

New Nursery Parents Handbook (2017-2018)



RHODES AVENUE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Aims Statement

Rhodes Avenue Primary School strives to provide the best in primary education.

Working in partnership with the local community, the pupils, staff, parents and governors continue to pursue excellence in all aspects of school life.

Our aim is for all children to enjoy learning and achieve success in a healthy, happy and inclusive environment.

Nursery Statement of Aims

We believe that children's needs are paramount.

We aim to:

- Provide a safe environment with a happy and welcoming atmosphere
- Promote trust by responding sensitively to confidential matters
- Respect and value each individual, recognising that all children develop at different rates
- Promote understanding and acceptance of the differing needs of all children
- Promote positive and responsive partnerships with all those connected with the school
- Provide a high quality early years curriculum that is well resourced, accessible and appropriately planned
- Provide equal opportunities and choice, where children learn through play, exploration, investigation and collaborative learning
- Cover all aspects of development, allowing for spontaneity
- Provide continuity and extension of experience
- Develop positive and reassuring attitudes toward independent and collaborative learning
- Help children to develop caring and responsive attitudes towards each other
- Encourage and support the integration of children with special educational needs
- Ensure the building and resources are accessible to all children, particularly those with special educational needs.



The Nursery Team

Woodpecker class:

Class teacher – Kirsty Potter / Nursery Nurses – Jill Karavias + Kerry Colletta

Hedgehog class:

Class teachers – Sally Eustance (Mon-Wed) + Andrea Clover (Thurs + Fri) / Nursery Nurses – Adriana Lobo + Donna Cade

EYFS Provision Leader – Sally Eustance

Link Senior Leader – Maria Panayiotou (Deputy Headteacher)

There may also be additional adult support within the classroom, including students on training placements.



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Contact details

School telephone number: 0208 888 2859

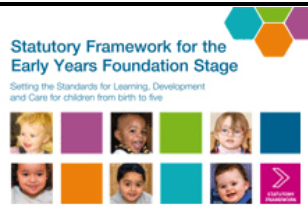
School absence line: 0208 826 1896

School fax number: 0208 881 7090

School e mail address: office@rhodes.haringey.sch.uk

School website: www.rhodes.haringey.sch.uk

School Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RhodesAvePrim>



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provides children with a range of learning experiences and opportunities for all children to succeed and feel valued. It provides invaluable foundations upon which children can build and helps to prepare children for the National Curriculum which begins when your child enters Year One. The curriculum your child will be following is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

There are 7 areas of learning all together and 3 prime areas that can be delivered from birth to age five. There are 4 Specific areas that are introduced when practitioners feel that the child is developmentally ready. Included in this handbook is a brief summary of the expectations for most children to reach at the end of the Reception Year, along with the educational programme which will be put in place. There is also an outline of the 3 characteristics of effective teaching and learning in the framework.

Children's learning

From the moment of birth children begin to learn about the world around them, using all their senses, and striving to master the next stage of their development. This continuous involved 'play' is the child's way of learning: it is pleasurable, self-directed and purposeful and takes place when the child is feeling happy and secure. To young children, play is a very serious activity - it is work, whereby they learn about themselves, the world and others.

We provide a curriculum based on play, a curriculum that includes physical education, social education, art, craft, music, maths, science, and language development. Through this, we aim to help each child in their all round development, to help each child develop to their full potential and to ensure there is the opportunity to succeed.

We take a child-centred approach, we value and utilise the children's interests, creations and play. It is not important for the end product of children's work to be instantly recognisable but what is important is that the child has been fully involved in the process and has contributed and learnt from it.

The play environment will be changing as the children's interests and abilities develop. We evaluate the environment and the way the children use it and judge the right time to intervene and extend the play by questioning, making suggestions, providing information and vocabulary or additional resources.

Learning characteristics:

Creating and thinking critically:

Thinking, having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things.

Playing and exploring:

Engagement, finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to 'have a go'.

Active learning:

Motivation, being involved and concentrating, continuing to try. Enjoying, achieving what they set out to do.



Prime Area - Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Your child will be provided with experiences and support which will help them with making new relationships, having self confidence and self awareness and managing their own feelings and behaviour. We will support them to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others; respect for others and a positive disposition to learn.



Prime Areas - Physical Development

The physical development of your child will be encouraged through the provision of opportunities for them to be active and interactive and improve their skills of coordination, moving, handling, manipulation and movement. They will be supported in using all of their senses to learn about the world around them and to make connections between new information and what they already know. They will be supported in developing an understanding of the importance of physical activity and making healthy choices in relation to food.



