



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2024-25

Edition 4 of 6 - Spring Term 2

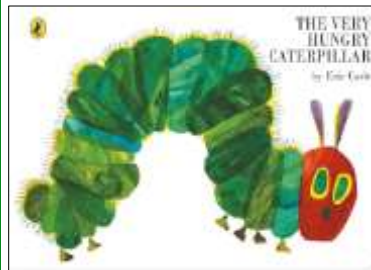
March 2025

In This Issue:

- From The Headteacher
- Farewell to Mrs O'Neill
- World Book Day
- Zoolab Visit
- News from the Classes:
 - Ladybirds
 - Butterflies
 - Parrots
 - Tigers
- Parent's Information
- Dates for Your Diary

From The Headteacher

The main news this term is the retirement of Mrs O'Neill. After almost 30 years of dedicated service to this school, Mrs. O'Neill is leaving us. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts and wish her well; see page 2. It is always sad to lose someone from the team, but change brings opportunity. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Sheikh and Miss Shaheen will step up and become Co-Managers and we are also pleased to have welcomed Miss Faye (to the right in green) and Mrs Burney (in blue) who have joined us this month and bring many years of experience and expertise between them.



This half term has seen some lovely learning based on the topics of being healthy, spring, minibeasts and lifecycles. This topic linked superbly with the book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". Our pupils have not only listened to the story but, inspired by the colourful illustrations of the caterpillar and the various foods he eats, have created some lovely artwork. To enhance their maths knowledge, the children practiced counting by keeping track of the caterpillar's

meals and sequencing the days of the week as depicted in the story. These activities have made learning numbers and order not just educational but also fun. The metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly is a central theme of the book and our little scientists have explored this concept through hands-on activities in our garden and looking at lifecycles in general. Through story time sessions, role-play and discussions, the children have expanded their vocabulary and language skills. They have learned new words and developed better listening skills. Re-enacting the story has also boosted their confidence in expressing themselves. This link will take you to a lovely animation of this great story, if you'd like to watch this with your child. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>

Our Spring topic was enhanced by a visit from Ellie and Lottie from ZooLab. They brought an array of insects and small animals with them, much to the delight of the children. See page 4 for some enchanting photos.

After Easter, there will be a slight change to the adults in each class to accommodate staffing adjustments. However, rest assured that our high standards of care and education will remain unchanged. As a small nursery, our children are familiar with all staff members, making transitions like this smooth and comfortable for them.

Class	Staff (Room Leaders in Bold)
Ladybirds (Babies)	Miss Shaheen Miss Pallavi Miss Natalie
Butterflies (Toddlers)	Miss Faye Miss Gohil
Parrots (Pre School)	Mrs Sheikh Miss Layla Miss Chrisy Mrs Burney
Tigers (Nursery)	Mrs Kalsi Mrs Ghatora Miss Renee
Miss Renee is also our chef / lunchtime supervisor and after school club playworker	
Miss Chitra is a playworker at After School Club	

Have a wonderful Easter break everyone and Ramadan and Eid Mubarak to those celebrating. Best Wishes, Mrs Mackintosh

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

Happy Retirement to Mrs O'Neill

This week, we say a sad farewell to Mrs Linda O'Neill, who is retiring after almost 30 years of dedicated service to this school.

Mrs O'Neill 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.

Goodbye Message from Mrs O'Neill

I don't really know where to start writing my 'goodbye' message. My overwhelming feeling is to say thank you to Mrs Mackintosh, my wonderful colleagues and you the parents for giving us such rewarding children to work with as well as yourselves whose enduring support and love has never changed since the day I started here. There are not many people who feel so much appreciation in their work and I have been so lucky and honoured to see so many children start at Roxeth Mead and leave as independent young people who, not only have blossomed in every area of their development, they have often made long friendships. I always say, if teenagers return to see us or come for work experience, about 70 per cent are still in touch with friends they make at Roxeth Mead and this I am enormously proud of.



I have so many memories and I can honestly say I have never had that Sunday night/ Monday morning feeling. No two days are the same and, although it can be extremely hard work both physically and mentally, it is a job where you soon smile once those little people come through the door. Again from day one the family feel within this building is overwhelming and I have found myself not only being so well supported through some of my personal highs and lows but I have been honoured to support some parents during some very tough times and help them. Indeed when I was with Mrs Mackintosh during feedback from our recent Ofsted inspection the inspector said she would rather send her grandchildren here than some of the 'outstanding' nurseries she has visited. What more praise could you ever have?

