



Federation News

It has been a wonderful Autumn term for the schools in Roots Federation. We have had external evaluations in all three schools and have paid for regular external audits to ensure that we are always reviewing what we do well and areas to improve. Please do read the letter shared by your Head of School highlighting just some of the feedback from these reviews.

We were delighted to be nominated as finalists in the 'Parental Engagement' category in the national NMT nursery awards and we won the SENDCo of the year! We thank you for your feedback on the parent surveys - we really value your kind words and your constructive suggestions. We will feedback in January. A big thanks for your continuing support.

Curriculum - Why we do what we do - Transition

The Christmas break can be the most exciting time for some children; those celebrating Christmas might celebrate with presents, parties, late nights, different foods, visitors and visits etc.... These can be such lovely events and experiences. However, they can also make it a little harder to transition back to school. When children return in January they are often;

- tired
- out of routine
- missing relatives



..and this can lead to changes in behaviour and a slightly greater challenge to get back into familiar routines. Children who had previously entered the school independently can sometimes be a little reluctant. Please be assured that this is not unusual. Who wouldn't want to stay at home in pyjamas!

How we will support at school:

- We will spend much of the first week getting back into familiar routines. We will not be introducing anything new and will be revisiting routines and boundaries.
- We will offer a flexible approach to the length of sessions to allow children to develop their resilience across the week/s
- We will look at the same book together so that all children hear a familiar text.

How you can support at home:

- Practice your walk / journey to school a few days before returning.
- Start getting back into your usual bedtime routine the weekend before returning.
- Attend the 'Stay and Play' session being run by your school.





SCHOOL REMINDERS



- The main Dacorum Foodbank at Dacre House, 19 Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4AA will be open/ closed as follows: Monday 23 Dec open 10am-1pm, Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26 Dec CLOSED, Friday 27 Dec open 10am-1pm, Saturday and Sunday, 28 & 29 Dec CLOSED, Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 Dec open 10am-1pm, Wednesday 1 January CLOSED, Thursday 2 January normal opening hours resume: 10am-1pm Mon-Fri & 4-6pm on Wednesdays
- Remember to return any Story Sacks or Busy Finger Packs.
- We are looking for some balance bikes (plus helmets) for the children to use in Nursery - we welcome any donations.

Useful Numbers

We know that the Christmas break can be a stressful time for families. Please find below three services that can offer help during this time; the Samaritans, Family Lives and the Wisdom App. If you click on the Samaritans and Family Lives icons below it will take you through to their websites. We have paid for all of our families to access the Wisdom App - please see the email sent out earlier in the week.

SAMARITANS
 Call us free 24/7 on
116 123
samaritans.org

 **family lives**

 **Helpline: 0808 800 2222**



Wisdom App

DATES COMING UP:

- Stay and Play - Saturday 4th January 2025 10.00am to 11.00am (All children and Family welcome)
- Inset Days - Monday 6th January 2025 (School closed to all children)
- Return to School - Tuesday 7th January 2025
- Deadline for Primary School Applications - 15th January 2025

Happy New Year!



HEADTEACHER; MRS GEMMA WILLIAMSON & HAYLEY YENDELL