for new term
FEBRUARY		
Mon 17 th - 21 st		Half Term - Holiday Club available
MARCH		
Friday 28 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday
Monday 31 st		Holiday club available
APRIL		
1 st to 17 th		Holiday club available
Tuesday 22 nd		INSET Day. Holiday Club available
Wednesday 23 rd		Children back for new term. Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July. Please tell us which school your child is transferring to.
MAY		
Monday 5 th		Bank Holiday
26 th to 30 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available 27 th to 30 th
		Visit from Zoolab tbc
JUNE		
Monday 2 nd		Children back following half term
		Farm Trip tbc
JULY		
Thursday 3 rd		Sports Day & Picnic
Tuesday 8 th	am	Nursery (Tigers) Class assembly to parents
Friday 11 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 14 th		Holiday Club available

TERM DATES 2024-25

Spring Term 2025

Inset for Staff:

Monday 6th January

Term Begins:

Tuesday 7th January

Half Term:

Monday 17th – Friday 21st February

Term Ends:

Friday 28th March at midday

Summer Term 2025

Inset for Staff:

Tuesday 22nd April

Term Begins:

Wednesday 23rd April

Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May

Half Term:

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Term Ends:

Friday 11th July

Christmas Colouring Sheet

