

Head Teacher's Newsletter – End of September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The new school term has started off well in school and children are now deep into their learning for this half term. We would like to say welcome once again to all of the new families that have joined our school community in Nursery, Reception and across the school as in-year admissions. We would also like to welcome once again the new staff who joined us in September: class teachers: Sirin and Danielle, Specialist French teacher Samantha, teaching assistants Maddie and Georgia, and lunchtime supervisors Gejo and Zion.

Christmas Show dates

Woodpecker Nursery	Tuesday 19 th December 2023 9.30am
Hedgehog Nursery	Tuesday 19 th December 2023 9.30am
Reception Show	Wednesday 20 th December 2023 9.30am
Infant (Years 1+2) Show	Tuesday 5 th December 2023 10am or 2pm The children will be performing the same show twice. In order to be able to fit in everyone parents may attend one out of the two shows at the time convenient to them.

Junior (Years 3-6) Show

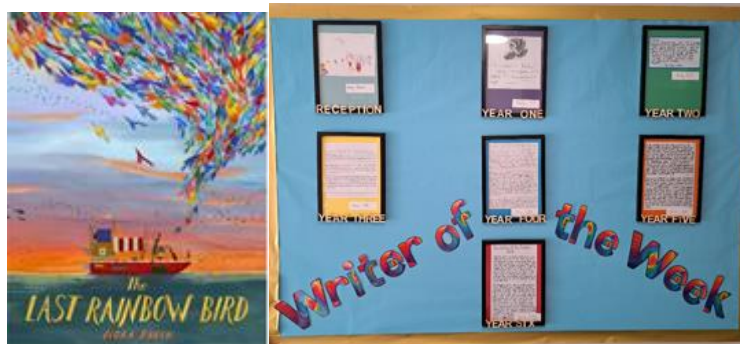
Due to the number of both children and parents, the juniors have two show dates. In order to be able to fit in everyone, parents may attend one out of the two shows at the time convenient to them.

Show 1	Show 2	Show 3
6AD, 5AG, 4ABH, 3JC	6NM, 5CD, 4TW, 3EB	6JF, 5DH, 4JM, 3EL
Wednesday 13 th December 2023 10am Thursday 14 th December 2023 2pm	Wednesday 13 th December 2023 2pm Friday 15 th December 2023 10am	Thursday 14 th December 2023 10am Friday 15 th December 2023 2pm

Unfortunately, the school will not be filming any of the Christmas Shows. We would like to remind all parents of an aspect of our Home School Agreement. Within our Home School Agreement we ask that parents abide by the school's Online Safety and Social Media Policies (these can be found on the Policies webpage of our school website). This includes parents agreeing to not sharing/posting online, pictures or videos taken at school events via social media. We would also kindly request that spectators try to avoid leaving during the performances as this disturbs the viewing pleasure of other spectators. If spectators know they will need to leave before the end we ask that they select seats at the back of the hall and not at the front. Thank you for supporting us with this and we look forward to seeing you all at the productions.

Dates for the diary – autumn term

Friday 13 th October 2023	5CD Class Assembly
Friday 13 th October 2023	RAPSA Quiz Night
Wednesday 18 th October 2023	RAPSA Annual General Meeting – 7pm
Wednesday 18 th October 2023	Parents' Evening
Thursday 19 th October 2023	Parents' Evening
Friday 20 th October 2023	5DH Class Assembly
Friday 20 th October 2023	Flu Vaccination Team in school
Friday 20 th October 2023	RAPSA Halloween Costume Sale
Tuesday 31 st October 2023	RAPSA Dress Up Day + Cake Sale
Monday 6 th November 2023	Year 5 Viking Day
Friday 10 th November 2023	5AG Class Assembly
Monday 13 th November 2023	INSET Day
Tuesday 14 th November 2023	Individual School Photos
Thursday 16 th November 2023	RAPSA Christmas Jumper Sale
Friday 17 th November 2023	4TW Class Assembly
Sunday 25 th November 2023	RAPSA Winter Fair
Thursday 30 th November 2023	Flu Vaccination Team in school
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	Infant Shows
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	RAPSA Santa's Grotto for EYFS + KS1
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Infant Choir Carol Concert
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Junior Christmas Shows
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Junior Christmas Shows
Friday 15 th December 2023	Junior Christmas Shows
Monday 18 th December 2023	Junior Choir Concert
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Nursery Christmas Shows
Wednesday 20 th December 2023	Reception Christmas Show
Thursday 21 st December 2023	Last day of term – 1.30pm finish



English

Natasha Morgan (English Subject Lead) writes:

This year, we started our English learning with a 'Whole School Book', *The Last Rainbow Bird* by Nora Brech. Every year group, from Nursery to Year 6, read and discussed the book, looking at the language, the illustrations and the themes of the story. The children had fantastic ideas about how the book addressed the issue of extinction but also offered a message of hope.

