

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all well. Children and staff have all had a lovely return to school this new year.

Chanukah Celebration

£1513 was raised from last term's Chanukah Celebration. £756.50 will be donated to the Muswell Hill Food Bank and £756.50 will be spent on electric sharpeners for classrooms.

Choir



Veronica Chacon will be leading the Junior and Chamber Choirs alongside Dan Shafran until the end of the academic year. Veronica is a mezzo-soprano who she studied musical theory, choral singing, piano, improvisation & choreography through the Eurhythmics method at the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze, as well as singing at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève. Whilst working in my office this week a child ran in and shouted 'Maria, there is a real singer in school!'.

Diary Dates

Below are some key dates for your diaries. Year Groups will send out communications regarding any other relevant dates to individual year groups.

Tuesday 4 th February 2025	SEND Support Meetings: Robin, Owl, Hedgehog + 1SG
Wednesday 5 th February 2025	SEND Support Meetings: 6NM, 3AJ + 1MS
Thursday 6 th February 2025	SEND Support Meetings: 3EB, Hedgehog + 5CD
Monday 10 th February 2025	SEND support meetings: 5AG + 5ABH
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	SEND Support Meetings: 6AD
Tuesday 11 th February 2025	Year 5 Hindu temple trip
Wednesday 12 th February 2025	Year 5 Hindu temple trip
Thursday 13 th February 2025	SEND Support Meetings: 6EL + 3MS
Monday 24 th February 2025	SEN support meetings: 4EG, 4FH, 2CN, 2MG + 2BD
Wednesday 26 th February 2025	SEN support meetings: 4NW
Thursday 6 th March 2025	World Book Day
Friday 9 th March 2025	RAPSA Jumble Sale
Friday 7 th March 2025	5AG Class Assembly 9.10am
Friday 7 th March 2025	Holi Festival
Monday 10 th March 2025	Reusable Period Product workshop for parents 9.15am
Thursday 13 th March 2025	Year 1 + 2 Brightsparks trip
Friday 14 th March 2025	5CD Class Assembly
Wednesday 19 th March 2025	Year 1 trip to Tower of London
Friday 21 st March 2025	5ABH Class Assembly 9.10am
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings 4-6pm

Wednesday 26 th March 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings 4-8pm
Friday 28 th March 2025	2CN Class Assembly 9.10am
Friday 4 th April 2025	2BD Class Assembly 9.10am
Friday 2 nd May 2025	2MG Class Assembly 9.10am

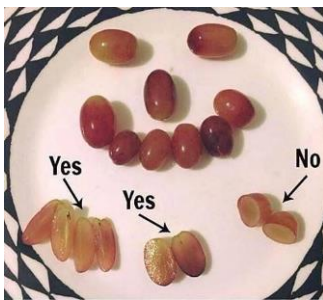
E-Safety



This week our hall was filled with many parents wanting to learn more about how to support their children in keeping safe online. 3Discovery will shortly be sharing their slides with us and we will add these to our school's [Online Safety webpage](#). This webpage has lots of information to support you in keeping your children safe online.

Cigdem Mourat, our Deputy Headteacher (Designated Safeguarding Lead), will shortly be sharing information relating to an online webinar which we have accessed for parents who were unable to attend the in-person session this week. The online world changes constantly and we would encourage all parents to arm themselves with as much knowledge and understanding as possible.

Grapes



Grapes are a good healthy fruit snack for children so if you include grapes in your child's packed lunch please remember to cut them lengthwise. It's best to cut up grapes for children up to 5 years old as they have small airways that can easily be blocked by a grape. Though they are better at chewing and swallowing, primary school children may still have small airways which grapes can block. Whole grapes can pose a choking hazard. Recently a member of staff had to respond swiftly when a grape posed a hazard for one of our young children.

Haringey SEND newsletter



Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (January 2025 edition):

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-jan2025-5752019?e=8837f264a8>

Holi Festival



The school's annual Holi Festival is due to take place after school on Friday 7th March 2025. Holi is a Hindu tradition and this will be our fourth consecutive year of celebrating it. Information about the event (which is for junior children only) and the rules of play will be emailed to parents shortly. You don't need to book in advance; just turn up! The Holi values of signifying the victory of good over evil and spreading happiness and love are global values for everyone. I would like to thank the

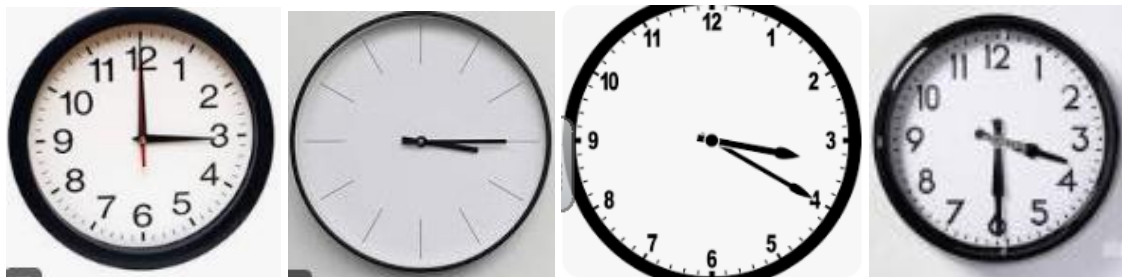
group of parents who once again this year are organising the event. I myself am taking part and am looking forward to celebrating Holi with the junior children.

