

# Reaching Your Potential Newsletter

## January 2017



Firstly, we would like to say a very Happy New Year to you all. It is hard to believe we are already at the end of January. Time certainly flies by- especially when you are having fun in your learning! It has been a busy and productive start to the New Year, with workshops and family learning already taking place; a sponsored bounce; the opening of our lovely new library and learning review meetings with our Year 6 parents. The children have come back with a really positive attitude and we thank you for all of your support at home.

### Reading Volunteer Team- **JOIN US NOW AND HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

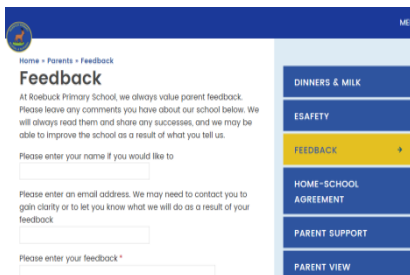
Thank you to all those family and friends who are now working as part of our Reading Volunteer Team. We are extremely lucky as a school community to have so many people prepared to give up their own time to support us all to DREAM – BELIEVE - ACHIEVE.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please leave your details with the office to be passed on to Miss Short or Mrs Thomas.



### Feedback **Your opinions and ideas really matter to us!**

We value your feedback so much. Positive comments and ideas for improvements and future support are crucial to allow us to know what is working well and more importantly how we can best help our children and parents in moving forward. It is lovely talking to you all at workshops and during informal meetings throughout the school day. Please do remember that we have a feedback tab on our school website which you can use to tell us what you think as well as the feedback box on our reaching your potential display outside of the office.



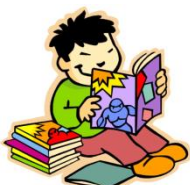
### Fun with Food!

We were delighted to work with parents and children in Reception class a couple of weeks ago in our first 'Fun with Food' workshop of the year. We will be inviting some year 1 families to these workshops after half term so please look out for invitations.



### Getting the best out of reading at home

Thank you to the parents who attended the EYFS and Key Stage 1 reading workshop on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. It was great to hear from your feedback that you found the resources, website links, games and ideas to motivate children to read useful. Thank you for your suggestions for future workshops. We have taken these ideas into account to plan workshops for next half term. The reading workshop is on again this Wednesday at 2:15pm for Key Stage 2 parents and then again at 6:30pm for all parents with children in any year group.



Dream - Believe - Achieve

## Our Library is launched!

It was so lovely to see so many parents and children visiting the library when it opened on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January. There was a real buzz of excitement in the air as children browsed the shelves and chose a book to take home. We are very excited that our new library furniture has also arrived and we have an artist in transforming the wall into an inspiring backdrop of pictures and quotes from classic children's books. Do visit the library to see the transformation taking place!

If you would like to visit the library with your child, it is open on:

- Mondays after school 3.15-4.00pm
- Wednesdays before school 8.15-8.45am.



### Key stage 2 parents:

Please remind your child that they can do accelerated reader quizzes on books which they get from the library as well as those chosen from book corners. It is great to see so many children regularly taking quizzes as this will help them accelerate their progress in reading. Over the last 30 days this was the percentage of children participating in quizzes: Year 3: 97%, Year 4: 87%, Year 5: 94%, Year 6: 67%

Please encourage your children to read daily. You can now monitor your child's progress by signing up to Renaissance Home Connect whereby you will be emailed your child's results every time they do a quiz. Please see your child's class teacher or Mrs Thomas if you have any questions or queries about this.

### Story sacks

It is great that five families have already signed up to Story Sacks - a family workshop led by HAFLS (Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service) for Reception and Year 1. This fantastic free workshop gives you the opportunity to work with your child and learn some fun ways to use story sacks together. The four week workshop starts on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. If you would like to attend these sessions, please ask the office or Miss Short for a letter.

### Reading tips:

- Keep reading sessions fun and varied
- Enjoy other forms of texts other than their school reading book
- Gradually build up time and frequency of the reading session
- Expose children to reading material related to their interests



### Workshops for this term

Date	Time	Workshop content	Suitable for
Date to be confirmed <b>Look out for information in our next newsletter</b>	TBC Eve TBC	Magic Maths Come along and find out exciting games you can play with your child to engage them in their maths learning and look at our ICT resources.	<b>Years 1-6</b>
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> March Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> March Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> March Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	1.15-3.15pm	Inspire to write HAFLS 4 week course A free course designed to give you time to work with your child to help them develop their literacy skills. <b>Look out for fliers coming soon.</b>	<b>Years 3- 6</b>
Date to be confirmed <b>Look out for information in our next newsletter</b>	TBC	Supporting your child with English as an Additional Language. Come and meet our specialist TA and find out ways to support your child in reading, writing and maths.	<b>EYFS Years 1</b>

Thank you for your continued support.

**Miss Short and Mrs Thomas**