

## **Head Teacher's Newsletter – September 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well and hope that you have all managed to have some well deserved rest during the school summer holidays. I hope you have been able to spend some quality time together as families, caught up with friends and have reenergised. A reminder that school reopens to all children on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023** (8.55am sharp, with gates and the soft start opening from 8.45am). In this newsletter you will find some reminders and updates for reading before the new school term starts.

### **Concrete**

Parents will have been made aware from the media of the concerns surrounding some school buildings which had Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) used when they were built. Haringey Council came to survey Rhodes Avenue earlier this year and did not see RAAC in our buildings.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news/haringey-takes-strong-action-address-raac-situation>  
<https://haringeycommunitypress.co.uk/2023/09/01/three-haringey-schools-among-those-affected-by-concrete-safety-scandal/>

### **Code of Conduct**

A reminder of Rhodes Avenue's Positive Code of Conduct.

We:

- Are actively anti-racist;
- Treat other people as we would like to be treated;
- Listen to and respect what others say;
- Are kind in the way we speak to and about others;
- Respect each member of our school community regardless of race, gender, disability etc.
- Behave in a way that does not upset or frighten others;
- Are careful not to upset others when we draw or write;
- Are fair in the way we play and who we choose to play with;
- Move around the school with consideration for other people;
- Care for ourselves, for each other and for our school environment;
- Follow instructions given by adults in school.

All children will spend some time during their first day at school focussing on their 'Give Me 5 Adults' in school who they would speak to should something happen in school which is not in keeping with our school's Positive Code of Conduct.

The Positive Code of Conduct works in line with the school's Behaviour Policy which can be viewed using the link below:

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Behaviour-for-learning-Spring-2022.pdf>

### **Curriculum Year Group Meetings for Parents**

A reminder of the dates of the year group curriculum meetings for parents below. We apologise but we have had to change the time of the day of two year groups in order to ensure all staff are able to be there for you to meet them.

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – Year 4 meeting for parents (9am)

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – Year 6 meeting for parents (2.45pm)

Thursday 14th September 2023 - Year 5 meeting for parents (9am) **CHANGE**

Thursday 14th September 2023 - Year 3 meeting for parents (2.45pm) **CHANGE**

Friday 15th September 2023 - Year 1 meeting for parents (9am)

Friday 15th September 2023 - Year 2 meeting for parents (2.45pm)

## **Dropping off and picking up arrangements**

Please make sure you are clear as to the dropping off and picking up arrangements for your child/ren's year group before we start back at school on Wednesday morning. The official start of the school day is 8.55am for all children (except Nursery which is 9am). The finish time is different for different phases within school. If you have more than one child please ensure you pick up your youngest children first as their home times are earlier than the older children. Please support us with our safeguarding procedures by following the below requests for each year group.

### **Woodpecker Nursery children**

During all of your child's settling-in days (i.e. before they attend their first full day) children in Woodpecker nursery can only be dropped off and picked up by using the park gate closest to the Woodpecker nursery. A member of the Woodpecker staff team will open and close the gates at the times stated in your settling-in letter. You will not be able to access Woodpecker nursery during the settling-in period if you access the school premises using a different access point and will be redirected to the correct access point. This is to support us with our safeguarding procedures as we will have the whole school on site at this time.

When your child is attending full days (i.e. 9am-3pm) access to the nursery is different. In the mornings only, you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to Woodpecker nursery. 3pm pick up arrangements are different though. If your child is attending nursery and finishes at 3pm you can only pick them up and leave using the park gate next to the nursery itself. We kindly ask parents/carers to not open the small gate next to the nursery which leads to the main school or the small gate that leads to the junior playground. If you need to pick up other children from the main school we kindly ask that you wait until the internal perimeter gates and main gates all open at 3.15pm. This is to support us with our safeguarding procedures as we will have the whole school on site.

