

Roxbourne Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 24th November 2023



November 2023 - Cut Your Carbon Month

Cut Your Carbon is a month-long challenge that we are taking part in. This week, our Sustainability Ambassadors have explained the importance of cutting our carbon footprint to every class. We are challenging everyone at Roxbourne Primary School to complete nine simple actions throughout November to reduce their carbon footprint. The actions have been posted in Google Classroom and are on display in each classroom. Our wonderful Sustainability Ambassadors will ask all pupils about their actions in the first week of December. Good luck to everyone involved!



December 2023 - Christmas Events at Roxbourne!

As we prepare for the festive period of Christmas, we wanted to pull together all the important dates into one section / table and we have provided more details in a specific letter [here](#). Where appropriate, please do join us for these special events!



Date	Time	Event
Wednesday 6th December	18:00 - 19:00	Rayners Lane Light Switch On
Tuesday 12th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 3 Strings Concert
Wednesday 13th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 4 Strings Concert
Thursday 14th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 5 Strings Concert
Friday 15th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day
	All Day	Pupils Meet Santa
	All Day	Pupils record their class Christmas song
	12:00 - 13:00	Christmas Lunch
	15.25 - 16.30	Winter Jingle and Mingle
Monday 18th December	09:30 and 14:30	Nursery and Reception Nativity Performance
Tuesday 19th December	13:30 - 15:00	Christmas Orchestra Concert
Wednesday 20th December	PM	Whole School Christmas Service at St Andrews Church
Thursday 21st December	09:00 - 12:00	Christmas Roadshow Assembly
Thursday 21st December	14:00	Early Closure

General Updates

Winter Uniform

All children should now be wearing a full winter uniform. We still have children wearing a white polo shirt which is part of the summer uniform.

Girls Winter Uniform: A white collar shirt, tie, cardigan, trousers/skirts or a dress and grey socks or tights with black shoes or trainers

Boys Winter Uniform: A white collar shirt, tie, V neck jumper, trousers and grey socks with black shoes or trainers.



Water Cooler Bottle Call Out

In music we will be exploring some junk percussion in our year 6 lessons. Mr. Palekar is calling out to all parents who may have a water dispenser at their workplace. If so, we are looking for some water cooler bottles (as pictured). If you are able to donate one (or more!) from your workplace, please drop them to the school office.



School meals

Thank you for continuous support in booking your child's meal on the Arbor App / portal. Please continue to do so. Remember that you can make your meal selection up until the 18th December 2023! And can amend up until 08:30 on the day. If you need any assistance, our School Office team will be happy to help.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast club (07:40 to 08:40), Enrichment Club (15:25 to 16:30) and After School Care (16:30 to 18:00) are up and running - and are available to book on Arbor ! Please do so before midnight the day before you need wraparound care, otherwise bookings need to be made over the phone, which takes up quite a lot of time.

Late delivery items

We are experiencing a very large number of "late delivery items" such as violins, water bottles and packed lunches. As you can imagine, this is taking up a considerable amount of time to distribute. Please note, going forward, late delivery items will be delivered to pupils at 12:00 as long as they are clearly labelled.

Pre-loved board games

If you have any board games in good condition for our children to use during the lunchtime in our library, please can you leave your donated items with our school office. Thank you for your continuous support.

The Importance of Attendance

We'd like to remind parents the importance of arriving at school on time. At 8.50am the gates are closed and registration is taken . Any students arriving after this time will be marked late and will need to give a reason for lateness to the school office. Students with a high absence or lateness may also be referred to the Court Attendance Officer or Children's Services. Where the Harrow Council's Education Services believes that a Penalty Notice is the most appropriate way to deal with irregular school attendance if a child has attendance below 90% and at least 5% absences are unauthorised. The issuing of Penalty Notices may be appropriate in the following circumstances:

- **Absence from school:**
 - At least 20 sessions (**10 school days**) lost to unauthorised absence within a period of no more than 12 weeks (term time).
 - A leave of absence of at least 10 consecutive sessions (**5 school days**) not approved by the Headteacher as 'exceptional'.
- **Lateness:**
 - In cases where a child persistently arrives at school after the register has closed and has received

at least **8 unauthorised late marks within a period of 10 weeks (term time)**.

