

Headteacher's Newsletter – December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now at the end of the autumn term. The autumn term is the longest teaching term out of the academic year and it has been a jam-packed one! It has been a term full of transitions into new classes/year groups, new learning, educational visits, workshops, assemblies, shows and much more. It has been lovely seeing many of you at both our school and Rhodes Avenue PSA events.

We would like to thank Sunshine Garden Centre, Lucy Molloy and Martin Egan (The London Football Academy) for donating the Christmas trees in school.

Anti-Racism



On Friday 8th December 2023 Maria Panayiotou (Head Teacher), Christy White (Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion governing body committee – top left photo) and Louise Colley (teaching assistant and staff governor) attended Haringey Education Partnership's Racial Equity Conference.

Alex Morgan (Racial Equity Governor – top right photo) and Maria Panayiotou (Head Teacher) have this term begun Racial Equity Governor and Racial Equity Lead training. Both have completed two of the four sessions on their respective training programmes which are being led by Penny Rabiger who is a former teacher, governor in Haringey, founding member of BameEd and is a doctoral student with the Centre for Race, Education and Decoloniality (CRED) at Leeds Beckett University.

On Tuesday 9th January 2024 Mpula Lawton (ARISE) will be leading training for all teachers in school on anti-racism in the early years and infants.

The school is currently updating its anti-racism webpage. The links to the anti-racism sessions for parents which ran earlier this term are available on this webpage for parents who were unable to make the live sessions.

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

Appointments

We understand that sometimes medical appointments for children have to be made during the school day. We would like to request that if medical appointments need to be made during the school day that the middle of the school day around lunch time (12noon – 1.15pm) is avoided for collection. This request is being made in order to support us with our safeguarding procedures during lunch times. We would like to limit access to the school site during this period of time for the safety of the children.

'Building self-esteem and resilience' seminar for parents



We would like to invite parents to a free face-to-face one-hour interactive seminar with Q&A on 'Building self-esteem and resilience in your child'. Building self-esteem and resilience are areas which parents regularly request support for and is also an area we are further focusing on this year as a school. The session is taking place in school on Thursday 11th January 2024 at 11am. No booking is required; just turn up. The seminar will be led by Isabel Squirrel (photo above) who is a UKCP registered Child Psychotherapist.

You will learn how you can help your child grow in confidence and resilience so they can thrive at home, school and in the world. Drawing from attachment theory, neurobiology and psychoanalysis, she will explore some essential therapeutic keys for *ordinary parents to use in everyday life*. Parents leave seminars inspired, reassured and equipped in their parenting journey. Plus there will be the chance for you to ask any questions you want to and gain a child psychotherapist's perspective on the situations you may be in.

Cars



A minority of drivers are still parking on the zig-zag lines outside of school when dropping/picking up. The photo above was taken last week.



Dates for your diaries

Monday 8 th January 2024	INSET Day
Thursday 11 th January 2024	'Building self-esteem and resilience' workshop for parents – 11am
Friday 19 th January 2024	3EB Class Assembly
Monday 22 nd January 2024	Bookings open for Parent Consultation Meetings at 7.30pm. Please note, Year 6 will receive a separate email to the rest of the school.
Friday 26 th January 2024	4JM Class Assembly
Friday 2 nd February 2024	4ABH Class Assembly
Wednesday 7 th February 2024	Face-to-face Parent Consultation Meetings (4-8pm)
Thursday 8 th February 2024	Face-to-face Parent Consultation Meetings (4-6pm)
Friday 9 th February 2024	3EL Class Assembly
Friday 1 st March 2024	2CN Class Assembly
Tuesday 5 th March 2024	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March 2024	2MS Class Assembly
Friday 15 th March 2024	2MG Class Assembly
Thursday 21 st March 2024	Reception eye tests
Friday 22 nd March 2024	3JC Class Assembly

Please find a link below to our term dates. These are always available on the school's website. The term dates for 2024-2025 have recently been uploaded. Please double check term dates before any booking holidays.

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

Diversity Initiative



This half term we continued with our diversity initiative, which supports the school's recent work to restructure the curriculum to increase the representation of minority perspectives in school life.

Our third speaker was Helen Bart who came into school to tell junior children about her superpower – being a journalist. She spoke about the importance of self-belief, creativity and having an inclusive and enquiring mind to help achieve an enjoyable and fulfilling career. The children were very impressed in seeing the BAFTA award she received for her work as a journalist.

We would still be keen to hear from more 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.

