



# ROOKWOOD SCHOOL



## Rook News

### Autumn Half Term Round Up | October 2019

It is hard to believe that the first half-term of 2019-20 has already come and gone. As you will see from this newsletter, the pupils have certainly been busy. As always, I remain grateful to the teaching and support staff for their hard work and dedication in providing the pupils with such a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities.

It is also a sad day for Rookwood as we say goodbye to Mrs Dympna Pearce. Mrs Pearce joined the school on 14th April 1986 and, more than 33 years later, she will retire at the end of today. Not only is Mrs Pearce our longest serving member of the current staffroom, but she is also the longest serving member of staff ever in the school's history. Her kindness and care has touched the lives of countless children, past and present, whether it is on the playground or in the dining hall. She has seen numerous changes to the school, not least the introduction of boys into the senior school, and has remained loyal and committed to Rookwood throughout. Mrs Pearce's retirement is well-earned and I know that she will be missed by the pupils and staff alike.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy and relaxing half-term break, and I look forward to meeting as many parents as possible at the annual Friends of Rookwood School fireworks on 8th November.

With warmest wishes,

**Mr Anthony Kirk-Burgess**  
Headmaster



Mrs Pearce

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# Across the School

Little Rooks



## Little Rooks

We have had an 'Autumnal' theme in the Butterfly Room, exploring leaves, pumpkins, conkers and acorns. The children had great fun investigating the inside of a pumpkin, and feeling different textures' to build on their sensory learning; Chloe was not afraid to find the spiders hiding in the shaving foam!

## Year 1

Year 1 began their Autumn Topic by having a pirate themed fun day. The day was filled with fancy dress, treasure hunts and exotic fruit tasting. The sun even made a delightful appearance for our outdoor pirate picnic!

## Year 2

Year 2 have been looking at Kites as part of their topic work, culminating in a kite workshop. The kites were all made by the children and they all flew!

## Year 8

In History Year 8 are learning about the fight for women's suffrage. Each day Mrs Allnutt writes something that happened on this day in history.

10th October marked the 116 year anniversary of the formation of the Women's Social and Political Union, more commonly known as the Suffragettes.

Year 8 investigated the reactivity of metals in science. They enjoyed seeing which metals reacted with which sulphates and then working out the order of reactivity.

## Harvest Festival

Reception, Year 1 and 2 have been learning all about why we celebrate harvest and why it is important to say thank you for the food we receive. They were delighted to bring in and collect food to be sent to the Andover Food Bank so they could share with others.

The children worked incredibly hard to learn and perform their songs, poems and facts. They thoroughly enjoyed sharing their harvest performances with family and friends during the harvest celebration.

Years 3 to 11 also enjoyed a Harvest Festival assembly with several readers from Years 3 to 6 and more donations for the Andover Food Bank

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## Autumn is in the air at Rookwood

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Little Rooks



Year 1



Year 8



Harvest Festival



# Sporting News



## **ISA Swimming - Cobham**

We sent teams to both Lower and Senior School ISA Regional swimming galas recently.

For the Lower School Amelie, Abi and Lucy took part in the individual events and Millie joined them for the relay.

## ISA Swimming - Cobham

### Senior Swimming Team

The Seniors had a fantastic day with good results (2 silver and 4 bronze) and qualifications through to the next round.

Harrison, Joshua, Alex, Kyrill,  
Rebekah, Emma, Phoebe, Xen



## Diving

Joshua entered a schools diving competition in Southampton representing Rookwood School during the Summer holidays.

He won his age group taking a gold medal and was presented with his medal from one of the Team GB diving squad.

# School Trips



## Year 5 - Winchester Cathedral

Year 5 spent a fantastic day at the Annual Year 5 Winchester Cathedral day. This year's theme was time travelling and the chance to travel back through the history of the cathedral was very exciting. We all enjoyed an amazing guided tour of the Cathedral listening to tales of Jane Austen, the Cathedral during the Civil War and the stories behind the different stained glass windows. A trip into the crypt is always enjoyable and the chance to see the cross of a fallen soldier taken from Flanders Field generated lots of discussion.

In the afternoon Year 5 took part in a service in Lady Chapel with the pupils taking part in the readings and prayers. To end the day the pupils had an amazing opportunity to listen to the Cathedral organ playing music of space and time travel. Sitting in the main choir area the children listened to the glorious sound whilst looking at the burial casts of Saxon Kings and Queens.

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“ I loved the sound of the Organ as it played. The sound made the floor shake and travel up through my body ”

Abigail

“ To see the crypt was exciting. When I saw how far the water came when it flooded it made me wonder what it would be like to dive and swim through the tunnels ”

Cian

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### Year 10 - Royal Academy of Arts

The Year 10 GCSE art group went to the Royal Academy in Piccadilly to see an exhibition of sculptures by Antony Gormley. In the afternoon they visited the National Gallery to see some of the most famous paintings in the world, including Hans Holbeins 'The Ambassadors' and William Turner's 'The Fighting Temeraire'.

### Year 8 - Lulworth Cove

Year 8 enjoyed a blustery day at the coast looking at rock formations, coastal features and coastal management. Luckily it didn't rain and they were able to see the Jurassic Coastline in all its glory with a dramatic sky as a backdrop!



### Year 11 - Careers

Year 11 students spent a productive afternoon at the Andover Careers Fair hosted by John Hanson School. With an inspiring talk from Mei @yobuUK and the opportunity to explore post 16 college they learned a lot.



