

Headteacher's Newsletter – End of November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Attendance

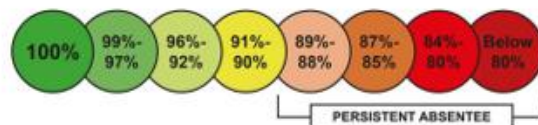
The whole school Attendance Target set by Haringey's Education Welfare Service for Rhodes Avenue is 96%. Attendance matters. Days off school add up to lost learning and the chance of success.

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
190 SCHOOL DAYS IN EACH YEAR <small>100 days for your child's education</small>	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good <small>Best chance of success. Give your child off to a flying start</small>	Worrying <small>Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress</small>		Serious Concern <small>Not fair on your child. Court action!</small>		

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

On Time: First Time, Every Time



Which CIRCLE are you in?

Anti-Racism

"We should take this chance to learn more about racism and discrimination. Listen. Read. Be a standing voice to those who need help."

This half term we ran a number of sessions for parents and carers around talking to your children about diversity, race and racism. Mpula Lawton from ARISE (Anti-Racism in Schools and Education) led the workshops. All the sessions took place on Zoom. It is never easy finding the right time to hold sessions so that all parents are able to attend. Mpula's sessions though were recorded for those who were unable to attend on the night. The recorded sessions allow you to watch at a time that is convenient to you. The school would like to ask that all families continue to support the school in its work on being actively anti-racist and to make time to watch (or listen to) these sessions. Talking to children about diversity, race and racism matters.

- **Session 1: Talking to your child about racism.** This session explored racial literacy, focusing on language and strategies for talking to your children about issues of race and racism.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvdbaLLLSr0>
- **Session 2: Diversity and Empowerment.** This session considered diversity, inclusion and belonging at home. In the session, time was spent looking at books, activities and tips that can be used to empower children to love themselves and value others.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QPExWqS1tss>
- **Session 3: Speaking up and speaking out.** This session explored setting boundaries, tackling racist bullying, and safely standing up for yourself and others.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0e7xzOIoss>

ARISE website

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

The school has confirmed dates with Mpula Lawton within the spring term for her to lead age-appropriate assemblies for all children on anti-racism following on from her assemblies in the summer term. She will also be leading a training session for staff on how to support children in the early years and infant years.

Mpula's book recommendations for younger children

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Book-list-for-younger-children.pdf>

Mpula's book recommendations for older children

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFeiT4kxVI/VM4jODvAGyHy4ZTJXda_MA/view?utm_content=DAFeiT4kxVI&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer#1

Older children benefit from picture books as much as younger children so please look through both booklists.

Birthday treats

At Rhodes Avenue we love to celebrate the children's birthdays with them. Many children bring in something on their birthday to share with their friends. This is not an expectation as a school and parents must not feel that they have to send in something as we will still celebrate their day with them. If you do decide to send something in, please ensure that it is nut-free and something small in size. Please do not send in sweets that are potentially a choking hazard. If you do decide to send something in you might want to consider a non-food treat, e.g. pencils for the children or a game for the classroom.

'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.

Carol Singing at Bounds Green Tube Station

Come and join us (Year 4 upwards) to sing some festive Carols at Bounds Green tube station on Tuesday 12th December. A timetable will be sent shortly for specific class times. Wear all your festive gear, wrap up and get involved! We'd love to see as many of you there as possible!

Community events led by/support wanted from members of our school community

Carol Service – message from Sara Regan (parent)

On Saturday 16th December 2023 at 10am a singing rehearsal will be held for the St Andrew's Children's Crib Service at St Andrew's Parish Church, Alexandra Park Road, N10 2DD. Children will be taught the Carols for the service by local mum and musician Sara Regan, supported by St Andrew's Father Andy. Children are warmly invited to sing the Carols as part of the Children's Crib Service on Saturday 23rd December 2023 at 4pm at St Andrew's Parish Church. Children are invited to dress as characters from the Christmas story.

