



# ROXETH MEAD NEWSLETTER

*In Discendo Gaudium – Joy of Learning*

Academic Year 2020 – 21

February 2021

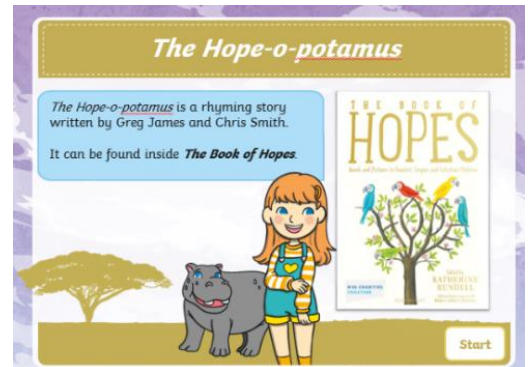
## In This Issue:

- From The Co-Headteachers
- News from the Classes
- Activities for Half Term: Maths & Science
- Parent's Information
- Dates for Your Diary

## From The Co-Headteachers

This half term has not been the month we had hoped or planned for with lockdown, but we have remained open, albeit with reduced numbers of pupils, and spirits have remained high.

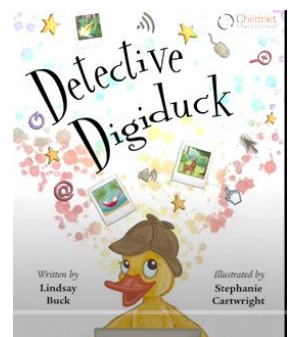
In January, the children in Reception and Year 1&2 had a socially distanced assembly on 'Hopes and Dreams'. We thought about our hopes and dreams for the immediate future and longer term. We then read the children the story of the Hope-o-potamus who would not give up until he found his dream watering hole. Predictably, the children's wishes all included the hope that coronavirus would go away very soon!



Story telling has featured heavily in our topic work this half term, timed well for National Story Telling Week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> February. We were pleased to be able to share with you via email, a virtual library, where, if you clicked on each of the books on the shelves you would see / hear someone reading the book to you. If you clicked on the other logos, this would take you to online resources to

help and support reading. We hoped you enjoyed listening to the stories and found the articles helpful. A love of reading is so important for educational success, so please encourage your child to read, read, read!

On Safer Internet Day, 9<sup>th</sup> February, we talked about how to stay safe in the internet. We learned that not everything we find on the internet is factual. Please watch this digital story of Detective Digiduck with your child to find out what we mean...  
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/detective-digiduck-virtual-assembly-3-7s>



Goodbye and good luck to Mrs Sheik who goes on maternity leave shortly. Ms Smith will be covering her duties whilst she is away. We can't wait to see a photo of baby Sheik!

We would like to extend our love and thoughts to those of you, past and present parents and staff, who have suffered at the hands of the Coronavirus. We have heard how some families have had their lives irreversibly changed and we send our sincere sympathies.

Have a lovely half term everyone!

Mrs Goodwin & Mrs Mackintosh

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

## News from Pre-School

Here we are again in the middle of yet another lockdown and we hope that there is now light at the end of this long dark tunnel. As Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Mackintosh have said, our thoughts are with those families who have suffered so much during this pandemic.

The children in Pre School have truly been remarkable and have formed really strong bonds, playing with a maturity far beyond their years and there has been no or little conflict - not something I would expect from this age group. They have obviously been delighted to be here and have enjoyed lots of various activities such as arts and craft, music, singing, dancing, soft play but I would say the most popular thing they enjoy is playing with empty boxes (thank you Amazon!). The games they have invented have included 'presents', 'towers', 'trains' and 'cars'.



We have changed our role play area regularly in order to maintain the children's interest and motivation and have had a Winter Wonderland with an ice cafe and penguins, a hospital and it is now an area reflecting the book 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy with the moon and stars.

The children have all shown remarkable progress in their more formal learning and we have seen some outstanding pencil control to enable excellent colouring and increasing of their phonic knowledge - do 'test' them and I think you will be amazed.

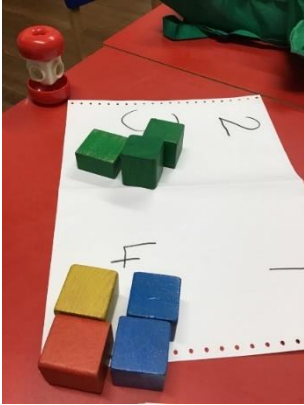


We will shortly be saying au revoir to Mrs Sheikh as she starts her maternity leave and wish her the best of luck with her new addition! We will miss her but she will be back!

