



Roebuck Academy

Newsletter: September 2018



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year! I hope everyone has had a lovely summer and that you have had plenty of time to relax and enjoy being with your children, family and friends. Talking to the children on the first few days back at school, many of them were excited to share their amazing adventures, experiences and challenges that they have completed over the summer. It was also great to hear how much they've all been looking forward coming back to school and being with their new teacher and friends. The children have all settled in well and have enjoyed being back at school during their first few days.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a special welcome to all our new families joining Roebuck Academy. I am sure your involvement with the school will prove to be rewarding, not only to your children, but to yourselves as parents.

The teachers have also been very busy over the summer and have been working together in their key stage teams to ensure that there is a real sense of continuity and consistency for your children. The classrooms are looking amazing and are focused on a child-centred approach to learning. I know that the children have been impressed and how much more settled it has made them feel coming back to school.

This summer we have had a number of playground equipment structures fitted at the school, adding such value to our provision for physical education. The purpose behind this is to help make playtimes and learning fun but also to improve the quality of all of our children's physical wellbeing.

It is now great to see so many children being physically active during both playtimes and learning time.

Thank you for your continued support at Roebuck and making such a good start to the new school year.

Yours faithfully,

Lynsey Young

MRS JOHNSON – NEW PASTORAL & ATTENDANCE LEADER AT ROEBUCK



Mrs Johnson is Roebuck's new Pastoral and attendance lead at the school. Most of you will already know Mrs Johnson as she has been working at the school for some time. Mrs Johnson has already been on the main gate in the morning and introducing herself to you all. If you or your child requires support with family, home or with attendance please approach Mrs Johnson who will be only too happy to help.

UNIFORM

At Roebuck Academy we are so impressed with how smart the children look. It is essential that we maintain this for the rest of the year as it gives the children pride, a sense of belonging, it raises self-esteem and it helps children to feel valued. Please ensure that you continue to support our school by ensuring that your child is always wearing correct school uniform. If your child is not wearing the correct uniform, we will lend them a replacement from our lost property collection. Please remember that shoes must be black and if your child wears black trainers, these must be all black in colour. Any families whose child/ren are not wearing correct school shoes will receive a phone call asking for a parent to bring in correct footwear. Our strict policy on school uniform is in place because we want the very best for every child and we want them to always feel proud. Please make sure all clothing is named.



SCHOOL PE KIT

It is **compulsory** that all children have the correct PE kits in school. We do encourage children to bring them in for the half term and take them home over the holidays to be washed. Earrings must be removed for PE. If your child usually wears earrings, please remove the earrings on PE days. Again, please ensure that all PE kit is clearly named.



WELCOME!

A warm welcome to the new teaching staff and families who have joined Roebuck this September! We would like to welcome Miss MacDonald to Year 2, Miss Williams to Year 3, Mrs Townley to Year One as well as Miss Smith to Year 5. We also welcome four support staff to the teaching team including; Mrs Heritage, Miss Pinnegar, Mrs Hashemi and Mrs Mills. I am sure everybody will make them feel at home! We are delighted to welcome all the children and families who are also new to Roebuck Academy this September. We have had a number of new starters in some of the year groups, but mostly new to Reception and Nursery, all of whom seem to have settled in very well this week.



RSA MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Members of the RSA will be holding a coffee morning on Friday 28th September at 9:00 in Buccaneers. All money raised will be donated to MacMillan. Further details shall be published in the RSA newsletter. Please come along and support this event.



PACKED LUNCHES

All packed lunch boxes need to be clearly labelled with the name of your child and their class. If your child has a packed lunch, please provide them with a healthy lunch. I would like to remind families that as a school we have Healthy School status. Therefore sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed in lunches.

A reminder that we do encourage your child to eat as much of their lunch as possible and bring home what they have not eaten. We do remind children not to share their lunch with anyone else.



DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTING CHILDREN

All children must be accompanied by an adult and dropped off safely into their classroom in the morning unless the children are in Years 5 or 6 and parental permission has been given for them to come to school alone. Please do not drop children off at the school gates by themselves. The same rules also apply when collecting children at the end of the school day. Please ensure that adults collect children from Year Reception to Year Four. This may be something new to you but I can assure you that this is necessary in keeping your children safe.

NURSERY & RECEPTION 2018/2019 TOURS.

If your child is due to start Nursery or Reception class in September 2019 we shall be offering guided tours of the school including our early years setting. Ensure you watch out for dates which will be advertised very soon.

