



ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning

Academic Year 2024-25

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July 2025

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From The Headteacher





It is hard to believe that the end of the academic year is upon us – it has gone so quickly. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your children. Thank you for allowing us to undertake this wonderful task.

Our "Animal World" topic has been so much fun, giving us the chance to explore a wide variety of animals, including pets, farm animals, wild animals, and sea creatures. The children loved learning how to care for different pets, some creating their own pet posters and even setting up a pretend vet clinic in the role-play areas. Our trip to Willows Farm brought the topic to life as we met real farm animals, fed goats, and watched the sheep race! We also explored wild animals through stories, crafts, and small world play, creating jungle scenes and making lion masks. When learning about sea creatures, we read *The Rainbow Fish*, created underwater collages, and experimented with floating and sinking in water play. This topic has really sparked the children's curiosity and imagination while helping them build vocabulary, knowledge, and confidence.

The highlight of our final half term was the fantastic Sports Day and family picnic, a joyful celebration of teamwork, determination, and community spirit. It was heart-warming to see the progression across the age groups, from the youngest children excitedly running into their parents' arms, to the oldest children showing such impressive self-control and focus during the relay, confidently knowing exactly what to do. Thank you to everyone who came along to cheer, encourage, and share in the day, it truly made the event special.

Sadly, the end of any year is always a time for goodbyes. We say farewell to Miss Burney, who whilst her time with us was short, has been a valued team member. We also have a number of children transferring to new schools. We are sad to see them go, but we are sending them off with pride, knowing that we have given them the best possible foundations for future success. We were pleased to present a special bookmark to them with our Moving On poem.

Looking ahead to September, the staffing will be as follows:

Class		Staff
Ladybirds (Babies)		Miss Shaheen & Miss Chrisy
Butterflies (Toddlers)		Miss Faye, Miss Pallavi & Miss Chitra
Parrots (Pre School)		Mrs Sheikh, Miss Layla & Miss Natalie
Tigers (Nursery)		Mrs Kalsi, Mrs Ghatora, Miss Gohil & Miss Renee



Moving On

Your time with us was special,
We've watched you learn and grow.
But now the time has come for you,
To spread your wings and go.
So hold your head up proudly,
We know that you'll go far.
You'll be a shining beacon,
Just being who you are!

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Wishing you a wonderful summer break. Mrs Mackintosh

Willows Farm Visit

What an unforgettable adventure we had at Willows Activity Farm near St Albans on Tuesday 3rd June. As you can see from the wonderful photos, the day was packed with fun, laughter, and new experiences.

Even though the sun decided to hide, our smiles shone bright! We met a whole host of friendly farm animals, cuddled some adorable creatures in the petting area, and enjoyed the magical Peter Rabbit stage show. The excitement didn't stop there, we also had time to enjoy a tractor ride around the farm and run, climb, and play in the brilliant play area.

For some of our children, the thrill of riding on a coach for the very first time was just as exciting as meeting the animals! It was heartwarming to see their faces light up with wonder throughout the day and then to see them sleep soundly on the coach on the way back, exhausted from all the fun.

This fantastic trip tied in perfectly with our recent learning themes of Transport and Animals, bringing the topics to life in the most memorable way. A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special!





Sports Day

Thankfully, the sun shone on Thursday 3rd July for our Sports day and picnic. Thank you for supporting this event. Everyone had a wonderful time, as these photos show.



News from Baby (Ladybird) Class



As we come to the end of our short but eventful summer term, we wanted to share with you all the wonderful things our little ones have been up to over the past few weeks.

We began the term with our Pets topic, where the babies got creative with some fantastic artwork. Using hand and foot prints, we created adorable dogs, it was messy, fun and a great sensory experience! We also did two-piece puzzles, which the children enjoyed solving and we read lots of lovely books together during our calm, cosy story times.



Next, we moved on to Farm Animals, where the babies explored a range of sensory tuff trays. They had great fun rescuing toy animals from the hay and giving them a good wash in bubbly water an activity full of giggles and learning through play.



From the farm, we ventured into the world of Wild Animals. The children explored themed flashcards and enjoyed making playdough footprints of animals like lions and giraffes. It was wonderful to see how engaged they were while learning about these creatures.

With the sunny weather continuing, we took full advantage of our outdoor space enjoying snacks in the garden and exploring nature all around us. Our next topic, Under the Sea, was a big hit! Every day brought a new tuff tray full of exciting activities – from fishing games in water trays, to creating ocean scenes using cling film and paint, to discovering toy fish hidden in foam. The babies were curious and enthusiastic as they explored life under the sea.



We also had our Sports Day, which was a highlight of the term. It was heart-warming to see our babies taking part so eagerly waiting their turn and then running with such excitement.