Wishing you all a happy and healthy half term,

Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Sheikh and Ms Smith



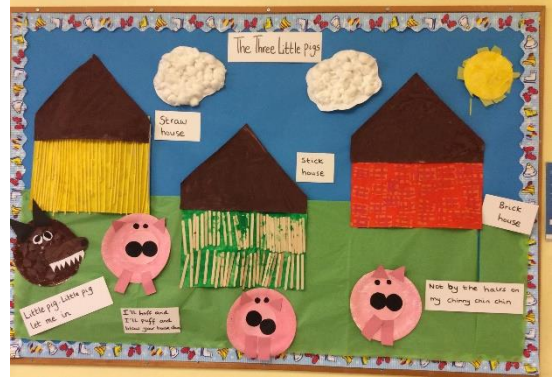


## News from Nursery Class

What a busy start to the new year it has been.

The children have been learning about lots of interesting topics including Winter, Arctic animals, Storyland where we chose three famous fairy tales - The Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Our topic learning has included learning about winter wear and weather, Arctic animals and their inhabitants. The children loved doing a topic on Three Little Pigs as it's a favourite story. We chose these stories as we were able to teach the children about narrative language and joining in with repeated refrains from the story. The children also had opportunities to act out the story by sequencing the events using picture cards. The children really enjoyed making porridge and eating it as part of our topic on Goldilocks and The Three Bears.



In literacy, we have been continuing to progress with our phonics. The children have been learning their letter sounds very well and are beginning to form the letters.

In numeracy, the children are continuing to work towards counting objects reliably and recognising the written numerals 1-10. We have also been learning about sizing and beginning to use mathematical language such as big, medium and small.

We wish you a happy and safe half term.

Mrs Afsari and Mrs Patel



## News from Reception Class

The First half of the Spring term has been a busy one for Reception Class. We welcomed some younger children to our class and the older children have made them feel very comfortable.



Our first topic this term was 'Winter' and the children had first-hand experience of snow. The children learnt about weather conditions in winter, designed winter clothing, talked about animals, birds, hibernation, made snowflakes and snowmen.

After this we delved into the world of stories and imagination. The children had fun making up stories of their own, thinking of different endings to stories, listening to, recalling, retelling stories and learning about characters in a story. Our first story was 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird' where the children gathered information about ladybirds, practised reading the time, painted ladybirds and commented that the ladybird in the story was unkind and not good at sharing.



The next storybook we chose was 'Giraffes Can't Dance'. The children looked for the continent of Africa on the map, found out about all the animals that live there, made up dance moves to teach each other, drew out pictures of Giraffes and measured their height using cubes and rulers.

Our third storybook was 'Funny bones' and the children helped to put together a skeleton, learnt the names of different parts, practised picking up objects off the floor without bending their arms, learnt a 'Skeleton Dance', helped in story sequencing through pictures and wrote out a conversation between the characters using speech bubbles.

In the last week before half term the book chosen by the children is 'Cinder the Bubble Blowing Dragon'. This week we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Pancake Day. We will be making lanterns, dragons, performing a Ribbon Dance and making Pancakes.

The children have been practising their Reading, Phonics, writing words, sentences and learning to form letters correctly. In our Maths lessons we have been consolidating all the learning through practical and written activities.

The children have been working very hard and it is a joy to watch them enjoying their learning. Wishing you all a restful half term.

Mrs Kalsi and Mrs Ghatora.



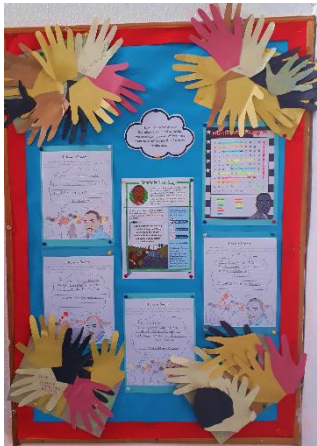


## News from Year 1 & 2

I took over this class in January, and being a small class it gave me the opportunity to concentrate on each child's individual needs.

In Maths we have worked on Time, Money, Shapes and Fractions and also learned how to add in 10s with our softball dart board.

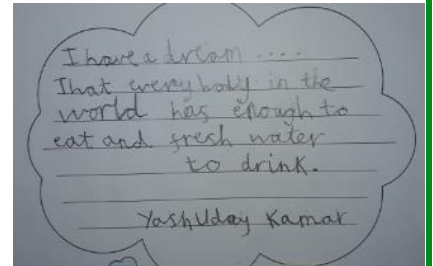
In English we have been reading 'The Hodgehog' by Dick King-Smith and also learned about road safety. We linked this with our Science topic and put together a puzzle of animals and plants to learn about life cycles and the environment.



We made jam tarts and pizza puffs having first made our chefs hats (see photo).

In Geography we have looked at the British Isles and in History, Martin Luther King. We learnt who he was, why he is famous and why we celebrate him each year. We made hand wreaths as a symbol of equality and togetherness and, using his "I have a Dream" speech as inspiration, wrote our own dreams. We can see them here in our display.

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach this group and I can't wait to see them again after half term.



Mrs Goodwin



## Some Half-Term Activities:

### Maths Flags Challenge (for our older children)



Pick a flag and investigate some of the following: -

- What shapes can you see in it? Can you describe them and their angles?
- Does the flag have any lines of reflective symmetry? If so how many lines?
- Can you find any pairs of parallel lines? If so mark them on your flag.
- Are there any lines perpendicular to one another?
- Can you find a way to classify the shapes in your flag?

Now try with another flag.

## Science Brainteaser

Have a look at this zoomed in mystery image. Using working scientifically skills (pattern seeking, observing, identifying, and even classifying and grouping), we would like you to guess what this picture is:



Bonus challenge: The second mystery image may link to the previous image.

Answer on page 12



## Fun Science to try at Home

### Erupting Volcanoes 1 (baking powder/bicarbonate of soda and vinegar):

- 1) Watch this supporting video to help you.  
<https://www.loom.com/share/7a539f311a2e4c22909e0a85ad2d937d>
- 2) Make a volcano shape out of either playdough or a kitchen roll tube and newspaper. Put it on a baking tray to catch the mess.
- 3) Add a spoonful of baking powder or bicarbonate of soda to the centre of your volcano shape.
- 4) Add some food colouring if you have some. (Red will make your eruption look like lava!)
- 5) Pour in a little vinegar to see the eruption!
- 6) Experiment with different combinations of baking powder/bicarbonate of soda and vinegar to see which makes the biggest eruption.



### **Erupting Volcanoes 2 (Coke and Mentos):**

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.  
<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education/whatischemistry/adventures-in-chemistry/experiments/mentos-diet-coke.html>
- 2) Go outside with your bottle of Coke and packet of Mentos.
- 3) Place your Coke bottle on a flat surface somewhere where you are allowed to make a mess.
- 4) Add the packet of Mentos to the Coke bottle and jump out of the way!



### **Make your own Slime:**

- 1) Watch this supporting video to help you.  
<https://www.loom.com/share/973f34f7bd604f668b27ad336328183c>
- 2) Add some cornflour to a mixing bowl.
- 3) Add some water until you get the desired slime consistency.
- 4) Optionally, you can add food colouring to colour your slime.



### **Make your own Mini Diver in a Bottle:**

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DU8wONWjIXg>
- 2) If you don't have straws and paper clips, you could use the top of a biro pen and some blu tac (or any small, waterproof object which can trap an air bubble!).
- 3) Did you know: when you squeeze the bottle, the air bubble is under pressure and shrinks so making the 'diver' sink. When you release your grip on the bottle the air bubble returns to its normal size and the 'diver' returns to the surface.



### **Dancing Raisins:**

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.  
<http://blog.philipharris.co.uk/uncategorized/dancing-raisins-experiment-how-why/>
- 2) Place some raisins in lemonade.
- 3) Observe carefully. Can you work out why the raisins rise and fall? Clue: it's to do with the bubbles!



### **Skittle Rainbow:**

- 1) Watch the following link to help you.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0OzaENb4uU>
- 2) Place some skittles in a circle (or try another pattern) on a plate.
- 3) Add some water and wait to see what happens?
- 4) Why don't the colours mix?
- 5) What happens to the 'S'?



# Parents' Information

F.Y.I.

## Topics for Next Half Term (Spring 2 2021) EYFS:

Topic	Theme	Week Beginning	Supporting Books	Other Activities
Natural World	Healthy Eating	22th February	Daisy Eat Your Peas	
	Life Cycles	1st March	The Very Hungry Caterpillar	World Book Day 4th
	Mini Beasts	8th March		Science week
	Mother's Day-14th			
	Farm Animals	15th March	Little Red Hen	
	Spring & Easter	22nd March		Day of Happiness 20th

## Topics for Next Half Term (Spring 2 2021) - Year 1&2:

Class Text	The Hodgeheg by Dick King- Smith cont...
Maths	Measurement & Work books
English	Read Write Inc. Comprehension, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar, Creative Writing
Science	Plants & Animals
Humanities	Geography - The UK, Continents & Oceans
Music	Rhythm
Art	Water Art
PE	Ball games
Computing	Coding – Unit 1b (Espresso) Using Powerpoint to make a presentation
PSHE	Ourselves, growing and changing