How to Report a Pupil Absence

If your child is absent you must:-

- **Contact us before 9.00am** on the first day of absence and every day of absence thereafter.
- You may also come to the school office and provide a suitable reason for an absence, or email the office at office@roxbourneprimaryschool.co.uk

If your child is absent due to illness for **5 consecutive days or more**, medical proof may be requested. If your child is unwell for **3 or more consecutive days** immediately before or after a school holiday medical proof may be requested. If sufficient medical proof is not received then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

External Support For Parents and Carers

Behaviour Workshop
Call 020 8736 6550 to book
Focus on parents of 2 - 5 year olds
Virtual - 21 December 2023 - 1 - 2.30pm

Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Focus on parents of 3 - 9 year olds
Virtual - 9 November 2023 - 1 - 2.30pm

15 December 2023
Virtual Behaviour -avoiding physical chastisement 10-11.30am
Call 020 8736 6480

For families of children on the journey to diagnosis or with a diagnosis of SEND
Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Virtual - 4 December 2023 - 1 -2.30pm

Sibling Rivalry Workshop
20 November 12 – 1 pm
Call 020 8424 1460 to book

Parenting Top Tips & Advice Appointments
Virtual / Face to Face at Cedars
Call to book - 020 8736 6222
02 November 2023
08 November 2023
15 November 2023
22 November 2023
30 November 2023
13 December 2023
20 December 2023

Sleep Workshop
6 months and over
Call to book - 020 8736 6480
Virtual - 16 November 2023
1.30-3 pm
Call to book 020 8424 1460
11 December 2023 1 - 2.30pm

Managing Emotions Workshop
Call to book - 020 8424 1460
Virtual - 18 December 2023
12 - 1 pm

Toilet Learning Workshop
Call - 020 8736 6480 to book
Virtual - 1 November 2023 - 10-11am
Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Virtual - 1 December 2023 - 12- 1 pm

For families of children on the journey to diagnosis or with a diagnosis of SEND
Virtual - 21 November 2023 - 1 - 2 pm
Call 020 8424 1066 to book
4 December 12- 1 pm
Call 020 8736 6550 to book

Healthy Eating & meal times Workshop
Call to book - 020 8424 1066
Virtual - 12 December 2023 - 12.15- 1.15pm

Autumn Term 2

Early Support Parenting Workshops

We all need advice sometimes....
Appointment only



Year Group Update



Nursery Update

This week in **Topic**, we have been busy learning about Autumn and singing Autumn songs. We have collected leaves on our Autumn walk around the school and have painted autumn trees for our class display. Whilst reading a book about Autumn, Nursery pupils were fascinated to see hedgehogs so we decided to make our own hedgehogs using clay. We learned some facts about hedgehogs, such as they have spines that are sharp, they eat worms and turn into a ball when they're in danger.

In **Maths**, we continued with number recognition and ordering numbers.

In **Literacy** we have started reading The Gingerbread Man and have been busy baking a variety of cakes and breads in our class bakery.



Reception Update



The start of the week was all about Fred's Birthday Party. From making party hats and birthday cards for Fred, to making lists of food and events that should take place on the day, the children had a wonderful time organising for the big day.

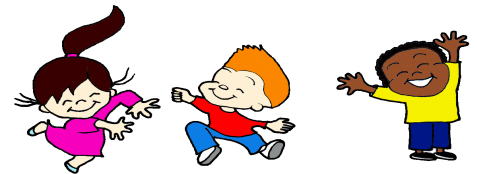
After all the preparations Thursday, Fred's Birthday, came and was a huge success.

The children had a fantastic morning making cakes for the party. They were able to remember the steps of the recipe learned in class and willingly told how to put the cake together (though some wanted to put the ingredients in the oven before mixing!) Once the cakes were cooked it was time to decorate ready for

the afternoon's party. The children got to drizzle the icing on the cakes and add the sprinkles on to ensure their efforts were party ready.

Whilst this was happening, the rest of the class were busy making birthday cards and party hats in the classroom so that their party attire was complete.

In the afternoon, it was party time! We kicked off with playing pass the parcel where we all unwrapped a piece of the parcel each, once the music had stopped, followed by some dancing with balloons (the balloons were a huge hit) and finally we capped off the party games with another dance fest for musical bumps.



