



RECREATION ROAD INFANT SCHOOL

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

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THE REC ROAD RECORD – ISSUE 4

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Everyone's welcome here

Welcome to you all, in **Italian**, **Kurdish** and **Lithuanian**; three more of the different languages spoken by families at our school:

Benvenuto!

Bi xêr hatî!

Sveiki!

We're always trying to make our school a more inclusive place. If you'd like to find out more about our current inclusion priorities, please look at our [Equalities Policy and Accessibility Plan](#).

Learner Values spotlight on... Creativity

In this issue, we again explore Creativity, which is our school Learner Values focus for this half term. For each Learner Value, each year group chooses a 'Champion' – a person or organisation who models the value in a way that helps the children learn about it at an age-appropriate level and links with the curriculum. As a result of this approach, the children get to explore [the six Learner Values](#) at least three times and in three different ways during their journey through our school. This helps them to develop a richer and more nuanced understanding of each value.

Creativity Learner Values Champions 2021/22



Reception: Charlie and Lola



Year 1: The Break Charity



Year 2: Grandma Moses



Building strong foundations for a lifelong love of learning



You can find out more about [Lauren Child \(author of 'Charlie and Lola\)](#), [The Break Charity](#) and [Grandma Moses](#) by following the weblinks.

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



No. 2: Take part in a celebration from a different culture or tradition – Reception children will be learning about Chinese New Year celebrations this half term, as they continue to tackle their R.E. inquiry theme: *How do People Celebrate?*

No. 11: Have a 'glow in the dark' experience – There will be a Reception 'Glow in the Dark Day' in February. Look out for further information in class newsletters!



No. 20: Walk to a local landmark – Year 1 children have / will be visiting Higham Park to do a survey of local birdlife and look at seasonal changes.

No. 23: Buy something and pay for it with cash – In today's digital society, we think it's especially important to teach children about the value of money. The Year 1 team has organised for their children to be visited by [The Break Charity's Coffee Van](#), where

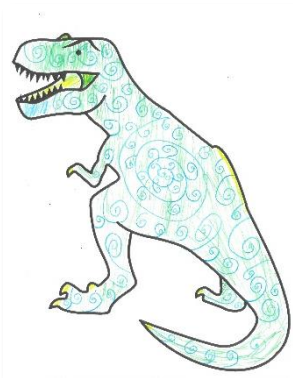
they can buy their own warm drinks and pay with cash. The Break team have kindly created a special 'Rec Road – 50 things' drinks menu for the children, so they'll be able to order a hot chocolate, hot milk, hot squash, water or a Fruit Shoot. The beauty of this arrangement is that all proceeds will go to support the Break Charity's brilliant work – everyone wins!



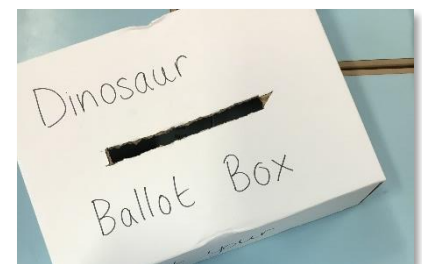
No. 27 Become an Eco-Campaigner / No 28: Choose the school's Charity of the Year and plan ways to raise money for it / No. 35 Take part in a debate to make an important decision – After a lot of research and discussion, Year 2 has voted for The [World Land Trust](#) as the school's 'Charity of the Year'. Before the holiday, they organised their first

fundraising event – a Year 2 'Movie Day'. They raised £101, which the World Land Trust will use to buy an acre of land to protect the species that call it home. Well done, Year 2! We look forward to hearing about your next fundraising ventures.

No. 45: Cast their vote in a school referendum - Hopefully, you've been hearing about our [Go Go Discover](#) Dinosaur project from your children and through the class newsletters.



All children in the school were involved in selecting our final Dino-Design, voting in a proper whole-school ballot. Congratulations to Benjamin, whose design (on the left) was chosen democratically by the Rec-Roaders. Now, Mrs Stone will be working with some children to turn this design into a reality.



Our full '50 things' enrichment manifesto can be found on our website [here](#).

Clean air competition

We have been in communication with Paul Neale, NCC Green Party County Councillor, to find ways the school can support his campaign to encourage drivers to turn off their engines when waiting near schools. He has had the idea of a competition to design signs that will be displayed close to schools in this electoral ward. If your child would like to take part, you can find out more below.



