



Roebuck Academy

Friday 15th February 2019



Welcome to the February edition of the school newsletter 2019.

FREEDOM FROM ABUSE

FREEDOM FROM ABUSE SPEAKER, Founder and CEO of Freedom from Abuse, Marilyn Hawes, will be visiting Roebuck Academy on Tuesday 26th February 2019. She will be speaking to children, staff and parents about 'stranger danger', on and offline safety, criminal sexual exploitation and County Lines. We are pleased to offer the opportunity for parents/ carers to attend a session with Marilyn at 9:00am and again at 6:00pm on Tuesday 26th February. We strongly urge all parents and carers to attend. This is an informative event that you must and should attend as a parent of children living in Stevenage.



NEW BANNERS ON ROEBUCK'S SCHOOL GATES



Well done goes to Grace in Year 6 who designed an amazing, eye-catching banner for our school gates. We hope you agree that the message around, 'no-smoking at the school gates,' is bright and clear. We would also like to thank Mr Thomas, Austin and Owen's father, for providing and installing the signs. We are very grateful for your help and support.

ONLINE SAFETY

As a school we are receiving increasing reports of children using games, apps and platforms which are completely inappropriate. Some with certificates of 16 years or over. These are highly inappropriate for primary school aged children. You may also be aware of the increase of social media/ online gaming related incidents also being reported in the news. We advise that children do not have access to such games or social media platforms. Please see attached the online-safety poster that signposts clearly the appropriate ages for each platform. We have added significant information guides and literature from several online safety companies onto our school website for your reference. Please see the website for further details.

Age restrictions on social media

- Pinterest
- Reddit
- Snapchat
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Facebook Messenger
- Minecraft
- Skype
- Twitter
- Tumblr
- ooVoo
- LinkedIn

- Flickr
- Kik
- WeChat
- YouTube

- WhatsApp
- Tinder



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16



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*with permission from parent or guardian

ART COMPETITION

We were very impressed with all of the entries that were submitted throughout early years, key stage 1 and key stage 2. Thank you to all children who participated. It was difficult making decisions but the winning entries and runners-up were decided. Mr Lewis was able to select 3 winning entries and 3 runners up and passes on his congratulations to those pupils who he selected.

Key Stage	Winning entry	Runner up
EYFS	Isla Jones 	Jake Gasson 
KS1	Isobel Hollick 	Owen Thomas 
KS2	Darcy Winter 	Jessica Aylott 

ROAD SAFETY

We have been working very closely with our school Police Constable regarding the parking around school at drop-off and collection times. Our PC will be patrolling on various days in the coming weeks with the intention of ensuring the safety of all and the respect for the local residents in the mornings and afternoons; this will include observations of parking on double yellow lines, zig-zag lines, street corners and residents-only bays as well as drivers observing the 20mph speed limit around the school. It concerns us all that no matter how many times we ask parents and carers not to park on yellow lines that this is still happening. Please adhere to the rules and regulations set. We really do not want any of our children or parents to be hurt due to illegal and dangerous parking.



WORLD BOOK DAY

WORLD BOOK DAY 2019

Roebuck will be celebrating WBD on Thursday 7th March. This year we shall be celebrating the theme of 'Bedtime Stories.' Therefore, we would like all children to come to school in their pyjamas for the day. Teddy bears and sleeping bags are also welcome. Children will enjoy a wide range of bedtime favourites throughout the day which will be read by a variety of staff from around the school. Children are also welcome to bring in their own favourite bedtime story and read this to their friends, class, or teacher.

We do ask that children wear trainers or comfortable shoes for the day and that their pyjamas are suitable for the cold winter weather.

RED NOSEDAY 2019

Red Nose day will take place on Friday 15th March. For a £1 donation children can wear non-uniform and come to school with crazy, weird and wacky hair! We are looking forward to seeing some weird and wonderful creations! Children are also welcome to wear any red nose day accessories that they have bought in local supermarkets to support this worthy cause. All money raised will be donated directly to Comic Relief.



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Please remember that the timber trail and the wooden pirate adventure equipment are not to be used by either school children or their younger siblings before or after school. As well as the potential for your children to be hurt, it also makes it more challenging for the teachers to settle the children at the beginning of the day.

