



HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE KINGSWOOD

Dear Parents/Carers,

The beginning of this term saw Year Six children embark on their residential trip to Kingswood PGL, West Runton. They all had an amazing time, taking part in many activities that involved teamwork, communication and resilience. Some of the children's favourite activities included: abseiling, zip wire and nightline - this involved them having to walk around in a line, blindfolded and tackle an obstacle course in the darkness of the forest. All of the children made the most of the week away and overcame their fear, demonstrating a great growth mindset. They were sad when it ended, but happy to see their families and are already applying what they learnt back in the classroom.

The year 6 staff have also reported back that the residential was a delightful experience and that the behaviour of every child was exemplary. Well Done Year 6 children! A huge Thank you goes to Mrs Sparrow, Mrs Johnson and Mr Steadman for supporting the children throughout what was a very busy week. The children really appreciated your commitment to them all, as do I.

Kind regards

Lynsey Young
Headteacher Roebuck Academy

WW1 CENTENARY WEEK

A successful week of learning was had by all for National Centenary Week. Children participated in a fantastic range of cross-curricular activities and events including; Camo day, training like a soldier on the giant assault course and meeting a real-life soldier 'Will', in our workshop about the life of a soldier. Each class produced an amazing array of beautiful and informative work about WW1 and tied a red ribbon in creature corner to give thanks to our armed forces and those that serve our country. The children's work is displayed across the school. We thank all parents and carers for supporting children with their beautiful assortment of Poppy art work and poetry produced for half-term homework.



RECEPTION ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2019 REMINDER!

Please be reminded that the closing date for online applications for primary Reception class admissions is Tuesday 15th January 2019. We would recommend that parents complete the on-line application by Friday 11th January, as there will be limited support available on Tuesday 15th for anyone having trouble applying. The online email address you should apply on is <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-and-transport.aspx>

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY – THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER

Every child in the school is permitted to wear their favourite Christmas jumper or top on Thursday 13th December. This is free and no donation is necessary.





EYFS & KS1 PRODUCTIONS

The Xmas Factor and Carols around the tree

Work has begun in EYFS and KS1 with the end of season productions. The children are practising hard and learning some wonderful songs to sing to you all in their performances. The children are singing and rehearsing beautifully! Please ensure that you return your Performance letters promptly as seats will be in high demand.

WINTER WEATHER IS COMING

In the event that we have snow and the school has to be closed, parents will be informed of this by text or parent mail through School Gateway. We will also update our own school website in the 'news and events' section as well as notifying parents through the RSA Facebook page.

School closure is reported on Three Counties Radio. Parents can also find out if school is open by looking at www.hertsdirect.org where our status will be posted.

If parents would like to, there is a system called 'Everbridge' that you can sign up to and this automatically informs you via text or email whether the school is open or closed. To sign up, just go to: member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489

This link will direct you to the 'sign up' page where you should click on the 'sign up' button located at the top right hand side of the page on the grey strip, and from there follow the instructions. It only takes 5 minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change your mobile number or email address.

As a school, we will always aim to open in severe weather but I do believe that the safety of children and staff is paramount and therefore I will make an appropriate decision with this in mind. I thank you for your support.

If you have recently updated your phone number please **ensure** this is shared with the school office as a matter of urgency.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals if you think you will be entitled to them. The email address is www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals If you are successful please let us know and you will receive a free gift.

YEAR TWO TEACHER

Welcome to Mrs Weston who has been working in Year 2 Pine class with Mrs Elson, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Keast these last few weeks. Mrs Weston is a trainee teacher from the University of Hertfordshire and will be at Roebuck Academy until February 2019. We hope she enjoys her time with us and that she is made to feel welcome by everyone





DREAMCATCHER

Wow! What an amazing Dreamcatcher assembly we had last week. Divyen Thakkar (Anniya's Daddy) came in and spoke to all the KS2 children about his interesting job for Transport for London as a senior software test analyst. He fascinated us all by explaining all the different things his job involved and we were equally as interested in hearing all about his childhood in India. Thank you so much for coming in.

The week before this we were delighted to have the Head Teacher of Thomas Alleyne's, and some of his students who came in and shared with us their experiences of studying science at secondary level. They described all the experiments and investigations that they have undertaken. What a treat for the budding scientists among us! Their message to our KS2 children was clear, "If you want to do something don't stop trying to do it."

These assemblies are so beneficial for our Year 2 & KS2 children and totally reinforce our School motto of Dream Believe Achieve'. Please do contact me if you are able to share half an hour of your time to do the same, Thanks Mrs Townley admin@roebuck.herts.sch.uk

ONLINE SAFETY BADGE

We were delighted on Friday to hand out the new badges to our online leaders in the assembly. Many thanks to Alexis Ellwood who created the original design that has been made into the badge. We hope all our leaders will be proud to wear them.

SPORTING NEWS

It's been a highly successful time for our sports teams so far this half term.

The Year 5 and 6 football team travelled to Round Diamond early last week and put on an assured display to win 6-2. The team created numerous chances to score and worked tirelessly throughout the game to see out the victory.

