



Monday 24th May 2021

ROEBUCK ACADEMY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Keeping you up-to-date
with what's going on!

CUDDLE WITH CARE!

Dear Parents & Carers,

Last week saw the further lifting of COVID restrictions across England. While the guidance for primary schools remains the same at the moment, we are starting to plan how we will move forward over the coming weeks.

I hope you have all enjoyed seeing relatives and giving 'cautious' hugs to close family and friends over the past week. We now need some warm weather to be able to continue seeing people outdoors and enjoy the slight relaxation of restrictions.

At school we are continuing to operate in our year group bubbles with strict protocols still in place. Staff continue to wear masks in communal areas and we request that adults continue to wear masks for drop off and pick up. We are certainly not out of the woods yet and there have been several primary schools across the country that have had bubble closures and in some cases, whole school closures due to positive cases of this new COVID variant.

Please continue to be vigilant and follow social distancing rules whilst on the school site. It is very refreshing and enjoyable to be able to socialise more after such a long period of restrictions, however, we must remain cautious and protect the bubbles we have formed in school.

Year Nursery Acorn & Chestnut

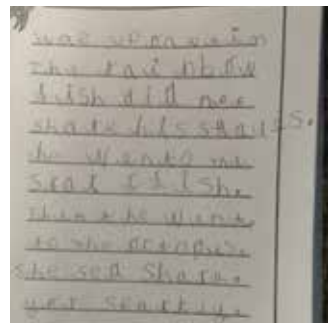
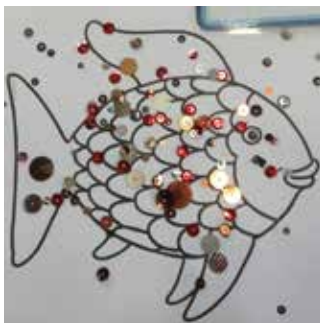
In Nursery we have been reading the story 'Romp in the Swamp' and we have been searching for dinosaurs in our Nursery garden.

We have been mark making in the paint using dinosaur feet. The children have been measuring dinosaurs using non-standard units of measure, such as the Duplo blocks, and practising to write the numbers onto the whiteboards.

We have been using our gross motor skills to help us build a dinosaur cave using the crates and a cargo net. The children have also enjoyed acting out the narrative from the story in our very own dinosaur swamp.

The children have been busy being palaeontologists, digging up dinosaurs, their bones and their fossils in the sandpit. They were very excited to dig up a dinosaur and match it to the correct name.

At Roebuck Academy we are Archaeologists!





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Year Reception Oak & Willow

The Rainbow Fish

As part of our Water topic this term we have been reading the story, 'The Rainbow Fish' by Marcus Pfister. Every day we re-tell the story using our class story map as well as the actions that the children have created for key words in the story. We have all had a go at acting out the story and pretending to be different characters. We even got the opportunity to look closely at a real fish. We were able to see its scales, fin, tail and the tiny teeth inside its mouth.

The children have also been writing the story of The Rainbow Fish. They thought about what happened first, next and finally in the story and wrote this in their own words. The children have worked hard on using their phonics to segment the words they wanted to write and remembered to use their cursive handwriting.

At Roebuck Academy we are Story writers!



Year 1 Elm & Maple

Year one have been learning about prepositional language, writing instructions and using adverbs of time.

We were left a letter from a pirate saying that there had been some treasure buried deep somewhere in the outdoor Roebuck area.

We followed the photo clue, hopping over the icy squares, leaping over the crocodile pit, climbing up the rusty rigging and bumping across the rickety pathways that led us to the gleaming booty!

When we got back to class, we wrote instructions for another pirate to find the treasure! At Roebuck Academy we are Treasure Hunters!



Year 2 Birch & Pine

Den building, animal holding, time telling! Another busy few weeks in Year 2!

We were extremely lucky to have a visit from Safari Stu, who showed us a huge range of different animals. We saw a tarantula, snakes and a chameleon. Some of us were really brave and held the animals too! We got some fantastic writing out of the children after this event and we created a recount using time connectives.

We have also been building dens as part of our new instruction unit. Using tarpaulin, large pegs, string and sticks, we had to build a den that our group could sit in. We could then decorate it with stones, twigs and flowers. We really had to work as a team, listen to each other and be prepared to try out different ideas.

At Roebuck Academy we are Adventurers!





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Year 3 Cherry & Pear

LQ: How is a shadow made?

In Science this week, we were learning all about shadows. We learnt new vocabulary:

- Opaque
- Transparent
- Translucent

We found out that shadows are formed when an opaque object blocks the light source. To enhance our learning further, we created shadow monsters outside. We had different challenges each time - we even had to make a shadow monster with no legs!

We also set up a stick outside Pear class and observed how the shadows moved throughout the day.

Roman Day!

