



Monday 6th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and well and that you are all managing in these unprecedented times. I thought it would be appropriate to let you all know how life has been at Roebuck Academy now that we have all of our year groups back at school!

As you are already aware, we have been staging a very careful and safe transition back for all pupils over the past month. We are aware that this may have taken some time, but it was well-worth it seeing the end results. As well as the children of key workers, we now have all year groups back at Roebuck Academy! As well as being excited and happy to see our Roebuck children return, we are overwhelmed by the support that our families have displayed and shared through such testing times.

Children have loved coming back to school and have enjoyed being back with their friends and class teachers. Every class I have visited over the past month has been buzzing with enthusiasm and positivity with children genuinely expressing a love for being back at school. Children have re-engaged with their learning quickly and any lost ground is beginning to be made up. We are absolutely thrilled to have so many children back after such a long time away. We have missed every single child so much and re-connecting with them has been truly rewarding. Our hearts genuinely ached with classrooms left empty and alone; we are now happy again, with our school, once again, full of life, laughter and energy.

Well done everyone for such an amazing display of determination, support and collaboration. Without the collective efforts of our entire school community, this would not have been possible.

SEPTEMBER 2020

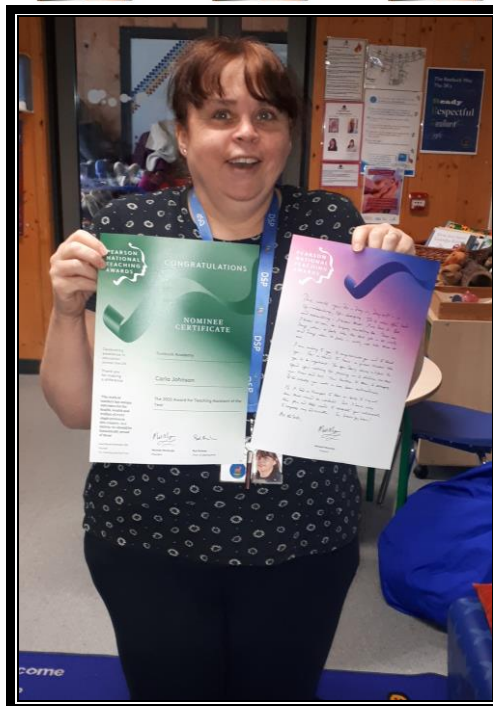
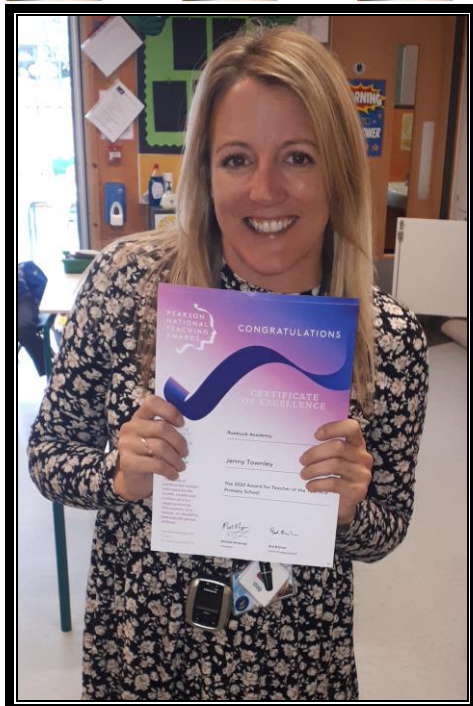
Last week, the government announced their plans for the return of pupils in the Autumn term. From September 2020, all children will be expected to return to school. Attendance will be compulsory and will go back to how it was pre-COVID-19. Attendance will only change if there is a further local or national lockdown. We are extremely happy and excited about the return of our Roebuck family. Rest assured, when we do return, we will ensure that Roebuck Academy is as safe as it can possibly be.

I will of course share with you more detailed information about September as soon as I am able to. We are busy reading and digesting all of the guidance with additional information promised over the next couple of weeks. There will be much work needed to get the school ready to safely receive all pupils in each year group in September. We shall be busy over the summer holidays working hard to ensure our school is ready and prepared.

Over the summer period, as well as taking a well-earned break, school staff will be busy planning a curriculum that will enable pupils to engage effectively with their learning; recovering some of the ground that has been lost due to lockdown. This will be a significant task for everyone involved. We have therefore allocated three of our INSET days to help with planning and preparation. As with all good planning, we do not want to rush. Therefore, the first day back for the children will be Monday 7th September 2020.