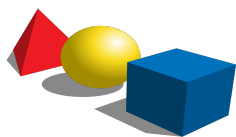
After the party games it was time to eat. We made our way into the hall. It had been set up beautifully (thank you Mrs Vigna and Mrs Khurmi) with an array of party food set up all in a row on the dinner tables.

The final event was to invite our parents in to enjoy the festivities with us. The hall was jam packed with parents and children all laughing and dancing and having a wonderful time. Here the guest of honour himself - Fred the Frog - made an appearance. He mingled amongst the parents and children and rounded off a marvellous afternoon with Fred's birthday cake complete with 5 candles.



The staff in Reception would like to say a big heartfelt THANK YOU to all the parents who gave up their time to come and enjoy the final moments of Fred's party with their children. It was heartwarming to see the children's excited faces when you all came through the doors and joined them in their celebrations.

In **Maths** this week, we looked at 3D shapes. We are learning to identify a cube, cylinder, sphere and cone and to identify faces, vertices and edges on these shapes.



Click [here](#) for a fun game with 3D shapes

Below are some **phonics** activities to try with your children.

Fred Games

[Fred's Fridge](#)



[Fred's Toy Box](#)



[Fred's Bedroom](#)



[Learning to Blend - L3](#) [Learning to Blend - L4](#)



In preparation for our Christmas topic next week please listen to the story [A letter to Santa](#)

Y1 Update

This week in **Maths**, we have been exploring the 'Make 10' strategy when adding or subtracting a one digit number from a teen number. As well as using our known facts and number bonds, we have also been using tens frames and cubes to help us solve the equations.

In **Writing**, we have been learning about the past tense and how we can identify if a verb is in the past tense. We know that, usually past tense verbs end in -ed, however, we know that there are some tricky verbs that don't follow this rule. We have also been exploring time adverbials and how we can use them to add extra information into our writing. To name a few, **first, next, after that** and **finally** were some time adverbials that we have used.

In **Science**, we have been discussing how the weather changes as we go into Winter. We learnt that as we start to go into Winter, there are less hours of daylight and the temperature starts to get colder. We enjoyed looking at a graph that showed us how the hours of daylight start to lessen as we enter Winter from Autumn.

In **Topic**, we have been looking at how toys have changed and how we know if a toy is old or not. We know that some toys share similarities from toys in the past, however, there may also be many differences. We have been using key vocabulary such as **past, modern** and present to describe toys as well as discussing how often modern toys are often made from plastic as it is stronger and safer.

In **Phonics**, we have been learning the sound [ay](#), [oo](#), and [ee](#). Please click on the sounds to practise them at home!

Y2 Update

This week in **Maths**, we have started our new unit of Multiplication and Division. The children have been using cubes to make equal groups. We have represented our division in an array and part part whole models.

In **Writing**, we have been learning how to use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. We have used these in our writing to support our recount of our school trip to Windsor Castle. We have also been using fronted adverbials to help build cohesion within our writing.

In **Science**, we have been looking at what a balanced diet is and what each food group does to our bodies. We have investigated our own food diary that we kept over three days and decided if our diet was balanced or not. In **History**, we have focused on how much damage The Great Fire of London caused to the people in 1666.

Phonics

Yellow: [Here](#)

Blue: [Here](#)

Grey: [Here](#)

Please continue to support your child by engaging with all of the homework. Completing the weekly homework set has a direct impact on your child's learning at school.

Christmas song - Please practise this song with your child ready for our performance Friday **15th December**

[2 Norwich](#) [2 Cambridge](#)

Y3 Update

This week in **Reading**, we have looked at a story about Mary Anning, a female palaeontologist who became known for her discoveries of fossils. It was interesting to draw connections between our learning in Science and Mary Anning's role in the great discovery of fossils, such as the ichthyosaur. We looked at the 6 key vocabulary: *adore*, *slab*, *tumble*, *polish*, *cabinet* and *delicate*. The children wrote their own sentences using these words and later answered retrieval and inference questions.

In **Mathematics** this week, we have focused on learning the steps to use the column method successfully. We applied this method to add and subtract two 3-digit numbers. The children learnt how to do this when regrouping is required (both once and more than once). They consolidated their learning by working out the sum to different calculations during the independent task. Later, we used the column method to solve word problems involving addition.

