



Roebuck Academy

Newsletter: January 2018



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to another edition of our school newsletter; the first newsletter of 2018!

Here at Roebuck Academy we have had a great start to 2018. Our 'Golden threads' in assembly have been centred upon 'Making Resolutions' and 'Trying our best at learning every single day'.

In assembly, I have used the phrase '365 New Days, 365 New Chances' and explained to the children that no matter what happens throughout any school day that the next one is always an opportunity to try something different and to approach new learning in a positive and enthusiastic way. With myself being a mother of two young boys, I believe that there can be no time wasted in education and I want for every child at Roebuck to make the most of every opportunity that they receive whilst at school.

I know that the children have already embraced this message as walking into classrooms over the last couple of weeks has been a delight. Children are able to explain their learning in detail and show me what they have been learning in their books. Many of the children are approaching new challenges with determination as well as great resilience and going the extra-mile to ensure that they make progress!

I know that this positive start to the year will continue, leading to what promises to be a productive and fun-filled term.

Kind regards
Lynsey Young

ATTENDANCE – A note from Mrs Maddren

Please be reminded that classroom doors open at 8.45am every day. Children should be in class and ready to learn at this between 8:45 and 9:00 at the very latest. Please ensure that you arrive in plenty of time for your child/ren to be in class.

Attendance letters will be going out to those with low attendance or excessive lateness this week. Those receiving letters should ensure their child's attendance improves as advice is being sought from the Attendance Officer at Herts County Council for further guidance.

If your child is ill then a message should be left on the school answerphone stating your child's name, class and the reason they are not coming in to school.

Every child in every class needs to be in school every day to meet the 97% weekly attendance target. This is the national average. If it falls below this level a meeting will be arranged to discuss the matter.

Excellent attendance is paramount to children's well-being, future success and to achieving their best in learning. We do not authorise any leave of absence for example, holidays.

If you are requesting time away from school a form must be completed and a meeting will be arranged with Mrs Maddren, our school Attendance officer.

Please check our school term dates on the website or in the office.

Thank you for your understanding.
Mrs Maddren



EARLY YEARS TEAM

Since the beginning of the Spring Term the EYFS team have been extremely busy transforming the outdoor learning environment. We are hoping you are beginning to see the changes already!

Many thanks to the parents and carers who helped out on the 13th January for our first working party- what a productive day! You all made such a difference and we are very humbled by your positive attitude as well as all of your hard work. Thank you very much!

Call out for help!

We are really eager to continue to spruce up our outdoor area and need even more volunteers to help with jobs such as: painting fences, moving furniture, making water walls etc. If you are up for the challenge, especially now that the weather is warming up, we can find you a job for a reward of tea, biscuits and gratitude. We are planning for this to take place on Saturday 3rd February. All interested parties please speak to Mrs Beard, Mrs Prosser or Mrs Howard.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council helped Mr. Mari in assembly this week when discussing the Importance of 'Safety in and around Roebuck Academy'. This assembly will lead onto a Safety project that the school council will be leading.

During weekly meetings, the children have been discussing different fundraising ideas and intended projects and resources that the money could be spent on. Watch this space for future updates!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A calendar of events for the Spring Term was sent home with your child at the very beginning of the term. Please keep this to hand as there are many events happening between now and the end of the Spring term. This is also available on the school website, as well as in the main school office.

TERM DATES 2018/19

Please note that the term dates for 2018/19 have been updated and are on the website – this was emailed to all parents and carers at the beginning of last week.

<http://www.roebuck.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Other+Letters&pid=88>

Mr Mari – Mathletics Leader

The school has decided to renew the subscription for Mathletics for all of the children in Years 3 to 6. This will provide all of the children in Key Stage 2 with access to an interactive and fun Maths resource that is intended to help children consolidate and build on the teaching that has been done in class. The children once logged on, have the opportunity to complete tasks on specific areas of learning that they find hard as well as developing further areas that they are more comfortable with. Classes in Key Stage 2 will be encouraged to complete some online learning regularly during the week based on the content covered in class with tasks set by teachers.

LET'S CELEBRATE SUCCESS: OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

We would like to start celebrating your child's outside school achievements more in school. Some of you would have already noticed that your child has arrived home with a Headteacher's certificate. For example: Anisa and Hanifa in Year 6 were both awarded with a Blue Peter Badge! Mia, In Year 3 also passed several dance awards and received certificates of distinction. What lovely achievements to be celebrated.

If you would like your child's outside achievements celebrated and recognised by the school, please Email these, with photos if possible, to our Office staff, Janet and Vikki on the admin account at:

admin@roebuck.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively, it is always nice to see children's achievements first-hand.

Children are allowed to bring certificate, badges and photographs into school to share with me, the teaching staff and their friends.

We would like to celebrate all achievements, no success is too small.

LEGO MASTERS SERIES 2

A TV production company called, 'Tuesday's Child' who made the first series of the popular Channel 4 series – Lego Masters has sent us details of another series they are making. Following the success of Series 1, they are again on the hunt to find Britain's most talented Amateur Builders. They are looking for anyone over the age of 9 (on 31st March 2018) who loves to build! Teams as well as individuals are welcome to apply. Details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter if you are interested,

MUSIC DAY

On Thursday 25th January will be holding a 'Let's Celebrate Music' Day at Roebuck Academy for all of the children. We are very lucky that staff members from the music service and teachers and pupils from Thomas Alleyne and Barnwell Secondary schools will be joining us for the day. They have very kindly offered to deliver workshops free of charge for the children. This will include song writing, DJ composing of music, Djembe, Yukela and Boomrakers. Look out for photos on our website soon! Thank you Mrs Elson and Miss Whitfield for helping to organise what promises to be a very enjoyable day.

E-SAFETY WEEK – Mrs Elson

Tuesday, 6 February 2018 is SAFER INTERNET DAY across the country.

"Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you", will be this year's theme. Class teachers will be planning activities across the week linked to learning about how to be safe with technology. Children will be taught how to join in and engage with others in a respectful way in order to ensure a better digital experience for all. Parents are invited to join Mrs Elson for an E-safety assembly on Tuesday 6th February 9.15-9.45. Look out for photos on our website soon of the work produced in e-safety week. Please see <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> for more information.

DAILY SUPPORTED READING

Year 1 children have had a brilliant start to the New Year with their reading as they have started a new reading programme called 'Daily Supported Reading'. This enables children to work in groups with an adult every morning of the week developing their reading and comprehension skills. Trained teaching staff from across the school are working with the children from 9.00-9.30am every morning. Parents of Year 1 children please do come along to the reading workshop to find out more about this fantastic resource and how it is helping your child to make progress with their reading.

Dreamcatchers Assemblies

Last week we were very lucky to be joined by Andy Nation who is a long distance swimmer and grandad to three of our children. Andy has taken part in many events over the years and has raised considerable amounts of money for charity. Children listened in awe, as Andy told us about the different events and activities he has been involved in and shared photos in a really inspirational presentation. His passion and enthusiasm and words of advice telling the children that they can be whatever they want to be really resonated with many of our children. One child even went home and said that they wanted to be a swimmer when they are older and that they hope dreamcatcher assemblies are still happening then so that they can come back and inspire other children just like they have been inspired now! WOW! What an amazing impact these assemblies are having. If you think you could help us inspire our children please do contact Mrs Thomas.

If you or your child would like to know more about Andy, you can visit his

website: <http://www.teddingtoncalais2012.org.uk/>

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Letters have already been shared with parents to enable you to sign up to our Reading and Writing workshops this term. Please try and attend if you can. All classteachers have offered two sessions to try and accommodate the large majority of parents and carers. If you are attending, please ensure that you complete and hand in your return slip via your child or through the Main School Office.



READING WORKSHOPS

Last week you will have received letters inviting you to attend reading workshops for classes in Reception to Year 5 on Monday 29th January. Please do come along to these meetings as you will receive valuable information about how to support your child/ren with reading at home, more information about accelerated reader for Key Stage 2 children, log on details to our new online handwriting resource as well as having the opportunity to ask any questions. Workshops are running at 3.15pm and 5.30pm in the classrooms. I will be on hand until 6pm to help any parents who would like help logging their child onto 'home connect' for accelerated reading in the school library.

I hope to see you there!

Mrs Thomas

New handwriting resources to use at home!

As previously mentioned, we have a new ICT resource in school to help your child improve their handwriting. It is an online website called 'Letter join' which gives children the opportunity to practice different letter formations and joins. It can be used on desktops, laptops, ipads and android tablets.

Please do encourage your child to use their resource at home. To get the username and password, please do come along to our reading workshop next week to find out more information and pick up your information letter.

REMINDER - SCHOOL GATES – CLOSED AT 9:05 am

As you are aware, Roebuck Academy offers a soft start to the day and classroom doors are always opened at 8:45. For those children who do not arrive at this time, they do need to be in school, ready to learn by 9:00am at the very latest. This means that **ALL** gates will be locked at 9:05 sharp. If you are running late and using the **BACK GATE**, this may then mean that you will need to make your way to the front entrance. I'm sure you will agree that the gates need to be locked to keep the children safe at the school.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Applications are now open for Nursery admissions for 2018-19. Admissions are now managed by the school, and the application form is available to download on our school website.

We only have a few places remaining on our guided tour of Roebuck Academy and Nursery. If you haven't visited Roebuck already, then please book onto one of the tours through the school office.

CAR PARKING

I would like to remind all parents and carers that the school car park is for **STAFF ONLY** (unless you have a disabled badge). Please be extremely careful when dropping your children off and picking up from school. Please also be considerate and **do not park** in front of local residents driveways. This is disrespectful and prohibits residents from leaving or entering their own premises.

Parking on-site is unfortunately not an option. The additional land to the side of the school belongs to the Council and we have been politely reminded that this should not be used by the school.

CURRENT HOUSE POINTS

House Points



AUTUMN TERM: Pegasus Win!

Congratulations to Gryphon House who won the Autumn term House Point competition. Gryphon won £318. The house captains have consulted their team members as well as other House Captains and the children have decided that all money raised this year will go towards their own in-school activities. Gryphon representatives have specifically requested equipment for the playground for all children. As a school we are very happy to ensure that this happens.

Thank You Parents

Thank you to all of our Year 6 parents who attended the Year Six Learning Review Day. We hope you found the appointment valuable and that you were provided with good advice about how to support your child's learning at home in the lead up to their Year Six examinations. As you know children always make considerably more progress when there is consistency and continuity between home and school.

Thank you also to parents who attended our recent EYFS Tapestry Assessment workshops. We hope that you found these helpful and that you are now able to use the APP confidently at home.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be held on Thursday 8th February. Please note that there will be no after school clubs on this day. Buccaneers will take place as usual.

We are now using the online system for parents to sign up for an appointment. A guide on how to do this can be found in the 'Parents Evening' section of our school website. When logging in to the system, you will need to use your full name and your child's full name and DOB. Remember that this must match our records at school.

The Appointment system was opened last week and all parents were notified via text message. If you have any questions or any problems using the online system, please do speak to one of our Office team and they will be happy to help. To make your appointment, go to: www.roebuck.parenteveningsystem.co.uk Parents of children who have Special Needs Support Plans should already have been approached by your child's classteacher to make an appointment.

Curriculum Webs

Supporting with learning at home is essential if you want your child to do their very best in life. You should have all received your child's Curriculum Web for this term which shows the learning that will take place in all subjects for the duration of the Spring Term. These webs can also be found on our school website.



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE CROWNED BRITAIN'S
BEST LEGO BUILDER?
**LEGO
MASTERS**

Do you love to build awesome creations? We are looking for brick obsessed pairs of all ages to register interest in a second series of 'LEGO MASTERS' on Channel 4 to find Britain's most talented amateur builders.

Please email build@tuesdayschild.tv to register your interest. If you are under 18 please ask a parent or guardian to email on your behalf. Unfortunately, we won't be able to answer all the requests individually. Applicants must be 9+.

TUESDAY'S CHILD