



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

Visit our website  
[www.roebuck.  
herts.sch.uk](http://www.roebuck.herts.sch.uk)

## Key Dates

**15/1/24- 19/1/24**

**Bikeability week – Year 4**

**16/1/24**

**Year 6 visit to Tring museum**

**22 /1/24 – 26/1/24**

**Oak & Willow local walk**

**24/1/24**

**Badminton festival**

**26/1/24**

**Roman workshop – Year 3**

**29/1/24**

**Mingle with your mentor- 8.15am**

## Message from Mrs Toal

We have come to the end of another busy (chilly) week at Roebuck! I am writing the first newsletter for the new term in Mr Mari's absence.

Despite the cold temperatures, we have been busy learning in and outside of the classrooms...

Year 4 have had a successful Bikeability week! Year 6 have enjoyed a trip to the Natural History Museum in Tring and Reception braved the cold when completing this week's forest school session (thankfully next week looks a little warmer for their local walk).

I am quickly getting to know the children, the Roebuck routines and the many, many strengths of the school. It has been nice to meet many of you at the school gates and in a few weeks' time we will be welcoming you in for parents' evenings (more information to follow).

The weeks are already racing away with us, and we have many exciting events and opportunities planned to compliment the school curriculum. We would like to thank you all for the support and praise, we have been receiving.

I would like to take this chance to share that Mr Mari is recovering well at home and although this is likely to stay the same for the next week or so, he is planning a phased return to work for the weeks that will follow and it is likely you will begin to see him back in school before half-term. I will again update you when I have more information. He is very much missing Roebuck and has been in regular contact with school leaders. Please rest assured that the staff team will continue to work closely together to ensure the school runs smoothly. We have passed on the many messages and best wishes we have received – thank you.

Please read on to see what each year group has been up to.

## Key Dates

**29/1/24**

**Wear Pyjamas today! National story telling week.**

**29/1/24**

**Ready, steady, read assembly – KS2**

**30/1/24**

**Ready, steady, read assembly – KS1**

**1/2/24**

**Year 2- Chinese new year dance workshop**

**2/2/24**

**Year 1 – space dome**

**5/2/24**

**E-safety week**



ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

It is really important that each child reaches our school attendance target of 96%. Please make sure your child is in school and on time everyday!

Our whole school attendance figure for this week

94%

96%

Attendance percentage we aim for every week

## Attendance Awards



Birch, Pear, Cedar  
96.7%



Elm  
96.3%



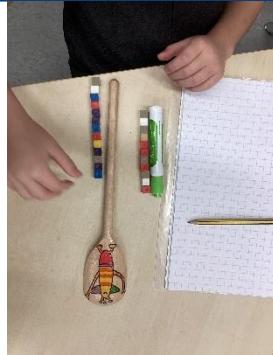
Ash  
94.7%

The winning class(es) will receive an additional playtime this week as a reward. Well done to Pine Class who had 95.7 % attendance!

## Maple and Elm

Wow! What a great start back to Year One zooming straight into our Space Topic! We have been reading "The Way Back Home" by Oliver Jeffers and have been writing some fantastic sentences about the little boys unexpected journey to the moon. In Maths we have made sure we are being extremely accurate, as we have been measuring using 1cm cubes. We have been lining up the cubes very carefully so that they are the same as a ruler. This has helped us to make comparisons and use language such as "longer" "shorter" and "equal". We are practising our joining skills in Design and Technology, ready to make hand puppets in a few weeks (we can't wait to show you them!) We have used glue and staples to join two pieces of fabric together and discussed which was stronger. Using a stapler was tricky, and we needed to make sure we were very safe when attaching the fabrics together. We have also learnt how to draw a continuous line drawing of our friends, remembering not to take our pencil off of the paper...can you see who we have drawn!

In Year One, we are explorers!





ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

D R E A M S

Our SCHOOL  
VALUE for this  
half-term:

A  
F  
E  
T  
Y



## Pear and Cherry:

We have kicked started this half term by starting our new topic 'Rocks and Soils'. We used our observation and classifying skills to group and compare rocks. We thoroughly enjoyed feeling the different textures and taking in natural beauty. Year 3, then had a go at completing some observational drawings of what they discovered and could see. At Roebuck, we are scientists.



## Pine and Birch:

Year 2 have had a great start to the New Year. We are enjoying our new topic 'China' and have been learning about its location and what life is like there. In DT we have been learning to sew a running stitch and this will help us in our future learning, when making a pouch. We have enjoyed being back dancing and working together to create different dance sequences. In Science we are exploring different materials! We are all looking forward to the term ahead!





ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Cedar and Rowan:

It has a busy start to the term in Year 4. In art, we have been getting creative and drawing and then painting our final pieces. We had to arrange five items to create a still life composition with a theme. We then looked carefully at this and sketched it out before using water colours to paint it. We used black and white to help create shades of our colours which allowed us to achieve a 3D picture.

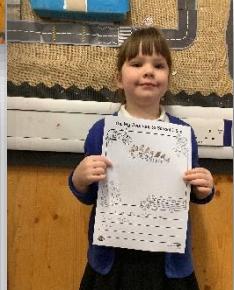


In Literacy, we are writing fantasy stories. We started the unit by exploring the main character in the story of Aladdin and watched clips from different versions of the story to inspire us. We have enjoyed developing our characters and building up the setting in the start of our stories.

Our new science unit is all about sound. This week we have been looking at different types of sounds and how they can be made. We've had fun trying to make sounds that fit certain criteria. For example, loud, high pitched and continuous.

## Oak and Willow:

This week the children have been very excited about our new topic 'Let's Explore'. We began our new topic by exploring our local area and created a mind map of what makes Stevenage special. We identified lots of places including, the football stadium, the cinema, the shops, the theatre, Marks and Spencer's, Fairlands Park and many more! We then looked at photographs that had been taken in and around Stevenage and tried our hardest to recognise where they were taken. We also used Google Earth to zoom into the school and different places around Stevenage. The children all enjoyed contributing to a class display of our local area and made different types of homes, shops and buildings. During our CIL time, some children have been busy writing independently about what they see in our local area. What a fun week it has been! At Roebuck we are geographers!





ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!



## Elder and Ash:

This half term we have started a new geography unit all about the UK. We started the unit by locating the countries and some of the main cities using atlases. We have also had our first Dream Catcher assembly of the new year and were visited by Axis, who came in and did a presentation about Martin Gren and about what their cameras were for. We even saw a live feed from a train station camera in Sweden! In Art we have begun a unit about Still Life. In computing we began using spreadsheets to look at calculations. Our focus text this half term in Literacy is Kensuke's Kingdom. We read the first chapter and did some freeze frames before starting our sentence writing focusing on language to describe the sea.



## Acorn and Chestnut:

This week in nursery we have introduced the children to our new topic 'People who help us'. We kicked off our week learning about doctors and the very important jobs that they do. The children were very excited to see that our role play area had turned into a doctor's surgery over the holidays. The children have been busy booking doctor's appointments, writing prescriptions and using the stethoscopes and bandages.





ROEBUCK ACADEMY

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Celebrating another special week  
at our great school!

## Juniper and Sycamore

What a lovely start to the new year we have had in Year 5! In science we have been investigating materials and the differences between the particles of solids, liquids and gasses. As you can see in the pictures, it was a tight fit for some! (pictures for this will follow) After looking at this we sorted a number of different things into each of the 3 states. Do you think cream is a solid or a liquid?

In maths we have started our new topic focused on reading and understanding timetables and graphs. We have got off to a great start in this topic, working well in groups and pairs to find answers and investigate the line graphs.



## Dreamcatcher assembly

For our first dreamcatcher of 2024, we were visited by Axis. They are the very first company to invent CCTV cameras. This assembly was about CCTV cameras and how they keep us safe. They also showed us about different types of camera settings and how they are useful and how they work. Cameras can tell your gender, age and what you are currently wearing. They can also tell if a car is 100% working. CCTV cameras can also show how many people are in a specific area. This assembly taught us that we can all invent something if we want to. The assembly inspired us to invent something innovative and mind-blowing. It also showed us that we could do many things and to never give up. Axis all enjoy their jobs and they all want to make the world a better and safer place even if they all have different jobs.

Written by Jazmin P, Deputy Head girl