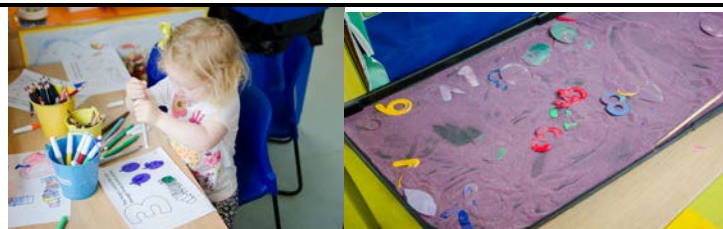
Prime Area - Communication and Language

Children's listening skills will be developed in a range of situations. They will listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. We will support children in their understanding so they can follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They will answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.



Specific Area – Literacy

Your child's learning and competence in being read to and beginning to read will be both supported and extended. They will be provided with the opportunity and encouragement to use their skills in a range of purposes, and will be supported in developing the confidence and disposition to do so.



Specific Area – Mathematics

Your child will be supported in developing their understanding of number and shape, space and measure in a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about their developing understanding. They will be provided with opportunities to practise and extend their skills in these areas and to gain confidence and competence in their use.



Specific Area – Understanding the World

Your child will be supported in developing knowledge and skills and understanding that help them to make sense of: people and communities, the world and technology. Their learning will be supported through offering opportunities for them to use a range of tools safely, encounter creatures, plants and objects in the natural world and real life situations.



Specific Area – Expressive Arts and Design

Your child will have opportunities to sing songs, make music, dance and experiment with ways of changing them. They will be supported to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function. Your child's creativity will be extended so that they can use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about uses and purposes. They will be encouraged to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories.

Prime + Specific Areas together

None of these areas can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other to support a rounded approach to child development. All these areas are delivered through planned, purposeful play, with a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities. We plan the learning environment, activities and experiences that your child needs to fulfil their potential. Play is a very important part of a child's learning experience and it is through play based activities that children learn best. We therefore use play as a foundation to build on and encourage structured play in classroom activities.

We base each half term's learning around a core text and a theme, topic or question. We also use the needs and interests of the children to contribute to the half term's foci. At the beginning of each term there will be a letter sent out to you detailing the topic and perhaps suggesting activities that can be carried out at home to extend the theme.

When your child first starts school we will be focussing very much on their personal, social and emotional development – settling in, leaving their parent/carer, making new relationships with adults and peers, taking on board new routines and experiences etc. Our aim is to ensure your child is a happy, confident and independent learner; able to access the full curriculum and extend learning to their full potential.

Key Person System

In the Early Years foundation stage we work a Key worker system. Each child is allocated a key worker who will help to settle your child into nursery. Then throughout your child's time in the nursery they will make observations and keep records of your child's progress. They will then speak to you about how your child is settling in and the progress they are making. You may speak to your child's key worker at any time and the key worker will then share any important information with the rest of the nursery team. You will be informed of your child's key worker when they start in September. We know how important the link between home and school is. Your child's education and development will be greatly enhanced by a close working relationship. You know your child well and have valuable information to share. The whole nursery team are always available for you to come and speak to on a daily basis.

Settling In

All children new to Rhodes Avenue Primary School have a Home Visit prior to starting school. This will enable us to meet your child in a relaxed environment where they are confident and secure. It allows us to talk to you about our school and to answer any questions you may have. It is a short visit lasting approximately fifteen minutes.

There is a settling in timetable which you will be given but the settling in process will be tailored to meet the individual needs of your child. It is an important time and we want your child to feel happy, secure and positive about the changes. From experience, we feel it is more beneficial for the children to say their goodbyes to parents/carers at the door to the classroom before entering so that they can start their day independently. Please support us with this task so that we can help your child settle into primary school more easily.

On your child's first day we expect parents to stay for the whole session. This is an important time to ensure your child settles happily and with minimum distress. After this there is flexibility in how long it takes for your child to leave you. It may be that your child needs to build up more slowly to five full sessions. The settling in process will be tailored to meet the individual needs of your child.

Rotas

We actively encourage parents and carers to spend time with us in the Nursery during your child's year. You can help by reading with the children and playing games, or if you have any special skills such as gardening, playing a musical instrument or computer skills then this additional help and support is always welcome too. After all the children have settled in there will be a rota timetable posted on the Nursery notice board for you to sign up to spend time with us.



Assessment

During the Reception year the staff will be completing the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile for your child. At the end of the year you will receive a report detailing your child's attainment and progress within the seven areas of learning.