The Year 5 and 6 Netball team also fared very well in their first game of the season, kicking off with a convincing 13-0 victory. The children enjoyed playing in a range of positions and putting their skills to the test against Ashtree School.

As the dark nights are drawing in, it will be time to pause training and after school clubs after this week. Hopefully the teams will continue where they left off in the New Year.

NURSERY CLASS ADMISSIONS

Please be advised that Admissions to Nursery class have changed for September 2019/2020. Sibling rules no longer apply and we are now running admissions on a first come, first served basis for this year group. This is consistent across ALL Stevenage schools. For further details please see application forms and flyers on the school website. We only have a few places available now so please apply for your child's place as soon as possible.

WINTER CLOTHING

Please ensure that children have warm outdoor clothing as the winter season approaches. Please send your child into school in a warm coat and if possible: hat, gloves and scarf. It is surprising how many children are still coming to school in their summer coats. As well as this, some PE lessons will continue outdoors, appropriate to the conditions. Children will need a pair of warm jogging or tracksuit bottoms and can also wear a hoody. Please ensure both are blue or black in colour. This is not something new at the school and has been tradition for many years.



CHILDREN'S OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

I am always amazed by how lovely, kind and talented our pupils are at the school. Over the past few weeks I am very pleased to have been shown William's, Benjamin's and Joshua's Diving Certificates, as well as Harry's certificate from Beavers for being invested in others. I am also proud to report on dancing achievements in Warriorz. Aaliyah was presented with an award in her acting class for being, 'the most hardworking student,' and Harrison received an award in dancing for being the, 'most improved dancer'! I am so very proud of you all. Keep on being Amazing!

Remember, if your child has received any form of reward or achievement outside of school then please ensure that they come and share this wonderful news with me! I guaranteed that their achievements are always the highlight of our day!



TESCO BLUE COIN SCHEME

We are delighted inform you that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful. The school will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores during January and February 2019. Many thanks to Zeta Jackson who is the author of the application.

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. If we win we shall receive £4000 to help continue to improve our school playground. You can collect and allocate blue tokens in any of the following stores:

Hitchin Express
Old Town Stevenage Express
Stevenage Store
Stevenage Broadwater Store
Stevenage Chells Express

KEY STAGE TWO CAROL SERVICE – THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER

A reminder that we shall be holding a Key Stage Two Carol Service with Reverend Kate at our local church, St Peters. We shall be walking to and from the church then joining Kate in a rendition of some of our favourite Carols. Please feel free to join us either on the church walk or at the Carol Service. It will be lovely to see you there!





Sporting News – Editorials from the children

Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament

On Wednesday 7th November, eight Year 5 pupils went to a basketball tournament at Barnwell Secondary School. The first game played was against Broom Barns. We lost 4-2 with Joshua scoring our bucket in a close game.

We were more successful in our second game winning 10-4 with buckets from Imogen x2, James x2, and Darcey.

Going into the third game, full of confidence, we won again with a score of 12-2 against Walkern with James x2, Joshua, Darcey, Cameron and Imogen.

After 2 wins and 1 loss we finished 2nd in the group and just missed out on getting through to the semi-finals on points.

Our last game was a friendly match against St Vincent De Paul where we lost 8-0.

Overall we finished 5th out of 14 schools.

Year 5/6 Basketball Tournament

On Wednesday 24th, Roebuck's Table Tennis team went to Barclay school to participate in a tournament run by Stevenage Sporting Futures. Two different tournaments were held; the boys tournament and the girl's tournament.

The Girls team played in a round robin tournament where all the teams play against each other to decide a winner.

Although we started off with a 3-1 loss to Round Diamond and a 4-0 loss against Bedwell who went on to win the competition, these games were followed up with three wins in a row against St Ippolytes, Woolenwick and St Nicholas. This meant, in their last game against Giles, whoever won, finished in 3rd place. Unfortunately, we lost three games to one meaning we finished 4th place overall.

The boy's tournament had two groups of 4 and the boys got off to a tough start losing 4-0 in games to Round diamond, who went on to win the competition. But this was followed up by two 4-0 wins against St Nicholas and Woolenwick. This meant that the boys finished second in their group and therefore moved on to a 3rd place playoff against Bedwell. Keen to get their hands on a medal the boys played amazing and ended up 3-1 winners and got their bronze medals.

Written by Alexis Ellwood





Netball match report

On Thursday 15th November the Netball team played against Ashtree Primary. We played outstandingly with the result reflecting our performance with a 13-0 Win. Bernie and Vanessa scored 5 goals each either side of the half. Grace scored 2 and the last goal was scored by Sienna. The team played really well and improved on shooting, passing. In the first quarter we scored 2 goals followed by a strong second quarter where we scored another 4 so by halftime we were 6-0 up. In the third quarter we played amazing with an additional 4 goals and finishing the match off in the 4th quarter with 3 final goals. At the end of the match the opposing team chose a player of the match and although everyone played to a great level they chose Imogen as player of the match. We look forward to the next game and hope to carry on where we left off.

By Imogen Meehan and Amelia Ingram-Tedd

