

## RODE AND NORTON ST PHILIP SCHOOL FEDERATION: NEWSLETTER 24

12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

[rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk](http://rodeandnortonschoolfederation.co.uk)

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OFSTED Registration: EY489041

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Message from Mrs Muxworthy

Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> will certainly be etched in my memory in years to come when I am in the teacher's retirement home. What a brilliant day! We were so thrilled to see all the children and families again. The costumes brought a smile to everyone's face and the children were very excited to be back. I think everyone was exhausted by Wednesday but it was the best kind of tired!

Many teachers have told me how impressed they are with the high quality and creativity of the home learning that has been returned to school so once again I would like to congratulate you on a job well done.

BFG and Paddington Class had a marvellous Greek Day on Monday as Miss Anderson explains:

*"It was amazing to welcome back all our wonderful home learners dressed in fabulous Grecian costumes. We had Aphrodite, Helen of Troy, Zeus, Medusa and even Amphictyonis the goddess of wine and friendship. Their day was spent enjoying many different activities including designing their own mythical beasts, Greek bingo, (well done Lexi and Oakley our bingo champs) making mosaics and even some Olympic games activities in the playground. Murray really channelled his inner Olympian during the javelin competition! Olive tasting was enjoyed by some and most children gave them a try, there were however, some wonderful grimaces from the dissenters!"*

Paddington Class all brought in their favourite books whilst dressed in some brilliant costumes including Claude and Sir Bobblysock, Fantastic Mr. Fox and Sophie from the BFG. Elmer Class was full of Harry Potters, mermaids, princesses and even TinTin. Mrs Phillips took lots of great photos but unfortunately had a technical issue when downloading them. Gruffalo Class thoroughly enjoyed their first school dressing-up day and my particular favourite was Tristan who dressed as the letter 'T'!

Please visit our [website](#) to see photos of this memorable day.

It is only three weeks until Easter weekend which means it must be time for the annual **Rode and Norton Egg Challenge!** We had to cancel this last year so we were determined it would go ahead in some way this year.

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>

### **Please Drive Carefully**

On a less cheerful note, a number of villagers contacted the school earlier this week as they were concerned about a driver, one of our parents in school, who has been spotted driving very fast down Church Lane in Rode on a number of occasions. We would rather children arrive late than there be a tragic accident so please take care in both our villages where there is a 20 mph limit around the schools.

We continue to have problems with parents parking around the green at Norton and this week, parking in the staff car park at 8am, meaning staff were late opening the school for breakfast club for that family, as they couldn't park themselves! There are a lot of builders driving and parking in Vicarage Lane currently so it really is best to leave this area clear so you don't lose a wing mirror!

### **Next Week**

A number of parents have said that a positive from remote learning was being more in tune with what their child was learning each week at school. We will therefore include some information in the newsletter each week to keep you informed so you can embed learning at home.

Next week I will be meeting with each class to gather their ideas for developing our playgrounds and to find out what sort of after-school clubs they would like in the future.

Please congratulate your children on the way in which they have adapted back into school so smoothly and embraced learning. There has been a fantastic buzz around the schools this week.

I hope you have a good weekend. See you all on Monday

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 following on from our work on Space and thinking about the dark night sky, night-time animals and owls. We'll be looking at the stories 'Owl Babies' and 'Goodnight Owl', making non-fiction books of owl facts. Our new phonics sounds will be 'air' and 'ear'. At forest school we'll be building nests and bird watching, learning to write bird names. In Maths the number of the week is 17 and we'll be naming 2D shapes and making patterns. In P.E we'll be starting our "Little Bird' dance.

In **Elmer** class we will be using the story 'Katie in Scotland' by Simon Mayhew to inspire our writing. We will use the pictures to create exciting vocabulary lists and investigate the landscape of Scotland. We will also discuss whether we think the Loch Ness Monster is real or not! In Maths we will be counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and thinking about the patterns we notice when we count in those groups. We will also be thinking about measuring in centimetres using a ruler and answering problems involving measure. During our spelling and phonics lessons we will continue to investigate compound words (two words joined together to make one longer word) and we will be sound detectives and discover the different spelling choices for the phoneme 'ai'.

In **Paddington** Class we will be looking at amazing astronauts in Literacy! Learning all about Yuri Gagarin and the first woman in space Valentina Tereshkova, as well as modern day astronauts like Tim Peake and Helen Sharman. In Maths we will begin to explore shape, recapping on our knowledge of 2 D shape from Year 1 and learning more about 3 D shapes. In art we will continue to look at Peter Thorpe inspired work. In Geography we will explore the view of the earth from an astronaut's perspective (and birds!) looking at aerial photographs and what we can tell about a place from them.

In **Wildthings** Maths, the children will be learning about perimeter. The children will find out what a perimeter is, how to measure it and how to calculate it! In Literacy, the children will be exploring the Greek myth 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. The children will use this to create and write their own myth. Our focus will be on using fronted adverbials to show how/when an event occurs and expanded noun phrases to add detail and description. We will also continue our learning about the religion of Islam and the children will finish their 3D mosque designs. In science we are doing some hands on experiments to finish our forces unit.

In **BFG** we will be assessing all their multiplication, division, and fractions skills to get ready to learn all about Decimals in the following weeks. In Literacy, we will be summarising what makes a good myth to get ready to write our own myth about our own hero and mythical creature. We will be learning about how to organise our writing into paragraphs in fiction and non-fiction.

## 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](mailto:Friendsrodenorton@gmail.com)

### **Spend Spend Spend**

We've invested a bit of the hard earned funds into some new garden furniture for the memory garden at Rode and we're planning some much, much bigger investments very soon. Watch this space, we're hoping to get some game-changing kit into both sites, how exciting!

### **Facebook**

This one is a very low pressure request. Please like our Facebook page for up to date details and ramblings about events and such like: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsRodeNorton>

### **A Message from our Curate, Jo Robinson**

*See if you can find the Hope Tree in the churchyard in Norton St Philip – it's just opposite the school. You can hang a picture, craft or symbol of hope on the tree as an encouragement to everyone. We look forward to seeing what creative things you can hang from the Hope Tree!*