Look@Me is one of Rhodes Avenue Primary School's assessment tools and is also a tool which you will be able to access from home in order to follow your child's time in Reception. You will be supplied with a user name and password which will allow you to log on to the Look@Me website in order to see what your child has been up to whilst at school.

Outdoor Education

Unless the weather is really awful the children are actively encouraged to go into our outside classroom space. We plan a full curriculum of activities outside in the same way as we do inside. We provide play opportunities for all the six areas of the Early Years Foundation curriculum as well as planting and growing areas, sand and water, climbing opportunities, cars, bikes and scooters. The children are encouraged to share the equipment fairly with their peers and this is where a lot of your child's social skills will be developed and physical strengths tested. Please make sure your child is suitably dressed for the being outside. Forest School sessions are also part of our Nursery offer.

Clothing

It is helpful if your child can wear clothing with simple fastenings so that they can independently dress and undress themselves where necessary whilst at school. Please bear in mind that your child will come across both paint and glue on a frequent basis and even though we provide aprons for them to wear accidents still occur! Please name all of your child's outer garments and in the cold months gloves on elastic are also very useful as they don't get lost!

Each child will be provided with a peg outside the classroom with their photograph on it on their first day at school. Please make sure that you provide your child with a labelled change of clothes bag which contains spare underwear, a top and trousers or tracksuit bottoms for them to change into if they have an accident. This clothes bag will need to be restocked on return to school the next day after an accident happens. Please keep an eye on this bag. Please continue to encourage your child to get themselves dressed and undressed each day as this helps us greatly and gives them a developing sense of independence. The children will have to undress and dress themselves for music and movement sessions and in their weekly Physical Education sessions.

Please make sure your child is dressed for outdoor play in all weathers as the children will have access to the Reception outdoor area at all times. On hot days shoulders and heads need to be covered and sun cream applied before they arrive at nursery.

Parents as Partners

When parents and practitioners work together the results will have a positive impact on the child's development and learning. We seek to provide an effective partnership with you as parents/carers. We welcome your views and recognise the important role you have in your child's education.

When the children are settled there will be the opportunity for you to spend some time with us in Reception area, reading with the children, telling stories, playing games etc. If you have any specific skills then this additional help and support is always welcome too. There will be a rota outside the classrooms for you to sign up.

There will be a meeting for all Reception parents during the first half term which will provide information on the teaching of reading. There are also termly Parents' Evenings to inform you of your child's progress.

We are always very happy to talk to you about any concerns or questions you may have. Please come in and arrange a time to meet with us. We are available most mornings before school or at the end of the school day. There will be an opportunity for you to meet with the staff each term to talk about your child, share their progress and discuss their achievements and targets. If you feel that you need more time then let us know and we will make a special appointment with you before or after the school day.

The school has a Parent Staff Association (RAPSA) and all parents are automatically members. Please ask sibling parents for how you can become involved, helping, meetings etc.

Woodpeckers



8.45 – 11.45am

Hedgehogs



9am – 3pm

Sessions

We ask that you arrive at school promptly at the start of the nursery session to enable your child to come in easily and settle quickly. It is also very important that you collect on time at the end of each session as children become distressed and upset if they think they have been left on their own.

General Information

In the Hedgehog and Woodpecker foyers there are a number of points of information to enable us to link school with home. There is a board where we try to keep you informed of the activities that we have been doing during the session and can give you a point of conversation with your child and a general notice board where we put weekly news letters, daily notices and general information. There is also a RAPSA (Rhodes Avenue Parent & School Association) notice board which contains info on all the school social and fund raising events.

Each child will be allocated peg with their name on it situated inside the nursery foyer. These are provided for you to put any of your child's personal belongings on.

Inside the main nursery room there is a 'Daily Information' white board. This is for you to inform us of any changes to your child's usual pick up information. We do need to know if they are going home with someone else or going on a 'play date'. Due to health and safety issues we are not obliged to let your child go home with anyone we have not been informed of and it can be upsetting for the child and awkward for the nursery staff if someone comes to collect them and we can't let them go without contacting you first.

Absences / Illness / Medication

Please keep your child at home if they are obviously unwell, have a temperature, sickness or diarrhoea. Please inform us if your child is absent from school by telephoning the school office on 0208 826 1896 . Your child must have at least 48 hours at home without further illness before returning. If the illness is contagious please contact us immediately.

