The festive season is here! We have a real buzz of excitement following the performances by each school phase, carols at Bounds Green, the Christmas Fair as well as the Orchestra, instrumental and Choir concerts. I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 18th December for our annual Carol Service.

It is a magical time for children, with so many different celebrations taking place. It is wonderful celebrating the magic of Christmas, with your children, as well as exploring a deeper understanding of kindness and goodwill.

December is a time to reflect. The children this term have been discussing our whole school values of ‘cooperation’ and ‘empathy’ – being kind and considerate to others, doing those little things for each other, working together and having exemplary manners all make the world a much nicer place to be.

Thank you to all who have donated groceries to our local foodbank and to our carol singers who helped raise a whopping £1747; this is the most we have ever raised at Bounds Green.

I would like to take this time to thank parents and carers for your continued support. I hope you have a wonderful holiday and enjoy spending quality time with friends and family. I look forward to seeing you all back for the start of the spring term on Monday 6th January.

The Great Fire of London
Finishing our Great Fire of London topic with a bang! Year 2 explored what houses would have looked like during the 1660’s, looking closely at their design and the materials that they were made of. We then made our own versions thinking carefully about the detail we needed to add to make them look like houses of the time.

After creating our designs we then took our models to the playground and recreated the Great Fire!

The children were able to see how fast the fire spread due to it being a slightly windy day and the houses being so close together. A great way to finish the topic and see the impact the fire had.
'The stars come out for Christmas'
Our annual KS1 production was lots of fun and it was so fantastic to see every child in KS1 take to the stage. The children performed with huge smiles and showed off their brilliant dance moves too. The hall was packed for both performances and the adults were just grinning from ear to ear as they left. The children looked very theatrical in their costumes and face paints under the dazzling lights. It was really special to listen to the real meaning of Christmas and think about why we are all stars in our own way. All of the teachers are very proud!

RAPSA News
It's been a busy half term on the RAPSA front, but all your hard work has paid off and our events have hopefully been fun for you too. The three events that have taken place since our last update have raised a whopping £7,310, broken down as follows:

Quiz: £1,380
Film Night: £1,230
Christmas Fair: £4,700

This is a really terrific achievement, thank you for all your time, help, contributions and participation - it all goes a long way. A special mention goes to the group of Year 6 dads who put together the Quiz - Trevor, Norm, Roger, James and Nick, thank you!

As you may be aware, a lot of us on the RAPSA team will be stepping down from the committee at the end of the academic year, including Julie our Chairwoman, Rachel, our Rep Co-ordinator and Lucy our Company Secretary. If you would like to find out more on what these roles entail, please get in touch via rapsa@hotmail.co.uk - we will not rope you in just because you've gotten in touch! But equally, if you are thinking about it, maybe get together with some like-minded friends and come to one of our committee meetings to see if the RAPSA baton could be passed to you.

In the meantime, all that remains for us to say is to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that we look forward to a successful 2020 with you.

Best wishes,

The RAPSA Team
Chess Champions

Several Rhodes chess stars competed in the prestigious London Junior Chess Championship qualifying rounds this autumn.

The qualifying tournaments are very competitive with 80-100 children attending from schools across London and the South East.

Andrei, Louis, Pratyush and Sasha did particularly well qualifying for the U12, U10 and U8 Finals being held at the University of Westminster in December.

Kamlesh Karia who runs after school and breakfast chess said, 'This is a fantastic feat. The children will be up against some of the strongest junior chess players around. Good luck boys.'

National Maritime Museum

Year 5 loved our trip to the National Maritime Museum because we loved finding out new facts about Antarctica and the expeditions to each pole. We saw and played on a ship and it was really fun. We met a sailor who was on the Endurance with Shackleton (Ms Watson thought he looked very good for his age!)

We travelled the world on The Great Map and found many interesting facts about countries around the world using ipads.

What a brilliant day!

From Bryony & Fidel 5JW

Inclusion Team

Last week saw the first meeting of our new Children's Inclusion Team. The children (from years 3 to 6) took part in a learning walk around the school. They were looking for dyslexia friendly classrooms, visual prompts to help children with their learning and a calm learning atmosphere. The Inclusion Team will be meeting termly to think about how Rhodes Avenue can be as inclusive as possible.

Emily Gazzard
Chamber Choir
Chamber Choir have been busy this term. They have performed at the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice Precious Moments concert at Middlesex University. The concert has helped to raise thousands of pounds for the new Ark Hospice that has recently been built in Barnet.

Chamber Choir were also lucky enough to perform at the Haringey Outstanding for All Awards ceremony at the new Tottenham Stadium!

Thank you to all who supported our carol singing at Bounds Green, this year we raised a staggering £1747 for the Shelter Charity. A wonderful sing-song involving children, parents and staff all for a great cause.

Intra Sports
Last half term the children in the juniors had the opportunity to compete in their indoor athletics intra competition. All of the children tried their very best scoring lots of points for their teams.

The overall winners by one solitary point were Australasia.

This half term the children are taking part in Gymnastics skills. All children will learn a routine of movements to perform and compete in the vault.
Anna and Tom raise money to help support local wildlife

On November 17th, Anna and Tom put together a cake sale on their road to raise money for the London Wildlife Trust, who are helping hedgehogs. They sold cakes, biscuits as well as handmade bracelets. They raised £85!

We have lots of wonderful wildlife locally – is your garden wildlife friendly?

The Romans

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their Romans topic this half term. The children have discovered why the Romans were so successful at expanding their empire. Partly, this was due to the highly trained and disciplined Roman army. The children had a taste of what it might be like to be in the Roman army when we recreated some Roman battle formations on the playground. We were so impressed with the high standard of the Roman shields they made and the children had great fun creating the battle formations with them. We also visited the Museum of London where the children got to discover what life was like in Britain during the Roman Invasion. As always, we were impressed by how well behaved and enthusiastic all the children were. Well done Year 4!

Catriona Burrows

We had a very special visitor in school yesterday filming for Michael’s Masterclasses. We love your stories at Rhodes Avenue Michael Rosen.
Busy in Year 6

Year 6 visited Palmers Green Mosque as part of our RE topic of Islam

“I was inquisitive about the Mosque as I have never visited one before” Lily

“The prayer hall was very relaxing” Isabelle

Year 6 visited the Design museum to look at 3D printing. The children designed their own museums of the future using a program called Tinkercad.

The Nutcracker

We had a very special visitor in school yesterday filming for Michael’s Masterclasses. We love your stories at Rhodes Avenue Michael Rosen.
Term Dates

The term dates for the next two years are available on the School website including INSET days

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

Please remember the school will close for the Autumn Term on Thursday 19th December at 1.30pm and for the After School Clubs at 6.00pm.

As I finish putting together the final Newsletter of 2019, listening to the sounds of Christmas carols from the classrooms, I reflect on the importance of time. Time is something you are unable to get back and it is amazing how quickly it seems to fly. Enjoy every second of time this holiday with your family; play games, go on adventures and visit loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to wish those celebrating a very Merry Christmas or a Happy Hanukkah

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Best wishes,

Adrian Hall
Headteacher