Children across our entire Early Years setting will have a staggered transition in September. This will enable the children to settle in well at Roebuck Academy and adjust to the new regulations and procedures. Teaching staff across the setting will be in contact with families before the end of term regarding a starting date.

PEARSON TEACHING AWARDS



We are extremely proud to announce that two members of our Roebuck teaching team were nominated to receive a Pearson Teaching Award! Pearson Teaching Awards are a great accolade for any member of staff and a real celebration of excellence. We are very thankful to parents and colleagues who have taken the time to complete the nomination forms to ensure that excellence is both rewarded and celebrated.

Well done Mrs. Townley who was nominated and awarded a certificate of excellence for Teacher of the year. Well done equally to Mrs. Johnson who was also nominated and received a certificate for Teaching Assistant of the year. We were also very fortunate to be nominated as a school and as a Trust for the excellent work that has happened throughout the year. As always, such nominations would not happen without the hard work of all involved. Thank you!

FREE SCHOOL MEALS REMINDER

If your circumstances have recently changed, your child may now be entitled to Free School Meals. The school also receives extra funding for your child should you be eligible. Please apply if you are eligible asap. Please visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

CURRICULUM FOCUS – SEPTEMBER

Our curriculum in September will be very different than usual. Initially, we will invest in our pupils and help them re-formulate their friendships and relationships with their teachers and peers. After this, we will support children in understanding the lockdown period and implement a recovery curriculum that will support any gaps in learning lost from the year before. First, we will consolidate skills/knowledge and after that, we will move onto their current year group's learning objectives and targets. It will be even more important next year that you support your child with any home learning set and that and reading is completed regularly to support progress and achievement.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

The Year 6 Secondary transition day will not be happening this year. Secondary schools have already begun all transition procedures and are completing online meetings with the children. At school, we are working hard to ensure that Year 6 are also ready to move on up into their new school.

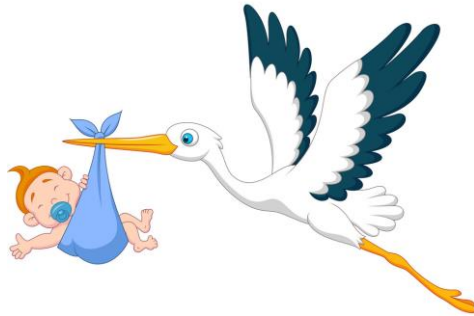
Mr. Alden and Mrs. Sparrow have been working hard to support the pupils and prepare them for their new adventure and journey into Year 7. End of year arrangements will include: graduation photographs, the completion of their own year book and maybe the odd small surprise or two!

TRANSITION FOR ALL PUPILS YEAR N – 5

Traditionally, children from across the school would have spent 3 days in July either visiting their new setting, (if in Nursery or Reception class), or visiting their new classroom and teacher. Due to the current unprecedented times, we are not able to follow our normal procedures and routines. The bubble system that we are operating in school will not allow for our normal procedures to take place. Instead, we will be sending home information this week for your viewing. We will provide you with a transition presentation that you can view with your child, as well as a whole school letter confirming who your child's new class teacher will be next year. Any work usually completed in class during transition week, will now take place in September.

ACADEMIC REPORTS REMINDER

Here at Roebuck Academy, as well as being busy with key worker bubbles and additional year groups, we are also busy working towards preparing end of year academic reports. Reports, as always, will be ready for the last week of the school term which will begin on Monday 13th July. We will write to you next week to update you on how and when you may collect these if your child is working from home. If your child is in school, they will take their report home with them on their last school day of the academic year.



SPECIAL DELIVERY!

We are very happy to share some wonderful news! Mrs. Sparrow, our Year 6 teacher, is expecting her first baby in the Autumn term and has now shared her news publicly. We know that Year 6 children are delighted, as are we! Congratulations Mrs. Sparrow!

SUMMER HOLIDAYS REMINDER

Roebuck Academy will be closed for education during the summer holidays. It is important that all staff have quality time in which to spend with their families and rest before the hard work begins for the new academic year ahead. There will not be an expectation for teaching staff to set work throughout the holidays or equally for you and your child to complete learning tasks during the holidays. What we would ask, if possible, is that children practise their reading and basic Mathematical skills as much as possible. This consists of times tables / corresponding division facts and number bonds.

