



# Roebuck Academy

## Newsletter: October 2018



thank you



### HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so very much for your support with the two fundraising events that have taken place so far this year. We held a lovely Jeans for Genes day in our second week of term, and a Coffee and Bake Off Competition for Macmillan in our third week. Thank you is extended to members of the RSA for running the event as well as Kim Parsons & Alison Hollicks for making fantastic chocolate cakes which were donated as prizes for the raffle.

As always, we appreciate your kindness and generosity with donations that go towards making a difference to such needy causes. All money raised has been donated to both charities.

**Jeans for Genes Total: £211.46**

**MacMillan Coffee Morning Total: £300.87**

Kind regards  
Lynsey Young

### Artsmark



We are delighted to inform you that Roebuck Academy has been awarded Platinum Artsmark status. This is a great accolade to the school and recognises the hard work and commitment of Mrs Elson and the staff team. We have always been a school committed to the Arts and ensuring that amongst all of the changes within education that we have maintained a broad and balanced arts focused curriculum. It is wonderful that the school has been acknowledged this way by the Artsmark Council. Platinum status is the highest level that can be achieved by a school and we are extremely proud. Many thanks to all involved including; Stevenage music service, Thomas Alleyne, Trots Hill and Barnwell for supporting our partnership work.

#### Artsmark feedback to the school...

*"The panel commends your continued development of high quality cultural and artistic opportunities for pupils at Roebuck Academy. You have demonstrated considerable leadership and support for schools within your cluster. You have also developed rewarding partnerships which have not only engaged pupils positively but enabled staff to raise their expectations. For the future, you may wish to consider how you can share best practice on a wider regional or national platform.*

*Congratulations on your Artsmark Platinum Award!"*



## **EARLY YEARS**

What a fantastic start to the new school year in Early Years. Over the summer holiday the staff team worked tirelessly to transform the classrooms and the outside area to modern, effective spaces where children will enjoy learning. The reception classes are now next to each other and are working as one unit. During child initiated learning children are able to free flow between the classes, giving them access to the wonderful new resources on offer. Nursery children are also able to come and join us during child initiated learning which will assist in their personal development and social skills.

Our outside area has lots of new equipment for the children to use too - a trim trail, a climbing frame, a wooden tunnel and a den making area which will enable the children to improve and strengthen their gross motor skills.

Thank you to the parents that attended our recent Tapestry and Phonics / Reading information sessions. Most parents and carers are now using Tapestry to keep up to date with their children's learning. If for any reason you are still unable to login, please come and see Mrs Prosser.

## **REMINDER**

As part of the morning and home time routines in all classes can we please remind parents that that you should not be entering the classrooms at these points in the day. We accept that Nursery and reception children may still be settling and may need their parents with them so as long as this has been agreed with the EYFS team this is fine and part of normal routines. However, this should not be the case from Year 1 through to Year 6. Coming into school in the morning, as well as home times are extremely busy transition points for the teaching staff and the children.

In Key Stage One and Two we have enclosed cloakroom areas that will accommodate a small number of children at any one time. It is really unhelpful if we have clusters of parents in here as well. Please help to keep our routines as organised and as safe as possible by staying outside of the classrooms.

If there is a message or something urgent that you need to pass on to your child's classteacher you will either need to wait until ALL children are inside the classroom or pass the details onto the staff in the main school office. This has been mentioned several times before so please help support your children as well as your child's class teacher.



## **CLASS MANTRA**

As part of transition into your child's New Year groups, each class developed and created a class mantra. This is a set of rules and aspirations that the class have agreed to strive towards with the help of each other. Please speak to your child about how they are working towards this every day at school.

## **NURSERY CLASS ADMISSIONS**

Please be advised that Admissions to Nursery class has changed for September 2019/2020. Sibling rules no longer apply and we are now running admissions on a first come, first served basis for this year group. This is consistent across ALL Stevenage schools. For further details please see application forms and flyers on the school website.

## **BOOK DONATIONS**

If you do have any books at home that your children have out-grown and you are happy to donate then we will be happy to receive them. Please ensure that they are in very good condition and are suitable for children at the school.

## **FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER – MRS JOHNSON & MRS TYRELL**

Roebuck welcomes Mrs Tyrell to the Roebuck team. Mrs Tyrell will be supporting the school with our pastoral work. She will be based at our school for one afternoon during the school week. She will be assisting Mrs Johnson with family support as well as issues such as attendance and punctuality. Mrs Tyrell knows Roebuck very well and was the family support worker at the school some years ago. If you do feel that you are in need of support for you and your family please approach Mrs Johnson or Mrs Tyrell who will be happy to provide you with an appointment.

## **STAFF VACANCY – MIDDAY MEAL SUPERVISOR**

We have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisory Assistant. You would be asked to work between the hours of 12:00 and 1:30 Monday through to Friday.

If you would like to apply, please contact the school office for an application form.