### **Hedgehog Nursery children**

During all of your child's settling-in days (i.e. before they attend their first full day) children in Hedgehog nursery can only be dropped off and picked up by using the Rhodes Avenue gate closest to the Hedgehog nursery. A member of the Hedgehog staff team will open and close the gates at the times stated in your settling-in letter. You will not be able to access Hedgehog nursery during the settling-in period if you access the school premises using a different access point and will be redirected to the correct access point. Following this supports us with our safeguarding procedures as we will have the whole school on site at this time.

When your child is attending full days (i.e. 9am-3pm) access to the nursery is different. In the mornings only, you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to Hedgehog nursery. 3pm pick up arrangements are different though. If your child is attending nursery and finishes at 3pm you can only pick them up and leave using the Rhodes Avenue gate next to the nursery itself. We kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. If you need to pick up other children from the main school we kindly ask that you wait until the large black gate opens automatically at 3.15pm. Please do not enter should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following this supports us with our safeguarding procedures as we will have the whole school on site at this time.

Parents dropping off or picking up children at the 12noon handover on a Wednesday must access and leave the school site using the Rhodes Avenue gate only.

### **Reception children**

During all of your child's settling-in days (i.e. before they attend their first full day) children in Reception can only be dropped off and picked up by using the Rhodes Avenue gate. A member of

the Reception staff team will open and close the gate at the times stated in your settling-in letter. You will not be able to access the Reception building during the settling-in period if you access the school premises using a different access point and will be redirected to the correct access point. Following this supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

When your child is attending full days (8.55am-3.15pm) access to the Reception classrooms is different. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to the Reception building. 3.15pm pick up arrangements are different though. If your child is being picked up at 3.15pm you can only pick them up and leave using the Rhodes Avenue gate next to the Reception building itself. If you need to pick up other children from the main school we kindly ask that you wait until the large black gate opens automatically at 3.15pm. Please do not enter should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. We kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

### **Year 1 children**

The Year 1 day is 8.55am-3.20pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to the outside of the Year 1 building where staff will open the door to welcome your child. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm and you can make your way down to the outside of the Year 1 classrooms. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at the beginning and end of the school day. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

### **Year 2 children**

The Year 2 day is 8.55am-3.20pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to the outside of the Year 2 building where staff will open the door to welcome your child. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm and you can make your way down to the outside of the Year 2 classrooms. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at the beginning or end of the school day. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

### **Year 3 children**

The Year 3 day is 8.55am-3.30pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to the outside of the Year 3 building where staff will open the door to welcome your child. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building and to use the perimeter of the school site to make their way around. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm and you can make your way down to the outside of the Year 3 classrooms. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building and to use the perimeter of the school site to make their way around. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which

separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

#### **Year 4 children**

The Year 4 day is 8.55am-3.30pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way through to the outside of the Year 4 building where staff will open the door to welcome your child. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm and you can make your way down to the outside of the Year 4 classrooms. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at the beginning and end of the day and to use the perimeter of the school site to make their way around. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

#### **Year 5**

The Year 5 day is 8.55am-3.30pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way around the perimeter of the building to the building entrance next to the Year 3 classrooms at the end of the playground. Your child can then enter the building and make their way up to the Year 5 classrooms. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm and parents may make their way to and wait in the junior playground. Year 5 children will be brought down and out into the playground at 3.30pm. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at the beginning and end of the day and to use the perimeter of the school site to make their way around. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

#### **Year 6**

The Year 6 day is 8.55am-3.30pm. In the mornings you will be able to access the school site from any of our 3 gates. The main school has a soft-start which means children in the main school can start coming in from 8.45am. All 3 gates will open at 8.45am and you will be able to make your way around the perimeter of the building to the building entrance next to the Year 4 classrooms near the park gate. Your child can then enter the building and make their way up to the Year 6 classrooms. At the end of the day the 3 main gates will open at 3.15pm. Year 6 children will be brought down by class teachers and will be brought to the area just outside of the park gate at 3.30pm. We kindly ask that parents do not enter the school building at the beginning and end of the day and to use the perimeter of the school site to make their way around at the end of the school day. We also kindly ask parents/carers to not force open the large black gate which separates the early years building from and leads to the main school. We have had to repair this gate because of people forcing it open and the repair has cost the school £1000 on each occasion; money we simply don't have and money that comes directly from children's resources. This gate will open automatically and therefore does not need to be pushed/forced open. Please do not pass through should the gate open for a member of staff before 3.15pm. Following all of these requests supports us with our whole school safeguarding procedures.