We then all used the book as a starting point for our first piece of writing. Each year group wrote something different: some described their own birds; some wrote their own endings and some even wrote their own stories. Each year group also created some beautiful artwork to accompany their wonderful writing for display around the school. We are loving having such colourful, rainbow corridors!

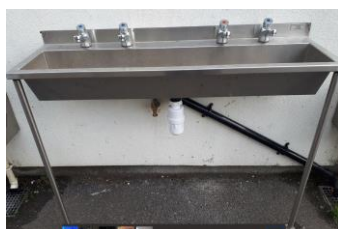
In our Achievement Assemblies this year, we are celebrating a 'Writer of the Week' from each year group. The teachers identify one pupil from across the three classes who has really impressed with their writing. Teachers look for a variety of different things: super vocabulary, amazing effort, beautiful presentation, excellent improvement to name just a few! Our 'Writers of the Week' receive a special certificate and their work is displayed on the board near the Sports Hall.

Extra-curricular clubs

Activities which take place after school are called extra-curricular clubs. We aim to provide varied after school experiences, where pupils can enjoy a range of creative, artistic and sporting activities. The majority of the extra-curricular clubs are led by specialist outside agencies which are not run by the school itself and parents should deal directly with the named person in the flyer at all times as externally run clubs will have their own pricing arrangements, policies and procedures etc. Some clubs are led by school staff, e.g. Coding and Years 1-3 Girls' Football, and where this is the case you should email clubs@rhodesavenue.org.uk. A minority of clubs are led by school staff but run through their own business, e.g. Art Avengers, and where this is the case you should deal directly with the named person using the email address provided within the flyer. The school is looking into expanding the number of clubs run by the school itself as part of our offer but limited staffing is a challenge for us.

The full list of all clubs which will be running in Autumn 2023 can be found on the school's website: <https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/extra-curricular-clubs/>

Forest School Sink



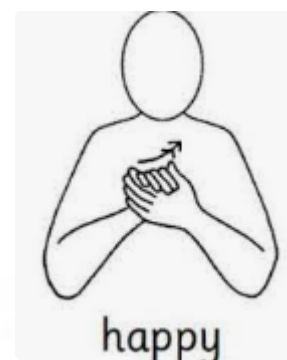
Our Forest School Provision finally now has its own sink. The sink was purchased using half of the money which was raised at the Holi Festival earlier this year. The installation cost for the sink was paid for by Rhodes Avenue PSA. The sink has made such a difference to the simultaneous washing of 30 pairs of muddy hands after a session in the forest!

Haringey SEND newsletter

Please find the link to Haringey's SEND newsletter.

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-2596576>

Hear or See it, Tell, Sort it



All children in school have 'Give Me 5 Adults'. These are 5 adults which the children have identified as adults that they can speak to should they have any worries at school about themselves and others. We would like parents to have a discussion with their child/ren at home about who their

identified adults are within school. Children can approach any adult in school should they wish to speak to someone.

We have also recently introduced the 'Hear or See it, Tell, Sort it' system with them which we would like parents to support their child with in using. This system has always been encouraged but we wanted to make sure there was another reminder for children. We want to make sure that all children tell someone immediately should they hear or see something which goes against our Positive Code of Conduct. Examples include: if someone does not speak to someone in a kind way, if someone behaves in a way that upsets others, if someone says something that does not respect another member of the school community, if someone makes a comment about someone's race or gender etc. Children must also know that they can ask an adult if they are unsure about what they have heard or seen. Adults in school can then look into what has been reported by investigating. The ultimate aim is that every child in school should be happy and that our school vision is achieved.

School Vision

We will act with **cooperation** because we are a **community**

We will use **creativity** to learn and grow

We will show **consideration** as everyone is of equal value

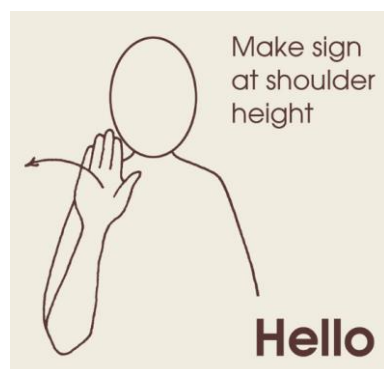
We want our children to:
Know who they are
Respect others for who they are
Never stop learning



Makaton

Today over 100,000 children and adults use Makaton symbols and signs, either as their main method of communication or as a way to support speech. Makaton is increasingly used by the general public to aid communication. Makaton has been shown to be useful for all sorts of people including those who struggle with understanding concepts, those who have poor literacy skills, including grammatical knowledge, and those with English as an Additional Language. By using Makaton, children and adults can take a more active part in life, because communication and language are the key to everything we do and learn.

