Rokeby Park Primary School

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'Aim to be the best you can be'

Autumn 2 Newsletter

Attendance

6th September 2023 — 21st December 2023 Reception – 90.17% Year 1/2 – 9464 Year 3 – 95.27% Year 4 – 92.67% Year 5 – 92.25% Year 6 – 95.16%

The national attendance target is 96.1%. It is very important to your child's education and wellbeing that they are in school, on time every day.

<u>EYFS</u>

This half term we have been learning about lots of different celebrations. We joined in with lots of Diwali traditions such as dancing, mehndi patterns and traditional food. Our next celebration was Remembrance Day and we all made and wore traditional poppies. Finally we have been looking at how Christmas is celebrated by different people around the world. We all worked very hard on our nativity telling the story of the birth of Jesus. In maths we have been working hard on our number bonds to 5 using the part whole model. Our talk for writing text has been Stickman, we retold the story before writing our own about characters we invented



ourselves such as Twiglady, Stoneman and Pebblegirl. We have been very lucky in the EYFS to have lots of new equipment installed. We now have a fantastic new climbing frame, water wall and our mud kitchen has had a wonderful make over. The children are enjoying playing in the garden, even when it rains

<u>YEAR 1</u>

In year 1 we have been writing our own stories based on 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. In maths we have been exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes by going on shape hunts, drawing shape pictures and making towers! In history, we have been learning all about the great fire of London and consolidated this with making our own Tudor style houses in D&T.



In science, we have been exploring the properties and uses of a variety of materials and conducting experiments to test which materials are bendy, stretchy, waterproof and magnetic.

<u>YEAR 2</u>

This half term we have enjoyed learning all about 'The Great Fire of London'. In History, we have learnt all about the houses in 1666 and what Stuart London was like. We have used timelines and different sources to develop our understanding of what caused the fire and why it spread. We have learnt all about Samuel Pepys and his diary as well as what Pudding Lane was like. In DT, we made our own Pudding Lane Tudor houses using our knowledge and understanding to be able to create a stable structure. We are also writing about it in writing lesson, making cross curricular links to be able to write our own recount from the view of Samuel Pepys! In maths, we have developed our understanding of multiplication and division, especially our 2s, 5s and 10s. We have focused on what dividing means, doubling, halving and using arrays to help us with our learning. In science, we have explored properties of different materials focusing on bending, stretching, twisting and squashing. We have carried out different practical activities for this. We have also enjoyed learning about the Christmas story in RE in preparation for Christmas and why we celebrate it. Year 2 have worked extremely hard this half term. Merry Christmas 😳

<u>YEAR 3</u>

This half term year 3 have learned all about the Prehistoric times in history. They have learned about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age and the changes that happened between the different time periods. They have created a Stone Age inspired cave painting using charcoal and natural pigments to replicate the art from this time. In science we have been focusing on the different types of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock. We have also explored fossils and how they are formed. In maths we have focused on our times tables which we will continue to learn about next half term. In guided reading we have read the Ted Hughes story of The Iron Man. The children loved reading the Iron Man and learning about him as a character. In writing the children have created a defeat the monster story using speech. We used Little Red Riding Hood as our inspiration. The children also created an information text about Santa's elves and to inform readers of their cheeky antics. We are really looking forward to all the amazing learning we will do next half term.

<u>YEAR 4</u>

This half term we have been studying the Roman Empire and looking about why and how Ancient Rome fell. We visited a museum to look at some ancient Roman artefacts. We built or own Roman arch, cleaned some genuine Roman tiles and dressed up as Roman soldiers! We have been learning how sound works and what changed sound. We have conducted our own experiments with musical instruments and had a blast. At the end of term, we have been learning about Christmas and even played children from Malawi! We joined in with Christmas songs and even made our own Christingles. We are excited for our next journey in year 4 after the holidays.

