

## **Headteacher's Newsletter – May 2023**

### **Anne Rawcliffe – Early Years SENDCO**

Anne Rawcliffe will be retiring at the end of the summer term. Anne has spent the last 14 years of her career at Rhodes Avenue. Transition arrangements are already in place for children who are on the school's early years' (Nursery + Reception) caseload for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in order to support their transition to the new academic year. Once arrangements have been finalised parents of children will be notified of the new arrangements.

### **Assistant Headteacher (Interim)**

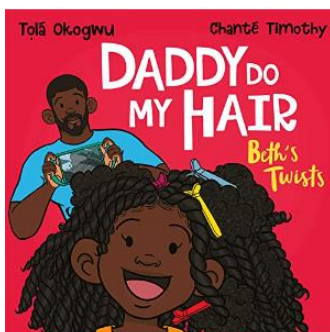
In order to increase further the capacity of the Headship Team we are pleased to announce that Aileen Cronin was recently appointed as Interim Assistant Headteacher (responsible for Subject Leader Development + Continuing Professional Development). Aileen will continue to be class-based, teaching her Year 3 class until the end of the summer term.

### **Books**

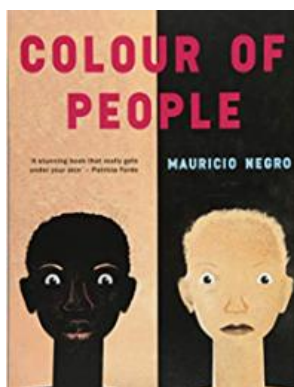
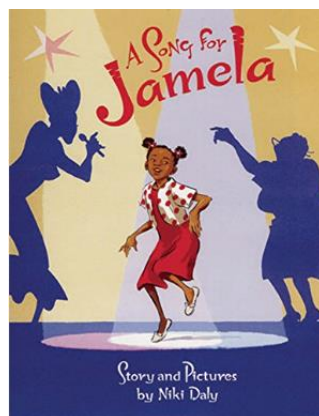
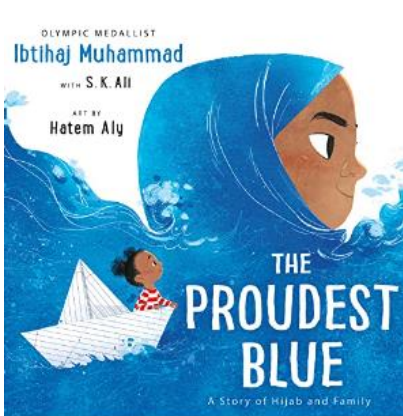
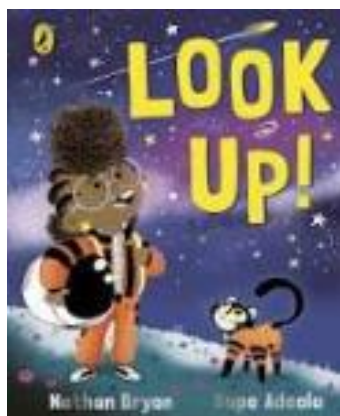
When children read books that feature characters from different cultures and experiences, they can develop a greater sense of empathy and understanding towards others. They can also learn about different customs, beliefs, and traditions, leading to a more open-minded and inclusive worldview. Rhodes Avenue is always expanding its selection of books, particularly our picture books. As readers grow older, picture books can be a great way to creatively explore personal and classroom topics and be an empowering tool to explore complex issues. Picture books are not written to teach reading and there is a perception that they are only for young children. At Rhodes Avenue we use picture books with all children. One way we use them is to teach about diversity and inclusion. Here are some picture books we use at Rhodes Avenue which you may like to read with your child, whatever their age.



"I wrote *Sulwe* to encourage children (and everyone really!) to love the skin they are in and see the beauty that radiates from within."  
—LUPITA NYONG'O



A warm, rhyming celebration of Afro hair and father-daughter relationships, from hair care coach and author Tolá Okogwu and rising star illustrator, Chanté Timothy.



People come in different colours - and some of them change colour too. You might be blue with cold or be feeling a little green, but no matter what your race, you get feverish when you're sick, you can go cross-eyed with fear - and if you cut yourself, you bleed red. People are different - and people are the same. That is the message of this wordless picturebook, which takes a playful yet serious look at race, colour and the emotions. Originally published in Brazil.