To round off the term, we explored the theme of Summer and the Seaside. Water and sand play took centre stage as the children used a variety of tools to dig, scoop, and pour all while developing their fine motor skills and having lots of fun.

It has been such a joy to watch these babies grow, especially those who joined us back in September. We've celebrated so many milestones including many first steps! As most of our little ones now prepare to move on to the Toddler Room, we want to wish them all the very best in their next adventure. We will miss their smiles and laughter.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming returning families back in September after what we hope is a restful and sunny summer break!

Warm wishes, Miss Shaheen, Miss Pallavi, and Miss Natalie





News from Toddler (Butterfly) Class

Wow – with the blink of an eye, another year is coming to an end! What a fun-packed and memorable term we've had in Butterfly Class.



We kicked things off with a wonderful trip to Willows Farm, which was a huge success! The children had a fantastic time exploring the animals, and we were so proud of how beautifully they behaved throughout the day. This trip tied in perfectly with our topic on Farm Animals. From there, we extended our learning to include pets and under the sea creatures, sparking lots of curiosity and excitement.

The children have really enjoyed expressing themselves through art, creating an incredible range of masterpieces to brighten up our classroom. Some of our favourite projects this term included:

- Tissue paper elephants
- Ducks on the pond
- Spiral snakes
- Animal footprint playdough
- Peg parrots
- Sensory sea bottles

We've explored a variety of materials, tools, and techniques, and it's been amazing to see each child develop their fine motor skills, creativity, and vocabulary. They've truly blossomed into confident, happy learners!

Our last exciting event this term is Sports Day! The children have been busy practicing their races and can't wait to show you what they've been working on. We're looking forward to seeing you there to cheer them on – it promises to be a fun and energetic day for all!

As I write, our final topic of the year is summer and seaside that has captured the imaginations.

It's been an absolute pleasure becoming the Butterfly Class room leader this term. The children have welcomed me so warmly, and we've built such a lovely bond in a short space of time. I've really enjoyed getting to know each and every one of them, and I feel so proud of all they've achieved.



Thank you so much for your continued support – it truly makes a difference. I know your little ones will continue to thrive as they move up to Parrot Class next term.

Wishing you all a safe, sunny, and restful summer break. See you in September! Miss Faye & Miss Gohil



News From Pre-School (Parrot Class)



We can hardly believe it, the end of the academic year is already here! It's flown by in a whirlwind of fun, laughter, and learning!

We began the term by exploring the wonderful world of farm animals. We discussed what these animals are called, what their babies are called, and the important roles they play. Using a range of creative art materials, the children made their own farm animal crafts, including cows, pigs, and sheep. A major highlight of the term was our trip to the farm where the children got to see animals such as sheep, pigs, cows, and even baby lambs up close. They were thrilled to feed the animals and observe their behaviours in a real-life setting. It was a fantastic day out, the children were wonderfully behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Next, we moved on to learning about pet animals. We had lovely conversations about the pets children have at home and how they care for them. It was heart-warming to hear the names of their beloved pets and how much they mean to them. The children created art pieces of common pets like cats, dogs, and fish. We also transformed our role-play area into a vet surgery, which became a favourite spot for imaginative play as the children took turns being vets and pet owners.



We then ventured into the fascinating world of wild animals. We talked about visits to the zoo and which animals the children had seen, from towering giraffes to roaring lions. We discussed the sounds these animals make, their sizes, and where they live. The children had a fantastic time creating animal-themed artwork, including pandas, giraffes, and tigers. They were so engaged with this topic, often relating it to their personal experiences and showing a deep curiosity about the animal kingdom.



One of the most exciting themes was Under the Sea. The children were eager to share what they thought lived beneath the ocean waves. They created sea creatures such as turtles, starfish, jellyfish, and sharks using various materials. During our musical movement sessions, they had so much fun pretending to wriggle like fish, wave like octopuses, and float like jellyfish. We also offered sensory play opportunities, including blue play dough with under-the-sea mats and water trays filled with sea creature toys, blue glitter, and water. These activities were not only fun but also enhanced their fine motor skills and creativity.

This term, the children have also shown great enthusiasm during their cooking and phonics lessons. In cooking, they explored different ingredients, followed simple recipes, and worked together to create tasty treats. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they developed essential life skills. In phonics, their participation has been fantastic, they are making great progress in recognizing sounds and letters, and their eagerness to learn is a joy to see.



As we near the end of the term, we're excited to end the year with a cheerful topic: Summer! The children have been exploring summer through sensory play with sand, shells, buckets, and spades. We have been talking about summer holidays, trips to the beach, sunny weather, and of course, enjoying ice cream and ice lollies!

