

Chanukah Celebration

Yesterday we held our first Chanukah Celebration. It was lovely to see so much of our community come together. A special thank you to parents Rachel Ross and Laura Profitt for leading and organising the army of volunteers who supported the event. Children enjoyed many activities including: silk painting, face painting, candle-making, tattoos, playing games with the dreidels, Challah plaiting as well as other activities that were organized. Adults too enjoyed the edible treats on offer and many left armed with Challah bread, latkes and donuts! The final count for money raised is still to be confirmed but current figures show that the event raised in excess of £1500 which will be shared between the school and Muswell Hill Food Bank. A special thank you also to Eden Primary School's students Issy and Jack who came to support the event. Issy and Jack had a Chanukah information table which included information booklets made by their fellow Year 6 T'marim class and were on hand to answer questions children and parents had. Please look out for our display in school of the event and the silk paintings produced when you next come into school.



Haringey SEND newsletter



Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (December 2024 edition):

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-dec2024-5751638?e=02dfe20ed5>

Maths



Subject Leader and Lead Practitioner for Maths (Demi Jeffels – photo above) writes:

As KS1 and KS2 Maths Subject Leader, I wanted to say thank you to all the parents who filled out this term's Maths Surveys with your honest views on how you and your children feel about Maths and sharing your views on support that you would appreciate in facilitating Maths learning at home. I have been collating the responses and in response will be creating a Maths area on our school website with documents outlining the Maths skills your children will be learning in each year group. There were very mixed responses about the facilitating of workshops for parents in terms of timings and working parents so as an alternative we have been busy working behind the scenes to create videos for each year group to showcase how Maths is taught at Rhodes. Our Calculation policy was emailed last year to parents (and is available on each year group's webpage as well as the Policies webpage), as well as our progression documents which show how Maths progresses from year to year. I will add these all to the Maths page to make it easily accessible for all. Next academic year, if there is a demand, we can focus on facilitating some face-to-face workshops but these will be during the school day so advance notice will be given.

It is lovely to hear how enthused your children are about Maths and there were lots of suggestions for raising the profile of Maths at Rhodes and this indeed is my plan for the year. It was great to get your thoughts at the start of this academic year, so we can make plans for the upcoming year! If you work in a role within the Maths/Stem sector and would like to host an assembly about how Maths is used in your day to day life and to discuss how learning Maths impacted your career, then we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email the office and ask to forward on your email to the Maths Subject Leaders. Both Myrtle Caldeira (EYFS Maths Lead) and I will be more than happy to have some assistance in getting children even more excited about the possibilities of Maths.

Over the course of the year, I will be sending out further communication about some nationwide Maths competitions that different year groups might be able to access this year. Some of these have an entry cost so if you would like your child to enter (this will not be compulsory) then you will be given the opportunity to do so in due course.

These will not be revised for specifically in school (we will be facilitating the hosting of them) but we can provide parents with examples of past questions for those that wish to practise with their child. We do not want this to be an added pressure for children and will refer to them as a 'Maths Quiz' or 'Maths Competition'. These will be optional and it will be your choice as a parent whether or not you feel your child would enjoy taking part or whether you think this will not be suitable for them.

Recently, children across Year 4, 5 and 6 had the opportunity to enter 'The Primary Maths Challenge'. We had a phenomenal 70 children enter the quiz. The children has to answer 25 questions in 45 minutes. Out of these 70 children, 5 children reached Gold (scoring 20 and above) 16 children reached Silver and 12 reached Bronze. A special congratulations to Ethan and Katia (Year 6) for being the highest scoring children who entered at Rhodes Avenue! The competition is a challenge which is aimed at end of Year 6 level so we're extremely proud of all children's efforts and willingness to give it a go! The Maths Association have invited back those who scored 20 or above to take part in the Bonus Round, from the 3rd - 7th February 2025. Good luck Ethan, Katia, Freddie, Leo (Year 6) and Tonny (Year 5) as you have been selected to represent Rhodes Avenue in the Bonus Round!

The Maths Association will be running 'The First Maths challenge' which is hosted in June. This will be aimed at Year 4 children. Further details will follow.

We will let you know when the Maths section of the school website will go live. Watch this space!