If you have any recommendations for picture books (or would like to donate some you have used with your children) which promote inclusion and diversity please e mail our school librarian (Amanda Chilton) who is responsible for the books in both our school library and supporting teachers with their classroom library corners – [amanda.chilton@rhodesavenue.org](mailto:amanda.chilton@rhodesavenue.org)

Children ask questions, it's what they do and is part of the process of how they learn. Sometimes we know the answer to their questions and sometimes we don't. Please find below a guide for parents on Black Lives Matter. You will find resources, activities and tips for families on empowering children to work towards racial equality. Being pro-active and educating children and ourselves as adults is powerful.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Parents-guide-to-black-lives-matter.pdf>

The school is currently in the process of updating its 'Talking to your child about race and racism' webpage but in the meantime you will find lots of useful information on it.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/talking-to-your-child-about-race-and-racism/>

### Cat (not Tiger the cat who we are familiar with)



We have a new visitor that keeps visiting the school. Do you recognise this visitor? If you know who this visitor belongs to please could you let the school office know so we can make contact with its owner.

### **Cookie and Oreo**



Our school rabbits, Cookie and Oreo, have grown lots since they joined the Rhodes Avenue community. Our Year 6 Rabbits monitors have been caring for them since they joined the school and have become experts in the care of them. Cookie and Oreo are healthy and happy under the children's care and I would like to thank the Year 6 monitors for having researched how to care for them so carefully. The Year 6 children have modelled the correct care needed to the younger children and have also taught adults in school new facts about rabbits, e.g. carrots are high in sugar and should only be fed to rabbits in small amounts. Cookie and Oreo have visited the local vet on two occasions and we have not been charged for the treatment they needed. We would like to thank Alexandra Park Road Veterinary Surgery (111 Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DP – 0208 444 0119) for supporting Rhodes Avenue.

### **Dates for the diary**

The second half of the summer term is a very busy time of the academic year. Year Groups have been and will be communicating year group specific dates to you. Please find below some further dates for your diaries.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – INSET day

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Children return to school after half term

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – RAPSA Summer Festival

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Junior Sports Day (further details to follow)

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – Infant Sports Day (further details to follow)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – EYFS Sports Day (further details to follow)

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Orchestra concert (further details to follow)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Infants and Junior Singing recitals (further details to follow)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Infant and Junior Instrumental recital (further details to follow)

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 - Chamber Choir at Crowlands Primary School (further details to follow)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 – New Nursery Parent Information Evening

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 – New Reception Parent Information Evening

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Adrian's Memorial Celebration (further details to follow from the co-chairs of the governing body)

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Reception Dance Show

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Open Classrooms after school (further details to follow)

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Infant Choir Concert

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Year 3 Choir + Boyband Concert

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – Summer Evening Concert

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 – End of summer term

The term dates for 2023-2024 are on the website. Please do look at these before booking any holidays for next academic year.

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

### **Diversity Initiative**

In 2021, the school's strategic direction on race issues was defined by a revised inclusive curriculum across all year groups. We now plan to invite two inspiring professionals from Black groups/the African diaspora\* each half term to speak at assemblies about their vocations and their professional journeys. In doing so, we hope to broaden our children's perspectives, and demonstrate the opportunities available to all of them and spotlight different roles played by ethnic minorities (thereby combating possible stereotypes). Our first invitee is Consultant Neurosurgeon at Addenbrookes Hospital, Mr Ibrahim Jalloh. This diversity initiative supports the school's recent work to restructure the curriculum to increase the representation of minority perspectives in school life. We would be keen to hear from any parents from Black groups/the African diaspora who would like to support this diversity initiative, either by speaking at assemblies themselves or by recommending inspiring professionals. Please email the school office if you would like to support this initiative and address your email to Maria.



\*diaspora – a population that is scattered across regions which are separate from its geographic place of origin.

### **Free webinars and workshops for parents and carers**

Haringey Learning Partnership is offering free webinars and workshops for Haringey parents and carers on: parenting and wellbeing, benefit changes and impacts, coping with the cost of living, managing finances, cooking on a budget, gang and knife crime and raising a child's aspirations. For further information and booking on please click on the link below.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HLP-1-Webinars-and-Workshops.pdf>

### **Green Tree Award**



Please find below a message from Paula Hurst (Specialist Forest School Teacher):

I am proud to announce that Rhodes Avenue school has achieved the top Platinum Award from the Woodland Trust demonstrating the children's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment.

As a school we are a passionate supporter of outdoor learning and the importance of giving children regular, timetabled experience outdoors. The value of outdoor education goes well beyond learning about the environment; identifying and understanding the importance of trees, plants and creatures in our forest. Outdoor education offers endless learning opportunities for children as they learn to develop and nurture a multitude of different skills and qualities such as independence, risk taking, curiosity, creativity, cooperation and teamwork, problem solving, imagination and investigation, to name just a few.

We also know that regularly spending time in nature has proven benefits for the well-being and mental health of children in boosting self-esteem, self-confidence as well as promoting a positive attitude towards learning which was so central to Adrian's vision for Rhodes Avenue school.

I know that he would be proud, so we dedicate this to him with gratitude for all the wonderful things he inspired.

### **Holi Festival**

As promised in my last newsletter please find a link to the video of the Holi Festival which took place last half term: <https://twitter.com/RhodesAvePrim/status/1641912789861056522?s=20>  
We would like to thank Zebra Ceramics and JETS for donating the powder that was used for the event. Half of the money which was raised will be donated to the school and will be used to purchase and install a sink for use within Forest School sessions which has been on the school's wish list for developing the school's forest area for some time.

<https://www.zebraceramics.co.uk/#/>  
<https://www.jetselectrical.co.uk/>

### **Medication**

We would like to remind parents that if your child needs to take medicine during the school day you will need to fill out a 'Permission to Administer Medication Form' which is available in the school office.

The medication needs to be in its original packaging with the pharmacist's label on with your child's name clearly marked on it. We are not able to administer medication unless it is a current prescription and has been prescribed by a GP or Hospital. Where we may be unsure we will need to check with our designated School Nurse.

Wherever possible please administer medication outside of school hours in accordance with the NHS guidelines:

'Most antibiotic medication will not need to be administered during school/setting hours. Twice daily doses should be given in the morning before school/setting and in the evening. Three times a day doses can normally be given in the morning before school/setting, immediately after (provided this is possible) and at bedtime. It should normally only be necessary to give antibiotics in school/setting if the dose needs to be given four times a day, in which case a dose is needed at lunchtime.'



### **Mental Health First Aid – message from our Mental Health First Aider**

In order to support our staff's mental health and wellbeing further, we are wanting to run some workshops for staff to be able to take part in outside of school time. We know we have so many talented and skilled community members out there so we wanted to reach out and see if anybody would be willing and generous enough to volunteer their time or services to the school's staff? For example, maybe you are able to lead an exercise class session for staff or an art class? If you think you would be able to help us organise a few workshops for the future, please reach out to the school's Mental Health First Aider (Amber Bowrey) at [abowrey.309@lgflmail.org](mailto:abowrey.309@lgflmail.org)

### **Mental health support for children, young people and families**

Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) has asked us to share the link below. HSCP is working with their local authority partners and other NHS organisations to ensure children, young people and their families in North Central London – Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington – get the advice and support they need.

[https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people\\_updated-21-Feb-23-1.pdf](https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Mental-health-support-for-children-and-young-people_updated-21-Feb-23-1.pdf)

A reminder to all of our Rhodes Avenue families, if you need any advice and support please speak to the school. If the school cannot advise or support you with your situation, we will find an agency or professional who will be able to. Emel Ali (Assistant Headteacher – Designated Safeguarding Teacher) can be contacted in the first instance by e mailing her on [emel.ali@rhodesavenue.org.uk](mailto:emel.ali@rhodesavenue.org.uk)

### **National Primary Schools Chess Championship Semi Finals**

The school's U9, U11 Yr5 and U11 Yr6 chess teams recently competed in the National Primary Schools Chess Championship Semi Finals held at Pontins Camber Sands.

#### **U9 team**

The U9 team was Yr4's Ray B, George D, Oliver D, Ethan E, Leo G and Jonathan S. They had great wins against St Michael's, St John's, Brookland and Lochinver House with narrow defeats against Woodridge and Hampstead Hill. The team finished in 4th place - a brilliant effort.

#### **U11 Yr6 team**

The U11 Yr6 team was Luca C, Giovanni F, Gabriel G, Pratyush G, Sam H and Shai K. The team had wins against Akiva, Moss Hall and Rhodes Avenue Yr5s with defeats against Eltham College, Dulwich College and Highgate.

#### **U11 Yr5 team**

The U11 Yr5 team was AJ G, Alexandros M, Emily P, Christos R and Rohan V. The team had wins against Martin School and St John's, a draw against Moss Hall and defeats against Lochinver House, Rimom and Rhodes Yr6.

The U11 Semi Final was particularly competitive with 21 teams from 24 schools taking part. The winners were Dulwich Prep with Highgate Runners Up.