### **Haringey SEND Newsletter**

Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (August 2023 edition):  
<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-09082023?e=8837f264a8>

### **Home School Agreement**

A reminder of our Home School Agreement (school, parents and pupils) can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Home-School-Agreement-2019-FINAL-1.pdf>

### **INSET days for 2023-2024**

There are 5 INSET days allocated within each academic year. INSET day dates are always available on the term dates section of our website. Dates do not always fall next to a school holiday and they are dependent on when the school can access training (which is generally booked 1-2 years in advance). A reminder of the INSET day dates (where school is closed to children as teachers have training on these days) are:

4th September 2023  
5th September 2023  
13th November 2023  
8th January 2024  
3rd June 2024

### **O R Tambo Recreation Ground**

The full findings of the consultation into the O R Tambo Recreation Ground Play areas is available by clicking on the link below for those of you who would like to see them. The design for the Play and Nature Area will be available soon.

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/commonplace-customer-assets/ortamborecreationgroundplay/O.R.Tambo%20Recreation%20Ground%20Consultation%20Feedback.pdf>



### **Rhodes Avenue PSA**

Rhodes Avenue PSA have already planned in some dates for you for this academic year. Please add these dates to your diaries. 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.

Weds 20/09/23 - Welly Wednesday (Welly swap)  
Fri 22/09/23 - Coffee morning  
Fri 13/10/23 - Quiz Night  
Weds 18/10/23 - PSA AGM  
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/](https://www.instagram.com/rapsa_rhodes/)

### Snacks for morning play time

A reminder before school starts of the snacks children may have at school during morning play time.

Nursery-Year 2 children are given fruit/vegetables by the school for their morning playtime snack.

Year 3-6 children are encouraged to bring their own.

The following list of snacks allowed at play time was agreed at School Council and circulated earlier last academic year.

- fruit or cereal bars
- pretzels
- yo-yos
- dried fruit
- mini sandwiches
- yoghurt
- baked crackers
- rice cakes
- breadsticks and dips
- Babybels/cheese
- Flapjacks
- Plain popcorn
- Pumpkin seeds
- Seaweed

We remain a nut-free school and children should not be eating chocolate, sweets or crisps at morning playtime. You may use the images below to support you/your child in their morning snack choice. You could cut them out and display them at home as reference.



### Term Dates 2023-2024

Please find a link below to the term dates for 2023-2024. These are always available on the school's website. The term dates for 2024-2025 will shortly be uploaded also. Please double check term dates before booking holidays.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Term-Dates-2023-24.pdf>

## Uniform

Please use the checklist below to make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform when at school.

Rhodes Avenue Primary School has a no uniform policy for every day wear. The school only expects children to wear a school uniform for Physical Education lessons. The school only has one branded item (the turquoise polo shirt for PE) which is required as part of our uniform policy. The school would be very grateful for any turquoise polo shirts families no longer require. These may be handed in to the school office.

### Expectations for shoes, bags and coats

Yellow book bag for EYFS + KS1 phases (Nursery-Year 2) – branded version is optional/generic items acceptable

Shoes – sensible, closed front, no open-toe/flip-flop style ones

Bag for KS2 (Years 3-6) – branded book bag version is optional/generic items acceptable

Waterproof coat appropriate for weather/season – generic items acceptable

### Expectations for PE kit

Navy shorts – generic items acceptable

Turquoise polo shirt – branded version required (also used for Choir/Sports Competitions if applicable)

Fleece/jumper for cold weather – branded version is optional/generic items acceptable