<u>YEAR 5</u>

Year 5 have been immersing themselves in Victorian history, through their history lessons and their trip to Wilberforce House, where they time travelled to Christmas Eve 1853 to help Mrs Miggins prepare the house for a traditional Victorian Christmas. We have also extended our understanding of this time period through our class novel of Street Child by Bernie Doherty, supplemented by Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens - we have really got our teeth into understanding what life was like for both poor and rich children in this time period! In maths, we have been working really hard on fractions with different denominators and how to convert them before adding and subtracting them. In art, we have been studying graffiti artist, Banksy and using his stencil techniques to create our own pieces inspired by his style. In DT, we have been writing suspense stories and instructions, as well working really hard on our handwriting and spellings.

<u>YEAR 6</u>

Year 6 have had another fantastic half term and I can't believe we're a third of the way through the year already. Maths has heavily focused on fractions, decimals and percentages and the children have risen to the challenge of this unit by ordering, comparing and calculating. We completed 'Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief' at the beginning of the half term and then read 'Percy Jackson and the Titan's Curse'. The children absolutely loved comparing the two and drawing links between the novels in the series. In writing, we have written suspense narratives and our own balanced arguments linked to Christmas. We have worked on our fitness skills in PE, assessing our fitness levels and working on improving them over the half term. The children have thoroughly enjoyed our history topic on Ancient Greece learning all about the different periods and ages, the importance of Alexander the Great and the legacies the ancient Greeks have left behind including architecture, alphabet and the Olympic Games. The children worked hard preparing for our nativity and Christingle and I hope they have a restful and enjoyable Christmas break in readiness for a busy spring term!

Home/School Reading App

Please remember to read regularly at home with your children and to log this on our new reading app, Learning with Parents. The children really enjoy reading in school and love to talk about the books they read. Reading at home will help to boost their fluency in reading.

Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who donated a prize on non-uniform day and thank you to all parents/carers/grandparents who turned up to support our Fayre. We raised a total of £492.96!

School Council

The School Council have continued to raise money for charity this half term. We raised an impressive £106.45 for Children in Need with a non-uniform day and £91.48 for Save the Children selling crafts at the Christmas Fair. Thank you so much to everyone for your continued support.

School Nurse

The School Nurse is in school and available to speak with every Tuesday afternoon. She can offer a range of medical advice and support. If you would like to speak to her, please contact the school office.

Singing Club

From Thursday 18th January we will be starting a singing club on a lunch time. Pupils will be able to sign up to the club during the first week of term.

Gardening Club

From Tuesday 23rd January we will be starting a gardening club on a lunch time. Pupils will be able to sign up to the club when we return to school in January.

Lunch Time Assistant Vacancies

We are currently advertising for 3 Lunch Time Assistants. If you are interested in the role, please contact the school for more information.



IMPORTANT TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The school will close for Christmas Holidays on **Thursday 21st December 2023** and will re-open to pupils on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**

The school will close for half-term on **Friday 9th February 2024** and re-open to pupils on **Monday 19th February 2024** (all term dates can be found on the school's website) https://rokebyparkprimary.org.uk/



As most of you will know, Miss Kate Renwick started her maternity leave on 8th December and Miss Briana Ribbitt is now covering the Year 4 class for the rest of the academic year. Mrs Charlotte Lambert has returned from her maternity leave this week and will be teaching in Year 1 from January on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Lambert has spent this week in Year 1 with Mrs Ford, getting to know the children and classroom routines.



Key School Dates – Winter Term 1 2023/2024

Please see below for some of the key events that will be happening over Winter Term 1. Additional events may be added, and **some dates may be subject to change**. Further letters with more detailed information, may also be sent nearer to the event dates.

Whole school	Monday 8 th January	Training Day – closed to pupils
Whole school	Tuesday 9 th January	Pupils return to school
Y6	w/c 15 th January	SATs booster sessions start
Y3/4	Monday 15 th January	Dance Workshop
Y3/4	Monday 22 nd January	Dance Workshop
Y1/2	Tuesday 23 rd January	The Deep
Y3/4	Monday 29th January	Dance Workshop
Y3 & Y6	Tuesday 30 th January	MAGNA
Whole school	w/c 5 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Y3/4	Monday 5 th February	Dance Workshop
Whole school	Wednesday 7 th February	Safer Internet Day
Y4	Wednesday 7 th February	Bikeability
Y4	Thursday 8 th February	Bikeability
Y4	Friday 9th February	Bikeability
Whole school	Friday 9 th February	Last day of term