This half term children have been learning the symbols and signs for 2-3 words per week during assemblies and the children have been remembering them well week-on-week. Children know that Makaton benefits other children in our school community as well as the wider community as it is a pro-active strategy for including others. Here are some of the symbols and signs we have been learning this half term.



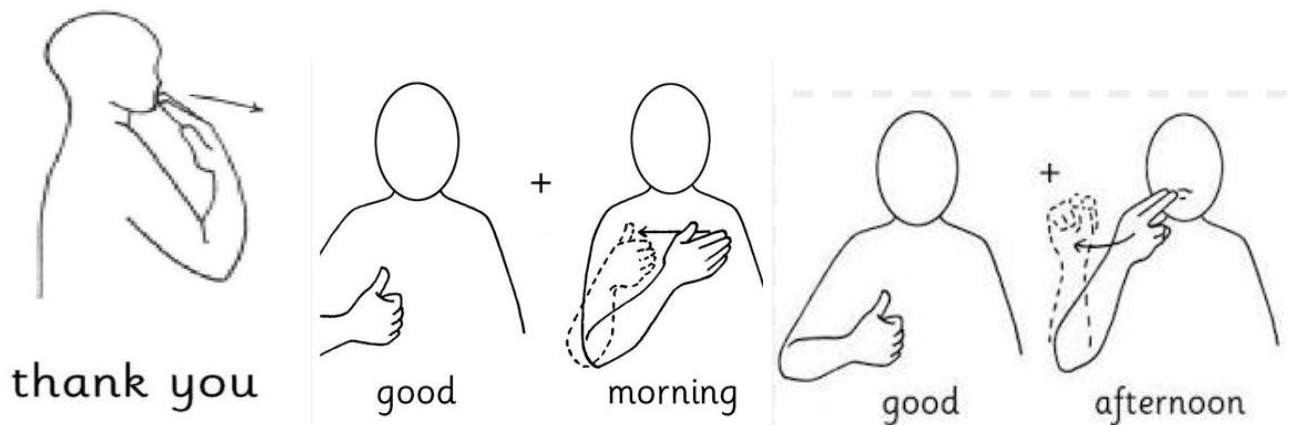
goodbye



Bring finger tips to chin and then bring arm down in a long arch



Please



<https://makaton.org/>

Nursery applications

We are now taking applications for Nursery admission for September 2024. If your child was born between 1.9.2020 – 31.8.2021 and you would like to apply for a space in our nursery for September 2024 please complete the online application form which can be found on our Admissions webpage.

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

Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground update

The school has been in communication with the Alexandra Park Safer Neighbourhood Teams about the Oliver Tambo Recreation Ground and incidents reported to the school last term.

Due to recent incidents being reported, local police have put in extra resources. Extra 'deterrent' resources have included an increased presence within the park itself. Parents/carers may have noticed that there have been 1 or 2 uniformed officers and occasionally a police car within the park itself at the end of the day. Police officer presence can both reassure as well as alarm others and the police officers are happy to speak with parents should parents need reassurance. Extra 'pro-active' resources have also been deployed within and around the park in the form of plain clothes officers as well as unmarked cars.

Where previous incidents had been reported in a timely manner, i.e. straight away, incidents were dealt with on the scene and attempted robberies from groups of people were stopped and individuals were arrested. Suspects reported are young adults (teenagers). The school has been told that there have been no robberies within the park itself so far this term following the deterrent and pro-active resources put in place by the local authority. The key message the school has been asked to pass on to parents is for them to call the police immediately should they witness something happening within the park.

The school's Governing Body will also be writing to the local authority to express their concern about the safety of the community within the park.

How to report crime:

Call 999 if someone is in immediate danger, or you need support right away.

If you've witnessed or been the victim of a crime but there is no ongoing emergency, you can call 101 or you can report a crime online (<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>)

If you have any concerns about issues in your local area, you can also contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team (<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area>)

You can also contact the local Member of Parliament (MP). This is the person elected by all those

who live in a particular area (constituency) to represent them. Here are the details of the MP for Hornsey and Wood Green should you wish to contact them.