Black plimsolls or sports trainers (any colour acceptable)

PE kit bag – branded version is optional

### Expectations for swimming kit (Year 5 only)

Swimming kit bag – generic items acceptable

Cap

Goggles

Swimwear – no bikini type swimwear

Towel

### Expectations for items which are only required in specific circumstances or at certain times of the year:

Forest School sessions – wellington boots/outdoor walking boots – generic items acceptable

Choir – Turquoise polo shirt – branded version is required (this is also used for PE)

Sports competitions - Turquoise polo shirt – branded version is required (this is also used for PE)

The school also has a set of other sports specific PE kits for certain sports competitions which children will wear on a loan basis for events and return to the school after.

### Expectations for jewellery and hairstyles

Simple one stud earrings, in the lower ear lobe, of each ear. No other piercings are permitted.

Simple jewellery, e.g. necklaces and bracelets, which are to be removed in PE.

Watches can be worn in school but these must not be smart devices.

Hairstyles which do not block a learner's line of vision.

Long hair should be tied back for sports or not to block the learner's line of vision.

Reminder: Rhodes Avenue PSA have a Welly Wednesday (Welly Swap) event on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. If you have any wellies which are too small for your child and no longer need them please swap them with another pair of wellies at this event. If you have any wellies which are too small for you and are a size a junior child might be able to wear please donate them to this event too.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/School-Uniform-summer-2022.pdf>



## Secondary Transfer – September 2024

We have been asked by Haringey Admissions to share the following information to Year 6 parents whose child will be transferring to secondary school in September 2024.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Useful-Information-Secondary-Transfer-for-entry-in-2024.pdf>


### Year Group Leaders

Your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact regarding your child. Class teachers are available briefly during the soft start (8.45-8.55am) of each day and at the end of the school day. They may need to tell you that they will telephone you when they have more time later during the school day as they will need to settle the children ready for a prompt start of the day. You can also e mail class teachers via the school office but please bear in mind that they are in class all day and will respond to you within a reasonable response time.

Each year group in school is led by a Year Group Leader who you will meet at your Year Group Curriculum Meetings next week (Nursery and Reception will have already met them at the New Parent Information Evening/s held in July). This leader has oversight of the whole year group, e.g. curriculum, staffing, planning, assessment data etc. Year Group Leaders also become involved with children who may progress within the school's Behaviour Policy and will contact parents/carers should it be necessary for them to have become involved. We hope that any concerns/worries you may have with your child will be dealt with their child's class teacher promptly in the first instance. If you have still have continued concerns/worries after having spoken to your child's class teacher Year Group Leaders are the next point of contact for you. Below are the named Year Group Leaders for each year group in school. You will also notice Year Group Leaders on gate duties on given days within the week alongside the Headship Team.

<b>Nursery</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Sally Eustance</b>	<b>Reception</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Laura Moore</b>	<b>EYFS → KS1</b> <b>Transition</b> Year Group Leader : <b>Kirsty Spittle</b>	Interim <b>Year 1</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Sophie Papworth</b>
			
<b>Year 2</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Clarence Ng</b>	<b>Year 3</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Demi Jeffels</b>	<b>Year 4</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Joanne Mcgahon</b>	<b>Year 5</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Catriona Donnellan</b>
			



<p><b>Year 6</b> Year Group Leader: <b>Alison Davies</b></p>	<p>Year Group Leaders are all part of the school's Senior Leadership Team and work very closely with the Headship Team.</p> <p><u>A reminder of the school's Headship Team</u></p>
	<p><b>Maria Panayiotou</b> – Interim Head Teacher  <b>Emel Ali</b> – Assistant Head Teacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead)  <b>Aileen Cronin</b> – Interim Assistant Head Teacher (Subject Leader Development + CPD Lead)  <b>Jette Rayner</b> – Interim Assistant Head Teacher (Inclusion Manager)</p>

We look forward to welcoming back the children on Wednesday.

Best wishes,  
Maria

Maria Panayiotou  
Interim Head Teacher