In **Writing**, we have continued with our genre of writing to inform. The children first completed a box plan on their informal letter, which is to provide information about our year group trip to Stonehenge. After, the children used their box plans to begin writing their informal letters. They made sure to include what they planned for (not disregarding!) as well as the key features from the success criteria checklist.

In **Science**, we have continued with our topic on rocks and fossils. The children looked at different types of soils and identified their key characteristics: colour, appearance, texture and moisture. We then looked at an investigation which aimed to test the permeability of different soils.

Please continue to support your child by engaging with all of the online homework portals. They are required to achieve **200 points** on Mathematics portals **every week**. Completing the weekly homework set has a direct impact on your child's learning at school.

Y4 Update

In **Reading**, we read 2 articles from a fictional newspaper - 'The Roman News'. One article told us all about how impressive Roman roads were, while the other was a tempting advertisement for a luxurious bathhouse. We learnt 6 new words this week: vast, equipped, scrape, govern, channelled and unwind. We also practised a new skill of analysing the author's intent, exploring what the purpose of the text was and how the author used language to convey this.

In **Maths**, we wrapped up our unit on Multiplication and Division by looking at mental strategies, and working out how to pick the most efficient strategy for any given question. We consolidated the different strategies we have covered in this unit: using area models, short multiplication and using known facts to solve more complex equations mentally.

In **Writing**, we have started looking at our next genre of a recount. In this genre, we are writing with the purpose of informing, and will eventually be writing a recount based on the construction of a Roman road as our independent piece. This week, we learnt all about the features of a good recount, and looked at grammar pieces such as using pronouns to avoid repetition as well as possessive apostrophes, which we will use in our writing.

In **History**, we continued to look at Roman Britain with our archaeological hats on, studying primary sources of artefacts and archaeological sites, sharing what we observed and what we could infer. In **Science**, we explored the melting points of different solids, and tracked the melting process of 3 different solids: frozen jelly, frozen butter and ice.

In **French**, we continued our unit on Les Fruits, and have begun stringing sentences together to express our opinions on various fruits.

Thank you for your continued support at home, ensuring that your child is engaging with homework on a regular basis.

Y5 Update

This week in **Reading**, we have focused on the extract - '**Thor**' from Norse Gods and Heroes by Annie Klingsman. We loved learning about Thor and his hammer, following him on his adventures. We learnt about the importance of Thor's hammer and how this linked to him being the Viking God of Thunder (Thunor). In **Maths**, we looked at different strategies to multiply and divide. We looked at

rounding and adjusting and how we can use known facts to help us calculate larger numbers. We began looking at multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000.

In **Writing**, we have moved onto our next genre, where we will be writing a **recount** on the Viking raid on Lindisfarne. During this immersion week, we researched all about the raid. We had a great lesson where we used role play to act out the Vikings arriving at Lindisfarne and the monks' reaction to the attack! We then analysed an example recount to help us identify the features.

In **History**, we have continued our topic, **Vikings**, as linked to our writing and continued to explore the Viking raids, including what Vikings would wear when travelling. We explored a pendant of Thor's hammer and why this would have been used as part of a necklace for the Vikings. In **Science**, we have been learning about air resistance - check out social media to see how our experiment went!

In **French**, we continued our topic, **Les Saisons**, learning about the different types of seasons and key things that happen during this time.

Please continue to encourage your children to access the **TTRS** and **Mathletics** portals online in order that they can complete their homework and achieve the required points each week. In addition, each time they complete a reading book, please make sure they log onto **Accelerated Reader** and complete a quiz for that book, to test their knowledge and understanding of what they have read. There are also vocabulary quizzes they can complete.

Y6 Update

This week in **Reading**, we have focused on the extract - '**Weird but Wonderful...The Octopus**'. This extract taught us many fascinating facts about these interesting invertebrates. Be sure to ask the children their favourite fact about octopuses is! Within reading this extract, we worked on developing our retrieval, inference and word meaning skills.

In **Maths**, we have continued our topic on fractions. This week we have learned for example, $\frac{2}{5}$ is the same as 2 divided by 5 and so used this knowledge to find decimal equivalents of fractions. We then progressed onto adding fractions with unlike denominators, using our knowledge of factors and multiples to help us.