This week we all experienced a Roman Day! This day was filled with lots of different activities all relating to Romans. In the morning, we had a carousel of activities in our groups. The different stations were:

1. Javelin Practice - Roman's enjoyed javelin as a sport. The soldiers also carried Javelin's too.
2. Gods and goddesses top trumps - The Romans worshipped many different gods and goddesses. We had to read about the different Gods and create top trumps about the Gods.
3. Create a Roman Town - Each group had to design a part of a Roman Town.
4. Tie-dyeing - Each group had to create a tie-dye. They had to chose to dye their material either turmeric (yellow), spinach (green) or beetroot (red).
5. Puzzles - This station had lots of different puzzles relating to the Romans. They could choose mosaic drawing, colour by Roman numerals or word search.
6. Pin the dot on Italy - The children were blindfolded and had to pin the dot on Italy.

After these activities, Miss Whitfield led the children in the singing of 2 different Roman songs.

After lunch, we participated in a quiz. We were split into different teams and had to think of a quiz name! There were 3 rounds to the quiz - all relating to our knowledge we learnt in the day!





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Next, we sat on the floor in a circle (how they ate at banquets) and got to try some foods the Romans had. We could try:

- Dates
- Figs
- Olives
- Bread with honey
- Grapes

Finally, we were treated to a real life gladiator fight between Mrs Chapman and Mr Steedman. The girls were told they had to sit at the back just like they were in the Roman time. The boys got to sit at the front! We all chanted for Mrs Chapman to win and she did!

We all had a brilliant day! At Roebuck Academy we are Gladiators, Romans and Historians!

Year 4 Cedar & Rowan

Art Attack! Year Four have been letting their creative juices flow over the past week and have been delving into their unit of art work. To begin the unit, we studied lenticular optical illusions inspired by Luz Perez Ojeda and created our own. We noticed that depending on what perspective we looked at the optical illusion, a different image could be seen. Next, we designed and drafted ideas for a willow pattern plate which involved careful hand movements and delicate brush strokes. It was very hard not to cover our hands in blue ink but luckily, no smurf hands here! Moving on, we then took part in an observational drawing of everyday items for our still life lesson, this was inspired by multi-medium pieces by Giorgio Morandi. It was clear to us that using a HB pencil and 2B pencil created very different effects for our shading and sketching. At Roebuck Academy we are Artists!

Year 5 Juniper & Sycamore

Miral and Moaz have been fasting during the month of Ramadan. They produced a presentation, which they shared with Juniper class, to explain why they have done this and how they celebrate the end of Ramadan with Eid. In addition, they brought in some items to help our understanding further. These included lanterns, wooden toothbrushes (they use these to do their teeth as using toothpaste would break their fasting) and their Qur'an. They explained how this is not read as we read books and showed the class the letters which are very different to the English alphabet. Miral even read a section of the book and wowed us with her fluency in a different language. Juniper loved finding out more about their religion and the celebrations they have. We are very proud of the commitment they have shown to their beliefs.





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Last week, Year 5 got dressed up as Victorian children and enjoyed taking part in a role play day. First, we had to choose a Victorian name which we would be known by for the rest of the day. Before entering the classroom, we had to line up silently and in height order. The boys had to be at the front of the line and the girls behind them. When we entered the classroom, 'Ma'am' and 'Sir' checked our hands for cleanliness and we had to chant a rhyme, 'cleanliness is next to godliness.' A few children were told off for being dirty or biting their nails.



The first part of the day was filled with the 3 R's - Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic. Victorian education wasn't very interactive so we spent most of our time chanting (times tables and poems) and we weren't allowed to ask questions! We also read text from a Victorian book about kings and queens and read a poem which explained how the Union Jack flag was created.



Everyone had the chance to practise their handwriting using a pen and ink as well as writing on a slate - we ended up with some very messy children.



During playtime, we played some games that Victorian children would have played. These included: pass the slipper, throwing bean bags at a target, hoops, hopscotch, skipping and tug of war.



After play, we got creative and made our own spinning tops, a thaumatrope (which is a Victorian animation made from card) and chalk observational sketches of leaves.



During the afternoon, we watched a production by Hobgoblin production company about a boy called Harry who escaped from the workhouse and ran away to London. This was a really interesting play which helped our learning come alive as well as teaching us more facts about Victorian times. At Roebuck Academy we are Victorians!



Year 6 Elder

In Year 6 we are nearing the end of our unit on the Maya civilisation. Throughout this unit the children have learnt about the Maya creation story, made a Maya calendar, written their own adaptation of a Maya story and learnt about the writing and number systems that the Maya used.



In art this half term we have been 'making our voice heard' by creating some pieces of work based on emotions by Kathe Kollwitz and designing our own 'Covid inspired' Guernica by Pablo Picasso.



During computing we have been learning about binary code and how it is made using switches and we have learnt how to count in binary.

As we near the end of the year we start our new literacy unit titled 'Looking back'. The children will be writing their own reflective piece looking back at some of their stand out memories through the course of their primary school journey. Tissues at the ready! At Roebuck Academy we are creating memories!



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Year 3 Roman Day pictures...





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Year 5 Victorian Day pictures continued...