## February Well-being Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Send someone a message to say how much they mean to you	2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently	3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone else	4 Organise a virtual 'tea break' with colleagues or friends	5 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	7 Make an effort to have a friendly chat with a neighbour
8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you	10 Look for the good in people, even when they frustrate you	11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	12 Focus on being kind rather than being right	13 Send a friendly message of support to a local business	14 Tell your loved ones why they are special to you
15 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day	16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help	17 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	18 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	19 Share a video or message you find inspiring or helpful	20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun	21 Actively listen to what people say, without judging them
22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise	24 Tell a loved one about their strengths that you value most	25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	26 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today	27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them	28 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer somebody else up" - Mark Twain
 "The only way to have a friend is to be one" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

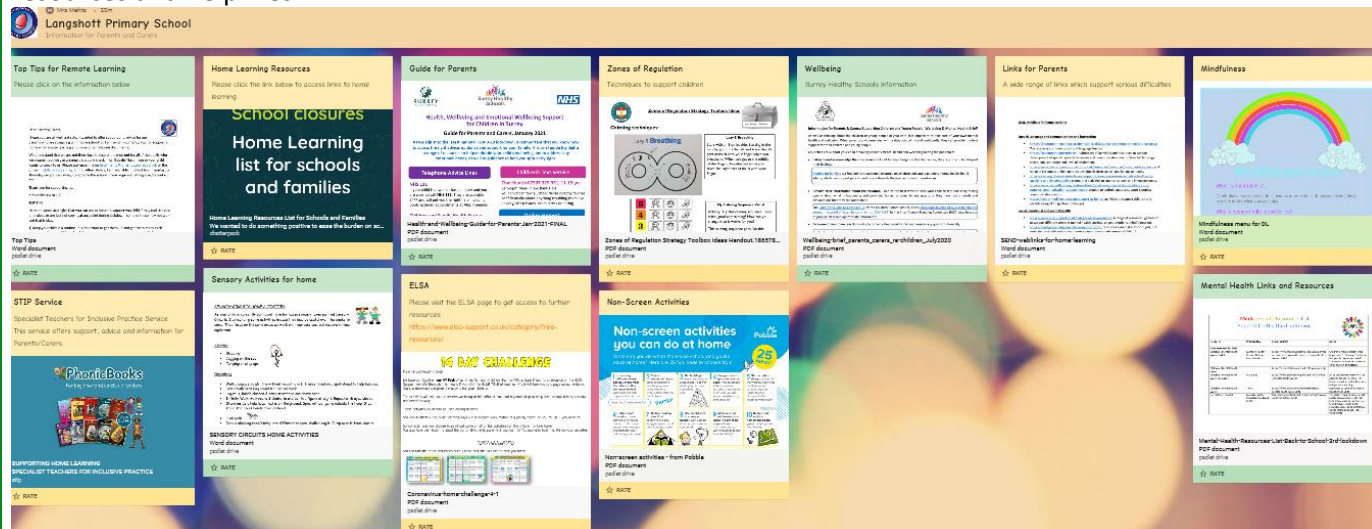
[www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org)  
**Happier · Kinder · Together**

Learn more about this month's theme at [www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february](http://www.actionforhappiness.org/friendly-february)

# Supporting Children Through the Pandemic

<https://padlet.com/hmehta4/5uqnbdtjmk6z7ij>

This link will take you to this padlet where you can find lots of well-being and mental health resources to help children to cope through the pandemic. Ignore some initial references to Surrey – most links are to national resources and helplines.



## COVID-19 Alert

Thank you for remaining alert and remembering to wear your mask and social distance at drop off and pick up.



## Half Term Activity Clubs



**COMMUNITY SPORTS & EDUCATION TRUST**  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1102239

# February Half Term Online Activities

**Come and join us for a February half term with a difference!**  
For grassroots footballers aged 6-16. Breakout rooms will be used to split Primary and Secondary ages. Zoom sessions will take place at different times throughout the day.

**Monday 15th, Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th.**  
**£10 per day or £25 for all three days.**

**Football Fitness**  
Exercises at home, with and without a ball.

**Healthy Lifestyle Workshop**  
A look into how the body works and the food and drink we need for a healthy diet.

**Football Workshops**  
Discuss your favourite professional footballers and what you need to develop further as a footballer.

<https://bookings.watfordfccsetrust.com>



Bookings via...<https://www.perform.org.uk/classes-courses/holiday-courses/fe2021>

## Ask for ANI (Action Needed Immediately)

We have been asked to promote this service.

If you are suffering domestic abuse, or know someone who is.

Where you see this poster in the window of any pharmacy, go in and ask for ANI.



## Answer to the Science Brainteaser! A robin and a bird's nest:



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY		
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Half Term
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Children back following half term
MARCH		
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>		World Book Day
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Comic Relief
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Easter
APRIL		
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Deadline for giving written notice if your child is leaving in July
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>		Children back for new term
MAY		
Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June		Half Term
JUNE		
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>		Staff Training Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Children back following half term
JULY		
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Break up for Summer Holiday