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<http://www.roysia.herts.sch.uk/newsletter.pdf>

Reminder: School is closed for an occasional day on Friday 4 December 2015

Reminder: today is our Christmas Fayre 3.30-5.00pm – please come along and start your Christmas shopping!

Last Tuesday (17 November) year 8 walked to Meridian to be their 'test audience' for their latest production: 'Les Miserables' It was lovely to see so many faces that I knew amongst the enormous cast and the entire production from those on stage to those behind the scenes was as usual, very professional. Staff, students and other volunteers must have worked very hard and the result was simply fantastic. I then returned for their Gala Performance on Saturday and was once again, blown away by the strength of the performance and so very proud to see our wonderful ex-pupils all grown up!

The annual 'Youth Speaks' event, run by the Royston Rotary Club was held on Wednesday 18 November and pupils from Roysia spoke confidently and clearly on a range of topics and represented our school extremely well. We were entertained by fascinating presentations on diverse subjects such as Egypt, Dancing, Horses, and Operating Systems, to name but a few. Very well done to all involved and many thanks to Mr Streeter for his efforts in preparing the pupils.

Today we are decorating the school in preparation for Christmas – thank you if you have sent in any decorations to help with this. Thanks also to Joe Reeder and Abby Chisnall for expertly decorating our Christmas tree yesterday. Our annual Christmas Fair is this afternoon, starting at 3.30pm and our Christmas Showcase Concert is Wednesday 9 December at 6pm – please do join us!

*Miss Linington
Headteacher*

SCHOOL ABSENCES

Please take note of the following School policy regarding Pupil Absences

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to contact the school before 10.00am on the morning of the pupil's absence. When a pupil is absent, if the school has not already been notified, parents/carers will be contacted by text or called at 10:00a.m. by the Attendance Officer at school. If there is no response then a further call will be made at 12 noon using all available emergency contact numbers. If there is still no response, the local Police Community Support Officer may be contacted.

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to contact the school on each and every day thereafter i.e. the second and third day of absence, and so on. This is to ensure the safety of your child should they not arrive at school when expected to do so.

On the day the pupil returns to school after the absence, a written explanation detailing the reason/reasons for absence must be sent in to their form tutor. All absences remain unauthorised until such time that the school receives verbal/written confirmation from the parent/carer. This is kept as evidence for future reference.

Please could you write a separate note to your child's teacher when taking him/her out of school for medical appointments. This makes it easier for the office to collate and file the information and cuts down on time and money wasted photocopying your child's diary.

Many thanks.

JOURNEY TO SCHOOL

We continue to experience huge problems with parents/carers collecting children from school and parking dangerously. We request that you adhere to our safety rules. Parents should **not** drop their children in the school car park, which is for staff and visitors only. You may think it only takes a minute to pop into the office to deal with something but this can cause parking problems for members of staff when trying to get to school in time for lessons. Please do not park over our neighbour's driveways and do not park on the grass verges as this is illegal. Parking in front of the entrance/exit gates blocks emergency access routes, which is a health and safety matter, so please be mindful of others. Your co-operation with this would be very much appreciated.

KEEP TUNED IN IF WEATHER DETERIORATES

We have enjoyed a pretty good autumn so far, but as winter begins to set in I need to let you know of our arrangements in the event of severe weather, or other closure of the school.

As always, we will try to make a decision about closing the school as early as we can, while at the same time doing everything we can to remain open. We will not close because of a 'slippery playground' but I have to put pupils' and staff's health and safety first.

If we suffer severe weather and are unable to open the school we will put the following procedures in to practise:

Announcements of school closure will be made via:

Herts CC website at www.hertsdirect.org
BBC Three Counties Radio (103.8fm)
Heart 103 Cambridge
notice posted at the school gate

Provided school can be accessed by a member of the School Leadership or Admin Teams:

A text will be sent to your mobile;
An answer phone message will be placed on the normal office line (01763 241555);
An emergency message will be placed on the school website www.roysia.herts.sch.uk

If severe weather hits during the day when children are already at school and many of you will be out at work, we will contact you as soon as possible. To this end please ensure your mobile phone is switched on in the event of severe weather as we will text you.

We will not send any children out of school until we have your permission to do so. We will keep children here in school until you are able to collect them, arrange for them to be collected or have informed us that they can make their own way either to home or to another designated address. Please check your child's planner on page 4 to see the permissions you have already granted. Local radio stations will be informed and a message will be put on the school website. The office phone line will be reserved for incoming calls only - since it is likely to be busy, please keep trying.