In **Writing**, we have moved onto our next genre, where we will be writing a **non-chronological report** on bees. We know that this genre of writing is a formal piece, where we will be using features such as subheading, bullet points as well as being able to use semi-colon sentences and parenthesis in our work too.

In **Geography**, we have continued our topic, **Mapping the World** where this week we have been learning about Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. OS is the national mapping agency for Great Britain and we learned that to locate specific places within a map, we have to use eastings (vertical lines) and northings (horizontal lines) to plot specific areas.

In **Science**, we have been learning about vertebrates and how they are classified. We know that an animal that has a backbone must be a vertebrate. We also discussed the difference between warm-blooded and cold-blooded animals.

In **French**, we continued our topic, **je me presente**, where this week, we learned how to ask the question: What is your name?, as well as using the response: My name is.

Please continue to encourage your children to access the **TTRS** and **Mathletics** portals online in order that they can complete their homework and achieve the required points each week. In addition, each time they complete a reading book, please make sure they log onto **Accelerated Reader** and complete a quiz for that book, to test their knowledge and understanding of what they have read. There are also vocabulary quizzes they can complete.

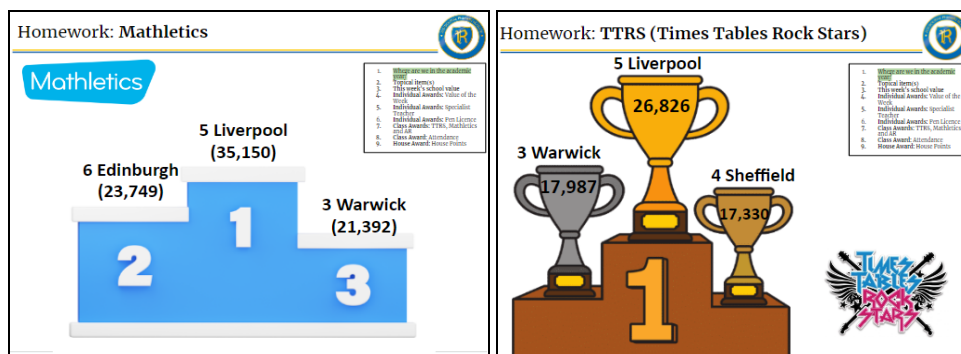
Value of the Week: Reflective

Class	This week's certificates go to...
R Oxford	Aaisha - for being reflective in all lessons and making valuable contributions in class. Well done Aaisha! Hamza - for being reflective with his independent writing and choosing to sound out his words by himself Well done Hamza!
R Southampton	Aanvi - for being reflective in Maths lessons and during busy learning while facing a challenge. Zavier - for being reflective during busy learning and carpet time, Well done showing good listening skills!
1 Bath	Shanaya - for being reflective in PSHE and making contributions in class. Well done! Vincent - for being reflective in writing and making edits to uplevel his work. Well done!
1 Bristol	Thisha for reflecting in Maths, using her known facts and then correcting her answer. Super work! Matei for being reflective in Writing and thinking of how he can uplevel his work. Well done Matei!
2 Cambridge	Hamza - for reflecting on the presentation of his work. Tudor - for being reflective during his writing.
2 Norwich	Ria - for being reflective in Maths and achieving her steps to success. Well done! Hussain - for being reflective during our Writing lessons and independently completing his task. Good work!
3 Birmingham	Kayla - for reflecting on the steps to success during Mathematics; identifying the step that you missed and ensuring that you followed this during the independent task was fantastic to see! Elijah - for reflecting on the steps to success during Mathematics and you made sure that you followed them when completing the independent task. Fantastic work was produced!
3 Loughborough	Pavi - for being reflective in her writing by consistently and carefully uplevelling her informal letter. Well done! Jeiron - for remaining focussed and persistent in his efforts during Mathematics this week. Keep up the great work!
3 Warwick	Anwar - for paying attention to and improving your behaviour for learning this week. Well done! Keep it up. Nayla - for reflecting on your work in Mathematics this week and using your steps for success to complete your independent tasks successfully.
4 Sheffield	Divyani - for being reflective and contributing in class discussion during PSHE lesson this week. Fabio - for reflecting and acting on his feedback given in the lesson.
4 York	Zayyan - for bringing some honest and insightful reflections during PSHE. Brilliant! Alina - for working hard in Maths to spot and correct her own mistakes. Excellent!
5 Liverpool	Amir - For being reflective during Maths when correcting his own work and ensuring he can uplevel his independent task! Great job Rana - For being reflective in Writing when editing her non-chronological report. Well done!
5 Manchester	Fatima - for being reflective in all lessons and thinking about her answers before responding. Sehaj - for reflecting in Science when doing an experiment on air resistance and considering his prediction carefully.
6 Cardiff	Hashim - for reflecting on every question posed and considering his answer deeply before contributing clearly to class discussion. Yannis - for working effectively with his teachers to reflect on his progress and set achievable next steps.
6 Edinburgh	Rayka - for reflecting well and applying his retrieval and inference skills to tackle some tricky questions in Reading this week. Keep it up! Soliana - For reflecting well on her knowledge of fractions to be able to add fractions with unlike denominators this week. Well Done!

