

# City of Rochester School Newsletter



## Spring 1 2021

Our school community has certainly experienced some challenging times this half-term. Staff and pupils had to deal with contracting COVID-19, the sadness of bereavements and feelings of isolation when unable to meet loved ones. I am very pleased to say that all staff and pupils have now recovered or are well on the way to a full recovery. We are pleased to announce that staff at City of Rochester School have been invited to take part in the vaccination programme and those staff who want a vaccine have taken this up.

We understand the enormous responsibility and challenges that remote learning has placed on our parents, carers and pupils as you had to create time, space, routine and support for learning at home. We realise that many of our families are experiencing a difficult time during this pandemic and that there are many other things that are critical to you as we work through this crisis together. Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting your child's learning.

We recently sent out a questionnaire to our parents and carers on the quality of the remote learning offer. In addition, we have gathered your responses on how best to catch up pupils for any lost learning and I thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. I will be writing to you all in due course with our findings and our plans.

As always, I want to thank you all for your continuing support to the school and the positive feedback from some of our parents/carers this term – it has really helped to reassure us that our families are behind what we are trying to achieve as a school.

We will be in touch with you this week to determine your child's timetable for the first week back after the holidays. I wish you all a pleasant and restful half-term break.

Alicja Emmett - Headteacher

### Key Dates

**Half Term:**

15/02/21-  
19/02/21

**Term 4:**

22/02/21-  
31/03/21

**Term 5:**

19/04/21-  
28/05/21

**Half Term:**

31/05/21-  
04/06/21

**Bank Holidays:**

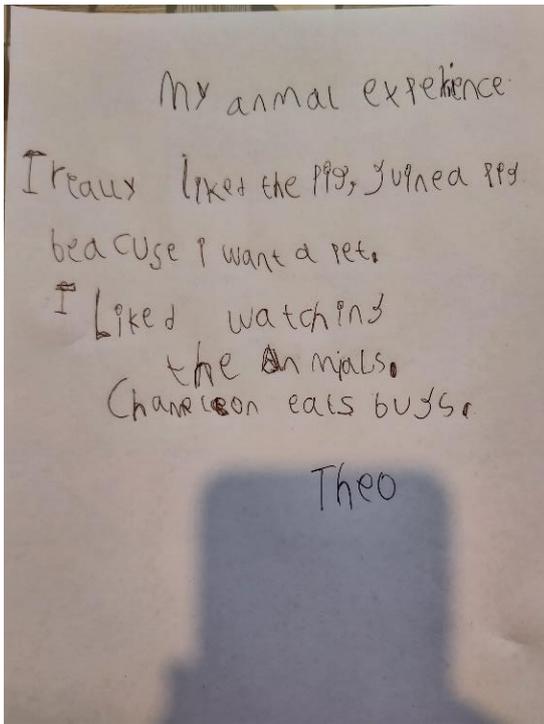
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## News

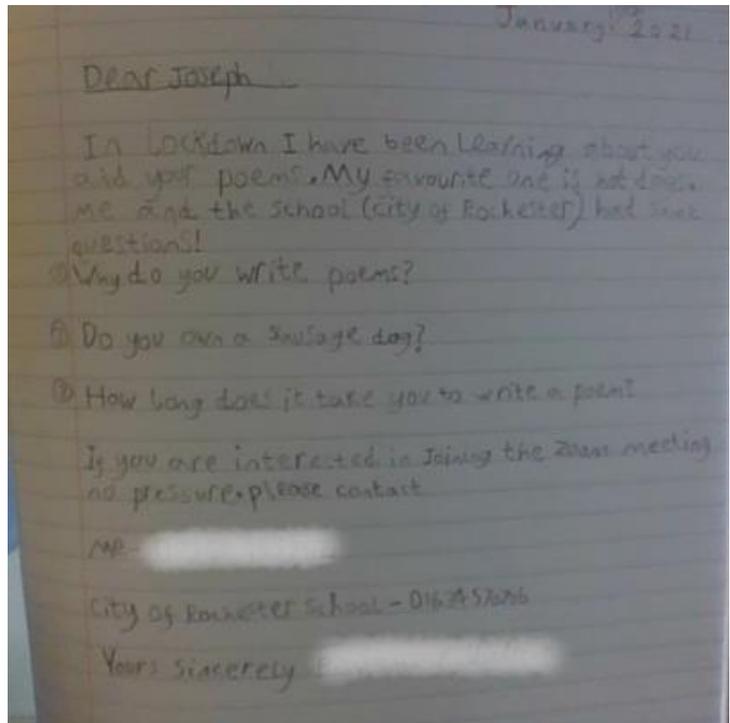
### Curriculum News:

Pupils in the Primary School were given an end of term treat by Our Amazing Animal World. It was very interesting to hear all about these unusual creatures and to see some of pets that pupils and staff own. We look forward to being able to invite these animals into school when it is safe to do so.





Theo has told us which were his favourite animals. Well done Theo!



Benjamin's letter to Joseph Coelho who is a poet pupils were studying in class.



This is Riley playing his guitar along with staff to a very well-known song by the Beatles. Well done Riley!

At Challenger Troop this term, pupils worked as part of a team and built a life raft which was then sailed on the water! Well done!



Billy Jay practising his archery in his garden.



#### **Experiential Curriculum Term 4**

In the Primary School, we will be running Tiger Troop as part of our Experiential Curriculum offer which will be held in Sittingbourne. Pupils are given opportunities to participate in bush craft, field craft and sports and outdoor adventure activities, together with teambuilding and popular games with a twist. The programme not only complements the national curriculum, but also offers the opportunity for pupils to gain confidence and self-esteem whilst making friends and gaining valuable life skills. We will be in touch with you to provide more information and obtain parental permission.

In the Secondary School, we will continue to run Challenger Troop, which is similar to the Tiger Troop Programme, but is designed for older pupils. Again, we will be in touch to provide you with more information and obtain parental permission where we do not already have this.

#### **Parental Advisory Group**

We held another Parental Advisory Group Meeting at the end of January. Thank you to our parents for taking the time out of their busy schedules. Our minutes for the previous meeting have been sent to you. Minutes from this meeting will follow.

The next meetings are 4<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April. An agenda will be sent out in due course. Please feel free to email in your agenda items/items for discussion to: [Kelly.lovell@cityofrochesterschool.org](mailto:Kelly.lovell@cityofrochesterschool.org)

**Equality and Diversity Calendar.** This term we have covered a wide range of topics:

### Holocaust Memorial Day

The 27th January marks Holocaust Memorial Day, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau the largest Nazi death camp. The Holocaust threatened the fabric of civilisation and the threat and indeed reality of genocide is still with us today. Our world often feels fragile and vulnerable and we cannot be complacent. This year, pupils and staff were invited to “be the light in the darkness” and light a candle in their windows at home at 8:00pm to remember those who were murdered for who they were and to stand against prejudice and hatred today.



### National Storytelling Week

We have continued to encourage our pupils and staff to read. Staff dressed up as characters from their favourite books to read stories and poems to the children. The students were encouraged to do the same and to share their favourite books or stories from a real person that may have inspired them. Some of the younger students played a game of ‘Guess the Story’.