### Year 9 - Cheddar

Year 9 enjoyed a tour of the caves at Cheddar as part of their Geography day out. They carried out a variety of fieldwork activities to investigate the impact of tourism on Cheddar Gorge. Plenty of sweets and ice creams were purchased in between the showers before a quick hike up the 274 steps of Jacob's Ladder to see the views at the top of the Gorge.



# Other Activities

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Bronze group have got off to a good start learning many different skills that they will need, not only for their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, but also in their adult lives. Navigation, tent pitching, first aid, cooking and teamwork were among some of the skills practiced on their recent training weekend.

Mr Graham, the new D of E leader said "I am extremely proud to see how well the group is working together. They all learnt a great deal on their training weekend and I'm sure it will all pay off come their expedition. Most important of all, they all seemed to enjoy themselves."



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## Lower School Production - Porridge

The Lower School production has been launched in earnest with Year 6 students receiving their scripts for "Porridge". This is a comedy musical written by Craig Hawes, who also wrote "What a Night!" and "Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits", both tremendous past Lower School productions. Set in 1920s America and involving a crime spree based in Fairy Tale Land, where Jack Spratt (Private Detective), has to discover who is stealing from Mother Hubbard's larder, frightening Miss Muffet with spiders and smashing Humpty Dumpty into smithereens. Year 6 pupils will audition for the parts they want after half term and the cast will be announced before Christmas, giving the children time to learn their lines before rehearsals begin in January. The performances themselves are on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th March and will involve everyone from Years 3 to 6 in some way and is always an amazing spectacle.

## Lower School Tea Concert

This term the Lower School held their first Tea Concert of the year. It was an absolute pleasure to see the phenomenal talent that we have in our school. Not only did each class perform a piece that they have been practising in their lessons but individual children had the courage to stand up and perform solo pieces to their peers and parents. We saw a drum group, violinists, a ukulele band, vocalists and some dancing from our Reception class.



Lower School Tea Concert

## Congratulations

We are delighted to announce that Luke in 9W was recently awarded the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) silver award 'The Bishops Award' In Winchester Cathedral. RSCM Singing Awards celebrate singers' achievements and progress, through formal examinations at three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Luke performed four pieces including a hymn, a psalm, an anthem and a setting/song in a challenging forty minute exam. He also demonstrated his musical excellence in further sections of the exam which test musical skills and understanding, supported by a testimonial of the contributions Luke has made to his church choir. The Music department is extremely proud of Luke's continued commitment to Music both in school and in the wider community, congratulations Luke!



# Boarding

## Snowtrax

The boarders have been keeping busy at the weekends taking on a whole range of activities. 'Snowtrax' offered up some fun with downhill speed.

## Planet Ice

A successful trip to Planet Ice for some ice skating. They all had a fantastic time, Alya revealed her secret talent for skating, and despite Jacob's consistent falling over, no injuries were sustained.



# Good Causes

WORLD  
MENTAL  
HEALTH  
DAY



Mental health for all  
**Get involved**

## World Mental Health Day

10th October marked World Mental Health Day also known as #Helloyellowday. The children were invited to wear a yellow item with their uniform.

In the Lower School we tried to keep things light and focused on our overall health. Year 6 kicked things off with an assembly about keeping our bodies healthy and the importance of a healthy balanced diet. They read a lovely poem featuring Barney Broccoli and Amber Orange. We all decided that a little of what we fancied was a good thing as long as we didn't overindulge, which was handy as at break time the Staff hosted a cake sale. Actually we had so many cakes we were able to sell them at morning and afternoon break and then again after school. We managed to raise an amazing £100 for Young Minds UK.

During the day the children all made fortune wheels. It gave them the opportunity to think about their emotions and how we treat other people. Some of the headings they came up with included "What makes me sad", "What makes me happy", "What emotion would I use to describe last year", "How can I be a good friend and who can I talk to if I'm sad".

In the Senior School assembly we focused on mindfulness and relaxation. 130 pupils and teachers went on a mindfulness journey and quietened their minds from all the pressures of everyday life. Then cakes supplied by staff, were brought and consumed to raise nearly £300 for this worthwhile charity.

Please remember... It's ok not to be ok!

“ Please remember...  
It's ok not to be ok! ”

## Charity Swimming Challenge

Charlie, Andrew and Finlay in Year 9 are undertaking a Charity Swimming Challenge.

They have decided to swim the distance of the English Channel, 33km, in the pool, swimming at least twice a week and have so far swum over 20km. It was their idea and they've needed absolutely no encouragement to swim their lengths each week. They have a JustGiving webpage and have decided to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease. The link to the webpage if you would like to support them is:



[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swimming-the-channel-in-a-pool-19](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/swimming-the-channel-in-a-pool-19)

## Rotary Christmas Shoebox

We are supporting the Rotary Christmas Shoebox appeal again this year, Mrs Willcox hopes that we can reach a record number of boxes this year. The Rotary Shoe Box collection is on Monday 4th November, so please fill a box over half-term.

## Recycling

All Batteries can be recycled in school – the box is located in the main entrance, upstairs of the sports hall. The batteries are collected for free by the Duracell Big Battery Challenge.

TerraCycle take away our used crisp packets and turn them into smaller plastics to be re-used. They reward us for collecting these crisp packets and the money earned will go into supporting similar 'green' initiatives in school. Empty crisp packets (any brand) should be placed into the yellow bins.

**Please do recycle and help to keep our landfill sites clear.**





ROOKWOOD  
SCHOOL



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