



Roebuck Academy



Newsletter: March 2018

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to the March Edition of our newsletter.

I hope that children have told you already, but last week it appears that Roebuck Academy was visited by a Dragon, and no Year 6 – it wasn't Mrs Thomas despite your imaginative stories! When we arrived on Monday morning last week, we were fortunate enough to have CCTV footage of a gigantic dragon which looked like it had spent the weekend inside the building! It was clearly seen to be flying through the school building as well as the surrounding grounds. We are certain that the dragon has now disappeared and won't ever return but the children are convinced that there is evidence that this has visited the school. A local reporter from the Comet Newspaper also paid Roebuck a visit who had heard about the sightings and wanted to take some eye-witness accounts. Luckily, some of the teachers were able to help out – including Mr Downie who had witnessed smoke as well as extreme heat within the KS2 building. After a thorough surveillance of the site, Mr Mari and Mr Graham confirmed that the school was entirely safe and that the dragon had moved on. Phew!

Using the Dragon as a stimulus we launched into our first whole school, Every Body Writes Day. This is a new approach that we are using to enliven the Literacy curriculum at Roebuck. We wanted to enthuse and excite the children about the written work that they would be completing about Dragons. In addition to the sightings of the dragon, children in the early years located a dragon's nest in the outdoor garden. Inside there were some golden eggs! How exciting!

As a staff we aim to be as creative in approach as possible at Roebuck and having planned this activity for some time we can confirm that as well as the children having fun, fantastic written work was produced as an outcome. Well done children! This was a great success!

We shall be ending our work on Dragons with a Knights and Dragons storytelling workshop for children in Years One to Six.

We hope that you have had great fun listening to your children's experiences of dragons at the school these last few weeks!

Kind regards

Lynsey Young

EARLY YEARS – MRS PROSSER

Dragon theme week - On Monday the children in the EYFS were very surprised to find that someone or something had made a nest in the outside area!

Outside the Nursery classroom we all discovered that Dilly the dragon had made a very colourful nest. Every day she had left items for the children to discover, including a letter and a present. All week the children have had lots of fun and have been really engaged in dragon themed activities such as painting dragons, thinking of describing words, making a 3D dragon, making dragon food as well as planting a dragon garden.

There were lots of clues found inside the nest and inside the bushes outside Reception. The children enjoyed thinking about who the nest might belong to. At the beginning of the week the children thought about positional language and made maps, then they wrote down their predictions. On Thursday the children received a surprise email from Zog, the dragon, telling them it was his nest and that he wanted to come to Roebuck Academy to learn. What a surprise!



Code of conduct- Thank you to everyone who attended the EYFS code of conduct this week. It was the first time we have held this as a separate code of conduct and the response was very positive. Alongside their academic learning, children in our Foundation stage also learn about what good behaviour looks like and it was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate how well they have done in achieving this.

Nursery fantastic finish- On World book day the Nursery children had fun showing their parents and carers all the stories they had listened to throughout the year. They sang songs and acted out some of their favourite parts. The fantastic finish was very well attended. Thank you.

Reception fantastic finish- In Reception the children thought carefully about how much their mummies do for them. Every child spoke about why they loved their mummy and gave a bunch of flowers. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – MRS HOWARD

School Councillors interviewed over 20 candidates who had applied for the Esafety leader role. School Council were very impressed with the interviewees and they were able to appoint 2 people per class which is great news! Training for the Esafety leaders will commence within the next few weeks.

The RSA and school council joined forces to bring Roebuck a book sale despite the freezing and snowy conditions. Thank you to all those that came and had a browse and purchased some amazing books. We are looking to do another book sale within the next few weeks when the temperature is slightly warmer.

RSA VALENTINE DISCO

Many thanks to the RSA for organising what was yet again another very successful evening of dancing and fun – all of the children had a fantastic time.

WORLD BOOK DAY

It was lovely to see so many children dressed up for World Book Day. The children were given the opportunity to share their costumes in class and talk about their favourite characters. The staff even had some fun dressed up as 101 Dalmatians with Ms Young dressed up in a wonderful Cruella de Vil costume. Throughout the day, children had the opportunity to take part in a range of book related activities with Year 6 in particular enjoying a quiz. The children also enjoyed listening to stories and poems read by their teachers. Unfortunately, due to the snow, we had to cancel our trip to North Herts College. However, I am pleased to say that we have managed to rearrange this trip and it will now take place this Wednesday throughout the day. A letter has been sent home to children in KS2 taking part.

E-SAFETY – MRS ELSON

A big thank you to all the children who applied to be on-line leaders for their class. Many thanks to school council who worked tirelessly over a period of a couple of weeks providing a comprehensive interview process. They looked at applications, selected candidates, devised questions and interviewed professionally. Many thanks should also be given to Mrs Howard and Mrs Prosser for supporting school council so well. The successful candidates have been notified. If you did apply but we're not chosen on this occasion we were delighted with your positive attitude and motivation to help others. Thank you for being good role models.

Mr Mari and Mrs Elson will be looking at training programmes for the leaders soon.

Look out for our design an online badge for leaders!



Please look on our school website for the Herts Spring on-line newsletter – there are helpful tips and advice to help keep our children safe.

PARKING

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines at the front of school at drop off or collection time. Please also do not park on pavements, dropped curbs or street corners. We also ask that you do not park in front of the driveways of our neighbours. There are still a few parents who continue to park dangerously and illegally and so we are in the process of reporting these names to the police. Children's safety is our only concern.

PARENT FORUM – CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Thank you to parents who have offered to become parent reps for their classes. We now have a representative for every class from Nursery through to Year Six which is fantastic news. Shortly we will be placing posters on your child's classroom window so you are aware of who your class representative is.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS

Applications will close this week on the 16th March. Please ensure that if you do want the opportunity to have your child attend Roebuck Nursery Acorn Class, that you submit your application on time.

PARENTS EVENING

Parents Evening was held on Thursday 8th February. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. If you didn't manage to make your appointment, please approach your child's classteacher who will be only too happy to provide you with an additional appointment.

DREAMCATCHER – MR LEWIS

The children at Roebuck were treated to a Dream catcher assembly from Thomas Alleyne's Headteacher Mr Mark Lewis. As well as answering the questions from the Year 6 children, Mr Lewis shared some insight into what his ambitions were when he was younger as well as talking about his first ever job, which was a trolley attendant at Sainsbury's. When he was younger, Mr Lewis had ambitions to be a war journalist but soon realised that to become this he would have to spend some time reporting on more mundane events such as village fetes and local events so he turned his sights onto teaching, where he became one of the youngest Headteachers in the country when he took over at Thomas Alleyne's school. To finish off with Mr Lewis shared some of the things that he said employers would be looking for when they interviewed people, these were: good literacy and maths skills, manners and being able to work well as a member of a team.

The children responded well with some good questions and a couple had this to say afterwards: "To get a good job you will have to work hard at school because you need to learn the skills to get the job you would like." Josh Year 5

"I have learnt that to achieve your goal you have to work hard and keep persevering. Never give up." Vanessa Year 5



ROYAL ALBERT HALL – CHOIR

On Sunday 11th March, 19 members of the school choir were up bright and early and at school (7.20am to be exact), ready to get onto a bus to London. After a fairly quick journey, we arrived at the Royal Albert Hall eagerly awaiting rehearsals for the Hertfordshire School's Gala: If I had wings. The event was a celebration of singing and instrumental music with live art and dance. Mrs Thomas and Mrs Howard were left slightly star struck when we saw James Mayhew and Michael Rosen who were both taking part in the performance – Michael in fact wrote the words for the songs and narration. Unfortunately, we didn't get the opportunity to speak to them – or grab them for a Dream Catcher assembly!

After two hours of rehearsals, the time came for the performance. The choir were AMAZING! Miss Whitfield, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Howard are so proud of the children's commitment to learning all of the songs over the last few months and of the effort that they put into their performance. A huge thank you to all of the children - and to their parents for coming to support them and giving up their Mothering Sunday.



PHONICS

Starting this week KS1 will be having whole class phonics everyday within their own class. This will be instead of streaming into different groups. Spellings will continue as normal but will be set by the class teacher.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Please remember that here at Roebuck we operate an Open Door Policy. If you have any concerns or worries please make an appointment **after** school to speak to your child's class teacher. Mornings are always busy times for teaching staff. We are very busy welcoming your child into school and helping settle them so that they are ready to learn. The end of the day is much easier as we have the time and space in which to give your concerns or suggestions the time that they really need. We can also provide you with the confidentiality in which issues deserve. Please bear this in mind when dropping off children in the morning.