



Roebuck Academy

Newsletter: February 2018



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our February Edition of the school Newsletter. Here at Roebuck Academy we are very aware of the need to educate children on the benefits of exercise and living a healthy lifestyle. At Roebuck Academy we have been working hard to improve our sporting provision at the school.

Hopefully, this term you would have heard your children talking about our new Sports Coach, Mr Moran. He has been working hard with the children and the teaching staff to improve their skills in gymnastics. As well as this he has also been running sports clubs during lunch time which are very well attended. He will continue to work with the children until the end of the summer term; working with them to improve their athletic abilities. After half term, a dance tutor shall also be joining the Roebuck team which we are very much looking forward to. If our Sports Premium funding from the government continues into the next year, we shall be looking to keep the dance provision going.

Our children have also been keeping up with their daily mile that we launched in January. What we are beginning to see is an improvement in performance as well as fitness and concentration from all of the children. Maybe parents would like to join us next term in our daily mile to see just how tough this is?

I do hope that you all have a fantastic half term break and that you all come back refreshed and ready to learn on Monday 19th February.

Kind regards

Lynsey Young

EARLY YEARS – MRS PROSSER

OUTDOOR AREA We held our latest working party on Saturday 3rd February. We would like to thank all of our lovely volunteers for their help, time and hard work. Despite the wet weather, which was pretty miserable, we managed to achieve a great deal. We now have a new mud-pie kitchen area and lovely small world activities for all of the children to enjoy!

The Foundation Stage outdoor learning area is really beginning to take shape now and we have been very lucky to be able to purchase lots of lovely new resources for the children. We will be taking some time to teach the children how to look after the toys and how to tidy them away neatly.

When the weather improves we will be asking for volunteers to help us paint the fences which will be one of our final jobs. Watch this space!

READING CORNER If you have the opportunity, please come into our classrooms and see how our book areas are changing. We are changing them into very inviting spaces for the children in which to enjoy books and help foster their love of reading. You never know, you may even find yourself sitting down and being hooked into reading a good book!

TAPESTRY Our online learning journal 'Tapestry' has been live for half a term now. This week we will be sending home evaluation forms to all parents to help us ensure that Tapestry is working well for everyone. The children have really enjoyed sharing their Tapestry observations from home with the rest of the class. Amazing support from home!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Roebuck's School Council have been working on a project to show how children are kept safe here at our school. They have walked around our school and have taken pictures of things that keep them safe.

They reported their finding to school Governors and will be sharing this information with their peers in assembly.

The School Council have been collecting donations of tinned and dried foods for the Stevenage food bank. This event is called Love in a Box day and is held in all schools across Stevenage that are part of the Schools parliament. Thank you for all of your kind donations that have now been passed to this very worthy cause.

RSA VALENTINES DISCO

The RSA Valentines Disco will take place on Friday 23rd February. Please ensure you see the RSA flyer for further details.

TERM DATES 2018/19

Please note that the term dates for 2018/19 have been updated and are on the website – this was emailed to all parents and carers at the beginning of the term.

<http://www.roebuck.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Other+Letters&pid=88>

WORLD BOOK DAY

As usual we shall be celebrating world book day this year. With our focus on reading throughout the school, we are asking all children to come to school on Thursday 1st March dressed as their favourite book character. We have lots of fun reading activities taking place on this day.

E-SAFETY WEEK – Mrs Elson



This week is E-Safety week and all classes are learning about how to 'BEE safe'.

On Tuesday there was a parent's assembly followed by a KS1 and KS2 assembly where Mrs. Elson discussed how to enjoy using technology such as computers and phones safely. In the parent's assembly we discussed the risks involved with computers and phones and shared ways in which we could keep our children safe. All children have produced a quality piece of writing across the school this week that will contribute to a whole school display focused upon keeping safe on-line. Children have used a variety of writing genres such as instructions, letters, newspaper reports and even diaries to share their learning. All parents will receive a book sharing how to be safe with technology once they arrive in school. The school council will be starting to select children who would like to be a digital leader in school. If you are in Years 4, 5 and 6 and would still like to apply, please see Mrs Elson.

Below we have also included a reminder of the age restrictions for most of the well-known social media apps and platforms. It is really worth a look as they act as a reminder and guideline for all children.

Age Restrictions On Social Media

13	14	16	17	18	18
Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder	Path	(13 with parents consent) YouTube Keek Foursquare WeChat Kik Flickr

MISS MACDONALD

A big thank you to Miss MacDonald who has successfully completed her teaching placement in Year 2 Pine Class. She has been a wonderful addition to the KS1 team. Miss MacDonald has worked incredibly hard and has helped all the children make lots of progress. We wish her luck in her next placement. We hope to see her back at Roebuck soon.