Most of you know why I am finishing and it is absolutely the right time in my life to travel and just do exactly what I want. All I can say again is a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart and my love to you all and your little ones, you have all made an impact on my life and helped me to have the most wonderful career, fun, laughs, support and satisfaction. I have indeed been blessed.

Linda xxxx



World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March we celebrated World Book Day. We had a wonderful time dressing up as our favourite book characters as you can see here.



Visit from Zoolab

On Tuesday 25th March, we were excited to have a visit from Ellie and Lottie from ZooLab. They brought a snake, gecko, tarantula, cockroach, gerbil and giant snail with them, much to the delight of the children. This linked with our topic, Minibeasts.



News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of yet another exhilarating term - the time has truly flown by! It has been remarkable to witness the growth and development of the babies this term.

At the start of the term, we focused on healthy eating. The children thoroughly enjoyed this topic, participating in a variety of fun-filled activities. They created their own healthy plates, gluing different fruits and vegetables onto them, and made strawberries using crepe paper, developing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination as they carefully applied the paper using their pincer grip. One of their favourite activities was making a healthy eating basket, where they used different art materials—such as paint, crepe paper, and crayons—to create a variety of fruits and vegetables through painting, printing, and colouring.

As part of our healthy eating programme, we also explored learning about our bodies. We provided a diverse range of obstacle equipment to encourage the children's physical development, allowing them to crawl through tunnels, climb slides, and jump on trampolines. Additionally, we introduced the different parts of the face, including the eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. To reinforce this learning, we sang the nursery rhyme *Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes*, encouraging the children to sing along and identify their body parts.

Next, we moved on to our spring topic. The children explored flashcards featuring different spring images, helping them to observe and visualise seasonal changes. Using a variety of art materials, they created flowers, blossom trees, rainbows, and butterflies. Now that we are finally getting some sunshine, we will be making the most of the lovely weather by spending plenty of time in the garden.



Our final topic of the term was minibeasts, and we were especially excited about the visit from Zoo Lab! The children had the opportunity to observe a variety of insects and minibeasts up close. We also provided sensory trays filled with minibeasts for them to dig and discover, fostering their curiosity and imaginative play. For our beautiful display board, we will create ladybirds and caterpillars, and during circle time, we sang *Incy Wincy Spider*. As I write, we are looking forward to seeing all the parents at our Easter Parade. The children have been practising their songs beautifully!

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break, and Ramadan and Eid Mubarak to those celebrating.
Mrs Sheikh, Mrs Shaheen, and Miss Pallavi



News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class



We can hardly believe that the term has already come to an end! It has been a wonderful and exciting time; the children in Butterfly Class have had an incredible time exploring, learning, and developing new skills.

Throughout the term, we have covered a range of engaging themes, including Healthy Eating and Spring. Each theme has provided fantastic learning opportunities, and it has been a joy to see the children immerse themselves in hands-on activities, sparking their curiosity and creativity. In addition to our themed learning, we have also celebrated some very special occasions, such as World Book Day and Easter. The children thoroughly enjoyed these events, taking part in exciting activities that helped them understand and appreciate different traditions and celebrations. We had more excitement when Zoo Lab visited giving the children a chance to see and identify different insects up close—an experience that was both thrilling and a little nerve-wracking for some! As I write we are looking forward to our Easter Hat Parade and a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt, which we are sure the children will absolutely love.

With the arrival of sunnier days, we have been making the most of the better weather by spending lots of time outdoors. The children have had so much fun playing in the garden, enjoying the various activities set up for them, and zooming around on bikes and scooters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a restful, joyful, and Happy Easter.

Have a fantastic break! Miss Natalie & Miss Gohil



News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)



What a pleasure it has been to be back in Pre-school for my last half term at Roxeth Mead! As always, the children have been happy, energetic and vibrant and willing to learn. They really are an enthusiastic and enquiring group who will question if unsure about anything even asking 'what is ivy?' which features in one of our favourite books.

The half term started with one of my favourite topics 'Healthy Me' where we started by discussing what foods we should eat more of and those we should not eat as much of. The children are now able to answer questions correctly about this, even knowing we need to drink water and milk in order to keep our bones healthy. We made 'healthy' lunchboxes, matched fruit and vegetables, painted some

fruit, threaded and made a 'P' fruit salad using pineapple, pears and plums. The children thoroughly enjoyed squeezing oranges and were fascinated to see the juice extract and to sample a little.