N.B. A letter also went home last week with these arrangements

*Miss Z J Linington
Headteacher*

LETTERS FOR PARENTS

Please can you return reply slips by the deadlines stated, particularly for visits out. This would really help alleviate the pressure on the office staff and it saves last minute phone calls for asthma pumps, coats etc.

Could we also ask that when returning any reply slips to school please ensure you have put your child's name and class on them as we sometimes have difficulty in reading signatures.

This would be much appreciated. Thank you.

VISIT TO PANTOMIME

If your child is signed up for the Christmas Pantomime on Tuesday 15 December 2015, please remember to send in your payment of £14.00 for the ticket by **Thursday 3 December**.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas Showcase will take place on Wednesday 9 December 6-8pm. Please remember to reserve your tickets as soon as possible.

CHILDREN IN NEED 2015

Roysia pupils entered into the spirit of Children in Need with their customary enthusiasm. Pupils and staff were only too happy to donate to this excellent cause in exchange for spending the day in their pyjamas! Money was also raised from cake stalls and other competitions. Of course, the highlight of the day was when our amazingly talented pupils took to the stage in our annual talent show - 'Roysia's Got Talent' hosted by Martha Yohannes and Ben Ebberson. The judges were bowled over by the variety and standard of the acts from all year groups. First prize went to Gautam Pillai for his stunning violin playing, with Joan Borrell's amazing magic card tricks giving him second place and Breanna Keown, Aliona Masangcay and Chloe Enever getting third place with their brilliant dancing. Year 8 pupils took the lead in organising the day and at the last count we had raised an impressive £236.10

Mrs Hitchcock
Leader of KS3



YOUTH SPEAKS 2015

A massive thank you to all the pupils who participated in this year's Youth Speaks at Greneway School.

Everyone involved put a huge amount of effort into their speeches and presentations, which thoroughly shone through on the day.

Opening proceedings was the group of Hunni Haynes, Kelsey Kerridge and Jessica Revell, who spoke with enthusiasm about Egypt. The girls even brought artefacts along with them, in order to add extra detail to their (already fabulous) talk. Well done ladies!

Next to entertain was Orla Swann, also from year five. Her passion for Ballet really came across to all present, the sheer amount of added props such as photographs and pictures drawing everyone in to her every word. Fabulous Orla!

Following Orla was one final year five group:- Abi Salerno, Samhita Maganti, Penny Smith, Chloe Miller and Tia Knight, who wanted to tell everyone about our wonderful school here. The girls, despite being nervous, spoke eloquently and clearly and should feel very proud that they attended. Excellent stuff indeed!

After this, the audience were treated to a lesson on G-Stars: The School of Dance & Performing Arts by Rose Norbury, Lily Hughes and Molly Smith. These energetic year six girls spent hours and hours rehearsing their speech, a fact not missed on the judges, who commented on their detail, passion and fluency. Amazing entertainment and a huge thank you girls!

Lorely Hall & Sara Siney managed to follow this with their presentation on Horse Riding, which was full of fun throughout. Thank you to these hard working year seven students.

Dance & Cheerleading was the next topic on the agenda, as Tiegan Mayo, Macie French and Imogen Conomy made sure that everyone was not leaving without knowing a great deal about their love.

Chloe Enever's Dance presentation was the penultimate Roysia offering, again packed with enthusiasm and detail, which just goes to show how you can entertain a crowd even if you were a bag of nerves beforehand!" Well done Chloe!

Last, but not least, year eights had their chance to shine, with their speech about Operating Systems, once again full of facts and enthusiasm. Ben Ebberson, Jemma Williams and Ellena Dyer certainly knew an enormous amount about this topic, ensuring the technical language was made more accessible to those watching. Thank you!

*Mr J Streeter
Leader of English*

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Tracy Powell-Birley, our School Crossing Patrol and cleaner as she moves on to a new job. We wish her well with thanks for keeping our school children safe.

If you would be interested in the vacancy for School Crossing Patrol please contact the office.



FRIENDS 100 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the November draw:

Sam Bowen, 1st prize £20.00 and Beth Moorley, 2nd prize £5.00.

If anybody would like to join the club please come to the office for a form.

MUD

Please ensure your child has a change of shoes for break time. With the change of weather the playground is muddy which is being trailed into school. The cleaners would really appreciate your support with this.

RUGBY TOPS

Please note that rugby tops are compulsory and not optional.

AYLMERTON

The second payment of £80 is overdue so please pay promptly - cheques payable to Roysia Middle School