THE SHUTTLEWORTH COLLECTION

On Friday last week, Year 2 had a wonderful learning experience at the Shuttleworth collection in Bedfordshire. We were given a guided tour in the morning of the museum and saw transport from a variety of periods of History. We found out how fires were put out and saw an old water pump. Cars and bikes were explored and we were fortunate to see some planes taking off. After lunch we were completely surprised by Matthew the Education Officer as both classes were allowed to take a bus trip on a vintage bus! Mrs Chapman added to the excitement in Pine class by pointing out animals such as Kangaroos and singing 'Wheels on the bus'. Year 2 had a fun time in the Jubilee Park and even the adults shared their talents on the monkey bars and the swings. It was a real pleasure to spend the day with Year 2 who showed exemplary behaviour and respect to all adults. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped. In addition, thank you to the volunteers at Shuttleworth who were so helpful and knowledgeable.



PARENT FORUM

Thank you to parents who have offered to become parent reps for their classes. Currently we still need reps for Nursery Class, Elm and Year 3. The role of parent rep involves attending a meeting every term with Ms Young and Mrs Thomas (held in the morning or evening for your convenience) and bringing along any matters and ideas to discuss from your fellow parents. The reps will then feedback outcomes to other parents. If you would like to represent your child's class at the termly meetings, please let the office or your class teacher know. We will send out letters to those parents who have offered to be reps after half term with details of the next meeting.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Applications are now open for Nursery admissions for 2018-19. Admissions are now managed by the school, and the application form is available to download on our school website.

We only have a few places remaining on our guided tour of Roebuck Academy and Nursery. If you haven't visited Roebuck already, then please book onto one of the tours through the school office.

PARENTS EVENING

Parents Evening was held on Thursday 8th February. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. If you didn't manage to make your appointment, please approach your child's classteacher who will be only too happy to provide you with an additional appointment.

DREAMCATCHER – MR DRACKFORD

On Thursday 1st February, we were joined by Mr Drackford who came in to talk to us about the inspirational work he is carrying out in Africa. So far, he has taken a team out every year to help a school in Gambia called Kassa Kunda. He has built the school two new classrooms and has provided them lunch for the past year. This year he is hoping to build them a park and a library. Children were eager to ask questions at the end of the session and were fascinated looking at the photos and videos that they were shown. Many have commented to me since the assembly that they feel inspired to help others and make a difference. Year 2 and Year 6 are going to write letters for Mr Drackford to take to the school and we are hopefully going to try and make links with the school for the future. You can follow Mr Drackford's trip to the Gambia on: <https://www.facebook.com/marriottsgambiaproject/> where he will upload daily videos of their progress. Please share these with your children



WHOLE SCHOOL MUSIC DAY

The school had a very successful music day with staff from Thomas Alleyne, Barnwell and Music service contributions. From this Year 2 will start to have recorder lessons and a set of Boomwhackers has been purchased for use by all classes. All of the children had a series of workshops that they attended where they all learned how to play a variety of instruments. This included: Guitar, Ukulele, Flute, Den bae Drums, Boomwhackers, Rainmakers to name but a few. Children had a fantastic day and our thanks go to Mrs Elson and Miss Whitfield for organising such an enjoyable day!



SPORTING NEWS – MR DOWNIE

KS2 'ON TOUR' All four classes in KS2 have now completed the KS2 'On Tour' sessions. The sessions have been energetic, engaging and educational for all of the children involved; enabling them to practice a wide range of skills in short timed activities. All great fun as well as being physically challenging!

The data collected from the sessions will be collated by Stevenage Sporting Futures and compared against other schools in the Stevenage area.



Netball On Friday, the Roebuck Netball teams travelled to Knebworth to play two league games. The 'A Team' lost 9-3, recovering admirably from a slow start in the game. The 'B Team' lost 1-0 in a game focused on learning new positions and practicing skills. It was pleasing to see so many new faces playing Netball for the first time and we hope to encourage more children to attend training every Friday after school.

Year 4 Mini Olympics Year 4 travelled to Stevenage Leisure Centre to take part in a wide range of activities, many of which they wouldn't normally get to experience. The children enjoyed activities such as golf and cheerleading, and we hope they choose to take up more in the future by joining clubs out of school.



CURRENT HOUSE POINTS

House Points



February Family Homework Project

Due: Monday 19th February 2018

For February's half term project, we would like for you and your child/children to create a valentine gift box/holder.

This first thing you need to do is to decide what you want to use to make the holder. Some ideas are a basket, a covered shoebox or cereal box, or anything else you choose to use. The only guideline is that it must be able to stand up by itself on a table.

After you have decided on your container, you will need to use different materials to decorate the holder. Some suggestions are markers, tissue paper, paint, ribbon, glitter, paint, buttons, felt, fabric, etc.

You could choose to include some messages inside the box/holder. Perhaps they could be messages to members of your family or even your friends.

Our goal for homework is for families to spend time creating the homework task **TOGETHER!**
The only limit for this homework is your imagination.. so think together how you want the finished project to look.

Your child's name must be clearly labelled in bold letters and easily visible on the container.

As with all Family homework, we will spend time sharing them with friends in class.