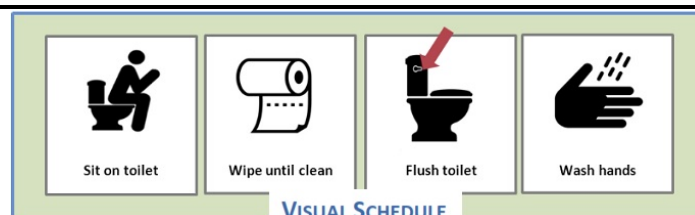
If your child has a medical condition or an allergy, please make sure that the staff know about it, that it is recorded on the welfare sheet and that necessary medication is provided and consent form completed.

Unfortunately head lice are always around in schools but please do inform us if you find any in your child's hair. This is so that we can inform other parents so that they too can check their child's hair. We will of course be discrete to you and your child, no names being mentioned.



Tissues

We also welcome one box of tissues from you at the beginning of the Reception year to help stem the flow of runny noses throughout the whole year. Please give these to your child's class teacher or Nursery Nurse.



Personal Hygiene

The nursery has child size toilets and sinks for your child to use. Make sure they are familiar with them when you first arrive at the nursery. Please ensure that your child is fully toilet trained and that they can use toilet paper correctly too. Accidents will happen at the beginning of the year, which we expect, but with 26 children in each session it is very difficult for us to spend time with each individual child helping them in the toilet. We encourage the children to STOP, THINK and FLUSH the toilet and STOP, THINK, and WASH their hands.

Toys

Please avoid sending your child to nursery with toys. Initially when your child is settling in they may need a comfort item and we will not discourage this but merely suggest they keep it in a bag on their peg so they can go and get it if they need to.

After the settling in period we will ask the children not to bring any toys into nursery unless they are topic related and will be kept on the topic table.

(See Topic information at the beginning of each term for details)

If your child takes a toy or other items from the nursery please return them as soon as possible, don't be embarrassed as young children often do this by mistake.



Quiet reading time and foyer book area

Before the end of each session the nursery children are encouraged to choose a book and look at it quietly on the carpet. They are taught to recognise script, the illustrations and how to handle the books correctly.

In the foyer there is also a Nursery Library outside the Hedgehog nursery which children from both nursery classes may use. We have a great collection of books for the children to look at and lend for a week and return regularly. Please look after these books and encourage your child to look at them carefully and return them to the shelves when they have finished with them. There will be a signing in system available soon after the children are settled in September.



Fruit / Drinks

Milk and water will also be available throughout each session and left on a drinks table. Your child will be encouraged to help themselves and will be shown how to pour out their own drinks when they want one.

Each day children will be provided with some fruit as a snack. Your child will be encouraged to help themselves. We do not know what fruit will be provided on a daily basis and if you think your child may be a little unwilling to eat this then you may provide them with some fruit yourself. Please supply this ready cut for them, store them in their school bag on their peg and remind them that you have provided them with one!

Please be aware that we are a nut-free school and so products with nuts in must not be sent into school. Please check the notice board outside the classroom for any other known allergies that may be present in the class.



Birthdays

Birthdays are very special days and we like the children to celebrate with their friends. We make a fuss of the birthday child. They sit on the special 'Birthday cushion', we sing happy birthday to them, give them a birthday sticker and they get to take the 'Birthday bear' home. Many children like to bring something in to share with their friends. We have healthy eating policy at Rhodes Avenue and so we ask you please make sensible healthy choices when bringing in treats and try to choose homemade cakes and biscuits or unusual fresh fruits. No sweets! Please also be aware that we are a nut-free school and so products with nuts in must not be sent into nursery. Please also check the notice board for any other known allergies that may be present in the Nursery.

Preparation for 'Big' school

The nursery is regarded very much as part of the whole school. After the second term, when the children are fully settled, we will begin to make regular visits to the main school for a half time where we play ring games, or have a drama/movement session.

In the last half term we aim to help make the transition into Reception, wherever it may be, smooth and easy for each child. The children will visit the reception classrooms, have a tour of the school, and meet the Teacher and Nursery Nurse who will be taking them in September. It is an important time for them and it is essential that we manage it well and make the children feel confident and happy.

Things to remember to bring with you on the first day

- A box of tissues
- A labelled bag containing a change of clothes for your child
- A pair of wellies so that your child may use them for their Forest School sessions

Thank you in advance

We hope you have found the information in this booklet useful and that you and your child have a very happy and positive time at Rhodes Avenue Nursery and we look forward to getting to know you.

Finally, feel free to come in and talk to us if there are any concerns or questions. We have an 'open door' policy and we will always make time to talk to you.

Our phone number at the nursery is 020 8888 2859 EX 308. The nursery team are usually in the nursery building between 8am & 4.30pm each day.



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