



RECREATION ROAD INFANT SCHOOL

Recreation Road, Norwich, NR2 3PA

Telephone: 01603 457120 ♦ Email: office@recreationroad.norfolk.sch.uk ♦ www.recreationroad.com

Head Teacher: Michael Bunting ♦ Assistant Head Teachers: Susanna Manrique and Sheree Brock

Creative, Caring, Collaborative, Resilient, Reflective, Problem-Solver

17th November 2021

THE REC ROAD RECORD – ISSUE 2

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Everyone's welcome here

As mentioned in the last issue, I'll begin each newsletter by greeting you in a selection of the 28 languages currently spoken by families at our school. So, hello to you all, in **Mandarin**, **Dutch**, **Fijian** and **French**:

你好! (Nǐ hǎo)

Hallo!

Bula!

Bonjour!

Afghan resettlement

The Heigham Community Federation (ourselves and Avenue Junior School) are working closely to prepare for the arrival of Afghan refugees into our community, as part of Norfolk County Council's involvement in [Afghan resettlement](#). We and Avenues are both '[Schools of Sanctuary](#)' and delighted to be involved in the scheme. I'm sure the community will offer the warmest of welcomes to our new community members.

Learner Values spotlight on... Collaboration

In this issue, we focus on our Learner Value of Collaboration.



This year, every Year 2 child (who wants to) will be involved in our Digital Team, managed by Mrs Stone. In this photo, you can see Lilou and Iris taking their Digital Leader responsibilities really seriously as they help two classmates learn to use Textease – a child-friendly word processing program. To learn more about the work of our Digital Team, please [read their blog](#). Any blog comments are always gratefully received by the children.

Next time, we'll focus on our Learner Value of Creativity. If your child has displayed some impressive creativity and you have a photo that you're happy for us to publish, please do get in touch.



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Virtual Open Evenings

We will be holding virtual open evenings via Zoom next week – on Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th November at 6:30pm. This year, more than a quarter of our Reception children came from out of catchment, so please share this information with families who are a bit further away but would love a place here. A weblink to the meetings can be found on the homepage of our [website](#), or accessed by scanning this QR code:



'50 things to do before you leave Rec Road' update

No. 41 Meet an Olympian / Paralympian – The visit from Paralympic skier and adventurer, Sean Rose, was a huge hit with the children. Here are some of their comments:



"I want to be an Olympian when I'm older" - Finley

"I loved the jumping jacks" - Tallulah

"I learnt that he did sports in the Paralympics, like skiing" - William



No. 19 Learn a song in a different language – Year 1 have started to learn a festive song which features words in a different language. I understand that it's a very catchy tune!

No. 34 Ride a vehicle through an obstacle course – Reception children have had a go at mastering control of their choice of wheeled vehicle, improving their physical skills as they do so.



No. 28 Choose the school Charity of the Year – Year 2 have been learning about the work of four different charities, and will then vote democratically to choose the school's Charity of the Year, which will be the fundraising focus for our Charities Week in the spring term. Oscar in Swans informed me that the four possible charities are:

- The British Red Cross
- World Wildlife Fund
- World Food Programme
- World Land Trust



Attention Emergency Service workers!

No. 7 of our *50 things* list is to 'Meet and talk to someone from the emergency services'. If you are a medical doctor, nurse, paramedic, firefighter etc. and would be prepared to spend a morning talking to all four of our Reception classes about your job, please get in contact with me as soon as possible (head@recreationroad.norfolk.sch.uk). Thank you 😊.



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Our wonderful PTA

Our PTA volunteers continue to think of new and creative ways to raise funds for the school. The latest idea is a 'New To You' shop on Facebook. To find out more, please visit the PTA [Facebook Page](#).

If you would like to become a PTA helper or supporter, please contact them using their email address: recroadpta@gmail.com



Do you shop on Amazon? If your answer is yes, then you can name us as your chosen charity and Amazon will donate a small amount to the PTA for every purchase you make. To add us as your charity, please visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and search for 'Recreation Road Parent Teacher Association'.