All the children played good chess over the two day semi final but special mention goes to Yr6 Gabriel G, Yr5 Rohan V and Yr4 Leo G who won all their six games - a fantastic feat.

## **PANTS**

Next half term, children in Nursery and Reception will be discussing the NSPCC's Underwear Rule in their Ourselves and Others sessions as part of the PANTS campaign. PANTS stands for:

- **P**rivates are private
- **A**lways remember your body belongs to you
- **N**o means no
- **T**alk about secrets that upset you, **S**peak up, someone can help

The PANTS acronym is useful for all children. If you would like to know more about the NSPCC's campaign and see how you can help keep your child safe, more information can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

## **Pendarren**

This half term our Year 5 children visited Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre. Due to the number of children in Year 5, the children visited the residential centre in two groups. All children completed environmental and field studies activities as part of their Geography subject learning as well as personal development activities as part of their Ourselves and Others learning. I would like to thank all of the staff who volunteered to support the children on their first school residential trip. Where possible, support staff and teachers who have taught the children in previous years support the children when they go away so that there are familiar faces and support for children during for what many is their first time away from home.

<http://pendarren.org/>



## **Password**

An action will shortly be required of you in order to support us in preparing for September 2023. It takes time to get to know all of the new faces/names of parents/carers of new children starting in classes each year. In order to support collection arrangements from our After School Club provision or for incidents where the people who normally collect children from school have arranged for others to collect their children in emergency situations we will be asking all parents to provide a password which can be shared with new people picking up children so that they can use it to pick up children. Parents/carers must always notify the school if anyone new is picking up their children. You will shortly be receiving an online survey (SurveyMonkey) asking you for the password which you would like the school to hold for your child for use in situations such as these.

## Rhodes Avenue PSA News

### Rhodestock Event

Our social event of the spring was a great evening of music and dancing. **Thank you** to the parents and staff involved in planning, setting up and running the event. **A huge thank you** to everyone who bought tickets, filled the dance floor and emptied the bar. **Thank you** to the very talented support act, Out of Bounds, for their fabulous performance. **A massive thank you** to the headline act, The Grateful Dad, for the superb evening of live music and for their very generous financial contribution to the event. **Thank you** to David Astburys Estate Agents (<https://www.davidastburys.com/>) for sponsoring the event. **Thanks to everyone involved** in supporting this event and raising a **grand total of £2,200** for the school.

### Year 6 Coronation Cake Sale

**Thank you** to the Year 6 children and parents for hosting the Coronation Cake Sale and **thank you** to all in the school community who baked, brought or bought delicious coronation cakes and bakes. Our school community raised **£225** for the Year 6 leavers' activities from this fundraiser.

### Rhodes Avenue Summer Fair

**Thank you** to all the children who participated in the summer fair poster competition for all their hard work and their wonderful posters. We are delighted to announce our three winners, Harith (Year 2), Felix (Year 2) and Sienna H (Year 5) who will be our VIP judges of the Dog Show.

The Summer Fair is our biggest community event and fundraiser of the year with something for all the family. It takes months of planning and organisation behind the scenes by the PSA committee, volunteers, school staff and performers and it runs smoothly on the day thanks to the number of fantastic volunteers that make it happen. We are really looking forward to seeing you there and a massive thank you in advance to our amazing volunteers. Keep your eyes peeled for further information over the next couple of weeks.

### RAPSA Date/s for the Diary

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Rhodes Avenue Summer Fair – 1-6pm

*The legendary family fun day for our Rhodes Avenue Community*

Twitter details:

**RapsaRhodes**

@RapsaRhodes

Rhodes Avenue PSA.

## Strike action - update

The National Education Union (NEU) has informed headteachers of their intention to call further strike action in the week commencing Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. Up to three strike days may be called that week. The NEU intends to fix the dates of any strike action at its meeting on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 based on the response of the government.

<https://neu.org.uk/>

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) is currently balloting its members for strike action. This ballot is part of a coordinated approach by all education unions. Strike action could include taking action for a whole day at a time in conjunction with sister trade unions. It is anticipated that this strike action would take place in September 2023.

<https://www.naht.org.uk/>



### **Vacancies**

The school has vacancies. Please see our 'School Vacancies' webpage for further details if you or anyone you know is looking for work in schools. We update this webpage when vacancies arise in school. You will also find listings for vacancies in our network schools on this webpage.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/our-school/vacancies/>

I hope all of our school community has a well deserved rest over the half term holiday period. The staff and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (with the exception of Year 6 who are leaving for their PGL residential trip on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023).

Best wishes,  
Maria

Maria Panayiotou – Interim Headteacher