PARENT FORUM REP MEETINGS

A reminder that we do have a parent representative for every class throughout the school. Each Parent rep is advertised on a poster on your child's classroom door so please familiarise yourself with who they are. Parent reps are approachable and are there for you to speak to regarding any concerns or positive comments that you may have about communication at the school. They are the voice of the parental community for your child's class. Please speak to them if you think there is anything else we can do to improve our lovely school.

HOLIDAYS

A reminder that no holiday should be taken during term time. As you are all aware, the current law does not permit for children to be taken on holiday during term time. Any absence as a rule will not be authorised. We appreciate that holidays are more expensive during school holidays but think of the time as well as the learning that your child misses when they are away from school. Your child will never have this time again and will have to catch up. Thank you for your support.

CAR PARK SAFETY

I would like to remind all parents and carers that the school car park is for STAFF ONLY, unless you have a disabled badge (please provide evidence of your disabled badge to the school office as we shall be updating records) Please do not park on the school roundabout or paved areas. Please also ensure that you DO NOT park your car in the car park entrance in front of the car park gates. Not only is this dangerous for staff gaining access to the school but this is also a fire entrance and exit and is to be kept fully clear at all times for emergency access. Please be extremely careful when dropping your children off and picking up from school. Do not stop to drop off your child in front of the school, the dropped kerbs or on the yellow zig zag lines, as this can be very dangerous and can obstruct other traffic, especially at busy times.

SCHOOL CLUBS AUTUMN TERM

Many thanks for the club reply slips sent back already. Clubs will start next week on Monday 17th September. Staff running the clubs will, where necessary, send out club allocation slips this week to notify you of when your child will attend the club that they have applied for.

HOMEWORK

Please look in the front of your child's homework book for the homework contract. This page outlines how school and parents can work together to support children reading their full potential. Please discuss this with your child and sign to say that you have read it. Homework will always be purposeful to help consolidate children's understanding of the work that they have completed in class which will help them to become independent learners. Remember that we are always here to help. A homework club is provided to assist children who may find it difficult to focus at home. Please help us by ensuring you reinforce the importance of children completing their homework on time each week and to take pride in the work that they do.

YEAR SIX SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Open evenings are taking place over the next few weeks at Stevenage secondary schools. Year 6 parents can now apply on-line at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions for their child's Secondary School place. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 31st October. Please contact the school office if you need help with your application, or do not have a computer.

E-SAFETY

Please spend some time looking at the Autumn term e-safety flyer produced by Herts for Learning as it provides you with information about e-safety and current issues with children's use of ICT at home and school. A copy of this can be found on the school website. When the children take part in ICT sessions at school they are encouraged to stay safe online and ensure that they are not doing anything that could make them vulnerable or put themselves at risk.

YEAR 6 KINGSWOOD MEETING

The Year 6 Kingswood meeting will be taking place at 6pm on Wednesday 19th September. We do ask that **all** parents /carers attend this meeting.

The meeting will provide parents with an outline of what the children will be doing during the week, as well as providing the opportunity for parents to ask any questions about the trip. In addition, medical information forms will be handed out and will need completing as Kingswood will need to be notified of dietary or medical needs of the children attending.

SAFETY

The entrances at the school **MUST** be locked at all times so that we can guarantee the safety of our children and staff. When we see these being wedged open it is disappointing. If you do notice that the entrances have been wedged open, please close these behind you. We need to ensure that the perimeter of the school is completely safe at all times and we can only do so when parents and carers work with us as a team. Thank you.

SCHOOL LIBRARY – READING



Mrs McGregor and Mrs Heritage will be helping to run and organise our school library this year along with the help of Mrs Buckingham. As of Monday 17th September the school library will be open every day from 8:25 am until 8:40am. Please encourage your child to come along and use the library.

LET'S CELEBRATE SUCCESS: OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

We would like to continue to celebrate your child's outside school achievement in school. If you would like your child's outside achievements celebrated and recognised by the school, please email details, with photos if possible, to our Office staff, Janet, Jade and Vikki on the admin account at: admin@roebuck.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively, it is always nice to see children's achievements first-hand. Children are allowed to bring certificate, badges and photographs into school to share with me, the teaching staff and their friends. We would like to celebrate all achievements, no success is too small.

LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

We are so very proud of two of our pupils at the school, Freya and Darcy. I felt it important that we share just how truly kind and thoughtful they both are. Over the summer holidays, both girls had their hair cut for charity which has helped raise money for the Little Princess Trust. The money raised will be donated to the charity as well as the hair being made into real hair wigs for young people and children who have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses. What a difference this will make! Well done girls – we are so very proud of you!



Ms L. Young

Headteacher