Staff training

One of our School Aims is 'To enable pupils to benefit from professionally developing staff', as we believe that our team should be great learning role models for children. In this and future editions of RRR, I will share news of staff embarking upon or completing significant pieces of learning.

Congratulations to Sharon Winterbone (Family Nurture Practitioner), who has completed a Level 2 Counselling course. She will use her new-found skills to better support our families.

Good luck to Beth Morgan and Tony Yallop (Learning Support), as they begin their training to become ELSA's (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants). They will be training with an Educational Psychologist to better support children's emotional development in school.

Good luck also to Louise Carolan (Early Years Lead), as she submits her assignment for the National Professional Qualification in Senior Leadership, and to Louise Wood (Learning Support) who has submitted her Level 3 TA Apprenticeship portfolio.

I am trying to improve too, and have started an MSc in Educational Leadership and Management, alongside Mike Hooper, Head of School at Avenue Junior School. We hope that working towards this qualification together will help both schools learn from each other, and enable us both to better serve this amazing community.

Festive Performances?

I know that many of you are keen to know whether school festive performances will go ahead this year. As someone who likes to plan many months (sometimes years) in advance, I share your frustration at the lack of certainty. However, given the unpredictable 'Covid landscape' and the unpleasant consequences for people's Christmases if they contract Covid at one of our festive shows, we'll hold off on making a decision until the last minute. Provisional festive show dates are on our school calendar which you can find on our website [homepage](#). If shows don't go ahead, children's festive performances will be recorded and shared with you virtually. This worked pretty well last year, although I know that it's not the same as watching your child perform live.



Children's birthdays

We do our very best to make this school inclusive for every child and break down barriers that get in the way of this. With this in mind, we would like to stop the practice of sweets being given out to celebrate children's birthdays. There are several reasons why this needs to stop:

- some children are vegetarian or vegan and cannot have certain types of common sweets, which contain animal products;
- others have religious beliefs which make these sweets unsuitable for them;
- a number of children have severe allergies which make them and their parents fearful about consuming unfamiliar foods;
- the above three points put staff under real pressure to 'police' the giving out of foods and causes a great deal of unnecessary worry on their part; they also make parents the 'bad guys' when they have to say 'no' to their children having the sweets given to them.
- some families are not in the financial position to be buying treats for the class and we don't want them to feel pressurised by the visible act of giving out sweets at the door;
- some children's birthdays are consistently during school holidays and are therefore never included.

If you would like to involve your child's classmates in celebrating their birthday, perhaps you might consider buying the class an age-appropriate jigsaw, board game or book? In addition to new items, there are some great second hand ones which might actually work out cheaper than 30 bags of sweets. A jigsaw, game or book also has much greater long-term impact on the children.



Thank you

Thank you to everyone who's been more punctual in the last few days – it's making a real difference to us. By being on time, you're helping us improve the quality and impact of the children's learning. You're also allowing Teaching Assistants and office staff to focus on their core responsibilities, rather than spending their time taking late children to their classrooms.

Reminders

A second reminder to please put your mobile phones away when you're on site. This includes when you're walking away from the classroom but still in the school grounds. If all parents and carers have phones in their pockets or bags, it allows us to easily identify people who may have their phones out for more sinister reasons.



Key Dates



All key dates can be found on our school website, www.recreationroad.com. Look out for the google calendar feed on the right of the home page. If you click on the '+ Google Calendar' button you can subscribe to our calendar, so you're always looking at the most up-to-date version.

Final thoughts

In preparation for this newsletter, I spent time reflecting on the value of collaboration to our school community, particularly this incredibly challenging environment. The Covid epidemic has made many of us feel overwhelmed, vulnerable or isolated; myself included; and, quite simply, I wouldn't still be doing this job if it wasn't for the amazing continued support of the Rec Road staff and parent team. Never underestimate the impact your kind words and small gestures have; they really do mean the world.

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." – Ryunosuke Satoro



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