Specialist Teacher Certificates

	Music Star of the Week Well done from Mr Palekar!	PE Star of the Week Well done from Mr Donnelly, Mr Wilkins and Mr. McGarvie!	RE Star of the Week Well done from Mrs Illankovan!
Reception	Panav - For lovely practise of Nativity songs this week.	Reeya P - For always trying her hardest and having a great attitude to learning.	
Year 1	Jovanvir - For brilliant singing and movement in our lesson this week.	David H - For showing amazing throwing control in PE.	Ezra -For great acting and retelling of the story of the Good Samaritan.
Year 2	Tudor - For your lovely singing in music this week.	Carla - For overcoming difficulties when working on throwing and catching and doing really well in the end.	Christopher -For sharing lots of facts about the cross during class discussion.
Year 3	Erisha - For lots of musical energy in our lesson this week.	Nevan - For great knowledge and skills while defending in Hockey	Beatrice --For reflecting on her learning about the features of a church and drawing a beautiful altar table.
Year 4	Maryum - For excellent singing in our lesson this week.	Adib - For fantastic defending in Hockey.	Vivaan -For retelling the key points of some of Jesus's stories.
Year 5	Fatima - For practice and accuracy in music.	Abeenaya - For excellent work when working on moving into space to receive a pass in Netball.	Razvan -For reciting The Lord's prayer in Romanian to the class proudly.
Year 6	Rianna - For lots of energy in music and choir this week.	Erfan - For showing great determination during Hockey.	Kiirthick -For writing a great summary about the Easter story.
Virtuoso Violinist of the week	Cid - For practising especially well and showing this in your violin lesson.		

TTRS and Mathletics



This week we celebrated the following classes for their high engagement on our online platforms. Well done to **5 Liverpool** for their fantastic work this week! Keep up the good work!

School admissions

Applications are now open for Nursery and Reception school places for September 2024. Due to high demand, places at Roxbourne Primary School fill very quickly. Should you have family, friends or neighbours with Nursery or Reception aged children, please let them know that applications are now open as detailed below.

	Nursery Admissions	Reception Admissions	In-Year Admissions
Open Days	<p>We are running a series of Open Mornings or Afternoons to provide an opportunity for prospective parents / carers to visit our school, meet with our Headteacher and ask any questions they may have.</p> <p>If any of your family, friends or neighbours, are interested in applying to Roxbourne for a place for their child or would like to attend one of our Open Mornings or Afternoons, please ask them to register using our booking form.</p>		
Your child's Date of Birth	Your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.	Your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020.	School places for children who are changing schools or have recently moved to Harrow.
Start Date	September 2024	September 2024	Flexible
How to apply?	Please click here .	Please click here .	Nursery: Please click here . Reception to Y6: Please click here .
Deadline	Monday 15th January 2024	Monday 15th January 2024	N/A
Receive outcome of application	Friday 15th March 2024	Friday 16th April 2024	Usually within a two weeks

