



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2024-25

Edition 3 of 6

February 2025

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From The Headteacher

January and February can be tough, with dark, dank days and the post-Christmas slump, however, everything at Roxeth has been remarkably upbeat, covering our topics of "Winter", "Space" and "Chinese New Year". We were lucky to be able to bring our Winter topic to life when a sprinkling of snow appeared in our garden. This gave us the opportunity to look at snow, ice and the science of freezing and melting. I am privileged in to be able to pop into every classroom. 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, blending letters and reading a wide range of CVC words without breaking a sweat!



The major news of the term was our OFSTED inspection. It was lovely that the Ofsted inspector came away with a positive impression of us. She explained that an Outstanding judgement is almost impossible to achieve under the new inspection framework, but told me that if there was a "Very Good" judgement, we would be this. I was also uplifted to hear her say that if she lived locally, she would choose to send her grandchildren here. Wow! See page 10 for more detail of the Ofsted outcome.

On 29th January, we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children made colourful Chinese lanterns, tasted some Chinese food and attempted some lion and dragon dances to bring in the year of the Snake.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Miss Zara this week, as she prepares to embark on an exciting new chapter in Dubai. We wish her and her family all the best in their future adventures. In the meantime, Mrs. O'Neill will be returning to Pre-School for the remainder of this term, until her well-earned retirement. Please be sure to read the special tribute to Mrs. O'Neill and find an invitation on page 2.



I want to reassure all parents that we have a continuity plan in place to ensure a smooth transition after Easter. We are in the process of finalising appointments and as soon as they are confirmed, we will let you know the plan. Please rest assured that we remain committed to providing the best care and education for all our children during this time of transition.

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

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Mrs. O'Neill is Retiring - A Tribute

After almost 30 years of dedicated service to this school, Mrs. O'Neill has decided to retire. Her last day will be Friday 28th March.



She has touched the lives of hundreds of young people, shaping their futures with her care and wisdom. Over the years, she has not only imparted knowledge but also inspired her pupils, guiding them with patience, understanding, and a steady hand. Her contributions to the school have been immeasurable, and her presence will be deeply missed by all of us. She has been more than just a teacher—she has been a mentor, a guide, and a friend to many of us. The impact she has made in the lives of her pupils and colleagues will be felt for years to come. We want to celebrate not only the incredible work she has done, but also the kind, warm, and supportive person she is. Mrs. O'Neill's legacy will live on through the countless lives she has influenced, and the many children who will carry forward the lessons they learned from her. As she begins this new chapter of her life, we wish her all the best—filled with joy, relaxation, and exciting adventures. Thank you, Mrs. O'Neill, for everything you've given to Roxeth Mead. Your time here may be coming to a close, but the memories and the difference you've made will stay with us forever.

Invitation

At the conclusion of our Easter Hunt, on Thursday 27th March, we will bid a fond farewell to Mrs. O'Neill. While she has insisted that we "do not make a fuss" (her words) we cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging the incredible impact she has had. If you know any former pupils or parents who would like to join us in celebrating her time with us, please forward this invite to them.



News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



What a wonderful half-term we've had! The past few weeks have been truly fantastic, and it's been so rewarding to see all the children flourish in every area of their development. We'd also like to warmly welcome Joseph and Harrison to our class. They've both settled in beautifully, and it's been a joy to have them with us.

To begin, we focused on the season of winter. Over the past few weeks, the children have taken part in a range of activities, including using various art materials to create polar bears, penguins, and winter trees, as well as crafting snowflakes and snow pictures. We were lucky to have a bit of snow fall on one of our days, so we collected some for the children to explore. They loved feeling the cold texture of the snow, and we also made some fake snow for them to play with. Alongside these activities, we sang the *Snowman* song and enjoyed reading winter-themed books.

Next, we moved on to celebrating Chinese New Year. The children had a fantastic time with all the exciting activities we had planned. We used flashcards to show them images of how Chinese New Year is celebrated, and they really enjoyed looking at the pictures. One of the highlights was giving the children ribbons to dance with while we played *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* in Chinese. They also made their own Chinese lanterns, which was a big hit. The activity that sparked the most joy was our food tasting session, where the children tried spring rolls. I was amazed at how eager and excited everyone was to take part. It was such a festive and enjoyable week!



Currently, our theme is space. The children have been busy creating galaxies and star stamps using a variety of art materials. We've also been exploring pictures of the moon, stars, rockets, and other space-related images, which the children have found truly fascinating. We've been reading space-themed books and singing the nursery rhyme *Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, We're Going to the Moon*. The children have also enjoyed experimenting with black playdough and creating prints using foil.