## **READING CHALLENGE – MRS SPARROW**

Well done to all the children who completed the Summer Reading Challenge! This meant that they read at least 6 library books over the Summer Holiday and were presented with a well-deserved certificate! A DVD treat will be held next week one afternoon to say an extra well done from Mrs Sparrow!

## **SPONSORSHIP**

Thank you so much to Lois Walsh's Granddad, Fred Gomer and Sarah Jones, Jamie's mother, in Year Four. We are now the proud owners of a set of high-vis jackets that we can use with our children for school trips. Lois's Granddad contributed the funding for the vests and Jamie's mother provided the printing for free. Your help and support is very much appreciated. Such donations will contribute towards keeping our pupils safe. Thank you!

## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations to Mrs Jarman and Mrs Chiltern who both gave birth to their babies last week. Mrs Jarman is happy to announce the safe arrival of baby Elijah Jarman who was born on 29th September weighing a very decent 8lb 14 ounces. Mrs Chiltern also welcomed baby Willow Chiltern who was born on Wednesday 3rd October weighing a lovely 7lb 9ounces. Both ladies and the new additions are doing very well. I am sure that they will be visiting soon enough for lots of cuddles.



## **TERM DATES 2019/20**

Please note that the term dates for 2019/20 have been updated and are on the school website. Ensure that you do not book holidays during school term time. A reminder that this is against current law and that any absence from school does affect your child's education.

## **SCHOOL GROUNDS**

As you are aware we have a number of pathways that lead into the main school playground. A few parents are worried as their children have been scratched and knocked into accidentally while parents are making their way into classrooms. Please can we request that all parents are considerate and more careful when around small children. Thank you.

## **PARENT FORUM – CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

Thank you to parents who have offered to become parent reps for their classes. We now have a representative for every class from Nursery through to Year Six. We held our first meeting for this year last week and a number of very useful points were raised that were constructive as well as thought-provoking. One issue that was raised involves children being collected from school at the end of the day for playdates. We have revised our procedures and we now require ALL parents to complete a written consent form for all playdates. This will be a simple form that requires details and a signature from a parent or carer. Slips will be available at the main school office or outside each classroom. Classteachers will also have a bank of slips that you can complete. They will be printed on Bright Blue Paper so please look out for these. Details can be seen below. If you are not attending school in the morning an email will be required granting permission. If you do send an email please ensure you have contacted the school office to ensure that this has been received.

## **PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM – END OF DAY COLLECTION**

I ..... (Name of parent/carer)

Give permission for my child : ..... ( Child's name)

To go home with .....(Parent's name)  
after school today / tomorrow / another date..... (Please write date and circle)

Signed : .....( Parent/Carer)

## **PARENTS EVENING**

Parent's Evening will be held on Thursday 25th October between 2pm and 7:30pm. Thank you to everyone who has already booked an appointment. If you have not managed to book an appointment, please do so as soon as possible.

## **HOME LEARNING**

Many thanks to parents and carers who were able to make our home learning workshops on Monday. Handouts and documents will be added to the school website as well as the revised home learning policy.

## **NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

School Council are delighted to report that all of the children at the school are very happy with the new school playground equipment. After a year of requesting fun activities at lunchtime, senior leaders ensured that this is what the children received arriving back in September. Such projects like this take time and it is so lovely to see the children engaged and keeping active at lunchtimes. The children have been enjoying getting used to the new playtime equipment and routines during the first few weeks. As well as the large boat climbing frame, the playground has been zoned to allow children to play with a variety of different equipment. With a timetable for each class to be on the marked court area, climbing frame as well as small games, skipping ropes and table tennis tables- play and lunchtimes have become more fun!

## **CHILDREN'S OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS**

I am always amazed by how lovely, kind and talented our pupils are at the school. This week I was very proud to be informed of Robbie's success in motor cross and Rosie's support of the Garden House hospice in Letchworth.

I was also pleased about Devon's medal that he was awarded for being a fantastic member of his football team. Well done all of you. We are so proud of you!

## **ONLINE SAFETY**

If any of our lovely pupils in Year 2 would like to become a digital leader please see Mrs Elson for an application form. School council will then interview applicants. The digital leaders for Year 3-6 will continue in their role until later in the year.

We are also pleased to announce that all of the work around E-safety at the school has been acknowledged and Mrs Elson's article is published in a national magazine for primary leaders. The article can be found here and includes some expert tips from our very own pupils at the school:

<https://www.primaryleaders.com/school-procurement/school-internet/is-your-online-safety-policy-due-an-overhaul>

# Bake Off Winners 2018

Year Six: Harry  
Year Five: Ella  
Year Four: Jasmine  
Year Three: Aaniya  
Year Two: Joshua  
Year One: Freya  
Year Reception: Erik  
Year Nursery: Danny  
Staff Entry: Mr Mari

All winning entries will be awarded with a lovely cook book. Well done everyone!