As we say goodbye to this academic year, we want to thank you for your continued support. Your children have developed so much, and it's been an absolute pleasure to be a part of their learning journey. We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting and enriching year in September.



Mrs. Sheikh, Miss Layla, Miss Burney, and Miss Chrisy



News from Nursery (Tigers) Class



It's hard to believe that we have already reached the end of the academic year and are preparing for the Summer holidays. Time has truly flown by, and the children who started in Tiger class last September have grown into confident, independent individuals. Their end-of-year reports reflect how hard they have worked and how much they have achieved across all areas of the curriculum.

A big highlight of the second half of this term was our trip to Willows Farm. The children's enthusiasm was evident as they explored the farm, feeding animals and learning about them. They also made special Father's Day cards for their dads. They thoroughly enjoyed Sports Day and the picnic that followed. Tiger class has also been hard at work rehearsing for our end-of-year assembly and they can't wait to perform for their parents!

This half term, we explored some fantastic topics. We began with 'Wild Animals,' where the children helped create an extensive list. We learned about animals from different continents and their habitats, explored jungle and farm animals through roleplay, and even made masks and painted animal pictures. They shared stories about their pets and discussed animals they would love to have in the future. A particularly fun highlight was setting up a Veterinary clinic in the classroom. The children eagerly took on roles as receptionists, vets, nurses, and customers, and their imaginative conversations were a joy to listen to.

Next, we dived into the wonders of the sea, where the children learned all about sea creatures. They sang "Come Dive with Me" song, explored non-fiction books, and painted beautiful pictures of fish, Stingrays, and Octopuses.

Our next topic was 'Summer,' and the children enthusiastically discussed everything from the weather, beach activities to creating a lovely seaside artwork. They also conducted a 'Sink & Float' experiment, where they made predictions about which objects would sink or float.

The children's progress in reading and writing through the RWI scheme has been fantastic, and they have enjoyed our daily Phonics lessons. In our practical Maths activities, the children have consolidated their understanding of the topics and participated with enthusiasm. Our weekly cookery lessons have been a big success, and the children have grown into confident little chefs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their cooperation and support through this academic year. It has been an absolute pleasure having your children in our class and teaching them. I wish them all the best as they move to their new schools in September. I know that their love of learning will continue, and they will achieve even greater success in the future.

Wishing you all a happy, relaxing Summer holiday! Mrs. Kalsi, Mrs. Ghatora & Miss Renee





Parents' Information



Topics for Next Half Term:

AUTUMN TERM 2025			
W/B	Babies & Toddlers	Pre-School	Nursery
Sept 3rd	Settling in / Routines	Settling In / Rules & routines <i>Goat Goes to Playgroup</i>	Settling In / Rules & Routines
8 th 15 th	My Special People (Family)	All About Me: Family / My Body . <i>Song- Head, Shoulders Knees & Toes</i> incl <i>Owl Babies</i>	All About Me: Family (immediate & extended)/ My Senses / Body / Emotions / Memorable events
22 nd 29 th	Sensory - <i>That's not my books</i>	Dinosaurs <i>Dinosaur Roar</i> <i>If I had a Dinosaur</i>	Fairy-tale: <i>Jack & The Beanstalk</i>
October 6 th 13 th	Fairy Tale - <i>Goldilocks</i>	Fairy-tale – <i>3 Little Pigs</i> October – Black History Month	Dinosaurs <i>Dinosaur Song</i> October – Black History Month
20 th to 31 st October - 2 week half term			

Childcare Funding

15 & 30 Hours Funding Scheme

We're pleased to offer subsidised childcare through the Government's Childcare Funding Scheme. Funding becomes available from the term after your child meets the eligibility criteria.

Working Parent Funding:

If you're a working parent earning under £100,000 per year, you can apply for funding from the term after your child turns **9 months old**.

Important: It is your responsibility to provide us with all necessary codes and documentation in time. Without this, we are unable to claim the funding on your behalf, and you will be charged the full nursery fees.

September Term Deadline:

To receive funding for the autumn term, your eligibility code must have a start date **on or before 31st August**. HMRC strongly recommends applying or reconfirming your code at least **6 weeks in advance**, so we advise you to take action now.

Universal 15 Hours Funding for 3-Year-Olds:

All families – regardless of income or employment status – are entitled to **15 hours of funded childcare** from the term after their child's **3rd birthday** (starting 1 January, 1 April, or 1 September). Although no code is needed, we do require a signed form to access this funding.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/15-and-30-hours-childcare-support>

If you have any questions or need help with the process, please speak to Mrs Mackintosh.

Tax-Free Childcare Scheme

Parents can also take advantage of the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme. You deposit money into the account. For every £8 you pay into this account, the government will pay in £2. You can get up to £500 every 3 months (up to £2,000 a year) for each of your children to help with the costs of childcare. This goes up to £1,000 every 3 months if a child is disabled (up to £4,000 a year).