We have installed signs by each of the trails to remind you of this, so please ensure you keep your children off the equipment. Thank you for supporting the school in this matter.

WELCOME NEW STAFF

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members of support staff who have and will be joining Roebuck Academy over the next few weeks. Mrs Bayford has made a much welcome addition to the team in Acorn class, as has Miss Brown in Maple.

We also welcome, after half-term, Mrs Green to Oak class, Miss Carter to Pear Tree and Mrs Kaur to Year Five.

We hope that you will join us in making them feel welcome to our school.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

As a school we are always reflective of our practises and always strive to improve everything that we do. However, it is becoming increasingly frustrating that communication via newsletters and emails is not being read as carefully as we would hope for. As a school, each time we send out a parentmail or text this is at a cost to the school. When we have to send out repeated communication we do feel that this money would be better spent elsewhere. Please ensure that when information is sent out that this is read and dates/events saved so that you are kept well informed.

ROEBUCK RSA

The RSA are always looking for new members. The children would miss out on many fantastic opportunities if it were not for the tireless work of our fabulous RSA. If you wish to get involved, please contact one of the RSA members or give your details to Mrs Erne or Mrs Kinsella in the main school office.

ATTENDANCE AT ROEBUCK

I do need to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of your responsibilities regarding your child's attendance. Holiday dates for this year and 2019/2020 are on the school website and have been for a significant period of time; please use these dates to avoid booking holidays in term time. I also want to take this opportunity to thank parents who work in partnership with the school to ensure your child has good or above attendance of over 96%. Research shows that good school attendance impacts upon children's success in learning. Good attendance helps children to achieve good results, helps them to fulfil their potential and gives them a chance of a better future. At Roebuck Academy, we are committed to ensuring that each and every child in our school fulfils their potential. To help us achieve this we want all of our children to have the best possible attendance. Attendance at Roebuck, although improved this year, is only just meeting the national expectation and if we fall below this level, this will also affect judgements made about our school by the Local Authority and OFSTED. Attendance of at least 96% is expected from every pupil, this allows for the occasional illness, which is unavoidable. Each full day that a child is absent from school 5 hours of learning time is missed, which has an effect on their learning and progress. If a child misses 6 days of school then 30 hours of learning is lost.

In line with our attendance policy; should attendance drop below 96%, the school will inform parents and remind them that should attendance continue to fall, medical evidence may be required and absences unauthorised. School work closely with the Local Attendance Improvement Officer and must notify the AIO if unauthorised absences reach a certain level. The school will require a meeting with parents and the Attendance Improvement Officer may attend. In line with our attendance policy, should attendance not improve following these interventions, this may result in a fine and/or court action.

Holidays will not be authorised during term time. If you do need to request time off for any reason, I ask you to book an appointment with Mrs Johnson or myself to discuss this request in advance of submitting a holiday request form.

Thank you again to those parents who work with the school to achieve consistently high attendance and punctuality. There are only 190 school days in a year; and where possible, we want to see every child at school, every day, because every school day counts. I attach pictures of the journey some children in other parts of the world need to make to get to school each day, I am sure you will agree that we are lucky to have access to education in the way that we do.



Descriptor	Attendance Level	Actual Attendance	Whole Days Absence	Hours of learning lost
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Satisfactory	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
Cause for Concern	90%	171 days	19	95

CHOCOLATE HAMPER SALES

Thank you for your ferocity in purchasing tickets for our annual chocolate hamper sale. Staff and pupils were able to raise a nice amount of £322. As explained previously, money raised is always invested with our pupils. Wet play games for the children in each class have already been purchased. The additional money left over will be spent on additional skipping ropes, hoops and balls for playtimes as requested by pupils.



HOUSE WINNERS - AUTUMN TERM

Gryphon were the overall winning team for the house competition in Autumn 2018. As requested by members of Gryphon's school council members and team captains, we have organised for a morning of Trampolining to take place for the winning team members. This will take place in school and will be organised by Mr Moran with Rinsing Stars. This will take place next half-term.