During the holidays, Brighter Days will be running their holiday club at the school. A flyer was circulated to all parents and carers last week and is also located on the school website for reference.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN ON SCHOOL SITE

A reminder to all parents and carers attending site. Toddlers should be in buggies and babies can be in arms but parents and carers are responsible for keeping children with them at all times in accordance with our risk assessment. This is for the safety of all. Thank you. This is noted especially for those who have recently returned to site. If you are unable to comply with the school's risk assessment please keep small children at home.

YEAR 1 & 2 BUBBLE

To kick off their engagement about their book of study this week, the Year 1 and 2's created their own textured star fish! They used sugar puffs to create an interesting texture which resembled a star fish's skin. We experimented with different ways to place the sugar puffs on. We crumbled them which created a brilliant effect! They look brilliant! At Roebuck Academy we are Artists!



YEAR 2 BUBBLE

Year 2 children have returned with tonnes of enthusiasm and creativity. We have read our class book, 'Dear Greenpeace', and found out lots of facts about whales, made sea turtles, starfish and even planted some seeds. We have been learning about the continents and oceans and we have been locating them on a map. We have also been reading lots and concentrating on our spellings and handwriting. We are so happy to be back!



YEAR 3 BUBBLE

In English, we have been focusing on the Iron Man! We were extremely excited to start this book as it is Miss Whitfield and Miss Williams's favourite book! We started the week by looking at different descriptions the author had used to create an image of what the Iron Man looked like. We then created our own description using a range of figurative language. The Year 3 children then wrote a character description based on the Iron Man. We were absolutely blown away by the high standard of writing that the children produced! The children even received a Head Teacher's award! WOW! At Roebuck Academy we are Authors!



YEAR 4, 5 & 6 KEY WORKER BUBBLE



Year 4, 5 and 6 have had another busy week. From drawing and painting still life pictures with acrylic paint in year 6, to discussions about the positives and negatives of deforestation in year 5, to being on a tourist board promoting business to the Alps in year 4, we really have journeyed through a wealth of knowledge! However, the activity which we think all children will agree they enjoyed most, was in fact an afternoon of origami. The children created origami penguin families - the more confident they became the smaller the square they began with! Take a look at their fantastic creations and see if you can spot the entire family...adult, toddler, 1-month old baby, 1-day old baby...the names continued...!



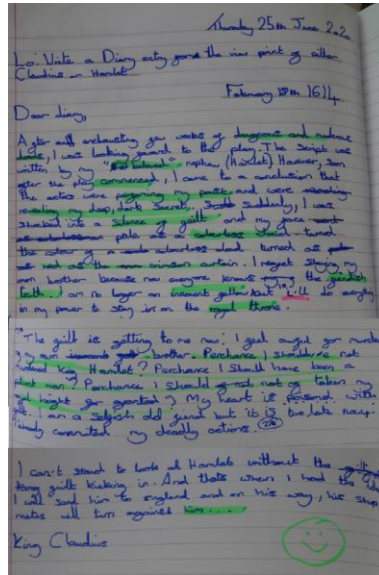
YEAR 5 BUBBLE

Year 5 have really enjoyed finding out about plant reproduction. Mrs. Jarman and the children went down to the allotment to see it all happening in action. They found some strawberry plants that had sent out runners with small plantlets on. These will each then grow into a new strawberry plant and be identical to the parent. The boys pulled some of these up as well as some raspberry plants to see if they can get them to grow at home. At Roebuck Academy we are Scientists!



YEAR 6 BUBBLE

Year 6 have been studying the Shakespeare play, 'Hamlet' this week and have written some descriptive diary entries from the point of view of either Hamlet or King Claudius at the point in the story where Hamlet realises the perpetrator was his very own Uncle - King Claudius - who in fact killed his father! One of our favourite texts! At Roebuck Academy we are Shakespearean Authors!



MINDSET BOOK SELECTION OF THE WEEK:



Again, I would like to thank the amazing teaching and support staff here at Roebuck Academy. Without each and every one of them, the school would not be running as efficiently as it is. They have faced significant change since March and have demonstrated such resilience and determination in bringing back all of our pupils safely. They have welcomed all children with genuine happiness and excitement and have ensured that they have enjoyed their time at school while here. What a team!

Keep Shining!

Ms. Lynsey Young

That's what we are all about at Roebuck Academy - creating memorable learning experiences for our children.

DREAM, BELIEVE, ACHIEVE