



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 2018: Issue 7

Welcome to the March edition of our Newsletter. We have had a busy half term so far with World Book Day, 2 author visits, cultural and educational visits and lots more ahead. Please ensure you keep up to date with the school calendar of events, we wouldn't want you to miss anything.

Our school value for this half term is *courage*. We have been exploring with the children showing bravery to overcome challenges, build resilience and the importance of learning from our mistakes. It is wonderful to see the children demonstrating courage daily in their learning. During a recent school review I was able to see this first hand when children in Year 3 were presented with a maths problem. They had to solve, justifying their thinking and explain to others their reasoning. It was delightful to see the children tackle a challenging problem and show real excitement to reach their goal. The challenge was tough and the children made mistakes, but most importantly they learned from them. The children demonstrated true courage in this lesson, they did not become upset by failure or give in; they adapted, developed new strategies and tried again, learning from the mistakes that had been made. Far too often we can be tempted to give in. Having a go and being brave builds resilience for everyday life. Wanting to improve and become better is an important skill to develop as a child and as an adult. I challenge you to share with each other the tasks you find the most difficult and how you have demonstrated bravery and courage to overcome something you have found hard.

As you know we launched a new approach to Home Learning in October following a year of research, visiting other schools and looking at different models of Home Learning. I recently sent a letter providing an overview of the changes we have made. Your views are important to us and we will continue to shape our policy with you moving forward. Another parent survey will be sent in the first half of the summer term for you to share your views again.

I hope to see you all at our forthcoming Parent Evenings – bookings will be going live on Monday 18th March.

Cultural Visits Programme:

In addition to our school's budget allocation for all pupils, our school receives additional funding for targeted pupil groups, e.g. pupils with SEND and pupils of whom the school in receipt of Pupil Premium. The school is accountable for this funding and must ensure it is spent directly on the groups the funding is intended. It is down to the school to decide how this funding is spent and prioritises the provision based on pupil need.

This academic year has seen the launch of our Cultural Visits Programme which is being funded through some of the additional funding sources the school receives. So far this academic year, targeted pupils in the juniors have had the opportunity to access additional educational opportunities by visiting St Paul's Cathedral and the RAF Museum.



We would like to thank teaching assistant Olivett Newing for all of her hard work in organising these trips. We look forward to sharing the Cultural Visits Programme with you in the terms ahead.

Deputy Headteacher, Maria Panayiotou





Playing it Safe
 Please ensure you monitor your child's internet use. Parent controls make it an easy to keep an eye on what your child is playing and who they are playing with.

Please use the parent controls, monitor your child's account and talk about what games they are playing and who with.



Egyptian Topic Launch Year 5

We had a very exciting start to our 'Egyptian' topic, the Sports Hall was totally transformed into a maze of Egyptian tombs. The tombs had 3 different sections, each room was locked with problems tasked to enable the escape. Our task was to solve the problems, to uncover clues, solve the riddles and release the combinations. Skeletons, clocks, water puzzles, mummies, puzzles all blocked our path; the ability to work as a team enhanced the thrill of the escape! It was such great fun and taught vital team building skills. We also has the opportunity to create our own clay tablets, make Egyptian style necklaces and write our own names and puzzles using hieroglyphs.

Demetra Jeffels

Chess Champions

Congratulations to the children in the school's U9 and U11 chess teams who have qualified for the semi final stage of the National Primary Schools Chess Championship.



The U9 team did particularly well. Taking part in their first tournament, the team Yr4s Julian, Jamie, James, Finn, Ryoma and Inigo beat off competition from some good chess schools to qualify.

With matches against Hampstead Parochial, Radlett Prep, local rivals St James Primary and our hosts Heathside Prep, the team finished in fourth place.

Equally amazing was the performance of the U11 teams. Both teams qualified for the semi final stage after playing teams from Eden Primary, Heathside Prep, Radlett Prep as well as having to play each other in one of the rounds.

The U11 A team - Yr5s Andrei, Alex, Charlie, Alex and Yr6 Kamran - finished in third place. They missed out on second place by just half a point.

