

Dear Parents/Carers,

STEAM Day was truly impressive!

We have had an action-packed Creative Thinking week with our off timetable day last Friday. Pupils worked in their Houses and collaborated highly effectively to respond to the science, maths and team working challenges. The final technology challenge brought the whole school together to watch the air propelled cars aim to achieve the fastest recorded time. The excitement and learning of pupils was clear to see. Significant preparations had taken place to ensure it was a highly successful day and particular thanks must go to Mrs Baigent, Mr Carter and Mrs Hitchcock.

Refining our Behaviour Plan

At Roysia we have been keeping abreast with national research and reviews and have used an 'Independent review of behaviour in schools' to help evaluate our practice. Linked to this, we intend to refine our Behaviour Plan and trial a modified way of working during the last half of summer term.

"A student's experience in school remains one of the most insightful indicators of later life success in any one of a number of metrics. For many it is the best chance they will ever have to flourish. How they conduct themselves at school is crucial to that experience. Helping them develop good behaviour is therefore one of the most important tasks a school faces."

Tom Bennett, *Creating a Culture: How school leaders can optimise behaviour*, March 2017

Good behaviour is a key expectation at Roysia. This is highlighted in the 'Home-School Agreement' and the importance of respect, listening and following instructions highlighted in the 'Safe, Caring, Learning' code of conduct in pupil planners. Our recent Ofsted report highlighted 'The behaviour of pupils is good. Pupils told inspectors that disruption is rare and, if it should occur, adults quickly deal with it.' We intend to build on this to strive for outstanding behaviour.

Over the next half term, we intend to work with pupils to review our refined approach to optimise behaviour. Positive phone calls home are an important part of a culture and we aim to keep you informed regularly of pupil successes. During our trial, we will be introducing the term 'Consequences' to help pupils reflect and understand that actions led to positive and negative consequences. We will be refining our use of detentions to ensure maximum impact with pupil reflection at the heart of developments. For example, detentions will be used at break and lunchtimes when a pupil needs time to reflect on why positive learning for everyone was affected by an individual's actions. After school detentions will be used in extreme circumstances when a pupil's behaviour is inappropriate such as if they have been removed from a lesson to ensure maximum learning for all. We strive to help pupils understand positive learning behaviours.

We will be evaluating our approach over this half term and feedback from pupils, parents and staff will be important. High expectations for all pupils is central to our approach.

A busy and successful half term

It has certainly been a busy half term with SATs, Duxford visits, Creative Thinking Week, STEAM Day and Henry Moore visits! We look forward to the second half of summer term with events such as the theatre trip, Year 5 visit to Kentwell, Transition Days and the Summer concert to name but a few.

Mrs L Rawlings and Mrs K Jandu

FAREWELL TO MR WHEELER

On Friday 15th May we said an emotional farewell to Mr Wheeler. Each year group presented their own gifts and messages and passed on their warm regards and thanks to Mr Wheeler for the commitment and dedication he put into our school.

Mr Carter has now stepped up into the role of Leader of Key Stage 2 until the end of the academic year and will be happy to liaise with parents of Key Stage 2 pupils as required.



CREATIVE THINKING WEEK

I would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all of you wonderful parents and carers for supporting Creative Thinking Week. The money you send in helps to give Roysia pupils a unique opportunity to work with professional artists and craftspeople. Using tools and making objects by hand is a life-skill, but has also been proved time and time again to have many other benefits to the development of children's learning. We see first-hand "thinking skills" grow throughout Creative Thinking Week, culminating in STEAM day when those skills are put to the test in a creative competition.

To see what our pupils can make with some imagination and plenty of perseverance is always a pleasure and this year we were not disappointed. Year 8 got flexible with wire, weaving amazing sculptures under the expert eye of a 'Roysia regular', artist-inventor Darcy Turner. The range of imaginative work year 8 created was truly inspiring.

Year 7 enjoyed getting their hands into "ancient earth" under the expert eye of artist Jane Bower. The imaginative array of sea creatures the children built, are currently being fired in our school kiln before the children glaze them with colour to give them the "wow" factor. Jane was impressed with the children's imagination and determination.

All sleeves were rolled up for Year 6's felt workshop with Laura Bradshaw-Heap. We discovered that it takes a lot of water and elbow grease to make felt out of wool but year 6 proved to be more than equal to the challenge. The final artwork of a meadow scene is looking amazing and we hope to exhibit it at the Royston Arts Festival in September.

Finally, year 5 got to grips with Nicola Burrell's card sculpture workshop. If your child is in year 5, ask him or her about "snip, snip" or better still, ask for a demonstration! Nicola showed the children how a sculpture can be created with the simplest of equipment - card and scissors.

If your child likes a creative challenge, look out for the 2017 Roysia Art Competition coming up soon!



*Mrs E Baigent
Head of Art*

E-SAFETY TOP TIP

Have you seen the Internet Matters APP?

It is freely downloadable and is designed to help parents talk to their children (8-10 year olds) about eSafety issues. There are a number of games and activities to engage children and help parents/carers to have important conversations about how to stay safe online.

To find out more search the internet for 'internet matters app' and click on the first link.