

# NEWSLETTER

Compass  
Special  
Schools



This newsletter will reach you on the last day of this half term. Unusually our last day is Thursday, as tomorrow is an INSET day for the Compass Special Schools team. We are looking forward to an inspirational presentation from our guest speaker Khamani Edwards. Khamani is a young entrepreneur who created his own business at 19 years old. Khamani lives with some of the same barriers to learning and life as our children and young people do. Khamani will be doing a short presentation about his story and a QA session. We know that he will reiterate to our team the importance of high aspirations and possibilities. We are also looking forward to welcoming his mum and nan. Class teams are also tasked with making sure our outside areas are ready for summer 2 in advance of OPAL play training for all in the summer and autumn terms.

Hopefully you will by now have received the parent briefing for this half term. It will give you a real time update of some of the things that have been happening this half term and the exciting end to the year we have planned. It includes an update about Rowan Wood and Post 19 provision, to name but a few. Even since we recorded briefing there have been some further developments in that we are preparing to interview for the provider position for Royal Borough of Greenwich Transition Learning Centre, on 5th June 2026. We would like to thank the parents who took part in filming to support our application and who gave permission for their children and young people to join in.

We have finished this half term in a flurry of activity. On Tuesday evening our choir were at Blackheath Concert Halls to take part in the singing spectacular. We are very proud of our confident children who took to the stage and represented us. There are more creative arts opportunities coming soon with sixth form summer showcase in production at the moment.

On Wednesday and Thursday, we were joined by Calvin Pike, from Challenge Partners who led a two-day external consultancy review. This was a rigorous review of our school development plan and self-evaluation, our creative arts and sixth form provision. As always there will be a published report which we look forward to sharing with you.



Last week was also busy! We started the week with our Kingswood school journey, the first of many residential opportunities for our older children. The Kingswood school journey is a two-night stay where children have the opportunity to try all sorts of outdoor and adventurous activities, including climbing and problem solving. There is already a report which documents everyone's adventures with some amazing photographs! Thank you to all of you who trusted us with your children!



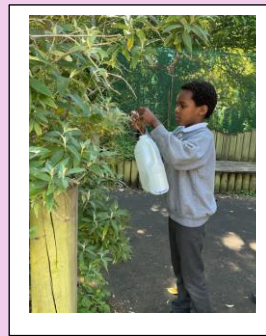
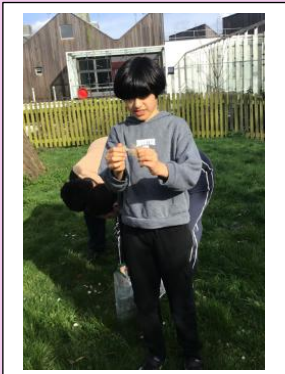
On Saturday we had our long-awaited Community Cultural Celebration Day. This was the first event of this kind that we have held, and we are pleased to report that it was a resounding success. It was a joyous occasion with great food and entertainment. The opportunity to talk and laugh together was priceless and we are looking forward to holding another of these events next year.

We are wishing you a happy and safe half term. School begins for everybody on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June. If you need help or advice during the holiday time you can contact a leader on the emergency phone on 07716 388634. We will see you in a weeks' time, ready for an exciting rest of the term.

*Rachel*

## JACKDAW CLASS

Jackdaw class have been busy learning about the world of Wildlife Conservation during Technology and Citizenship lessons. We first explored the types of animals we wanted to help, using video clips, photos and symbols to support our understanding. It was then time to venture out into the sensory garden to spot some of these animals in action. We saw several types of birds including pigeons, a robin and even a parakeet or two! We also spotted several insects including a butterfly, lady bird, bees and ants. With our animal research complete, we began designing and making bird feeders, bug hotels and bird baths using recycled materials. It was the perfect opportunity for the children to practice their fine motor skills and let their creative juices flow!



## NEWS FROM ROWAN WOOD

Monarch Class have continued to show fantastic engagement and enjoyment in their learning. In Maths, the children have been working hard on their individual multiplication and division targets, developing confidence through skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also begun exploring making and identifying equal groups and representing multiplications using arrays. In Design Technology, our rice-making project is well underway. The children have demonstrated excellent chopping and cooking skills. Last week, they taste-tested a variety of vegetables before taking part in a class vote to decide which ingredients will be included in their final dish - we can't wait to make it next week! In Science, we have been learning about habitats and microhabitats. The children enjoyed matching different animals to sensory trays that represented a range of habitats, thinking carefully about where animals live and why. We also made the most of the spring sunshine and went on a microhabitat and minibeast hunt around the playground.

Peacock Class has been making the most of the lovely warm weather, while also expanding their French vocabulary! The children have been learning how to describe the weather, confidently using phrases such as "Il y a du soleil" (it is sunny) and "Il y a du vent" (it is windy). In Literacy, we have been revisiting our story *Up in the Sky and Down in the Dirt*, bringing it to life through discussion and activities. Our young gardeners have also been busy planting seeds and carefully nurturing them—making sure they get plenty of sunlight by placing them near the window and spraying them with water each day. The children were amazed to see just how much their plants had grown over the weekend! In Maths, we've been developing our counting skills by practising counting in 5s and 10s, using a variety of fun and hands-on resources. Meanwhile, in Science, we are exploring what different animals need to survive, learning about their habitats and why they are perfectly suited to them. We are also continuing our important discussions about healthy habits, helping the children understand what they can do to look after their bodies and stay healthy.

