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HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Roebuck Academy, we use Growth Mindset as an approach to motivate and inspire children to learn. We continually reinforce the concept that learning 'should not be easy' and that it takes hard work, time, practise and effort to be successful learners.

In assembly this week, I shared a small video clip of a sportsman learning to play table tennis. It was a time lapse of his efforts across an entire year. Within 12 months he rapidly transformed from a beginner to an expert! His transformation was remarkable!

He demonstrated great determination and perseverance in continuing his year long journey to improve, and in time became much better at table tennis – his goal! I'm sure at times he made mistakes and felt like giving up, however, he didn't. He continued, sought help, practised and improved from his mistakes, eventually turning these into opportunities to improve his performance.

It is with this in mind that we have spoken to the children about how this should help to inspire them in their learning. I have popped into classes over the last few weeks and children are working hard and placing lots of effort into their work. However, the teaching staff and I always encourage children to work a bit harder and to push themselves that little bit further. We will keep reminding the children, and teaching them all to have a growth mindset attitude.

As parents and carers, please try and encourage children at home to have a go and to be determined a little bit more each time they learn something new. Do praise effort as long as this is deserved, not if you know already that it is something that they can do easily. Please also bear in mind that what you say to children greatly influences the way they behave and their attitude to learning itself.

I will leave you with a quote from Steve Biddulph... "Children learn how to guide and organise themselves internally, from the way we guide and organise them with our words, so it pays to be positive."

Kind regards

Lynsey Young
Headteacher

FARWELL

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Gainley who has had to retire due to ill health. Mr Gainley has been a conscientious Site manager for Roebuck and has shown such incredible commitment to the School for over 23 years. He has worked under numerous head teachers and has always been friendly and approachable whether on the gate or in and around the school. He has worked hard to maintain a dramatically changing site, from when we were originally a two form entry school, through the two phases of the new build, up to the present day. On occasions he has even supported learning with the younger children when looking at 'People who help us', and has talked to classes about his role around school. Children and staff who have worked with him in his time have loved working with him and he will be hugely missed by everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Gainley for all of his hard work, dedication and commitment to Roebuck.

We wish him well in his retirement.

EARLY YEARS TEAM

This week reception teachers will be sending home Mathletics codes for the children. These codes can be used to access the Mathletics website or App. Mathletics is an online learning space providing children with all of the tools they need to be successful mathematical learners. Children can win awards for achieving points. Please bring your child's certificates into class so we can all celebrate their success.

Starting on Friday, to continue to promote the love of reading, our reading mascot will come home with a different child each week. Please take photos and add to the bear's diary to let us know what he has been up to. Please return the mascot the following Tuesday.

Tricky word bookmarks will also be sent home this week.

Calendar of Events

A calendar of events for the Autumn Term was sent home with your child this week. I cannot guarantee that this includes ALL events for the Autumn term as things are always subject to change. In the main, dates are secure and will go ahead as planned. Please place this in a safe place so that you have the dates to hand. As always, copies will be on the school website and available in the main school entrance.

SCHOOL APP

We have been experiencing a few technical issues with the school app. It doesn't always seem to be extracting information from the school website, which as you can imagine isn't ideal. We do our very best to keep all parents/carers up to date with events happening at Roebuck Academy. We have contacted the company who has reassured me that all glitches will be ironed out within the next few weeks. Please keep on refreshing the App to ensure that dates are feeding through from the website.

HARVEST

Many thanks to Reverend Kate Sharples for an excellent first Harvest Assembly at Roebuck Academy. All donations from our families at Roebuck Academy have now been taken to Vineyard Food Shed which is a charity in Stevenage. Donations of food are passed to the neediest of families in Stevenage which is of great support and help. Every little helps so a BIG thank you for all of your kind donations.

PARENTS FORUM

Thank you to those parents who attended this week's Parents Forum to help provide us with important feedback and suggestions about how we can improve life at Roebuck Academy. It was great to receive your views. We have already fed back some of your ideas to the staff here at the school and we are hoping to address all ideas for improvement over the coming term. You should have noticed already that teaching staff are now on their classroom doors in the morning and the evenings to greet both you and your children. A calendar of events will also now be placed into book bags each term so that you can keep this at hand rather than having to keep looking at the website or the school app.

YEAR SIX SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

This is a reminder that all parents of Year 6 children need to have made their application for Secondary School, online or on paper, by Friday 31st October. Parents can apply online at: www.hertsdirect.org/admissions or they can request a 'Moving On' booklet and application form from the Hertfordshire County Council Customer Service Centre by calling 0300 123 4043. Please contact the school office if you need help with your application, or do not have a computer.

SCHOOL CLUBS AUTUMN TERM

We are always exploring options for school clubs throughout the year. If you have any suggestions please speak to your child's class teacher as it may be something that we could look into.

HOMEWORK

Please can you ensure that your child reads at home at least five times a week. We want to ensure the very best start for your children in life and reading is part of this.

[RSA MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING](#)

The RSA Coffee Morning was a great success! Well done and thank you very much for helping to raise a grand total of £462.62 for MacMillan. All money raised will be donated to this very worthy cause. Thank you also to all parents and children who made such lovely treats to be sold and eaten. THANK YOU! Winners have been included on the bottom of this newsletter- Well Done!

[E-SAFETY – Mrs Elson](#)

[HELPING YOUR CHILD TO STAY SAFE ON LINE](#)

The NSPCC has excellent guidance and resources about how to keep your child safe online. Sometimes keeping safe online isn't an easy subject to discuss. We may not always know the best ways to approach the topic in conversation or even how to control what our children are seeing and doing. Please spend at least a few minutes having a look through the information on the link below which is full of good advice and resources.



[PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING](#)

Our parent's consultation evening booking system is now open. A separate letter was sent out to all parents regarding this on Monday 2nd October. If you need any help booking an appointment please pop into the main school office or phone the office team who will be only too happy to help.

[DREAM CATCHER ASSEMBLY – Mrs Thomas](#)

This week we have our very first Dream Catcher assembly for the children at Roebuck. We were very excited to be joined by Nicky Footer who is Head of North Herts Music School at Hertfordshire Music Service. Nicky enjoyed talking to the children about how she followed her heart and love of music and turned it into a career. She has helped thousands of children learn how to sing and play musical instruments and she has even written her very own Christmas musical for schools. During the assembly, children had the opportunity to ask Nicky questions. Nicky certainly planted a few pearls of wisdom for those children interested in pursuing music in the future. Thank you Nicky!

Can you inspire our children? If you want to share your passion about your job or hobbies with others and can spare 15 minutes on a Thursday morning, please contact Mrs Thomas.

AT ROEBUCK WE LOVE READING! Message from Mrs Thomas

READING FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY!

As you will have seen from the information poster in the front of your child's reading record, there are many benefits from reading for 20 minutes a day. There are many ways in which you can achieve this and it does not simply have to be 20 minutes of your child sitting and reading to you.

- ✓ You can achieve 20 minutes of reading a day by:
- ✓ Talking about the text and answering questions
- ✓ Listening to a bed time story
- ✓ Paired reading (where you and your child take it in turns to read)
- ✓ Reading magazines and newspapers together
- ✓ More able children reading to themselves
- ✓ Older children reading to siblings

Please help us by encouraging your child to read as much as possible. We want to nurture a real love of reading at Roebuck Academy.

Next half term, we are hoping to have an evening of storytelling, whereby we invite children and parents back into school to listen to stories together. Look out for more information in future newsletters.

ROEBUCK'S BIGGEST BAKE OFF



Well done to everyone who took part and especially to our winning entries!

<u>School Bake off winners</u>
Nursery- Isla Jones
Reception-Ashleigh Hamilton Hogg
Year 1-Lily Heritage
Year 2- Grace Phillips
Year 3- Joshua Rowe
Year 4- Jesse Bawdon
Year 5- Sienna Harmsworth-Martin
Year 6- Aleesha Smith
Family- Jessica and Logan Bayford
Staff – Mrs Ward