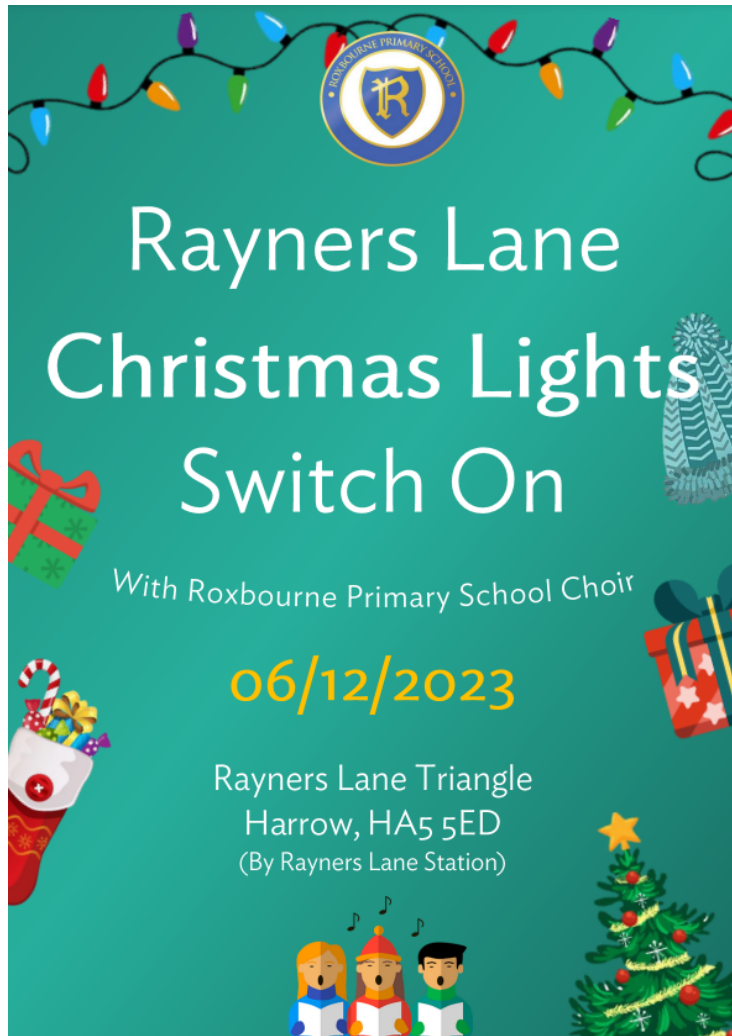
Nursery Universal Entitlement: Please note, in Nursery, all three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of early year's education each academic year from the start of the term after their third birthday - this is known as the *universal entitlement*.

Nursery 30 Hour Provision: Three and four year olds, whose parents meet a government criteria, are also eligible for an additional 15 hours per week at zero cost to the parent - this is known as the *extended entitlement*. Eligibility guidelines can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

If you are not eligible for 30 Hour Provision, but are still interested in this offer, please contact our admissions team - the current charge for the additional four hours per day is only £15.00 per day.

Important Dates

Date	Time	Event	Link to letter
Thursday 30th November	13:00 - 15:25	Reception RE visit to St Andrews Church	Here
Wednesday 6th December	18:00 - 18:30	Rayners Lane Christmas Lights Switch On	Here
Monday 11th December	All Day	Year 1 RE Visit to Westminster Abbey	Coming Soon!
Monday 11th December	All Day	Year 3 Educational Visit to the Natural History Museum	Coming Soon!
Tuesday 12th December	10:30 - 16:30	Reception Educational Visit to Theatre	Coming Soon!
Tuesday 12th December	All Day	Year 2 Educational Visit to the Monument	Coming Soon!
Tuesday 12th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 3 Strings Programme Christmas Concert	Here
Wednesday 13th December	All Day	Year 5 Educational Visit to the RAF Colindale	Coming Soon!
Thursday 14th December	All Day	Year 4 Educational Visit to the Verulamium Museum	Coming Soon!
Wednesday 13th December	All Day	Year 6 Educational Visit to London Zoo	Coming Soon!
Wednesday 13th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 4 Strings Programme Christmas Concert	Here
Thursday 14th December	14:20 - 15:00	Year 5 Strings Programme Christmas Concert	Here
Friday 15th December	15.25 - 16.30	Winter Jingle and Mingle	Here
Friday 15th December	All Day	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas song Competition	Here
Monday 18th December	09:30 and 14:30	Nursery and Reception Nativity	Here
Tuesday 19th December	13:30-15:00	Staff Band to play for all year groups	Here
Wednesday 20th December	PM	Whole School at Church	Here
Thursday 21st December	14:00	Last day of HT2 (and early closure)	N/A
Tuesday 9th January 2024	08:40	First day of HT3	N/A



