

RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION: NEWSLETTER 25

19 March 2021

rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk

Rode Early Bird and Stay and Play Team

bookingsatrodeandnorton@gmail.com

OFSTED Registration: EY489041

Dear Parents and Carers,

Message from Mrs Muxworthy

This week there has been a lovely sense of 'business as usual' about school and we are starting to make exciting plans for a hopefully Covid-free future.

I have had the pleasure of showing two more new families around the school who have recently moved to the area. Thank you for spreading the word about our Federation, you and the children are our best advert!

I met with each class this week to gather their ideas on Clubs (see below) and suggestions for playground developments. I can't promise the swimming pool they wished for but they have given me great food for thought to discuss with the FRANS team.

As a compromise on the school pool, we are looking into the possibility of re-starting swimming lessons later in the term for the Year 2 children who have unfortunately missed out on swimming lessons since they started at school.

Staff News

We are now advertising for a **new Reception Teacher** for September, to replace myself and Mrs George (who was only doing a bit of retirement supply cover and ended up staying for three years!). We hope to interview at the end of April.

We have two Federation babies on the way! Philippa Rylatt, our SENCO, will take up her maternity leave mid-May. She will continue to support and advise us but will not be in school. Devon Anderson is excited to be taking on the **SENCO role** whilst Philippa is on leave. There will be a detailed handover which will be made much easier as Miss Anderson knows most of the children.

As you will have spotted in her videos, Zoe Manifold, our fabulous Performing Arts teacher, is also pregnant and will be starting her maternity leave after the Easter holidays. **Performing Arts** is an important part of our school ethos and this leaves a huge gap to fill while Zoe is on leave.

I am confident that we have very high quality cover arrangements in place. After Easter we will be joined by Kevin Ross and Chloe George of 'Dramakarma'. Kevin is very well-respected locally and until last year was the Head of Drama at Selwood Middle School. Many Rode children have gone on to appear in Kevin's brilliant productions at the Merlin Theatre, such as Bugsy Malone, Hairspray and High School Musical. Chloe trained at the Chelsea Art School in Graphic and Theatrical Design. If that wasn't enough, they will also be joined by Emily Hampson who is the new Head of Music at Selwood. Here is a sneaky peak of her talents, along with her husband (who is the new Head of Music at Frome College!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLLsAECs6Q>

After-School Club News

And there is more exciting news! I had a heart-warming afternoon with the children this week, gathering their ideas on the after-school clubs they would like to see in the future when Covid allows. There were some marvellous 50+ ideas including 'Pet Club', 'Chess Club', 'Young Farmers Club', 'Skateboarding Club', 'Cricket Club', 'Zumba club', 'Record Your Own Music Club' and 'Watching T.V Club'!

If you have a skill, talent, access to contacts or resources or would be able to help run a club please do get in touch. We are hoping to put together an exciting offer for the Autumn term with something for everyone.

In the meantime, we are able to offer two new 'single-bubble' clubs this term at Rode alongside Martin Phillips **Year 1 Football Club** at Norton. After Easter we will be offering '**Music Club**' with Mrs Hampson on a Wednesday after school for **Year 3** and '**Dramakarma**' Club on a Thursday for **Year 4**. Details of how to book will be in the next newsletter. I am working hard to provide a club for Year 2 as well and will keep you posted.

Parents Evening

Our Parent Consultations will again have to take place virtually, unfortunately. One advantage is that at least you do not need to find a babysitter. After a successful trial in the Autumn with two classes we will now be rolling out the use of '**School Cloud**' for the meetings. This is really simple to use on either a laptop, ipad, PC or phone. You do not need to download an app. A new feature has been added to the system which means two parents can access the meeting from different locations e.g Mum from work and Dad from home. Please look out for an email early next week which you can use to book your appointment.

	Tues. 30 th March	Wednesday 31 st March
Gruffalo	Mrs Muxworthy	Mrs George
Elmer	Mrs Philips	Mrs Philips
Paddington	Mrs Duncan	Mrs Opie
Wildthings	Miss Anderson	Mrs Vowell
BFGs	Mrs Slade	Mrs Slade

Minibus Bookings

Thank you for your patience during this period of time when the minibus has not been running. I know it has been inconvenient for you but this has delayed the need to mix bubbles by six weeks which will help with cross-infection.

We will be reinstating the School Minibus from **Monday 19th April**. School Day start and end times will remain as they are now, enabling parents to collect/drop children at both sites if they wish.

Norton: Gates open at 8.50am for a 9am start and school finishes at 3.15pm

Rode: Gates open at 8.35am for a 8.45am start and school finishes at 3pm.

Booking is open now. Please complete the form with your preference. Please note that **Bus C and D** in the morning is reserved for children with siblings across both sites, as well as **bus E and F** in the afternoon.

<https://forms.office.com/r/OtRhLXimWP>

You must complete your online form by Wednesday 24th March.

Bus A: 8.00am NSP to Rode
Bus B: 8.15am Rode to NSP
Bus C: 8.30am NSP to Rode
Bus D: 8.45am Rode to NSP
Bus E: 3.00pm Rode to NSP
Bus F: 3.15pm NSP to Rode
Bus G: 3.30pm Rode to NSP
Bus H: 3.45pm NSP to Rode

Norton Wraparound care: *Early Bird Club* runs 0830 to 0850 and is for children with siblings using **Bus C**. Other parents wishing to use this wrap around care, will need to book with the school office and is chargeable at £1.00. **Night Owls** runs from 3.15-3.45pm and is for children using **Bus G**. Other parents needing this service will need to book with the school office and is chargeable at £2.00.