The U11 B team - Yr5s Cosmo, Rafael, Thomas, Sacha and Yr6 George - pipped local rivals Eden Primary to the final qualifying place.

Mr Karia who runs the school chess clubs said, 'This was a tough qualifying tournament with many of the stronger North London chess schools taking part. The children's success reflects the progress they have been making in chess and well deserved.'

Arsenal Double Club

Congratulations to Kitty, Sophia and Rumeesa for winning the ADC Top trumps Trophy and Plate Competitions.



The Top Trumps Schools Tournament was fun, quick and easy to play. Pupils competed against classmates at lunch, with little or no explanation needed. The starting 23 ADC participants were randomly split for the group stage, just like the Champions League. The Group winners went through to the Semi-finals and then the Final, with the rest playing off in the Plate Finals.

Mirroring the two halves of a game of football, the ADC programme combines a 30 minute classroom session, in which Arsenal related educational resources are used, with a 30 minute football coaching session in the sports hall. All participants who complete the course attend a tour of the Emirates Stadium at the end of the season.

All Arsenal Double Club Year 5 pupils deserve a lot of credit for their enthusiasm and effort whilst attending both literacy and football sessions. Attendance has been excellent.

Later this term we will be having a Football Tournament for ADC participants, versus St. Martin of Porres Primary School who are also hosting an ADC with their Year 5 pupils.



Our next literacy challenge will be BANAGRAMS – The anagram game that drives you bananas!

BANAGRAMS is a fast-paced competitive word-race game that requires no pencil, paper, board or waiting for turns! Up to eight people can play at once and the game is easy for anyone to pick up and enjoy. Each player races to build their own word grid at the same time as their opponent using a random selection of letter tiles.

The winner is the first person who uses all of their tiles... But the ever-changing nature of the grid and speed of play makes every round a frantic challenge! Regardless of your age, skill and word-game experience, BANAGRAMS is the anagram game that drives you bananas!

Mr Amooty



Community News

A photograph of a young girl in a red shirt and white skirt, swinging a badminton racket. The background is a light blue and white pattern.

WE WANT YOU!

We are recruiting new players for our thriving Junior Badminton Club.

7-12 YEARS	11-18 YEARS
We run coached sessions for those new to badminton	For those interested in improving their skills
Tuesday mornings 7.40 - 8.40am	Wednesday afternoons 4.30 - 6.30pm
Thursday afternoons 4.30 - 5.30pm	Thursday evenings 5.30 - 7.00pm

Venue: Alexandra Park School Sports Hall, N11 2AZ
Please email: alexandraparkjbc@gmail.com
www.alexandraparkjbc.org.uk



RHODES AVENUE
PRIMARY SCHOOL

A note from Rapsa

Along with the warmer weather, the sunshine and the flowers, it's time for our annual Rhodes Avenue Spring Fair on Saturday 23rd March, 2-5 pm.

There will be a petting farm, Easter Egg Tombola, Treasure Hunt, face painting, Easter crafts and bouncy castle, to name but a few of the attractions, so please take a note of the date and come along.

Other dates for your diary are:

Rapsa hosted coffee morning on Friday 22nd March as a thank you from us to you for all your help this last year

Jumble Sale on Saturday 11th May (save your jumble for us till then).

Comedy Night on Friday 17th May (you may want to book your babysitters now).

Fun Day on Sunday 30th June.

We are looking forward to all these events which are bound to be fun, while raising funds for our school.

In the meantime a huge thank you to the Year 3 Reps as well as both DJs, Caroline and Abby, for a brilliant Disco Night. For those who braved the rain, the cold and the dark, it was a great night.

Chers parents,

Madame Chadier has created a Rhodes Avenue Pinterest, so that pupils can share their French learning with their parents at home. Pinterest is a free online service that acts like a pinboard to categorise links to selected resources. All you need to do is register for free with a password. This link will take you straight to the Rhodes Avenue Pinterest boards:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/RhodesAvenuePrimary/>

Every year group has a board, which hosts links to the songs and stories shared during weekly French lessons. Cultural traditions, recommended films and number games can also be found easily through this platform. There is a board with over sixty age appropriate ebooks read aloud by a French native speaker. Some resources can be watched directly within Pinterest, some require to click further into Youtube. Please never leave your child free to surf on the internet without adult supervision.

Happy viewing and sharing! Bonnes vacances





Tackling Climate Change

The school has signed up to become a Plastic Free School. The aim of the project is to stop plastic pollution at source. The programme is aimed to empower children to not only tackle unnecessary single-use plastics but to inspire Industry and Government to make positive strategic steps in the same direction.

Spring Equinox is on Wednesday 20th March. During this week, in our assemblies, we will be discussing pollution and preparing the children for World Conservation Day. Year 4 will be leading on this initiative, linking to their topic 'Good to be Green'. We want to empower the children to make a difference, taking care of the environment and tackling climate change needs to start now.

What have we done so far to tackle climate Change?

Every classroom has a recycling bin
We have banned the use of disposable plastic cups
We purchase recycled paper and books
The school has gone paperless
We use solar energy to power the specialist teaching block (art, music, computer rooms)
We have reduced water flow in all our toilet systems

What are our next steps?

We will be asking the children to separate food waste from wrappers
We will be creating compost areas for our garden waste
We would like all children to use reusable water bottles rather than disposable
We will be sourcing milk that does not use disposable straws
We will not be using glitter in school
We will take part in local and national initiatives linking to our areas of learning

We would love to hear from you if you have any further ideas to decrease our carbon footprint.

Dates for your diary

For all this year's dates please visit the school web site

<https://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/diary-dates/>

Term dates are also available for the next three years. Please take a look so you can avoid booking any holidays during term time. Term time holidays will only be authorized in exceptional circumstances.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/term-dates/>

Our whole school attendance has dropped slightly over the last half term to 96.74%. Please remember absence requests will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances; medical appointments should be made out of school hours and the office will ask for proof of hospital and medical appointments.



News from the Art Department

Year 6 artwork featured on the Lord Mayor's website!

Year 6 have been working on ideas for a new Fourth Plinth Sculpture! The Fourth Plinth Schools Awards is run by the Greater London Authority and invites schools to submit their ideas for the Fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. The Fourth Plinth is the only plinth in Trafalgar square not to have a historical/permanent work of art and exhibits a new work of contemporary art every two years. You can see some of the great artworks made by Rhodes Avenue year 6 students on the London Assembly website by clicking on this link:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/arts-and-culture/art-and-design/fourth-plinth/fourth-plinth-schools-awards-2019/gallery?borough=7605&school=8418>

Well done to everyone in year 6 who came up with some great ideas expressed through figurative art.

Take One picture 2019



Also this term, work on this year's Take One Picture competition has begun! The painting this year is Men of Docks painted by George Bellows in 1912. Children have been discussing the painting with their classroom teachers and making artwork linking to both the painting and their topic themes. Lots of interesting conversations surrounding themes such as industry, immigration and travel have arisen as well as some very exciting visual responses! Year 4 enjoyed painting directly on to the art room tables to explore the colours brushstrokes used by the artist - they then took prints of their paintings and got some fantastic results!

The painting is part of the National gallery's permanent display - do go for a visit to see it if you get the chance! Also, the National gallery offer great free family art workshops on a Sunday morning (booking advised).

Mrs. Sawyer



Which inspirational people will the children be learning about this half term?

Nursery



Maya Lin

Reception



Jamie Oliver

Year 1



Amelia Earhart

Year 2



David Attenborough

Year 3



Mary Anning

Year 4



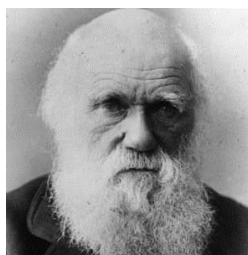
Jane Goodall

Year 5



Cleopatra

Year 6



Charles Darwin



Adrian Hall

Adrian Hall
Headteacher

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