12 Top Tips for BUILDING CYBER RESILIENCE AT HOME

As a society, we're increasingly using technology and tech services in the home. Digital assistants which can adjust the heating or turn lights on and off; streaming services for shows and movies on demand; games consoles; smart speakers; phones; laptops ... the list goes on. As we introduce each new gizmo to our homes, however, we increase the level of threat from cyber criminals. It's essential, therefore, that we learn to become more cyber resilient in relation to the devices and digital services that the people in our household use.

WHAT IS 'CYBER RESILIENCE'?

Cyber resilience focuses on three key areas: reducing the likelihood of a cyber attack gaining access to our accounts, devices or data; reducing the potential impact of a cyber incident; and making the recovery from a cyber attack easier, should we ever fall victim to one.

1. PASSWORDS: LONGER AND LESS PREDICTABLE

The longer, less common and predictable a password is, the more difficult it becomes for cyber criminals to crack. The National Cyber Security Centre's 'three random words' guidelines are ideal for creating a long password which is easy to remember but hard to guess.

2. AVOID RE-USING PASSWORDS

When you use the same password across different logins, your cyber resilience is only as strong as the security of the weakest site or service you've signed up for. If cyber criminals gain access your username and password for one site or service, they'll definitely try them on others.

3. USE A PASSWORD MANAGER

A good way to juggle different passwords for every site or service you use is to have a password manager. This software stores all your passwords for you, so you simply need to remember the master password. LastPass, Dashlane, Password and Keeper are all excellent password managers.

4. BACK UP YOUR DATA

Keep a copy of your data using OneDrive, Google Drive or another reputable cloud-based storage solution. If it's extremely important or sensitive information, you could even decide to keep more than one back-up version – by saving it to a removable USB drive or similar device, for example.

5. ENABLE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multi-factor authentication is where you need access to your phone (to receive a code, for example) or another source to confirm your identity. This makes it far more difficult for cyber criminals to gain entry to your accounts and your data, even if they do manage to get your username and password.

6. CHOOSE RECOVERY QUESTIONS WISELY

Some services let you set 'recovery questions' – such as your birthplace or a pet's name – in case you forget your password. Take care not to use information you might have mentioned (or are likely to in future) on social media. More unpredictable answers make cyber criminals' task far harder.

7. SET UP SECONDARY ACCOUNTS

Some services provide the facility to add secondary accounts, phone numbers and so on to help with potentially recovering your account. Make sure you set these up: they will be vital if you're having trouble logging in or if you're trying to take back control of your account after a cyber attack.

12. STAY SCEPTICAL

Cyber criminals commonly use various methods, including emails, text messages and social media posts. Be cautious of any messages or posts that are out of the ordinary, offer something too good to be true or emphasise urgency – even if they appear to come from someone you know.

11. KEEP HOME DEVICES UPDATED

Download official software updates for your household's mobile phones, laptops, consoles and other internet-enabled devices regularly. Security improvements and fixes are a key feature of these updates – so by ensuring each device is running the latest version, you're making them more secure.

10. CHANGE DEFAULT IOT PASSWORDS

Devices from the 'Internet of Things' (IoT), such as 'smart' home appliances, are often supplied with default passwords. This makes them quicker to set up, but also less secure – criminals can identify these standard passwords more easily, so change them on your IoT devices as soon as possible.

9. CHECK FOR BREACHES

You can check if your personal information has been involved in any known data breaches by entering your email address at www.haveibeenpwned.com (yes, that spelling is correct!). It's useful if you're worried about a possible attack – or simply as motivation to review your account security.

8. KEEP HAVING FUN WITH TECH

Consider our tips in relation to the gadgets and online services your household uses. Protect yourself and your family, and don't let the bad guys win: devices are not only integral to modern life but also a lot of fun – so as long as you keep safety and security in mind, don't stop enjoying your tech.

Meet Our Expert

Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it is essential that adults and children alike become more aware of the risks associated with technology, as well as the many benefits.



Source: www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/top-tips-for-staying-secure-online/three-random-word | <https://haveibeenpwned.com>



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