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

Community Bike Ride – message from Verral Paul-Walcott (teaching assistant at Rhodes Avenue)

22ND DEC 2023

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

TO HELP THOSE LIVING ON THE STREETS OF LONDON

AS NIGHT FALLS OVER LONDON, CYCLISTS UNITE WITH A SHARED PURPOSE: TO BRING WARMTH TO THOSE FACING THE HARDSHIPS OF THE HARSH STREETS.

PEDALLING THROUGH THE CITY WE CARRY HATS, GLOVES, TOOTH PASTE AND OTHER ESSENTIALS, TURNING AN ORDINARY JOURNEY INTO A SYMPHONY OF COMPASSION.

JOIN US ON THIS TRANSFORMATIVE RIDE WHERE EVERY PEDAL STROKE SPEAKS OF UNITY, KINDNESS AND A COMMITMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS. TOGETHER WE BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE WARMTH WE ENJOY AND THE COLD HARD REALITIES FACED BY THOSE SLEEPING ON THE HARSH LONDON STREETS.

7-30PM

LOCATION
SHOREDITCH STATION, BRAITHWAITE STREET
London E1 6GJ (Next to BOX PARK)

SPONSORED BY
OMNIUM **SPAC-OR CHANGE**

ITEMS WE NEED MORE OF ON THE NIGHT:
TOILETRIES **HYGIENE PRODUCTS**
WARM CLOTHES **NON PERISHABLE FOOD**
SLEEPING BAGS **BLANKETS**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE BRING A BACKPACK.
IF YOU HAVE ANY CAPACITY TO CARRY ITEMS WITH A TRAILER, CARGO BIKE OR PANNERS PLEASE DO SO

CONTACT US 07951 714 374

Instagram

PLEASE ENSURE YOU WEAR WARM CLOTHES AND HAVE LIGHTS ON YOUR BIKE. HELMETS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED BUT NOT MANDATORY. WE ALSO RECOMMEND YOU CARRY A SPARE INNER TUBE THAT FITS YOUR BIKE IN CASE OF A PUNCTURE.

www.c86.org.com

CRITICAL MASS

Research – message from Elizabeth Balsys (parent)

My name is Elizabeth and like you, I am also a proud parent within the Rhodes Community. I am currently undertaking research into Parenting and Emotional Well-being as part of my doctorate in Counselling Psychology at Roehampton University. I warmly invite you to be a part of my research, as your participation can greatly contribute to understanding the factors that impact parental well-being. Your insights may also help identify areas for intervention to enhance the overall well-being of parents. Participating is quick and easy, requiring less than 15 minutes to complete the anonymous online survey. Your input on your parenting experiences, emotions, and overall well-being is immensely valuable. To participate, simply click this link: https://roehamptonpsych.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8rdICsbPVAjgcSi

Thank you very much for taking part in this research and for your valuable time. If you have any questions, please contact me at balsyse@roehampton.ac.uk

Research – message from Jemima Simms (play worker at Rhodes Avenue)

My name is Jemima Simms and I am a play worker at Rhodes Avenue. I am a third year BA geography student from the University of Sheffield. I am currently writing my dissertation, researching the disproportionate impacts of Brexit on women in the workplace. I am looking for people to participate in a short in-person or online interview, to help develop my studies on gender inequality in the UK. In particular, I would like to recruit women, from any professions, ages and backgrounds, who have experienced that Brexit has made an impact to their daily or work lives.

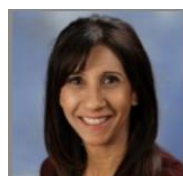
If you are interested, or would like to learn more, please contact me at jsimms2@sheffield.ac.uk.

Thank you, any help would be very much appreciated.

Dates for the diary – autumn term

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

Early Help



Assistant Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead) Emel Ali writes:

We at Rhodes Avenue believe that all of our parents and carers may need support at one time or another. One of the avenues that we have available to us is Early Help.

