

We hope our new families and their children feel settled into school. We appreciate the surveys that they have completed about starting at Roselands, and have made a note of comments and suggestions for the future. It was good to see so many families in school, from every class, over the last few weeks – for our harvest festivals and then looking at children's work and meeting the teachers.

Each half term our staff reflect on the learning and activities their classes have achieved and summarise for our newsletter, as they then prepare for the next half term.

All in ASH & BEECH classes – EARLY YEARS - have worked extremely hard to learn all the new class routines. They have learned the first 20 phonemes in phase 2 of the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme and have been using these to start blending simple CVC words. In Maths they have explored subitising (visualising a small number of objects) counting, describing and comparing measures and using lots of new mathematical language. The children have enjoyed their PE lessons in the hall with Mr. Beatty, including learning new skills used in gymnastics. In thematic work the children have talked about their families, their homes, and people that help us in the community. They have had class visits from a librarian and police officers. The children had fun investigating the police van! They sung an action song and showed their paintings at their first big school assembly, to an audience.

In CEDAR, ELM and HAZEL classes – KEY STAGE ONE - the children have been settling well into their new classes, meeting new friends and getting to know their class teaches and adults who work with them. All the children are developing their confidence in completing their daily routines independently. In thematic work they have been learning about the UK. This has included knowing that Roselands is in England and is not far away from the capital city, London. In the Spring term we hope to go on a trip to London to The National Gallery. The children created some interesting poems based on the National Poetry Day Poem called 'My Treasures' by Katie Wakeling. Children in year two have started to learn the recorder and after half term all will be learning songs for their Christmas production that will be performed for families just before Christmas. All classes in key stage one continue to do outdoor learning and after half term the children will all need to have wellington boots or a change of footwear in school on a Friday so that they can go onto the field or in the wooded dell known as our copse. Due to the lack of space we are not able to store the extra footwear in class. It is really helpful if your child brings them in a plastic carrier that they can take them home in at the end of the same day. Please ensure that everything your child wears is named, especially things they take off and put on.

In LAUREL, MAPLE and PINE classes – LOWER KEY STAGE TWO – the children have been busy with a range of activities. In English, they have looked at the 'Fate of Fausto' and instruction writing linked to art activities. They have created some beautiful oil pastel resist paintings based on following instructions. Writing activities have also focused on developing sentence structure and the use of a varied vocabulary. Whole class reading sessions have looked in detail at the book 'The Witches' and the children have been developing their echo reading and text marking. In maths lessons they have also been investigating place value and mental strategies for addition and subtraction. Thematic work has explored the Stone Age, preparing for their Stone Age Day Trip on the 13th November. In science they have been looking at the topic of States of Matter and they have looked in depth at water changing state. In computing the children have looked at online safety, learned about cyberbullying and online behaviour. In PE lessons the children have been developing their knowledge of teamwork and cooperation. In PSHE, the children have learnt how everyone is different and different role in the school community. In French, they have found out how to greet one another and introduce themselves.

In SYCAMORE, WILLOW and YEW classes – UPPER KEY STAGE TWO - children have made a great start to the year. Each morning as soon as they have settled into class, they have engaged in their 'Early Morning Work' consisting of maths questions, spellings, handwriting and reading. After this, all children have participated in their reading lesson, which has focussed on texts linked to Ancient Greece before moving on more recently to developing their reading skills through the exciting text 'Clockwork'. During these lessons, children have practised their reading fluency, through lots of echo and paired reading aloud. Such reading aloud and 'performance reading' was evident in their poetry which they shared with families during our Harvest Assembly. It has also supported many children in their auditions for the Christmas Concert, 'Scrooge'. During the audition day, all children had the opportunity to audition for every part and many showed off fantastic reading, acting and singing skills – they made their teachers very proud!

Maths learning has covered many skills, from multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000, rounding, negative numbers and consolidating knowledge of primes, factors and multiples. Such maths skills have been applied across the curriculum, in for example science lessons, as children have had to use their number knowledge to read and interpret Newton Metres when measuring forces.

Home Learning supports many areas of the curriculum. The children are now experts about Sir Isaac Newton; part of our `forces` theme in Science meant the children had to research him at home and bring information into school in order to write about this famous scientist. Thank you to those families who support their children at home with their Home Learning – most Year 6 pupils have been conscientious when completing their Study Books and all children receive house points for completing reading at home as well as their Home Learning – the battle between the houses for Thursday's extra play reflecting the total of these points remains fierce!

Children continue to have regular PE, French, RE and PSHE lessons whilst their learning in History has seen them plan and write some excellent versions of Greek Myths, as well as producing super Greek style clay pots and fabulous Greek inspired plates. After the half term break they will continue learning about the Ancient Greeks and will be asking for support from families when we hold our Ancient Greek Day in school on Friday 24th November (letters to come home soon).

Our Upper Key Stage 2 pupils showed a very mature attitude as they completed assessments in the last week of term, having to manage some tricky questions and complete test papers in a given time. Their maturity has also shone through as they have taken on board `jobs` which need completing around the school and now all children in Years 5 and 6 are part of the `job rota`, giving them a responsibility around their school. This rota will change regularly. For the second half of term we look forward to lots of exciting events and activities and in particular the English work which we can link to our Christmas Concert.

Volunteers from our local Food Bank collected the many bags that were filled from our **harvest donations** – thank you for all the contributions. Maple Class were invited to visit Belmont View residential home where they entertained residents and staff with a repeat of their Harvest songs.

Our extra-curricular clubs are all underway and will continue until Friday 1st December. Instrumental lessons and orchestra will continue until the end of term, to be joined by the formation of a Christmas choir who will perform in Hoddesdon Town Centre. Separate information will be sent shortly confirming dates of Christmas events, including our Christingle Service at Haileybury, as we are fortunate to have an invitation once again to hold our service in their chapel.

Within our **assemblies**, following themes of 'respect', 'resilience' and 'ready to learn' we have included news updates from our past pupil Jamie George, as he has played for England throughout the Rugby World Cup tournament, and replied to each of our messages wishing him well, before and after the matches.

Our **FORS** team have been continuing to raise funds for school and will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 7th November at 5pm – 6.30pm.

Thank you to all who supported the **Book Fair** which took a total of £1103.44, giving the school £551.72 in commission. With thanks to Mrs Jones for organising the event and we know she will make good choices for all when spending the commission, as she continues to inspire the reading throughout the school.

We wish everyone an enjoyable half term break and look forward to starting the second half of term at 8.45am on Monday 30th October.

J. Carson & S. Hill