We then moved on to tooth care, discussing the importance of brushing, visiting the dentist as well as eating all those delicious fruit and vegetables we should be eating. Exercise comes naturally to young children and they have been enhancing their ball skills, balancing, crawling, climbing as well as using all the available nursery equipment we are lucky enough to have at school.

We celebrated World Book Day with much fun dressing up and lots of books. We also made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and attempted to toss a pancake in the air (massive failure from the staff!!)

As we write, we are looking forward to 'ZooLab' as well as our Easter Parade.

I have to say it has been a pleasure working with Miss Layla and Miss Chrisy this half term and I wish you all a happy Easter and, as ever, many thanks for your continual support.

Mrs L O'Neill, Miss Layla and Miss Chrisy.





News from Nursery (Tigers) Class



As the Spring term draws to a close, the children in Tiger Class are eagerly anticipating the Easter celebrations, the Bonnet Parade and the Easter Egg Hunt. The highlights for this half of the Spring term for them have been, dressing up as a character from a book for 'World Book Day' and a visit from Zoolab, where they had an opportunity to look closely and handle animals and Minibeasts. For Mother's Day the children made cards, bookmarks and had a special message for their mums.



This term began with the topic 'Healthy Me' and it got the children talking about healthy food, exercise, cleanliness and dental hygiene. They sorted fruits and vegetables, learned 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 have been pointing out the healthy food in their



lunchboxes. They have been cooking healthy food in our play kitchen and serving it to their friends. They enjoyed listening to stories, Handa's Surprise and Whiffy Wilson.

Keeping planet Earth healthy and looking after its natural resources was our next topic where we talked about 'Recycling'. They learned to look for the recycling symbol, went litter picking in the playground and sorted it into recyclable and non-recyclable litter. 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 story 'Duffy's Lucky Escape' highlighted the danger of plastics in our oceans for the animals.

For our topic 'Spring,' the children went for a walk in the garden spotting blossom on trees, Snowdrops, Daffodils, Crocuses, Bluebells, busy birds and Minibeasts. They looked at a bird's nest, studied the life cycle of a Butterfly and a Frog, examined an Atlas moth, it's egg and chrysalis shell. Creative activities included making Minibeast pictures using 2D



shapes, painting flowers, Ladybirds, making Dragonflies, putting Blossom on branches and learning songs. The children sowed Wildflower seeds in the garden and enjoyed digging and raking the soil.

Tiger class have continued to enjoy their cookery lessons and are looking forward to making chocolate nests for Easter. In Phonics lessons they have continued practising the sounds of the letters, the short vowel sounds, reading CVC words, practising forming letters and listening out for Rhyming words. In Maths, the children have been consolidating their understanding of all the topics, through practical work. Their hard work and enthusiasm for learning has been a joy to witness throughout the term.

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



Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

	W/b	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
TRAVEL	April Wed 23 rd	Vehicles & Transport incl. people who help us - Bus Driver	Vehicles & Transport & People who help us. Fireman / Doctor / Nurse / Ambulance	Spring cont... Vehicles & Transport & People who help us Teacher , vet etc..
	28 th	Wheels on the Bus		
	May 5 th 12 th	Music Week – Clip Clop	Music Week - Going on a Bear Hunt	Music Week - Giraffe's Can't Dance
		Art Week - Colours	Art Week – Kandinsky circles	Art Week – Andy Goldsworthy Nature inspired art
26 th – 30 th May		Half Term Break		

Change of Sessions

If you wish to increase sessions for the Summer Term, please email as soon as possible to info@roxethmead.com

Farm Visit

We have organised a school trip for all pupils to Willows Activity Farm, near St Albans, on **Tuesday 3rd June**. This fits with our topic of Animals. This is for all classes except Babies. We will need a few parent volunteers to assist with this trip. Please let us know if you can help. A letter with full details has been sent home with this newsletter.



Sports Day & Picnic - Save the Date

Parents and other family members are invited to join us on Thursday 3rd July for Sports Day at 10.45am. We invite you to bring a picnic lunch for you and your child, for after the races, and join us for lunch on the grass. After lunch, at approximately 1' o clock, you are free to take your child home, or leave them with us until your normal collection time. The babies aged under 2 years will not be participating in the sports events, but you are very welcome to come along to sit with your child to watch and then stay for the picnic.