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

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>

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.

The Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge 2025, produced by [The Reading Agency](https://www.readingagency.org.uk/), is called Story Garden. It focuses on inspiring children to explore a world of imagination through reading, celebrating nature and the great outdoors. The challenge encourages children aged 4-11 to read six or more library books over the summer, with free rewards like stickers, a medal, and a certificate upon completion. The challenge starts on Saturday, July 5th and ends on Saturday September 6th and takes place at libraries across the country.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

The poster is for 'The Reading Agency Summer Reading Challenge'. It features a green and yellow color scheme. At the top, it says 'Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!'. Below this, it explains that the challenge is free and fun, aimed at keeping kids reading all summer long. The theme for this year is 'Story Garden', where imagination blossoms. A list of reasons to join is provided, including that it's free, inspires a lifelong love of reading, boosts confidence and creativity, and offers rewards like certificates and medals. A cartoon character of a book with a face is shown running. At the bottom, it encourages visiting a local library or going online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk to get started from 5 July 2025.

THE READING AGENCY Summer Reading Challenge

Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The **Summer Reading Challenge**, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a **FREE**, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme is **Story Garden**, where imagination blossoms and stories grow! Children will explore creativity, storytelling, and the magic of books through exciting activities and adventures.

Why Join?

- It's **FREE!** Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a **lifelong love of reading**
- Boosts **confidence, creativity, and imagination**
- Earn **rewards, certificates, and prizes**
- Fun for the whole **family**. Visit your **local library** together
- **95%** of children said they **read more** after joining!
- Children **choose their own books** to read over the summer, **collect rewards** for each milestone they reach, and **receive a certificate or medal** when they complete the challenge.

Visit your local library or go online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk to get started from 5 July 2025.

Help your child start their reading adventure today!

Helpful Websites

GoNoodle - Movement and mindfulness videos for children	https://www.gonoodle.com/
STEM.org.uk -Free home learning resources for all ages in science, technology, engineering and maths	https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning
Cosmic Kids - Free yoga sessions aimed at children	https://www.cosmickids.com/
Storytelling for Younger Pupils	https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/
Fun Science at Home	https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-Fun-at-Home



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



JULY		
Friday 11 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 14 th		First day of Holiday Club
AUGUST		
Friday 15 th		Last day of holiday club
SEPTEMBER		
Mon 2 nd Tues 3 rd		Staff Training and settling of new pupils only (by invitation)
Wednesday 4 th		New Term Starts 8am
OCTOBER		
Mon 20 th to Fri 31 st		Half Term Holiday (2 weeks) - Holiday Club available
NOVEMBER		
Monday 3 rd		Return to school following half term
	Tbc	Photos ready in time for Christmas .
W/b Mon 24 th		Reports issued to parents
DECEMBER		
Monday 1 st		Christmas post box in entrance hall
	tbc	Pantomime Company visiting the school
	tbc	Christmas Party. Pupils may wear party clothes or a Christmas jumper
Thursday 11 th	10.45am	Nativity at Christ Church. All pupils to attend. Meet at the Church at 9.00am in costume. Refreshments afterwards at the church
Thursday 11 th	Noon	Break up for Christmas
12 th to 19 th	8 – 5pm	Holiday Club available
JANUARY 2026		
Monday 5 th		Staff Training - No holiday club as all staff will be involved in first aid training all day
Tuesday 7 th	From 8am	Children back for new term
FEBRUARY		
Mon 16 th - 20 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available
MARCH		
Friday 27 th	12 noon	Break up for Easter at midday
Monday 30 th		Holiday club available
APRIL		
1 st to 17 th		Holiday club available
Monday 20 th		INSET for Staff. Holiday club available
Tuesday 21 st		Children back for new term. Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July.
MAY		
Monday 4 th		May Bank Holiday
25 th to 29 th		Half Term - Holiday Club available 26 th to 29 th
	tbc	Visit from Zoolab
JUNE		
Monday 2 nd		Children back following half term
		Farm Trip tbc
		Sports Day & Picnic tbc
JULY		
Friday 10 th	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday
Monday 13 th		Holiday Club available

TERM DATES

2025-2026

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

SPRING TERM 2026

Inset for Staff: *Monday 5th January*

Term Begins: Tuesday 6th January

Half Term: Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February (holiday club available)

Term Ends: Friday 27th March

Easter: Friday 3rd April – Monday 6th April

SUMMER TERM 2026

Inset for Staff: *Monday 20th April*

Term Begins: Tuesday 21st April

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May

Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May (holiday club available)

Term Ends: **Friday 10th July**