Haringey's Early Help can become involved through a referral from School, GPs and/or other services. It is a multi-agency approach which involves all practitioners involved with the family, for example, school. From receipt of the referral, the MASH team (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) pass on the information to the Early Help Team. This can take up to a week. A family support worker will be allocated and will contact the family and the school.

Early Help Service can offer advice and guidance as well as practical, hands-on support, with a whole family approach. Early Help will work alongside you with other professionals to enable you to make and sustain the changes needed to improve your family situation.

Supporting you and your family, and understanding your concerns, Early Help will create an action plan describing how they will work together to help you, supported by other professionals and services.

Early Help want to understand your family's strengths and what is not working so well. To do this, Early Help will work in partnership with you and, with your consent, alongside colleagues from school, who are also able to help. Working together, Early Help will address the issues you and your family are facing and, over time, build your confidence, knowledge and skills to enable you to deal with future challenges.

Early help offers:

- A two-way conversation
- Practical hands on support
- Advice and guidance
- Whole family approach

If any family would like to discuss the Early Help Service they may do so by contacting Emel. Please do so via email in the first instance - eali3.309@lgflmail.org

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/children-and-families/early-help>

Haringey Council EHCP Bandings Consultation – final call to parents

Haringey Council are updating Banding descriptions that describe the needs of children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and need your input before the changes are finalised.

<https://haringeysendbandings.commonplace.is/>

Haringey SEND Newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-2596712>

Healthy Eating



Kirsty Spittle (photo above), Reception → Year 1 Transition Year Group Leader, writes:

As a busy parent myself, I understand how hard it can be to find helpful information at the time you need it. Each month I will be researching a different topic and including advice for parents within the Headteacher's Newsletter.

This month, I am focusing on Healthy Eating. I would like to say a huge thank you to Martha Henneman (Year 1 parent) who has been helping me with my research into allergies. As a school we strive to keep learning, update our training and work with parents/carers to make sure that the school is both a safe and inclusive place for all our children.

Healthy eating newsletter

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Healthy-eating-for-newsletter.docx>

Library books



Following School Librarian, Amanda Chilton's (left photo), successful £3000 grant application she has been working very hard on sourcing books for the school library which increase the representation of inclusion and diversity within books all children are exposed to. The Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion governing body committee, Christy White (right photo), visited school to meet with Amanda and to view the books which have now been added to the library.

Madame Chadier



We were thrilled to hear the news that ex-Rhodes Avenue Specialist French Teacher, Madame Chadier, was recently awarded the French government's equivalent of an MBE. Nadine Chadier received a medal in the 'Ordre des Palmes academiques' as a way to reward her long-life commitment to the promotion of French language and culture in the UK. Well done Nadine; Rhodes Avenue is very proud of you!

Phonics + Early Reading webinar



Reception Year Group Leader, Laura Moore, put together a webinar for Reception parents on Phonics + Early Reading. Here is the link for any parents who may have missed this.

<https://vimeo.com/874811659?share=copy>

password: reception23

We kindly ask that this webinar is not shared outside of the school community. It will be deleted from our account at the end of the autumn term.

School grounds developments



Our Facilities Manager, Andrew Satwick, has recently installed artificial grass on the steps within our infant playground and on the steps of our forest school cabin. This means the steps can be used safely in all weathers.

SEND Coffee Mornings

Here is a reminder of the final coffee date for the autumn term. This coffee morning is being hosted by Jette Rayner (SEND CO).

Thursday 7th December 9.10am – Dyslexia focus

- What is happening at school?
- An opportunity to ask questions and talk about the challenges and successes



Rhodes Avenue PSA

A reminder that Rhodes Avenue PSA have already planned in dates for you for this academic year. Please add these dates to your diaries if you haven't 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.

Tue 12/12/23 - Santa's Grotto for EYFS & KS1

Sun 03/03/24 - Jumble Sale

Sat 23/06/24 - Summer Fair

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

@RapsaRhodes

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

Term Dates 2024-2025

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/term-dates/>

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou
Head Teacher