Catherine West - 0207 219 6141. Telephone appointments are held on the 2nd Friday of each month from 10am-11.30am. In-person appointments are held on the 4th Friday of the month from 10am-11.30am. To arrange an appointment, please contact Catherine's office by email in the first instance. Please say in your email that you would like a surgery appointment, and include details of your problem as well as your full address in the constituency. Parents can still contact Catherine by e mailing her directly. catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk

Parents' Evening

The autumn term Parents' Evenings will be taking place on Wednesday 18th October (4-8pm) and Thursday 19th October 2023 (4-6pm). Hedgehog Nursery parents will also have an additional day to book a slot in. Both evenings will be face-to-face and will take place in your child's classroom. One slot will be allocated per child in school. Parents' evening meetings will only take place on these days and we kindly ask parents to not request a different day. Parents' evening slots will be released at 10am on Friday 6th October 2023.

Playground Buddy System



Aileen Cronin (Interim Assistant Head Teacher – Behaviour Lead) writes:

We were very excited to launch our 'Playground Buddy' scheme this week. We have two new Buddy Stops in the Infant and Junior Playgrounds and we have over 60 fantastic volunteers from Years 5 and 6 out on the playgrounds creating a friendly, happy and nurturing lunchtime environment for children across the school.

Public Health letter

The school has been asked by Haringey Public Health to circulate a letter about the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine. The link to the letter is below:

https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/MMR-letter-to-parents-guardians-4-Sep-23-FINAL_.pdf

Rhodes Avenue PSA



Rhodes Avenue PSA held their coffee morning last week. It was lovely to see lots of parents attend this event. Well done to all of our new Rhodes Avenue parents who came to the event; this is all part of your settling-in to Rhodes Avenue too. Thank you to everyone for the scrumptious sweet treats!

Rhodes Avenue PSA have already planned in some dates for you for this academic year. Please add these dates to your diaries if you have not already done so. Rhodes Avenue PSA will send out further information about each event closer to the time. We would like to thank everyone who supports Rhodes Avenue PSA with these events; every little bit of help, whether in person or from afar, really helps.

Fri 13/10/23 - Quiz Night
Weds 18/10/23 - PSA AGM – 7pm
Fri 20/10/23 - Halloween Costume Sale
Tue 31/10/23 - Halloween Dress Up Day and Cake Sale
Thu 16/11/23 - Xmas Jumper Sale
Sat 25/11/23 - Winter Fair
Tue 12/12/23 - Santa's Grotto for EYFS & KS1
Sun 03/03/24 - Jumble Sale
Sun 23/06/24 - Summer Fair

<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/rapsa/>
@RapsaRhodes
https://www.instagram.com/rapsa_rhodes/

School Development Plan priorities for 2023-2024

The school's priority areas for this academic year are as follows:

Priority 1: Heal, Connect, Learn and Honour

Priority Target:

To build upon and develop further the school's wider support network in order to ensure the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of all pupils, staff and parents.

Priority 2: Writing; tools for learning

Priority Target:

To review policy and practice for all areas within English and Phonics, in order to ensure teaching and learning maximises attainment and progress for all learners.

Priority 3: Ensuring capacity and leading confidently

Priority Target:

To ensure capacity for continuous improvement during the school's transitional period.

Priority 4: Catch Up, Back on Track

Priority Target:

To ensure that any objectives that were set within the 2022-2023 academic year and were not achieved/actioned are achieved/actioned.

Secondary Transfer – September 2024

A reminder to our Year 6 parents that the deadline for secondary transfer is 31st October 2023.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools-and-education/school-admissions/starting-secondary-school#talk>

SEN Support Meetings

SEN Support Meetings for children on the school's SEND register will be taking place at the end of the autumn term. The school's SENDCO (Jette Rayner) will write to parents after half term about how to book a meeting. The dates set in the calendar for these meetings are on:

Monday 4th December 2023

Friday 8th December 2023

Monday 11th December 2023

Monday 18th December 2023

Tuesday 19th December 2023

Wednesday 20th December 2023

Thursday 21st December 2023

For the autumn term only, parents of children on the school's SEND register must also book a Parent Consultation.

Smarter Travel Team

A Haringey Council Officer visited the school on Wednesday this week and inspected the traffic on both Rhodes Avenue and Albert Road. A Traffic Enforcement Officer was subsequently sent the following day and issued parking notices/penalties to those cars where drivers were not following road regulations. Traffic Enforcement Officers will be returning to Rhodes Avenue and Albert Road.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou
Interim Head Teacher