OR Tambo Playground Update

Last year children in school contributed to the design of the OR Tambo Playground. Rhodes Avenue children used the school values of Creativity, Consideration and Cooperation whilst keeping Community in mind when they contributed their wonderful ideas to this project. Haringey Parks have asked us to share the following with you:

The new playground and nature-pond area works will be completed as planned in January. The play equipment has been installed, the majority of the groundwork has been undertaken, and new pathways and social spaces are currently being created. Thanks again to all the pupils at Rhodes Avenue who contributed to the design and choice of equipment!

Once the construction phase has completed, we will move into the exciting establishment and engagement phase, when the site will continue to be kept closed to allow the site to dry out and the grass seed to germinate until the grand opening, currently planned for around Easter.

During this time the site won't be idle, quite the opposite! We have a full list of engagement opportunities for you to get involved in:

- February - Tree planting with Alexandra Park School's Environmental Committee & Tree Team.
- February - Willow Weaving Tunnel & Domes with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) & local community – booking details to follow in January.
- March – Shrub and planting sessions with a school & Greenspace Officer.
- March - Pond planting with TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) & local community – booking details to follow in February.



Rhodes Avenue PSA

On behalf of the children I would like to thank Rhodes Avenue PSA's new Chair (Tom Williams) and Committee for their hard work this term. I would also like to thank the entire school community for participating in the various activities. Thank you for attending in person, volunteering your time during the events or for your contribution behind the scenes (all contributions make a difference). Rhodes Avenue PSA is a model for practicing the school's values of community, cooperation, consideration and creativity in their work.

A message from Tom:

'Rhodes Avenue PSA has continued its excellent work supporting the school community and fundraising this term. Thanks to the amazing work, dedication and generosity of parents across the school we've raised a total of around £14,000 so far this academic year. This puts us well on track to hit or exceed our target of £40,000 by the end of the Summer term.

Early next year, we'll be working to raise awareness of things the PSA supports. We'll also be fundraising for some specific projects the school needs help to undertake, including the resurfacing and renovation of the Junior playground.

In the meantime, thank you so much for all of your support. Have an amazing break and see you all in 2025'.

You can find out further information about Rhodes Avenue PSA by looking at their webpage, e.g. its aims, the committee, events planned for this year, AGM minutes and guidelines for class reps and class Whatsapp groups.

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

@RapsaRhodes

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rhodesavenue2425>

School Council



This term School Council had a visit from Catherine West (Member of Parliament) and her caseworker Pierre Orsini. Catherine spoke to the school about her work in the Houses of Parliament and how their work in School Council is similar to hers. School Council had prepared some very interesting questions for Catherine and she was very impressed with the challenge they gave her. Catherine also met our school rabbits, Cookie and Oreo.

School Development Plan priorities 2024-25

This academic year our whole school priority areas are as follows:

Priority 1: Up Skill for Wellbeing

Priority Target: To up skill and develop the knowledge and skills of all stakeholders in order to impact on good wellbeing for all.

Priority 2: It's Good to Talk

Priority Target: To develop opportunities for children to develop their ability to talk in different contexts and to understand the importance of speaking.

Priority 3: One World – Doing our part

Priority Target: To develop children's understanding of the importance of caring for our local, national and world environments.

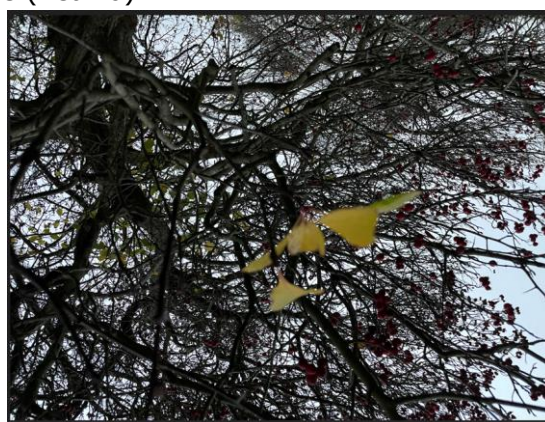
Each subject taught within our school also has its own action plan with set objectives specific to raising the attainment and progress of the teaching and learning within the subject itself.