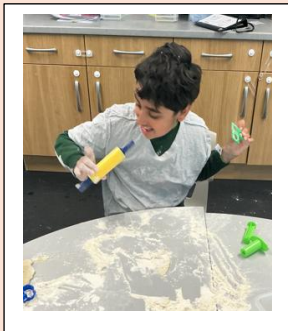
Skipper Class has had an absolutely fantastic time this week! We turned into little chefs, cooking delicious recipes for breakfast, lunch, and dinner while building our motor skills—and of course, the best part was enjoying all the yummy food we made. In Literacy, we dived into our new book *Not a Box*, and it was a huge hit; the children loved getting involved in role play and bringing the story to life through lots of creative activities. Our Numeracy learning was just as exciting, especially in our pirate hut, where we practised counting through fun games like bowling, throwing balls into buckets, playing "Where is the Teddy?", and especially our pirate hunt for coins! In Art, we explored our fabulous topic, *The Future*, creating bright and imaginative pieces while experimenting with lights and colours—the engagement was amazing! To top it all off, we've started our swimming sessions, and they've been a big splash of success, with children absolutely loving their time in the pool, building confidence, and having lots of fun in the water.

Swallowtail Class have had a lovely week! We have immersed ourselves in our new book, *It's Not a Box*, and have all been practising the different movements from the story. In our writing lessons, we have been exploring mark-making, which has been lots of fun. In Drama, we travelled into the future, exploring different worlds and meeting distant aliens—our imaginations have truly come to life! Most excitingly, we have started swimming at Crook Log. We all had so much fun, and it's safe to say it has quickly become a firm favourite in Swallowtail Class.

## Skipper Class

Skipper Class has had an absolutely wonderful term filled with exciting learning experiences and fantastic progress. In Design and Technology, the children explored and developed their cooking skills by preparing food for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, practising techniques such as grating, cutting, and slicing before proudly enjoying their delicious final products. We also focused on developing communication and life skills through our "Going to the Market" lessons, where children took part in a realistic role-play experience, walking through aisles, exchanging coins, and purchasing real products, helping to build their confidence and independence.

Another highlight of the term was the start of our off-site swimming sessions, which quickly became a favourite activity, with the children showing great enthusiasm and excitement each week. In Creative Arts, we thoroughly enjoyed exploring this term's topic, *The Future*, using lights and metallic coloured paper to create impressive 3D sculptures, alongside drama games that helped deepen the children's understanding of the world around them. It has been truly wonderful to see how much progress the children have made this term as they continue to settle into their new classes, adapt to new routines, and grow in confidence every day.



## REDWING CLASS



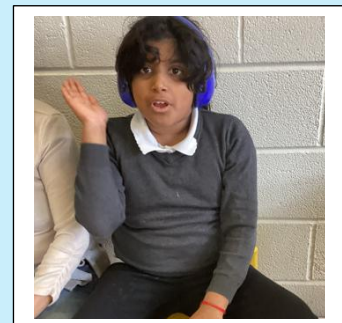
Redwing have had a busy half term full of fun and different learning opportunities.

In our citizenship lessons, we have been learning about the importance of kindness. We have been making and giving small tokens of thanks to show people around school how much we care about them and how grateful we are for all that they do including our catering, premises, transport and office teams.

We have been exploring our creativity in art sessions and learning how to use digital tools to create our own masterpieces, inspired by the works of famous artists such as Max Ernst.

We had lots of fun when One Drum visited for a special interactive African drumming workshop. We were all able to join in by playing the djembe and we loved copying the rhythms and singing simple chants too.

We have also welcomed Nevaeh into Redwing class, and we are all enjoying getting to know her and having a new friend to play and learn with.



# PAEDIATRIC CONTINENCE SERVICE

Does your child have  
constipation &  
Toileting needs



Contact: Millie Price  
Nursery Nurse/ Special schools Continence Advisor.  
Working hours are-  
Monday- 8-3, Tuesday- 8-4:30, Wednesday 8-4:30, Thursday 8-4:00  
Telephone number- 07818539354



## speakeasy



A weekly Coffee Morning

for Willow Dene and Rowan Wood parents & carers

**Tuesday 2nd June 10.30am to 12pm**

To welcome you back after half term we have **Sophia Pemberton** (class teacher) joining us. Sophia is excited to once again to host her own (and very popular) coffee morning. This coffee morning is all about '**Arts and Crafts,**' offering a fantastic opportunity for you to unleash your creativity! It's also a wonderful chance for our parents/carers to connect, catch up and chat to other families.

No need to bring any resources and as always, tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided!

This is held at our **Swingate Lane site**. Come along and get creative!

**For more information please contact: Family Support Team on 0208 854 9841**

### IMPORTANT DATES

Last day of 1<sup>st</sup> half of summer term – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Inset Day – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

First day of 2<sup>nd</sup> half of summer term – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Last day of 2<sup>nd</sup> half of summer term (Rowan Wood School) Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Last day of 2<sup>nd</sup> half of summer term (Willow Dene School) Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Inset Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026