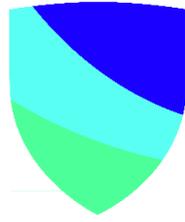


National  
Autistic  
Society



Robert  
Ogden  
School

# Robert Ogden School Christmas Newsletter



# Dates for your diary

We would like to communicate to you a change to the published 2021-22 academic calendar to recognise the additional bank holiday given to schools to celebrate the Queen's platinum Jubilee.

A national bank holiday has been announced for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022 and the DfE has amended the Education Regulations to reduce the school year from 190 days to 189 to acknowledge this. As many schools will be on half term break on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022, the DfE have asked schools to identify another day of holiday elsewhere in the year on which the school will be closed to staff and students.

The Senior Leadership team of the school have therefore identified that this additional day will be taken on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2022 and therefore, the last day of the summer term will be on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2022.



Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to you to thank you all for the support you have given the school over the last year. This has been an extremely challenging year for us all.

At this time of year, we normally reflect on the year that has past and look forward to the New Year. I am so thankful for the hard work, determination and resilience that the students and staff have shown this year despite all the unprecedented challenges, of which there have been many.

I am continually impressed with the dedication of staff and the support of our parents. The students adapted so well to all the Covid 19 secure strategies and necessary changes to routines. They have followed the one ways systems, stayed in zones and have coped so well with the restrictions we have in place.

I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New year. I hope you all have a relaxing time over the festive season. We are looking forward to returning in January to a new year and new term with refreshed enthusiasm and hope for the future.

Yours sincerely

Jon Mount

Interim Principal



# Christmas Word Search



AN  
FR  
YJWZ  
KZIY  
TWKPEY  
KFUDCV  
XJOLLYGJ  
GMYSJVSL  
GBUBLMJZSC  
DHVSLPXVIG  
TRQOPERHLHBA  
TFINTBCWPJNL  
RSYZOKIBMOSOIZ  
ETYL PW OAEURUUT  
CEJCYITTTJLUHCLPP  
NDCVDUGKAI VPFQBT  
OSNYLEDMSQWGYVBP SA  
PKIGFAI IWUSSQEHVVR  
TREEXSYESWZTPOBJGSLP  
LWVRELUCTELVESNDYUFC  
IQPNLFEKELEGGNOGOF TMIX  
AYGSRZDJLEQVNT OJGXSBBN  
PPTBOCXRZETNBIMUIEPJDMDY  
YYP SOHJBSBOMMPOBVCJNNHLH  
UNRUALIVM FREQVMQIXTWDHWXGP  
RFRMNBMSCHAXQSGNIKCOTSCTFE  
MLPEPTQNI IHTNGTGCOEXARMAZAKW  
CVXMQAYEOREERPRVNWXB DLCKOYXR  
UGKFJZJHYNHTAERWXBHMTUOHOQPFWO  
FWIVOGBINXKCOVXAYNOA IWZNPYOVL M

BELLS  
STOCKINGS  
WREATH  
ELVES  
SLED

CELEBRATE  
EGGNOG  
TREE  
JOLLY  
SANTA

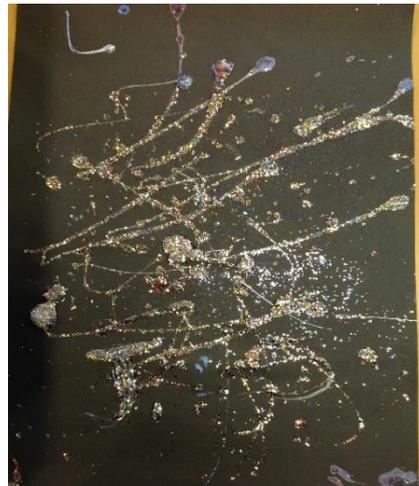
MERRY  
MISTLETOE  
CHIMNEY  
REINDEER

[www.thetypicalmom.com](http://www.thetypicalmom.com)

# Purple Class



This term in  
Purple  
Class



We have been looking at events such as Bonfire Night. We used playdough and craft materials to make our own playdough firework.

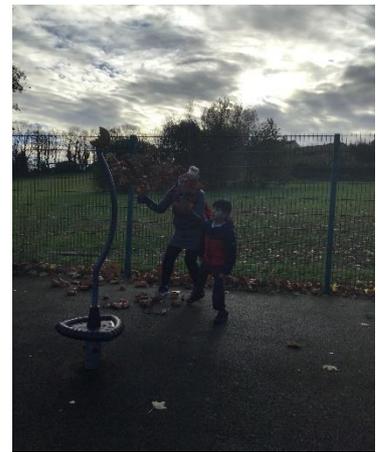
We also used paint to splat onto paper and then added glitter to make it look like a firework in the sky!



# Pink Class

The pupils in Pink class went on their first outing to the park in November. They had lots of fun playing and exploring the new environment. The pupils also enjoyed sensory aspects of autumn. They explored different colours, shapes and textures of leaves. They enjoyed watching them oscillating in the air and then falling down.

We collected some colourful leaves that we used to make autumn-themed sun catchers and wreaths.



# Pink Class

Pupils and staff in Pink class raised money for Children in Need by coming to school in their pyjamas or wearing something colourful or spotty. The pupils spent the afternoon in class taking part in Pudsey-themed activities. They enjoyed decorating biscuits and being creative during arts and crafts.



# Indigo Class

This term, Indigo class have focused a lot of attention on kindness. Kindness is more than just a 'nice thing to do'. It plays a crucial role in our well-being. Research has shown that kindness improves our physical and mental health – whether we're giving kindness, receiving kindness or even just witnessing kindness. How amazing is that? In our class we celebrated World Kindness Day on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November. We have concentrated on our social skill to share, take turns and show random acts of kindness to our peers and staff around school. Indigo class have made a kindness jar to celebrate all the kind act we all do every day! We have reflected on how we can become a better friend and how we can help our peers when they're in need. We created a recipe for kindness and made gift bags for a different people in class! Indigo loves to be kind!



# Yellow Class

## Autumn Term

### Autumn 1

Yellow class have really enjoyed being back at school, especially going back out into the community with our friends. We particularly enjoyed going to the Cooper Gallery to see the Elmer the Elephant exhibition.

Our topic this term was the Romans, and we enjoyed learning about what they did, where they travelled to and what they ate.



# Yellow Class

## Autumn 2

-

This term our focus has been all about “Dinosaurs” and reading non-fiction texts. We have learnt lots of facts about dinosaurs as well as trying to read their tricky names. In Science we have learnt about habitats and where different animals and minibeasts may be found. We were so excited to explore the habitat at Old Moor Wetland Centre as well as being able to use money when out in the community, to pay for items in a café that we have chosen. The best bit was definitely sharing out choices with our friends.



# Blue Class



This half term Blue class have been having fun learning about dinosaurs.

We dug dinosaurs out of ice, made our own dinosaur eggs and made our own dinosaurs.



# Red Class

## *Newsletter Autumn Term.*



This term in Red Class we have had lots of fun learning about ourselves, where we have made skeletons and used our senses to explore the school environment. We have also read the book “It’s my Birthday” which we loved!



Our topic on “Celebrations” has meant that we have also been very creative in Arts and Crafts for Remembrance Day, Hanukkah and Diwali. We are now making lots of Christmas Decorations!



# Green Class

This term Green Class have been learning about our senses.

Pupils have been taking part in sensory stars – touching, looking, smelling and tasting!



# Hub 1

## World Record Challenges

This half term Sam has been trying different challenges such as popping balloons in 60 seconds and arranging the alphabet with alphabet spaghetti.



## Community Challenge

George visited Xscape at Castleford and went on the large zip wire, George was challenged by his Mum! And he smashed it! He thoroughly enjoyed it!

November 2021



# Hub 1

## Geography Trip

Pupils from Hub 1 visited The River Dearne as part of their GCSE Geography module.



## Craft/Woodwork

Ben has been making a range of woodwork items this half term such as a bottle opener and a coat peg. He has really enjoyed using the tools!



# Hub 2

Eddie Scott-Thompson has planted a tree on behalf of the school as be part of the Queen's green canopy in partnership with the woodland trust. Eddie has really enjoyed helping support other classes plant their trees and has a great level of interest in Gardening.



# Ennis-Hill

This term, after a difficult year or so, Ennis-Hill class have really enjoyed finally being able to get back out exploring the local community. We have enjoyed visits to supermarkets and cafes, as well as putting our map-reading skills into practice, as part of our topic on the local area. We have particularly enjoyed visits to local parks and have had lots of fun. Our absolute favourite was a sunny afternoon at New Lane Park in Sprotbrough – we loved the zip-line!!



A couple of weeks ago, we were lucky enough to visit Wentworth Woodhouse, an absolute gem, so close to school. We learned that it is in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest front in the world. We had a guided tour where we learned lots of interesting facts about its history and about the previous owners of the house, as well as being able to visit parts of the house not usually open to the public. We also learned some spooky ghost stories about the house!! After our tour, we had time to explore the gardens – the house was closed to the public so we had lots of fun exploring on our own. An absolutely perfect afternoon and a great term has been had!



# Pankhurst

## Humanities

## ES



In Humanities Pankhurst class have been looking at different religious festivals and celebrations. We have looked at Hanukkah, Eid al-Fitr, Diwali and Christmas.



# Churchill

Churchill class have been looking at different celebrations and the seasons during the Autumn term. Students carved pumpkins, made some fantastic art work and cooked Parkin and chocolate apples. We also explored light and dark when learning about the festival of Diwali.



# Branson

# Volunteering for Duke of Edinburgh



**Branson students have been volunteering their time at the local community allotment at Highgate. The allotment is run for the community for vulnerable adults to work there and the proceeds of the vegetables sold help fund projects on site.**

**Students have been harvesting vegetable crops such as potatoes, leeks and carrots to sell at their stall. Future projects include planting spring crops in the poly tunnel and clearing allotment space of weeds to grow our own crops on the site.**

**All the work goes towards evidence for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award that they are working for this year.**



# Rowling



Rowling class took part in Remembrance day by making red and purple poppies for the soldiers and animals of the war.



# Seacole



Students from Seacole class have been taking part in work experience at a local garden centre,





# Attenborough

Attenborough have had a great first term of 2021. Three of our students have achieved passing grades in GCSE Maths this summer, and two have passed GCSE English Language. This is an excellent achievement for our students, and we are incredibly proud of them. Some have now progressed to studying GCSE Statistics, and GCSE English Literature. Students are working incredibly hard on their qualifications.

Some of our students are new to Post-16, and have undertaken lots of new tasks in school, and out in the community. Some have started working in the school coffee shop; to support with this, our students have achieved their Level 2 Food Hygiene Certificate. Other vocational tasks students have undertaken are park maintenance, litter picking, and serving at a local coffee morning. The two students who attended were brilliant at the coffee morning, and received compliments from the organisers and other volunteers. We look forward to sending more students to help out there in the New Year.



Students have also had the opportunity to choose options in their timetable, choosing between BTEC Sport, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Cooking, and Art. They have enjoyed having more control over their timetable and picking activities that appeal to them. Options have allowed our students to develop different skills; one has taken up golf for the

skills section of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, and others have taken a more creative route, creating fantastic pieces of artwork, such as self-portraits inspired by their interests.

Overall, Attenborough have had a fantastic term, and we are looking forward to the rest of the year.

# Simmonds

## Autumn Term

In Simmonds this term we have been very busy making lots of different products during our Enterprise lessons.

We have enjoyed learning how to do woodwork using the saws, sanders and glue-guns. We have also enjoyed improving our skills on the sewing machine to make various items.

Here are some of the things we have made:



Wooden Snowmen



Plush Reindeers



Advent Tree



Gonks

Towards the end of the term we all made our own Advent Calendar Trees to countdown to Christmas.

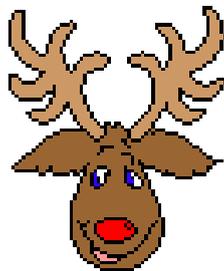
# Rotherham United

One of our staff members Andy was donated 4 tickets for the Rotherham United's home match on Saturday 20th November against Cambridge United. Lyric and Luke happily accepted the donated tickets.



# Christmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in A Christmas Carol?
3. In Home Alone, where are the McAllister's going on holiday when they leave Kevin behind?
4. Which country did eggnog originate?
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
6. What year did Mariah Carey's 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' come out?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie Love Actually, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. How many of Rudolph's fellow reindeers' names start with 'D'?



1, Germany 2, Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future. 3, Paris 4, Britain 5,364 6,1994 7, *The Polar Express*. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus. 8, Japan 9, Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy 10, Three - Dancer, Dasher, Donner.



The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues, copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built.

This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

In November the whole school got involved in planting a tree. Each class was given a tree to plant in our identified area of school.



# The School Christmas tree

It was lovely to see all classes getting involved in decorating our lovely Christmas tree. Some classes made their own decorations to add to the tree. Each class came up to reception at an agreed time so that we didn't have too many children at the tree at once.



# Online Safety



## It's gone viral! 3 popular apps and websites parents should know about

It's no surprise that as millions of young people retreated into lockdown, we saw a rise in the use of online platforms that connect us, both with friends and strangers. That's why at Digital Awareness UK, we've been working with Vodafone to create a Lockdown Learning series that gets stuck into the topics that can feel tricky – hearing first-hand from young people all about what apps and websites are trending, giving us vital insight into the associated risks and rewards. Today, we're here to explain the three dominating current conversations along with some tips on how to have more informed conversations about them with your child.

### **OnlyFans:**

If you have a child in their teens, chances are they'll know about OnlyFans. It's an 18+ content subscription service where instead of 'following' or 'friending', you subscribe to content creators. With over 85 million registered users and over one million content creators (from reality TV stars to personal trainers), there is something for everyone.

By subscribing to an OnlyFans creator (which can cost between \$4.99 and \$49.99 per month), you receive exclusive content and can even chat with creators through direct messages. But it's not only mainstream influencers that users can engage with, OnlyFans has made headlines due to the large amount of explicit sexual material that exists on the platform.

### **Houseparty:**

Houseparty is a 13+ live-streaming app that allows users to create a chat 'room' of up to eight people. It's an app we've been speaking about for years but was given a new lease of life during the pandemic when video chat exploded in popularity.

Imagine one big virtual hangout. Users can see which of their friends are online and whom they are chatting to, making it easy to connect with friends in real time. These chat rooms are designed to simulate a real house party, with people flicking between different rooms. This means that friends and strangers can start conversations at any time.

## **Omegle:**

Omegle is a video and messaging website that pairs users with random strangers online. Just let that sit for a minute.

TikTok influencers and YouTubers have popularised the app during lockdown, with the #omegle hashtag racking up 9.8 billion views on TikTok. This January there were 65 million visits, with many of the users being teenagers.

Between the ages of 13 and 18 young people are required to seek parental permission before using the site, however, like with many platforms, there is no age verification system. While there are some genuine interactions, we have also heard some horror stories, particularly when it comes to exposure to sexual content.

## **Talking to your child**

Where possible (and without explicitly mentioning riskier apps like Omegle), try not to be too judgmental or critical as your child shares their thoughts and feelings about apps and websites like those mentioned above. These are some of the common risks we come across when discussing these apps to help guide your conversation:

- **Privacy and security:** Reminding them of the importance of security settings when it comes to managing *who* can see *what*. E.g., On Houseparty you can select close friends to add to your friend list, this will prevent friends-of-friends from spontaneously calling you.
- **Seeing sexually explicit content:** Help them understand why it's not appropriate for young people to see sexual content and the importance of talking about anything they may see that's upsetting.
- **Responsible finances:** On OnlyFans for example, as with any paid-for service, it's essential to speak to your child about spending restrictions and put measures in place to stop excessive spending.
- **The digital footprint:** On live-streaming apps, like Houseparty or Omegle, it's not unusual for videos to be filmed or screenshot and shared without the user's consent – so it's critical to explain how inappropriate behaviour can have repercussions on and offline.
- **Speaking to strangers:** Helping them understand the risks of speaking to people who could be dangerous and what to do if they ever feel unsafe is key. If you are concerned that someone may be trying to exploit your child online, don't try and manage it alone. Visit the [CEOP](#) website for advice and support.



# Christmas jumper day!

## Friday 10th December

### £1 Donation



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**



Make the World Better With 8 Seconds. [www.savethechildren.org.uk](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk)



Let's have the greatest  
Christmas jumper day ever!



Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
from all the staff and  
pupils at  
Robert Ogden School