Science Photography Competition



Science Subject Leader (Catriona Donnellan – photo above) writes:

Rhodes Avenue is in a Network Learning Community with several schools in the Highgate & Muswell Hill area. This term the schools collaborated together on a Science In Photography and Nature Photographer of the Year competition. One winner from each year group from Rhodes Avenue now progresses through to the whole network's competition. Below are the Rhodes Avenue winning photographer's photos. Well done to Harry (Year 1), Kitty (Year 2), Finley (Year 3), Vera (Year 4), Hudson (Year 5) and Jude + George (Year 6)





Shows



It was so lovely to see so many of you at our recent shows. The infant children started off the show season with their performance of 'Claude goes to the North Pole'. Junior children performed their 'Pinocchio' shows with Year 6 taking a lead with the acting. Reception children showed off their singing as well as dance moves they have been learning with our Specialist Dance Teacher Jessica Hewitson. Hedgehogs and Woodpeckers also led singing performances (along with bell jingling) within their nurseries. Junior Choir and Chamber Choir led a packed out Carol Concert in Witham Hall last Sunday evening. Our Boyband, Infant Choir and Year 3 choir also led performances for us to all enjoy. The Staff Panto (for children only) of 'Pinocchio' also took place this morning.

Not everyone knows this but not all schools have shows. I would like to thank the staff and parent community for supporting the school in continuing with this tradition. It is always a pleasure seeing the children perform on stage or supporting their friends from the sidelines in a role they feel comfortable with. It is particularly lovely seeing how the children develop through the years.

Click here to hear one of the songs performed by the choirs at our recent Carol Concert:
<https://t.co/3mCQnVLuMc>

Smartphone Free Childhood



The school has previously written to you about how we, together with the schools in our Network Learning Community, are keen to support the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign. Smartphones refer to phones that can access the internet, not mobile phones that can only text and make phone calls. Smartphones can expose children to a number of negative risks including: harmful content, addiction, academic distraction, grooming, cyberbullying and mental illness. The number of Rhodes Avenue parents who have signed up to both the London North and Rhodes Avenue Parent Pacts is rising. Our parents recently held an information stall at Rhodes Avenue PSA's recent Winter Fair.

London, North	Rhodes Avenue Primary School	SCHOOL NAME	PACTS
3,329	237	Highgate School 71	208
CHILDREN	SCHOOLS	Coleridge Primary School 71	193
		Akiva School (J) 71	153
		Coldfall Primary School 71	141
		Rhodes Avenue Primary School 71	139
	139		
	CHILDREN		

The Rhodes Avenue parents SFC What's App group currently has 90 members.

If you were unable to attend the information evening and would like to know more please use the links below.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

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



The school will be hosting another Smartphone Free Childhood event for parents at our school in the spring term for those parents who were unable to attend the event hosted at Fortismere Secondary School earlier this term (details to follow).

Surveys for Parents



The school values and actively seeks parental feedback. Thank you again to those parents who completed the Maths Survey. Next term please look out for a Parent Survey relating to Physical

Education and Sports Opportunities which will be led by Subject Leader for Physical Education – Nina Watson (photo above).

Sustainable Garden – Tesco Stronger Starts



As part of Priority 3 of our School Development Plan 'One World – Doing our part' we would like to develop further our Sustainable Garden in order for children to sow, tend, harvest, cook and eat crops from our school garden and to develop an understanding of sustainability and a healthy lifestyle. The school has been successful in its application to Tesco Stronger Starts and our project will be put forward to a customer vote in Tesco stores. Voting will commence in store from mid-January 2025 until the end of March 2025. The Tesco Stronger Starts project with the most votes will receive money towards their project. We are asking for your votes towards this project so please do share this project with your family and friends. If you are in a Tesco Superstore or Express participating in this vote please vote for our project. To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Thank you

Thank you to Martin Egan (London Football Academy), Lucy and Gav (Drama Bones) and Sunshine Garden Centre for donating Christmas trees to the school.



Year Group Collaboration

As a three-form entry school we try very hard to ensure children collaborate across the year groups in as many opportunities as we can. All 90 children in Reception worked together on a winter painting. They also made 3D trees to bring it to life. Look at the beautiful art work that was produced.



Zones of Regulation



Zones of Regulation is a social-emotional curriculum created to teach children self-regulation and emotional control. The Zones of Regulation organises our feelings into four coloured zones: blue, green, yellow and red. Zones of Regulation was introduced as a whole-school tool last academic year. Reception class teacher Rebecca Tubridy has created a webinar (approx. 30 mins) for Nursery and Reception parents to explain the zones and how they are used within the early years. Parents in the main school are invited to watch this webinar also.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/1040353845?ts=0&share=copy>

Password: ZOR2024

I would like to wish all our families a lovely holiday. For those families celebrating Christmas I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas. For those families celebrating Chanukah I would like to wish you a Happy Festival of Lights. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher