



Roebuck Academy



Newsletter: April 2018

HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I hope that you all had a lovely Easter break and that the children enjoyed their time with you. It is so lovely to see them all back at school this week, working hard and showing great attitudes and resilience as always.

This term we see the introduction of a new dance teacher at the school, Danielle. Not long ago we held a Dreamcatcher Assembly with Zara Richards, the manager of Warriorz Performing Arts Academy. The children and staff were inspired and truly captured by her amazing dance skills and routines as well as her determination, resilience and outlook on life. We have now secured Warriorz who will work with individual classes throughout the year teaching. We have been able to secure this with the use of our Sports Premium that the government provides. We have been informed that funding will be at least until at least July 2019 which is fantastic news! Already I have spent time watching the children performing breakdancing, popping and hip-hop moves – I am impressed!

Lynsey Young

YEAR 6 SATs BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Year 6 children are working really hard in preparation for their SATs tests that will be taking place during the week of the 14th May. Not long at all! To help keep the children focused and to combat any anxiety we will be opening up a breakfast club for the children from 8:00am during this week. We ask that where possible EVERY child attends. The teaching staff will be preparing the children with yoga activities as well as some quick, short and sharp revision reminders before their examinations begin. Please ensure that you sign and return permission letters that will be sent out later this week by Miss Thomas.

ALADDIN TROUBLE!

Well done to all of the children that took part in Aladdin trouble last term -What an Amazing production. Myself and the teaching staff were so very proud of how well all of the children performed as well as their amazing attitudes.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPH

Please don't forget that class photos take place on Wednesday 2nd May. As always, please ensure that your child is wearing perfect school uniform.

HOUSE POINT WINNERS

Congratulations to everyone in Gryphon House as they won the House Point trophy for the Spring term. Gryphon earned 215 House Points. We have asked representatives of Gryphon to decide what they would like as a reward for winning. We eagerly await their decision.



PLANTERS

Thank you to Mrs Farley and Mrs Ward for all of the hard work that they are doing at the school to make our grounds look beautiful! The arrangement of plants and flowers in the grounds are growing and blooming well with the help of their green fingers!

SEND Coffee Morning

Being the parent of a child with a Special Educational Need or Disability can be challenging at times but you are not alone and support is available. On Tuesday April 25th between 9:00 and 10:00am, we are holding a coffee morning with Mrs Fisher in Buccaneers where parents can meet and chat to gain tips or offer advice in a friendly environment. Everyone is welcome, whether your child has SEND or not. Please do invite friends even if their children go to other schools.

School Dinner, Swimming Money and Current Year 5 Kingswood

We still have a few families who owe money for school dinners, swimming lessons and Kingswood. This debt must be paid by the end of term. If you need to check your balance to ensure debt is paid, please just ask at the office.

EYFS – MRS PROSSER

During the last week of term, the children in the EYFS had fun learning all about Easter which included: hunting for eggs, making bonnets and hats and eating hot cross buns.

Lana Hashemi's mum and grandmother visited Reception to tell us all about Persian New Year. The children had great fun learning about the traditions, tasting fruit and dancing to Persian music. A huge thank you to Mrs. Hashemi for giving up her time for the youngest children at Roebuck Academy. The Persian dancing carried on for the rest of the week.

The children really enjoyed supporting their classmates in the recent Rock Steady concert. Well done Austin, George and Aiden. We were all impressed by your confidence and we all enjoyed singing along to the music.

Thank you to all parents and carers who posted Tapestry observations over the Easter holiday. It is great for us to see the interesting activities you have been up to. Your observations always generate relevant and worthwhile conversations from the children.

Look out for the upcoming official opening of our recently improved outside area. So many of you helped us to tidy and improve the outside space for the children that we would like to give you the opportunity to see what your hard work has achieved. Before then we will be asking for volunteers one more time to help us paint the fences of our garden. Unfortunately, we have had to wait for the better weather to complete the paintwork.

SCHOOL COUNCIL – MRS HOWARD

The School Council had a very busy time during the last week of term.

They designed posters to advertise the 2 competitions that they set to the school - Design an egg competition and design an Easter hat competition. Both competitions were judged by the School Council and they were in awe of the creativity of all entries. Well done to all entrants, they were amazing and congratulations to the winners!

Alongside the RSA, the School Council also collected second hand books and organised another book sale for everyone to buy a book or two to enjoy over the holidays - thank you to everyone that supported the book sale.

TERM DATES 2018/19

Please note that the term dates for 2018/19 Summer Term have been updated and are now on the school website – this will be emailed to all parents and carers later on today. We shall also be sending a copy of this home with your child tomorrow so that you have these to hand. Please note that the EYFS Sports Day will be running on a separate date this year due to the growing number of pupils on roll at the school.

Moving forward, we shall be holding events more and more like this to keep the children safe at the school, as well as adults.

MRS THOMAS

Sadly we said goodbye to Mrs Thomas at the end of last half term. She is beginning her maternity leave in readiness for the birth of her twins in May. We wish her every luck and hope she rests as much as she can as she eagerly awaits their arrival. We promise lovely photographs when they arrive.

ONLINE SAFETY

Following local county advice the school is in process of updating our whole school policies. These policies will be shared with school council this term for their input. Once completed staff, governors, parents and pupils will then see new policies.

There are now prominent signs in the main entrance to show that this is a NO PHONE ZONE. Thank you to Mrs Prosser, Mrs Howard and school council for organising this.

The appointed online safety leaders will receive training this term from Mr Mari and Mrs Elson. All teachers will be asking online leaders to contribute to safety aspects during lessons.



HERTS FOR LEARNING NEWSLETTER

The Summer 2018 edition of the Herts For Learning e-safety newsletter is now available to download from the school website and it includes information on the latest apps aimed at children as well as helpful tips to keep your children safe on line.

BADGE COMPETITION

Please design a badge for online leaders. This needs to be on A4 paper and have the child's name and class written on the back. Please hand in by Friday 18th May.

School council and staff will select the winning design that will be made into badges for online leaders. Good luck.

WELCOME - MRS TOWNLEY

We welcome Mrs Townley who has now joined the Roebuck teaching team. Mrs Townley will be our Pupil Premium Champion Teacher and will be teaching groups of children across the school. Mrs Townley already knows most of the children well with her teaching at the school last year as well as being a former school governor. Mrs Townley is an outstanding teacher who will be a great asset to the team. We hope that you all welcome her to the school as much as we all have.

DREAMCATCHER – Jamming with Ben Smith during our latest Dream Catcher assembly

Wow! What an amazing Dream Catcher assembly we had on the last day of term! We were joined by Ben Smith who is a professional musician who lives in Hitchin. He played us some songs and we were all tapping our feet and singing along. Ben learnt to play the guitar at the age of 6 and always dreamed of being a professional musician. After 12 years of music lessons, and attending Music College, he turned semi-professional and now plays in many different bands around the country entertaining lots of people. A really good example of how perseverance and determination can help you to reach your goals.

Freddie in Year 6 also joined in and sang a song with Ben. It was a very impressive performance and we certainly think we have a star in the making! You can see more performances by Ben by looking at his website <http://www.bennyguitarsmith.com/>

If you would like to come in and speak to our children as part of a dream catcher assembly, please get in touch with Ms Young.

Thank you to everybody who has helped make Dream Catcher assemblies so enjoyable and inspiring this year. Mrs Thomas.



PHONICS

This term, children in KS1 will be having whole class phonics everyday within their own class instead of streaming into different groups. We think this will work better with our children and will assist with continuity and consistency in phonics as well as making it easier to apply learning into written tasks. Spellings will continue as normal but will now be set by the class teacher.

SUMMER UNIFORM

Now the weather is improving, children may consider wearing our summer school uniform.

Girls may wear blue summer dresses if they wish to but please remember that socks need to match the uniform (white, black, grey or blue) and that no open - toe shoes should be worn.

Shorts may also be worn by both boys and girls but these must be grey or black and should be the tailored sort so that children look smart. Shorts with large logos, brand names and stripes etc., are not acceptable. If your child wears the wrong uniform, they will have to change it using our lost property or second hand uniform items. Please can parents also send their children in with a hat for the summer months.

Again, these are not to be brightly coloured and have large logos on them. You can buy Roebuck caps from both Tesco and School Trends. We care hugely about the children and want them to feel like the most important and valued children in Stevenage. We also want them to take pride in what they wear. I know lots of parents agree with this

DANCE FESTIVAL

Well done to all of the children who took part in the Stevenage Dance Festival before the Easter holiday. I was so proud of you all as well as being equally impressed at how well you performed. What a fantastic dance to Saturday Night Fever! It was a lovely end to the term for everyone. My thanks go to Mrs McGregor, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Brecht, Mrs Davies and Mrs Wellings from Thomas Alleyne's for all of their help and support in preparation for the festival. You are amazing! Many thanks to our wonderful team of RSA members who helped to fund the project for the children at the school.



READING AT ROEBUCK!

Library Winner!

Well done to Poppy Upton and her family who won the cinema pass as part of our library competition. We are very proud of you. We are so lucky and thankful for the help of some of our lovely TAs and parents that we can now open the library 5 days a week. Please do pop in and use the library with your child if you can.

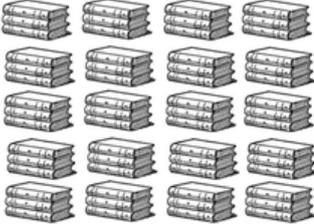
Book donations

Thank you to everyone who has donated books to the school over the year. Your help and support is much appreciated. If you have any books which you think would be suitable to donate to the school, please send them in or pass to Miss Thomas or Mrs Jarman.

Many thanks

Mrs Thomas

Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?

STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads an average of 20 minutes per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads an average of 5 minutes per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads an average of 1 minutes per day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,600 minutes/school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 900 minutes/school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180 minutes/school year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,800,000 words per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 282,000 words per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8,000 words per year
<p>By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 60 school days</p>	<p>By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 12 school days</p>	<p>By 6th grade student has read for an equivalent of : 3 school days</p>
		
<p>In order for children to become better readers, they need time to read.</p>		