TESCO BLUE TOKEN SCHEME

An additional reminder that Roebuck Academy is still participating in the Tesco Blue Token Community Fund. We are hoping to win the competition and from visiting local stores we can see that our tokens are stacking up nicely! The winning Prize will be a donation of £4000 to spend on an outdoor project of our choice. All you have to do is collect a blue token or two when shopping at Tesco and pop it into the school's collection box in store. Stores participating are across Stevenage as well as Hitchin. We have until the end of February, so please get collecting!

SAFEGUARDING AT ROEBUCK

At Roebuck all staff have a responsibility to safeguard children. If you ever have a concern about a child or a member of staff then please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads: Ms Young, Mr Mari, Mrs Johnson or Mrs Fisher. Safeguarding posters are also placed around the school, and placed on your child's classroom door for your reference. Mrs McGregor, our new Buccaneers manager, has also joined our team of safeguarding leads. You can also ring the number 0300 123 4043 if you have a concern about a child or anyone else outside school.



PENCIL CASES

Children do not need pencil cases in school as we provide all children with the equipment necessary for their learning. If, however, your child does bring a pencil case into school, they will be asked to store this in their tray. Children will also be asked not to trade or give their belongings away for free which can often cause upset. Please reinforce this with your children at home.

LET'S CELEBRATE SUCCESS: OUTSIDE ACHIEVEMENTS

We continue to celebrate children's outside school achievements in school. If you would like your child's outside achievements celebrated and recognised by the school, please email details, with photographs, if possible, to our Office staff, Janet, Jade and Vikki on the admin account at: admin@roebuck.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively, it is always lovely to see children's achievements first-hand. Children are allowed to bring certificates, badges and photographs etc. into school to share with me, the teaching staff and their friends. We would like to celebrate all achievements; no success is too small.

PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

A huge thank you to parents who attended our parents evening to celebrate their child's learning. It is always so nice to meet with parents and share all of the success and achievements of our children.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the school that you would like to put forward or strengths you would like to see remain, please fill in the tear off slip below or email:

Please place in the suggestions box in the main entrance area of the school.

admin@roebuck.herts.sch.uk

Idea/Suggestion:

Parent/Carer's Name:

Child's Name:

Date	Event	Time
Monday 25th February	Half term begins-Children return to school	8:45am
Tuesday 5 th March	Fantastic Finish Year EYFS	9:00am
Thursday 7 th March	National Book Day	NA
Monday 11 th March	Stem and Science Week	NA
Friday 15 th March	Comic Relief	TBC
Tuesday 19 th March	Code of Conduct Assembly EYFS	9:00am
Wednesday 20 th March	Code of Conduct Assembly KS1	9:00am
Wednesday 20 th March	Code of Conduct Assembly KS2	2:45pm
Friday 22 nd March	Nursery Stay and Play morning	9:00am
Monday 25 th March	Bridge Builders Assembly	9:00am
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 3 and 4 Performance TBC	2:00pm and 6:00pm
Wednesday 27 th March	Year 3 and 4 Performance TBC	6:00pm
Thursday 28 th March	Year 6 Parent's Consultation	1:00 – 7:00pm
Thursday 28 th March	Parent Forum – Parent representatives	6:00pm
Tuesday 2 nd April	Rock Steady Concert	9:00am
Tuesday 2 nd April	Fantastic Finish Year Six	2:00pm
Wednesday 3 rd April	Attendance Assembly	9:00am
Wednesday 3 rd April	Fantastic Finish Year 5	2:00pm
TBC	Stevenage Dance Festival – no date provided as yet	TBC
Friday 5 th April	EYFS Easter Egg Hunt	NA
Friday 5th April	Easter Holidays begin	3:15pm
Tuesday 23rd April	INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	NA
Wednesday 24th April	Term begins for children	8:45am

Read One Book A Day To a Child

Your Child Will Enjoy:

by Age 1.....365 Books
by Age 2.....730 Books
by Age 3.....1095 Books
by Age 4.....1460 Books

In Reality:

Dear Zoo- 301 times, The Very Hungry Caterpillar- 431
times and Everyone Poops- 728 TIMES!

GROWING
BOOK BY BOOK