Haringey SEND Newsletter

Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (December 2023 edition):

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-2596788?e=8837f264a8>

INSET day

The school is closed to pupils on Monday 8th January 2024 as it is an INSET day. An INSET day is where teachers and support staff receive training. Teachers and support staff will be receiving training on the following areas which are all part of this year's School Development Plan:

- English as an Additional Language (EAL) – led by EAL Academy
- Phonics – led by Kirsty Spittle (our Phonics Leader)
- Menopause – led by Dr Katy Jackson (Psychologist & Counsellor) and Dr Beth Macmillan (GP)

PAN Reduction Consultation

Heartlands High School is consulting on reducing the Published Admission Number for their school. The consultation notice which we have been asked to share is below.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Heartlands-High-School-Consultation-Notice.pdf>

Request

There are a number of families in our school who have been affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine and all we can ask is that people are mindful that there are strong feelings on both sides in the community. The school's focus is on providing a high quality education for our children. We would like to respectfully ask parents to refrain from asking the school to intervene and manage matters that are outside of our remit. For example, the school has been asked to intervene in matters relating to content in class Whatsapp groups. Class Whatsapp groups are not set up or led by the school. The school would suggest that the administrators of the groups remind participants of the purpose of the groups and re-establish group rules if required, e.g. not sharing messages about other topics/political views which were not agreed within the group rules.

If you feel you need to talk to someone about anything that worries you, you may find the following sources useful:

NHS

<https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/mental-health/find-an-urgent-mental-health-helpline>

Mind

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/guides-to-support-and-services/crisis-services/helplines-listening-services/>

Samaritans

Call 116 123 for free (24 hours a day, 365 days a year)

<https://www.samaritans.org/>



Rhodes Avenue PSA Winter Fundraisers 2023

Winter Craft Fair

Our busiest month of fundraisers got off to a fantastic start with the first Winter Fair we've hosted in a while. Thanks to a great team of organisers behind the scenes, to the support of a team of wonderful parent volunteers, to everyone who made the Jolly Jam Jars, and to the generosity of all who attended a grand total of **£2,260** was raised for the school.

Winter Raffle

This month saw the return of our winter raffle, this time with some incredible prizes in addition to the traditional hampers. Thanks to all those involved behind the scenes, to those who donated prizes and to all those who bought tickets, an incredible **£3,700** was raised for the school.

Santa's Grotto

We had some very special visitors last week. In preparation for this, volunteers created a winter wonderland and wrapped 335 presents. Thank you to Sunshine Garden Centre for donating a large number of these gifts. Our parent volunteers who brought Santa and the Elves to life did a fabulous job of bringing the biggest smiles to the faces of our Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children. **£360+** has been donated so far towards this fundraiser.

Rapsa Winter Café & Bar

Parent volunteers have done a great job running the cafés or the bar prior to each of the school's wonderful performances over the last two weeks. We are very grateful for their support and to the generosity of those visiting the café, spending **£500+** on pre-performance refreshments.

Christmas in a Bag

740 festive bags have been prepared by parent volunteers to send home with children in the final week of the term. Thank **you** for the donations so far. If you still wish to donate and are able to, we are asking for a donation of £2 per bag via our fundraising page on JustGiving.

Class Calendars

Class reps, who work so hard for our classes all year round, have been busy putting together class calendars for this fundraiser. Totals raised to follow in January.

Spending this month

Following our funding of improvements to the Forest School Pod (installation of electricity and outdoor carpet) last month, we have been able to fund the purchase of new waterproofs to keep children dry and warm during their Forest School lessons. This benefits all children attending Forest School lessons in inclement weather.

Dates for the Diary 2024

Sun 03/03/24 – Jumble Sale

Fri 15/03/23 – Parent Social Evening (Paddy's Night)

Sat 23/06/24 – Summer Fair

And finally...

We would like to say an **enormous** thank **you** to everyone involved in supporting these school fundraisers in any way they can and to the school for providing us with the support we need to make them happen.

Rhodes Avenue PSA Team

<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/rapsa/>

@RapsaRhodes

https://www.instagram.com/rapsa_rhodes/

Special Mention



We would like to congratulate Willow in Year 6 who has been selected for both the National Children's Orchestra and the National Youth String Orchestra. We are very proud of Willow!

If your child has achieved something special outside of school please let us know so that we can share the great news with all of the school community.

Universal Free School Meals programme for Juniors

Please click on the link below to access a letter from the Mayor of London which we have been asked to share with all Junior families.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Letter-to-Families-Autumn-Term-2023.pdf>

We wish all of our families a lovely holiday and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou
Head Teacher