Cleaner air - be part of it. Competition for children

Cars pump highly toxic chemicals into the air: bad for everyone, but especially for children. Following a resident's suggestion, your Green councillors are asking local children to help by designing eye-catching visuals for a sign that reminds drivers to turn off their engines when waiting near schools.

Green county councillor Paul Neale said: "We are going to use some of our budget to produce and display signs outside schools in Nelson ward. This will help make the air cleaner and safer for all."

Text should read: 'Improve Air Quality. Turn off engine when stationary'. Please send your entry, which needs to be strong and bold with no shading, and only using black, white, red and yellow, as a jpg to paul.neale.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk by 15th February.

A design will be chosen for local use; runners up will be featured on social media.

Internet safety

The annual [Safer Internet Day](#) takes place on 8th February this year. However, keeping children safe online



needs to be a priority every day. If you would like advice about keeping your child safe on the internet, we would recommend the following websites, where you can find out more.

- <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
- <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

You can also find out more by visiting the Online Safety page on our website [here](#).

Fundraising

We continue to work with the PTA to raise money for the adventure playground redevelopment project. Staff and PTA representatives met this week to work on a grant application for the Aviva Community Fund. We will keep you posted about any developments.



You can support school fundraising by:

- buying from the PTA's 'New to You' Facebook shop (see their [Facebook Page](#)).
- adding us as your chosen charity on Amazon Smile and using the smile weblink to make your purchases. To find out more, please visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/> and search for 'Recreation Road Parent Teacher Association'.
- becoming a PTA helper or supporter, please contact them using their email address: recroadpta@gmail.com



Staff training and development update

Congratulations to Louise Wood, Teaching Assistant in Dove class, who has completed her Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning Apprenticeship with a 'Distinction' grading.

Good luck to Harriet Cant, teacher in Swifts, leadership team intern and whole school Phonics Lead. She will be starting a National Professional Qualification for Leading Teaching (NPQLT) in the coming weeks.



Special thanks to...

Debbie Dismore – Mrs Dismore, Head Teacher and more recently part-time Executive Head Teacher of Avenue Junior School, has announced that she will be retiring from her role at the end of the school year. Debbie has been a great support to me on my leadership journey and I've very much enjoyed working together with her as the Executive Leadership Team of the Heigham Community Federation.

Sue Humphrey – Sue Humphrey, Lunchtime Play Leader, is leaving us for a full-time position at Kinsale Infant School. Sue's been a great asset to us at lunchtimes and through the other pupil support work she's done for us. We wish her the very best of luck for the future.

Twitter challenge – can you help us achieve 500 followers?

Did you know that we have a school twitter account? Many people don't. We have not been updating the feed regularly because we only have 265 followers, and most of those are from previous school years. However... if we can get our number of followers up to 500 or more, it suddenly becomes a much more worthwhile use of time. When we've reached 500 followers, we'll commit as a school to tweeting at least once every week. **Please help us get up to 500 subscribers by following us on Twitter. We are @RecRoadInfants.**

Key Dates



All key dates can always 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.

Reminders

We are a nut-free school. That means no tree nuts, peanuts or food containing nuts should be brought into school.

Final thoughts

This week, I watched a video of Professor Dylan William talking about the importance of creativity in schools. He made the point that our current model of education is largely unchanged since the 19th century. At that time, the pace of change was much slower and it was obvious well in advance what knowledge and skills children would need in order to be successful adults.

21st century life is very different. The pace of change is so rapid that new jobs are created all the time and it seems impossible to predict what the future will hold.



According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Top 20 list of predicted fastest growing jobs between 2020 and 2030 includes:

- Wind turbine service technician
- Solar photovoltaic installer
- Statistician
- Genetic counsellor

Who would have imagined that 10 years ago?

So why does teaching creativity matter in an unpredictable world? Because creativity requires flexibility of thought, the ability to play with ideas and a tolerance of uncertainty - all vital skills for successful 21st century living. That's why we selected Creativity as one of our six Learner Values and why we promote it so much through our curriculum.

If you'd like to watch Professor Dylan Wiliam's video about creativity for yourself, you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5Beq8Si8C0&t=73s>.

I'd also recommend Sir Ken Robinson's famous and very entertaining TED talk, '[Do schools kill creativity?](#)' for those who are interested.

With warmest wishes,
Michael Bunting (Head Teacher).

**“creativity is
intelligence
having FUN”**

- ALBERT EINSTEIN