



Rolph C of E Primary School and Nursery Newsletter Thursday 19th December 2019



Dear Parents & Carers,

A Message from the Headteacher

What a fabulous week it has been here at Rolph! We have:

1. Had a fabulous Christmas dinner on Tuesday, with thanks to Mrs Thompson, Mrs Wegg and all the lunchtime and other staff for making it such a success.
2. Raised lots of money for Save the Children, with the children looking fabulous in their wide variety of Christmas jumpers on Tuesday.
3. Had a visit from Father Christmas on Tuesday (a huge thank you to him for taking time away from the elves to come and see us – the children's faces were an absolute delight to see!)
4. Celebrated some of the children's achievements as part of the Headteacher's Awards Worship and tea party (see photos below).
5. Brought the whole 'Rolph Family' together by filling St Michael's Church with our Christmas Carol Concert (again, see photos below).
6. Sung songs around the Christmas tree.
7. Enjoyed a range of Christmas based activities within our classes.



This was a busy week to end what has been a busy term, and I would like to re-iterate what I said at the church yesterday, which was to say a huge thank you to everyone for making me so welcome here at Rolph, and for all the positive feedback. I have been reviewing what has happened over the last 15 weeks - when you consider the introduction of the curriculum days (including all the visits/visitors that have taken place), the changes to staffing, a new behaviour policy, trialling a new marking and feedback scheme, introduction of Luna our school dog, the introduction of new reward schemes (including House Teams, Mr Potato Head for attendance and Student Spotlight for behaviour), the integration of the pre-school into a school nursery, the initial work to allow us to become a Forest School, etc., etc. It is no wonder everyone is ready for a well-deserved break!

With regard to staffing, we now bid a fond farewell to Mrs Scott who has left us for pastures new – we all wish her the very best for the future. As you already know, Miss Croucher will be moving to Year 1, and having spent some lovely time getting to know the children on Tuesday, she has said how much she is looking forward to getting settled in her new role. As has also previously been communicated, we welcome Mr Colohsy into Year 5 in January, who has already been in to meet the children and again, is very much looking forward to teaching here at Rolph.

We currently have the following vacancies that are being advertised over the holiday period and into the New Year - if you know of anyone who may fit in well as part of our Rolph family, please direct them to the Essex Teaching Jobs website for full details:

1. Full-time Deputy Head / SENCo role (for a September start, or earlier if possible)
2. Full-time KS1 teacher (for a September start, or earlier if possible)
3. Part-time Caretaker (hours to suit successful applicant)

It now just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we look forward to seeing the children back on Tuesday 7th January 2020!

Mr Ashley



House Points Results

Earth	143
Air	127
Water	119
Fire	132

Congratulations to Earth who were the winners this week.

Attendance



Attendance covering the period Friday 13th December – Thursday 19th December is shown in the table below for your child's class. Mr Potato Head pieces will be awarded in worship when we return in January.

Class	Attendance (%)
R	96.25
1	87.14
2	95.86
3	95.00
4	90.63
5	88.64
6	93.10
Total	92.45

We are concerned that attendance over the last few weeks has been dropping and currently our whole school attendance for the year to date now stands at 95.78% which is below the national expectation of 96% and may lead to a higher focus from external agencies.

Whilst we appreciate that there are some illnesses around at this time of the year, we would please request parents and carers, that unless the children are seriously ill, they should try to attend school.

In addition, we have recently seen a large increase in requests for holidays during term time. May we please remind you that we cannot authorise holiday requests or other requests for non-attendance, unless in exceptional circumstances, as outlined in our attendance policy.

We thank you for your support in ensuring high levels of attendance.



Christmas Jumper Day

The children looked wonderful in variety of christmas jumpers on Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who donated to Save the Children, a total of £162.30 was raised.



Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to the Lifehouse Spa who kindly donated the crackers which the children had with their Christmas lunch on Tuesday.



Board Games

If you are clearing out any cupboards over the holidays to make way for all those new presents, and have any board games that you no longer need, please think of us. We are always on the lookout for games, both for wet play activities in class and for the Board Games Club. Thank you.



Christingle Service

St Michael's Church would like to invite our families to attend the Christingle Service and Nativity performance on Christmas Eve, starting at 4.30 pm. The children in KS1 have brought home a Christingle Candle this week to fill with any spare change, raising money for the Children's Society. There are spare Christingle Candles in the school office for any KS2 children who would like to fill one. Please take your candle to the church service on Christmas Eve or return them to the school office.

St Micheal's are also hosting a Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 5.30 pm. Midnight Mass is on Tuesday 24th December at 11 pm and the Christmas Day Service will start at 10 am.



Music Lessons

Please let the office know if your child is interested in learning a new instrument, there are currently spaces for piano lessons.



Park and Ride 'Name the Bus' Competition

Chelmsford and Colchester Park and Ride centres are looking for names for their buses. Each of the 9 Chelmsford and 5 Colchester buses will have a winning name printed on its side and winners and their families will be invited to see their bus being launched. Final shortlisted names will be chosen by Cllr Kevin Bentley. Please complete the suggestion form and hand in at one the three P&R sites by Wednesday 1st January 2020. Entrants must be 16 years and under.

Books for Schools



The Sun and The Sun on Sunday will have tokens for the 'Books for Schools' offer which can be collected from Saturday 23rd November 2019 until Saturday 18th January 2020. If we collect 3500 tokens, the school could order over 100 new books. Please send any tokens collected into the school office, we would be so grateful!

MDA Vacancy



We are currently looking for a Midday Assistant. Duties include setting up and clearing away the dinner hall, playground supervision and dealing with first aid incidents. Hours of work will be 12.05 pm – 1.20 pm each day.

If you are interested or know anyone that would like to join our small friendly team of MDA's, please pick up an application form from the School office.



RSA News

Rolph Recycling - we have been emptying the wheelie bin at the front of the school on a regular basis and are really pleased with the response so far, keep up the good work and don't forget to flatten your crisp packets!

Please see the separate Newsletter sent out from RSA today.

Reception 2020 Admissions



A reminder to all parents that admissions are now open for the 2020 Reception intake and will close on 15th January 2020. Full details and the application form are available at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. Please complete and return to the school office, a completed supplementary information form to support your admission application. Details of our admissions policy and a copy of the supplementary information form can be found on the school website.

Dates for your Diary:



January

- 6th – Non-Pupil Day
- 7th – Children return to school
- 24th – Parent Meeting 2.30pm
- 28th – Parent Workshop - How to Help your Child with Reading in KS2 2pm
- 28th – Year 5 Parent Meeting for Kingswood Residential October 2020 3.15pm

February

- 4th – Parent Workshop - How to Help your Child Learn to Read using Phonics (KS1 focus) 2pm
- 11th – Parent Workshop - How to Keep your Child safe Online 2pm
- 17-21/2 – Half Term Holidays

March

- 4th – World Maths Day
- 5th – World Book Day
- 6th – Parent Meeting / Forum
- 10th – Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.00pm
- 11th – Parents Evening 3.30 – 5.00 / 5.30 – 7.00pm

April

- 2nd – Headteacher's Awards Assembly
- 3rd – Last day of term
- 6/4 – 17/4 Easter Holidays
- 20th – Non-Pupil Day

May

- 8th – Bank Holiday (moved from 4/5)
- w/c 11th - Year 6 SATs Week
- 22nd – Parent Meeting
- 25/5 – 29/5 – Half Term Holidays

June

8th (3-week window opens) Year 4 Times Tables Check

8th (week of) Phonics Screening Checks

26th – Sports Day

July

3rd – Parent Meeting

11th – Tending Show

20th – Headteacher's Awards Assembly

22nd – Non-Pupil Day

Rolph Church of England Primary
School Lunch Menu
SPRING 2019 – WEEK 1

School lunch choices	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1 (Main)	Chicken Tikka Wrap	<u>CHILDREN'S CHOICE</u> Summer Burger in a brioche roll	Homemade Spaghetti Bolognese	Local butcher's chicken breast with Yorkshire pudding	Birds Eye chunky fish finger
Option 2 (Vegetarian)	Quorn Tikka Wrap	Vegetarian Burger in a brioche roll	Macaroni Cheese	Quorn Fillet	Cheese Omelette
Option 3	Oven baked jacket potato with cheddar cheese or tuna mayo	Deli roll filled with egg and salad	Oven baked jacket potato with beans	Deli roll filled with ham & salad	Oven baked jacket potato with beans
Accompaniments	Potato Wedges Fresh Salad	Nachos Crunchy coleslaw	Garlic bread	Rich gravy, roast potatoes, fresh carrots and broccoli florets	Crispy chips Baked Beans Garden Peas
Dessert or Pudding	Peaches with ice cream	Eton Mess	Fruit Smoothie	Fruit Lolly	Pancakes with squirty cream
Also available	Muller or Yeo Valley yoghurts Fresh fruit Serve yourself salad bar Fresh water or milk	Muller or Yeo Valley yoghurts Fresh fruit Serve yourself salad bar Fresh water or milk	Muller or Yeo Valley yoghurts Fresh fruit Serve yourself salad bar Fresh water or milk	Muller or Yeo Valley yoghurts Fresh fruit Serve yourself salad bar Fresh water or milk	Muller or Yeo Valley yoghurts Fresh fruit Serve yourself salad bar Fresh water or milk