Rode wraparound care: Children not using the bus service or who need to use breakfast club before the first bus (B) at 0815 will need to book any wrap around care at Rode with IG Sports (bookingsatrodeandnorton@gmail.com)
Please direct all Minibus booking queries to Tina Tarbrooke in the Rode office or email TTarbrooke@educ.somerset.gov.uk

Rode and Norton Egg Challenge!

A reminder to the children to start preparing their entries.

For the uninitiated this is a design and technology/STEM challenge which always involves eggs. The eggs must be either hard-boiled or have the contents 'blown' out. It is supposed to be the children's own work but we know our parents do love to get involved! I'm sure you will have had enough of home-learning for one year and we questioned whether to go ahead but this is such a lovely event and will be something to look forward to. It is usually a wonderful opportunity to open up the school to families for the day. As this is not possible this year we will be videoing the exhibits to share with parents. Our theme is '**Happy Eggs**' and the children are tasked with making everyone **smile**. All the details can be found on a Sway here: <https://sway.office.com/T4dTSV6PCP3HnHyF?ref=Link>

Road Closures in Rode

As I write this we are expecting the High Street to be closed next week from March 22nd for 5 days due to some work being carried out on a drainage survey in the village and from March 26th Lower Street will be closed for 5 days. They seem to be ahead of schedule so hopefully these closure lengths will shorten. Please keep an eye on the Rode Village Facebook page where updates seem to be posted. Parking is available in the Park off Orneage Close, in the Village Hall car park and in the Cross Keys car park, which should all be accessible, allowing you to then walk the last part of the journey.

Wishing you a good weekend.

George Muxworthy
Head Teacher
Rode and Norton Federation

What are we learning next week in our 'Far, Far Away' topic?

In **Gruffalo** Class we will be bird spotting and learning to identify garden birds. In Forest School we will try building a nest with a clothes peg as our beak after looking at the book 'The Best Nest. In Maths we will be adding eggs and partitioning eggs between two nests. Numbers of the week will be 18 and 19. We will be drawing birds and making 3D birds. Outside we will build a Bird Spotter's hide and use binoculars. As fact finders we will write our own non-fiction fact books about birds. Our book of the week will be 'The Ferry Birds' by Helen Dunsmore and our new sound will be 'ure'. In P.E we will complete our 'Little Bird' dance.

In **Elmer** class we will be using the story Finn MacCool and the Giants Causeway to inspire our writing. We will discover the legend behind the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland and use the pictures to retell it in our own words. In Maths we will continue to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and think about the patterns we notice when we count in those groups. We will also be thinking about measuring weight (mass). We will learn how to use balance scales to compare the weight of 2 objects and use the vocabulary heaviest and lightest to explain our findings. We will also carry out practical investigations to answer problems involving weight (mass.) During our spelling and phonics lessons we will continue to learn how to spell tricky words and we will be sound detectives and discover the different spelling choices for the phoneme 'ear.' In dance we will be continuing our Scottish dancing!

In **Paddington** Class we will 'meet' Major Tim Peake (the first British Astronaut in Space for 20 years!) and discover if we've really got what it takes to become an Astronaut. We will read some of his diary extracts, 'a day in the life of an Astronaut' and then have a go at writing our own. How will it feel to float around in Space?
Will we be driving a super-fast Moon buggy or jumping somersaults on the Moon?
Will we enjoy and prefer the tasty Space food or miss home cooked meals and restaurants/takeaways on Earth?
Watch out for our diary extracts as we will be sharing them with you at home.
In **Art** this week we have loved splattering, splodging and flicking paint in the style of 'Jackson Pollock' (to be continued next week). Our next creative adventure will be to use watercolours and chalk pastel techniques to continue with our Galaxy paintings.
In **History** we will be making a film! What did Armstrong and co. actually do on the Moon? Can we act, produce and narrate a film to explain what actually happened on the Moon? I've got my popcorn ready for the premier!!
In **Numeracy** we continue to look at shape, delving into 3 D shapes, identifying them and sorting them.

In **Wildthings** next week in Maths, the children will be starting a new topic on Fractions, so be prepared to have children craving cakes, pizzas and chocolate! In Literacy, the children will be continuing to explore their own Greek myth based on 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. We will be stretching, polishing and improving the writing many times to make a polished piece of writing that the children are really proud of. We will also continue our learning about the religion of Islam. In Science the children will be able to be really practical learning about electricity, making a circuit work with a bulb and a buzzer. We may need ear plugs for this bit!

In **BFG** this week we will start our work on Decimals. The children begin this by looking at tenths on a place value grid and a number line. The children will be using their skills of multiplying and dividing by 10 to make numbers larger and smaller.

In Literacy, the children have explored many Greek Myths. The children will use this to create and write their own myth using their own hero, supernatural God/Goddess, and mythical beast. Our focus will be on using fronted adverbials to show how/when an event occurs and expanded noun phrases to add detail and description and organising their writing into paragraphs.

FRANS Update

Chicks on Sticks!

The week of April 2nd-9th will see our trailblazing ('scuse the pun) nature trail with a twist. Called Chicks on Sticks (as in on branches) we're excited about this one. All the children across both sites will be designing and decorating a chick each, which will then be adorned in the lanes and paths around Rode and Norton St. Philip. We'll provide route maps and the rest is down to you, enjoy the countryside we're lucky to have around us while searching out your child/children's chick. Maps are £5 and can be bought online here: <https://chicksonsticks.eventbrite.co.uk>

Join up

Come and join in. Next meeting is **March 23rd**, on Zoom. No pressure, no major agenda, just come along with any ideas and a smile. Email to be included in the Zoom

link: Friendsrodenorton@gmail.com

Facebook

Please like our Facebook page for up to date details and ramblings about events and such

like: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsRodeNorton>