

# Spring Term - Roding Class

## Class Welcome

The spring term has been a fantastic continuation of the positive start we made to the academic year. The pupils returned with great enthusiasm and have approached their learning with determination and a positive attitude. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they continue to strengthen friendships with both their peers and the staff team. Throughout the term, the children have worked hard to build on the routines and skills established earlier in the year. They have shown strong engagement in class activities and have continued developing their independence and confidence within the classroom environment.

A particular highlight of the term has been our author focus. The class enjoyed exploring a range of engaging stories, including 'The First Hippo on the Moon', 'There's a Snake in My School', and 'Gangsta Granny', along with many other exciting books. These stories inspired creativity and supported the pupils' growing enjoyment of books and storytelling.



## Communication and interaction

This term, pupils have been developing their communication and interaction skills through our class author focus, exploring a range of engaging and imaginative stories. Together we have shared books including The Demon Dentist, Marmalade, The First Hippo on the Moon, There's a Snake in My School, and Gangsta Granny. These stories have provided many opportunities for pupils to listen to familiar narratives, join in with repeated phrases, respond to key events and characters and communicate their ideas and preferences in a variety of ways. Through our reading sessions and related activities, pupils have been encouraged to engage with stories using visual supports, props and multi-sensory resources. This has supported them to develop their understanding of narrative, recognise characters and settings, and take part in shared discussion and interaction around the books. Pupils have also explored early reading skills through story-based learning, enjoying activities that encourage attention, turn-taking and responding to questions or prompts linked to the texts.

A highlight of the term was celebrating World Book Day, when staff dressed as characters from Alice in Wonderland. Pupils enjoyed taking part in a special mascot parade, as well as a range of themed activities linked to the story. The day provided a fun and memorable opportunity to celebrate books, storytelling and the joy of reading together.



## Cognition and Learning

Across this term, pupils have been developing their understanding of cause and effect through a range of practical, exploratory activities. They have been supported to notice how their actions can create a response, for example when pressing switches, activating interactive resources, or engaging with cause-and-effect toys and technology. These experiences have encouraged pupils to anticipate outcomes, repeat actions and show curiosity as they explore how different objects and activities respond to their input.

In our Maths Experience sessions, pupils have been investigating the concept of capacity, exploring the difference between full and empty through water play, container filling and emptying activities, and hands-on discovery tasks. These experiences have allowed pupils to observe and experiment with how materials move and change when poured, scooped or transferred between containers. Pupils have also explored the properties of materials, investigating contrasting characteristics such as smooth and shiny, and hot and cold. Through sensory exploration, handling objects and participating in guided activities, pupils have been encouraged to notice differences between materials and respond to these properties through touch, observation and communication.

Our ongoing author focus has continued to link learning to the stories we have been sharing in class. As part of this, pupils particularly enjoyed a Sensology session inspired by *The First Hippo on the Moon*, where they explored space-themed sensory experiences connected to the story.



## Independence, social and emotional development

This term pupils have been developing important self-care and social skills through a range of practical, hands-on activities. In PSHE, we have focused on learning how to brush our teeth and wash our hands, with pupils practising each step using clear visual supports, modelling and lots of repetition. These routines have helped pupils build confidence, independence and familiarity with everyday hygiene tasks. Alongside this, pupils have been working on tolerance of others, turn-taking and shared play. During collaborative activities, they have been supported to wait, share resources, respond to peers and take simple turns, helping them build positive social interactions in a structured and supportive environment.

A highlight of the week continues to be our Food Technology lessons, which this term has been linked to the books we have been exploring. Pupils have had rich opportunities to handle ingredients, explore different textures and practise early cooking skills. We have made Grandpa's Great Escape picnic sandwiches, Marmalade's orange flapjack, Billionaire Boy's rocky road, and Gangsta Granny's cabbage soup. These sessions have encouraged independence, fine motor development and enjoyment of shared cooking experiences, while also giving pupils a meaningful way to connect with the stories we have been reading.



## Physical and Sensory

This term pupils have been developing their physical skills and sensory awareness through a wide range of movement-based and creative experiences. In PE, the children have been practising their ball skills, including catching, rolling, bouncing and moving with a ball. These sessions have supported coordination, turn-taking and confidence in physical activity. Pupils have also enjoyed learning simple curling skills, taking part in friendly matches where they could practise aiming, waiting and celebrating each other's efforts. We have continued our swimming lessons, which remain a much-loved part of the week. Pupils have had opportunities to explore the water at their own pace, build confidence with adult support and enjoy the sensory benefits of movement in the pool.

In Art, pupils have engaged in a variety of sensory-rich creative activities linked to the books we have been exploring. A particular highlight was creating Crown Jewels collages inspired by Gangsta Granny, where pupils explored textures, colours and shiny materials to produce their own royal designs.



## Special news and upcoming events

### April:

23 Apr Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

### June:

8 Jun Parent Coffee Morning (9.30am)

12 Jun Come and Learn With Me | Year 14 Leavers' Event

25 Jun Virtual Tea & Chat with SLT (6pm)

26 Jun Prom

W/c 22 Jun Parent Meetings (end of year reports)

27 Jun PTA School Fete

### July:

9 Jul Come and Learn With Me

10 Jul Family Picnic

14 Jul Upper School Merit Assembly (2pm)

17 Jul Family Performance (Harlow Brass Band)



As we wrap up our second term of the year, we want to share how proud we are of everything the children have achieved. They have approached each new activity with curiosity, determination and plenty of smiles and it has been wonderful to watch their confidence and independence continue to grow. Their enthusiasm during lessons, their kindness towards one another and the progress they make each week truly brighten our classroom.

We hope you all enjoy a restful Easter break together and return feeling refreshed for the summer term.

Children return to school for the Summer Term on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

**James, Kelly, Natalie, Remi & Joseph**