We hope you all enjoy a restful and fun half-term break, and we look forward to an exciting new term full of learning and adventure!

Warm regards, Mrs. Sheikh, Miss Shaheen & Miss Pallavi



News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



How is it that just a few weeks ago, we were all wishing each other a “Happy New Year”? It’s wonderful now to experience the lighter mornings and afternoons, and to see the first signs of spring in our garden, with the snowdrops beginning to sprout.

This term has brought some lovely new additions to Butterfly Class. We’ve welcomed Kieran and Musa from the Baby Room, as well as Akram, who had an older sibling here. As always, they have settled in beautifully, and it’s been a joy watching them learn from the older children. It’s heart-warming to see them sitting so well for registration, stories, singing, and circle time. Every child in Butterfly Class understands the expectations and is becoming increasingly independent at snack and lunchtime. Well done to all of you!



For the first time ever, the weather has truly cooperated with our seasonal lessons. We were able to start the term by talking about ‘Winter’ on the very first day, when snow began to fall. This made the topic come alive for the children, and many of them experienced snow for the first time, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We bundled up in hats, scarves, coats, and mittens, braving the chilly garden for outdoor play, showing the children that with the right clothing, most weather can be enjoyed, while also emphasizing the importance of fresh air and exercise.

We’ve had lots of fun exploring the season with activities like printing, painting, collaging, and even using tweezers to hunt for penguins in the “snow.” The children have also had the chance to touch ice and learn about the importance of feeding birds during winter.

Sensory play is such an important part of early childhood, and in Butterfly Class, the children have plenty of opportunities for it—from making dough and playing with fake snow to taking part in regular cookery activities.

We also celebrated Chinese New Year with colourful crafts, making lanterns, creating snakes (since 2025 is the Year of the Snake), and sharing Chinese food during a tasting session.

Our current theme is Space, and the children are enjoying catchy songs, making space rockets and star-shaped sandwiches, and reading the beloved book *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy, along with many other space-themed stories.

It has been a lovely half-term, filled with learning and fun, and we are already looking forward to the next one. As the weather continues to improve, we can begin enjoying our grassed areas more, and the fun and learning will carry on.

With warm regards,
Miss M. Gohil and Miss Natalie





News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)

It feels like only yesterday I was writing the very first newsletter for Parrot Class, and now, with a heavy heart, I'm writing my last one. What a truly fantastic journey it has been! On a brighter note, we've had the pleasure of welcoming Mrs. Layla, who has quickly become a favourite with the children, and our lovely new addition, Izabella, who has settled in wonderfully.



This term has been packed with exciting learning experiences, hands-on activities, and lots of fun as our little Parrots explored, created, and discovered across the seven key areas of learning.

Winter Wonderland - We kicked off the term by diving into the magical world of winter. Through sensory activities, crafts, and nursery rhymes, the children explored the season and sparked their curiosity about the changing world around them. They created adorable penguins, polar bears, and a snowman, and we ventured into the icy habitats of the Arctic and Antarctic to learn about the incredible animals that live there. The children now confidently recognise animals like the Snowy Owl, Husky, and Beluga Whale! To bring our learning to life, we went on a nature walk to observe how winter affects trees, plants, and wildlife. We also talked about hibernation and how some animals sleep through the colder months. The children were thrilled to spot snowdrops blooming and took great joy in feeding the birds, which deepened their awareness of the changing seasons.



Chinese New Year Celebrations - Our next adventure took us to the vibrant celebrations of Chinese New Year! The children had a blast making a delicious noodle salad, practicing using chopsticks, and even learning a song in Mandarin—"Kung Hei Fat Choi" (Happy New Year!). They also enjoyed a ribbon dance to *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* in Mandarin, twirling with joy. We got creative by making our own playdough, painting glittery lanterns, and crafting traditional red envelopes, which symbolise good luck and prosperity. These activities sparked wonderful discussions about different cultures and traditions, helping the children appreciate and understand celebrations from around the world.



Blast Off into Space! - Our latest topic has been truly out of this world! We embarked on an intergalactic adventure, turning our classroom into a space station where the children pretended to be astronauts, blasting off to explore the moon and stars. They had a fantastic time building paper rockets, painting planets, and singing the *Zoom Zoom Moon* song! We also explored the enchanting story *Whatever Next!* by Jill Murphy, which quickly became a class favourite. The children loved imagining their own space adventures, using props and storytelling to develop their creativity and vocabulary. Our little astronomers also enjoyed

stargazing and making star prints, creating their own stunning 'starry night' paintings.

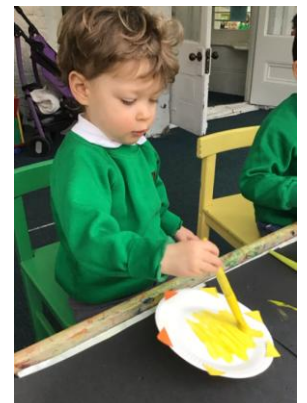
Mini Masterchefs at Work! It's been a busy term in the kitchen! Our little chefs have whipped up tasty treats, from pizzas and rice cake faces to Chinese noodle salad, rocket kebabs, and moon rocks! Food preparation has been a fantastic way to teach valuable life skills, with a focus on food hygiene, independence, and creativity. The children took great pride in their creations—and, of course, loved tasting them with you too!



This term has truly been magical, filled with learning, laughter, and endless creativity. The children have enjoyed every experience and are already looking forward to more exciting adventures next term!

A huge thank you to all of you for your continued support, encouragement, and involvement.

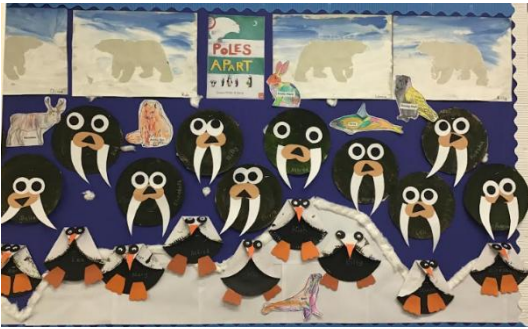
Wishing you a wonderful, restful half-term break! Warm wishes, Mrs. Zara, Miss Chrissy & Mrs. Layla



News from Nursery (Tigers) Class



The Spring term started with the children coming back after the holidays, full of enthusiasm and excited to share their holiday stories with their classmates.



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 cottonwool snowballs at one another. The storybook 'Poles Apart' took them on a journey from the North to the South Pole. The children were amazed by the animals that live in such harsh conditions in these parts of the world.



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. Two of the children in our class dressed up in their traditional costume and shared their experience with others.



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 a rocket to the Moon for a picnic. They learnt the 'Planet song' and decided which planet was their favourite. They made spaceships, rockets, drew pictures of aliens and enjoyed weighing Moon rocks. They were inspired by the story of 'The Man on the Moon' and thought it would be cool to go to the Moon.



In Phonics we have continued to practise the sounds of the letters, and the children are now beginning to attempt reading CVC words with growing confidence. They have been practising forming letters and 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&3D shapes, creating repeating patterns, counting out, writing numbers and playing number games.

They have been working hard and have continued to make great progress in all the areas of the curriculum. The children continue to enjoy the weekly cookery lessons and are always excited to find out what they are cooking next. They have produced amazing artwork, and our boards are full of their colourful pictures. Well done Tiger Class, keep up the good work.

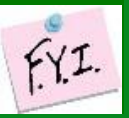


Wishing you all a lovely half- term.

Mrs Kalsi & Mrs Ghatora.



Parents' Information



OFSTED Inspection

Following our recent inspection, I was delighted to be able to email home a copy of the Ofsted report. The report contains many lovely comments about our school, recognising the hard work, dedication, and positive atmosphere that make our community so special. Here is the link <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/2698714>



Comments include:

- "A strong sense of togetherness pervades this nurturing setting"
- "Staff skilfully adapt and tailor learning experiences to support children's individual stages of learning"
- "Leaders and staff are dedicated to providing the best care and learning possible"
- "The setting gives high priority to developing children's communication and language skills. Staff are highly skilled at responding to children's communication needs. Children are articulate communicators, who use a wide range of vocabulary"
- "Staff have a calm and consistent approach to supporting children's behaviour"
- "Partnerships with parents are at the heart of this nursery"

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and the acknowledgment of the excellent teaching, learning, and support that take place every day at Roxeth. This success would not have been possible without the ongoing support and encouragement from our parents, as well as the hard work of our wonderful staff and pupils.

Topics for Next Half Term:

		Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
HEALTHY LIFE / NEW LIFE	Feb 24 th	Nursery Rhymes 3: Twinkle Twinkle; Row Row Row your Boat, Miss Polly	28 th Feb –Ramadam starts Healthy Me	28 th Feb –Ramadam starts Healthy Me/ Healthy Planet: Keeping ourselves healthy (cleanliness, eating, exercise, dental hygiene)
	March 3 rd		Keeping ourselves healthy (eating, exercise, dental hygiene)	Planet – Recycling, looking after our oceans
	10 th	Healthy Eating - Fruit & Vegetables Orange Pear Apple Bear	Orange Pear Apple Bear Daisy Eat Your Peas	Handa's Surprise (Fruit)
	17 th	Spring & Minibeasts (Basic introduction to plants and insects) The Very Hungry Caterpillar Incy Wincy Spider Mother's Day Cards Eid al-Fitr 25 th ZOOLAB	Spring, Life cycles and Minibeasts– Planting and growing, taking care of plants, minibeasts, life cycle of a caterpillar. The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Brown Bear Mother's Day Cards Eid al-Fitr 25 th ZOOLAB	Spring, Life cycles and Minibeasts.- Planting and growing, naming parts of a plant, naming common garden plants, growing conditions, life cycle of a chick/duck. Very Busy Spider Mother's Day Cards Eid al-Fitr 25 th ZOOLAB

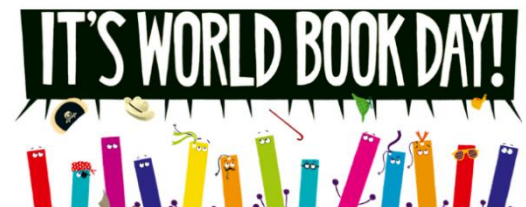
Zoolab Visit

On **Tuesday 25th March**, we have booked a visit from Zoolab to link with our topic on minibeasts and creepy crawlies. We are very much looking forward to this.



Advance Notice - World Book Day

On **Thursday 6th 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.

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. A love of reading is so important for educational success, so please encourage your child to read, read, read! One of our 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.

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/activities/going-bear-hunt/>.

Easter Fun

Parents are invited to join us on **Thursday 27th March at 10.30 am** to watch our Easter Bonnet Parade and join our Egg Hunt. In the preceding week, please can you help your child to make an Easter bonnet that they can wear. Some ideas are shown below.



At this event we will also say **goodbye to Mrs O'Neill**, so it would be lovely if you could come along. See page 2 for more information.

Parent / Teacher Meetings

We are pleased to invite parents into school in the last week of term, **week beginning Monday 24th 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@roxethed.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 snacks for 50 pence each.

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

Childcare Funding

A reminder that we participate in the Government's Scheme offering your child 15 or 30 hours' subsidised childcare per week. The funding commences the term **after** your child becomes eligible.

All working parents who earn less than £100,000 a year can apply for working parent funding from the term after your child turns 9 months old.

All parents, irrespective of income, can get 15 subsidised hours from the term **after your child's 3rd birthday**, starting on 1 January, 1 April or 1 September.

For more information on funding, consult the Child Care Choices website <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

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.

Our Uniform Provider

Our uniform is available online. Everything is made to order, so you need to allow 7-10 working days for the order to be ready. <https://www.aceclothing.co.uk/products-school/roxeth-mead/uniform-3/boys-girls>

NHS Pharmacy First Service

There is an NHS service, which is available in Boots pharmacies across England, called the **NHS Pharmacy First Service***. It enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment. There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service. Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

<u>Common condition</u>	<u>Patient eligibility</u>
Earache	1 to 17 years
Impetigo	1 year and over
Infected insect bites and stings	1 year and over
Sore throats	5 years and over
Sinusitis	12 years and over
Uncomplicated urinary tract	Women 16 to 64 years
Shingles	18 years and over

How to Help Your Child at Home - Letters and Numbers Games

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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY		
Mon 17 th - 21 st		Half Term - Holiday Club
MARCH		
Tuesday 25 th		Zoolab visit
Thursday 27 th		Easter Bonnet Parade, Egg Hunt and Farewell to Mrs O'Neill
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
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

Spring Term 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th – Friday 21st February
Term Ends: Friday 28th March at midday

Summer Term 2025

Inset for Staff: Tuesday 22nd April - *Holiday club available*
Term Begins: Wednesday 23rd April
 Bank Holiday: Monday 5th May
Half Term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May
Term Ends: Friday 11th July

Autumn Term 2025

Inset for Staff: Monday 1st September & Tuesday 2nd September
Term Begins: Wednesday 3rd September
Half Term: Monday 20th October – Friday 31st October
Term Ends: Thursday 11th December at midday after the Nativity – NO afternoon provision
 Holiday Club – available 12th to 19th December
 School Closed 2 weeks over Christmas