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>

Online Profile

We are trying to raise the online profile of Roxeth Mead on Google and Bing. If you have a few moments, would you mind searching for Roxeth Mead Nursery on Google and Bing and posting a review for us? Your help would be very much appreciated.

Hot Meals

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

**** As we move into the summer term, we will offer salad OR vegetables with the main meals. Please email to let us know your preference.**

Childcare Funding

A reminder that we participate in the Government's Scheme offering your child 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.

Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

Information for Parents and Carers

What Is the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework?

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework is a government document that all schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers in England must follow. It sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. The standards ensure your child will learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe.

★ What Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework outlines seven areas of learning and development and educational programmes. There are three **prime** areas of learning, which are particularly important for your child's development and future learning:

communication and language

personal, social and emotional development

physical development

There are four **specific** areas of learning, through which the prime areas are strengthened and applied:

literacy

mathematics

understanding the world

expressive arts and design

Early years practitioners also use your child's needs and interests to plan challenging and enjoyable activities and experiences.

★ How Will My Child Be Learning?

The EYFS framework identifies the essential role of play in your child's development. It is through both child-led play and play guided by an adult that your child will develop confidence and relationships with others. Through play, EYFS practitioners will help your child to extend their vocabulary and develop their communication skills.

The EYFS framework identifies three characteristics of effective teaching and learning:

playing and exploring

active learning

creating and thinking critically

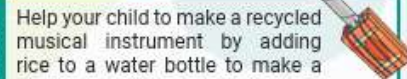
Help Your Nursery Child with Phonics

Listening Walk



Take your child on a listening walk around an indoor or outdoor setting. Encourage them to listen attentively and talk to you about the different sounds that they can hear.

Recycled Instruments



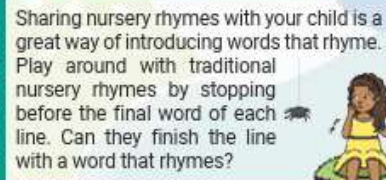
Help your child to make a recycled musical instrument by adding rice to a water bottle to make a shaker, or using an empty tissue box and elastic bands to make a guitar. As they play their instrument, encourage them to experiment with ways that they can change the sound it makes, for example by placing it under a blanket.

Body Percussion



Help your child to practise copying sounds by playing with rhythms. Clap out a simple rhythm. Can your child copy and clap it back to you? Take it in turns to be the leader, making up rhythms for the other to copy.

Nursery Rhymes



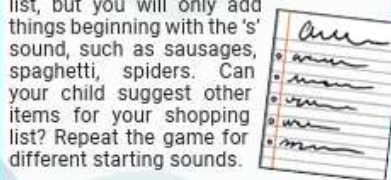
Sharing nursery rhymes with your child is a great way of introducing words that rhyme. Play around with traditional nursery rhymes by stopping before the final word of each line. Can they finish the line with a word that rhymes?

Syllable Basket



Put together a basket of items with names that contain a different number of syllables, such as keys, pencil, hat, sticky tape. Go through each item, supporting your child to clap out the syllables as they say each item. Then, play a guessing game, clap out the number of syllables for one of the items - can your child guess which item from the basket it might be?

Silly Shopping



Help your child to begin to notice alliteration by playing silly list games. Tell them that you are making a shopping list, but you will only add things beginning with the 's' sound, such as sausages, spaghetti, spiders. Can your child suggest other items for your shopping list? Repeat the game for different starting sounds.

Sound Effects



When reading stories with your child, encourage them to add sound effects with their voice, whether it be animal, weather or transport noises.

Time for School



As the time gets closer for your child to start school, start introducing some oral segmenting and blending into everyday routines. For example, when getting ready to leave the house say, 'put on your c-o-a-t'. Can your child blend the sounds to say 'coat'?

That's My Name!



When your child starts school it will also be useful if they can recognise their own name, as they will see it on coat pegs, book bags and jumpers. Draw attention to their name around the home and help them to recognise the initial sound in books and on packaging and signs.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



MARCH		
Friday 28 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday
Monday 31 st		Holiday club available
APRIL		
1 st to 22 nd		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
Tuesday 3 rd		Trip to Willows Farm for children aged 2+
JULY		
Thursday 3 rd		Sports Day & Picnic Lunch
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

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 at midday

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