This year money raised for the event will be shared between [Horizons](#) (which is a charity set up by Haringey Education Partnership of which Rhodes Avenue is an active member of) and the school itself. In previous years Rhodes Avenue children have benefited from this charity.

Home time

We kindly ask all parents to ensure that your children are picked up promptly at their designated home time. As part of our efforts to support families with multiple drop-offs, we have staggered home times to help manage the flow of children and parents. Late pickups can have a negative impact on the children, as they may feel anxious or unsettled waiting for extended periods. Prompt collection helps ensure that all children feel secure and confident, and allows our staff to wrap up their day efficiently. If your child is not picked up at their allotted home time they will be booked into After School Club and a session's charge will be added to your child's School Money account.

Nursery- 3pm / Reception – 3.15pm / Years 1&2 – 3.20pm / Years 3-6 3.30pm



Lunchtime Calm Space

Our Calm Space provision for target children this year continues every Monday-Wednesday. We are thankful to our three parent volunteers who support this provision at such a key time of the day for children who find lunchtimes overwhelming. We would like to be able to extend this provision to every day of the week. If you are able to volunteer an hour once a week to support this please email the school office.

Mobile phones

A reminder that any child currently bringing a mobile phone to school must hand it in to their class teacher to put away for safe-keeping. This policy is in place to ensure a focused, safe learning environment for all children.

Additionally, we ask that all visitors leave their phones in their bags at all times while on school premises, as part of our safeguarding procedures. If a visitor does not have a bag they may leave their mobile phone in the school office for safe keeping.

Parent Consultation Meetings

The spring term meetings will be taking place on Tuesday 25th March 2025 (4-6pm) and Wednesday 26th March 2025 (4-8pm). These meetings will be face-to-face, in your child's classroom and are 10 minutes per appointment. You have been given advance notice of these dates and there are no other dates/times where teachers will be leading Parent Consultation meetings. We will shortly be notifying parents of the date and time that the bookings will go live on the booking system.

Reception's Drawing Club

The Reception children have had a busy half-term. As part of our core text 'Little Red Hen' the children made their own bread. We also had an afternoon where the children tried bread from different cultures. Thank you to all the parents and carers who sent bread into school. The children learnt about different countries, cultures and enjoyed broadening their palates!

We have also launched 'Drawing club.' This is an exciting way to open up the magic world of tales and stories whilst enriching the children's language, developing their fine motor skills and giving them lots of time to talk to each other in small groups. 'Drawing club' is being used to develop the children's creativity, imagination and inspire them to draw and write. Our aim is to get all children to enjoy the experience of writing by the end of Reception.



Reusable Period Product Workshop for parents

We have accessed a workshop for parents on reusable period products. The workshop is taking place on Monday 10th March 2025 at 9.15am (in Witham Hall). The workshop will cover the following:

'Have you been curious about menstrual cups, period pants or reusable pads but not known who to ask? Want to know more about the different options and how periods can be more eco-friendly, waste and plastic-free? Come along to our parent workshop. There will be have samples to show you and answer any burning questions you might have about all things period, so you can make an informed decision to try reusable options.'



Rhodes Avenue PSA – message from the Chair



With Christmas fundraising activity now a distant memory, RAPSA are turning their attention to 2025, including the much loved annual Jumble Sale, the Summer Fair and some other great community events for Rhodes parents and families. Also look out for some specific fundraising campaigns via JustGiving.

The Jumble Sale is taking place on Sunday 9th March. Posters advertising the Jumble Sale will soon start to appear locally as we look to drum up support. This event is a great way of sustainably giving a second life to high quality items you might no longer need, and to picking up some great pre-loved bargains. It's over a month away, but people might now be taking their unwanted items to charity shops post holidays, so please do think about holding them a little longer so we can sell them and make money for the school. Details on how to make donations will be shared near the time.

This event is really fun, but requires a huge amount of parent power and so volunteer sheets will be coming round next week and all help is really appreciated!

School Council

Our School Council meets with me on a fortnightly basis. School Council children act to represent their fellow pupils' issues. They discuss school issues and make sure Pupil Voice is represented. This month we have been discussing school meals and our school rabbits' Cookie and Oreo's care.



School Development Plan

We have been making lots of progress with the whole school priority areas for 2024-25.

A summary of some of the actions we have completed are below.

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.

We have:

- updated our Ourselves and Others curriculum by introducing new materials on how to build children's resilience.
- arranged 3 parent workshops on how parents can support their children through emotional dysregulation.
- embedded the Zones of Regulation in all aspects of school life.
- piloted new teaching materials on promoting gender equality and challenging limiting gender stereotypes.
- built on the school's community celebration programme by hosting our first Chanukah Celebration.
- Focussed on a whole school text 'Leo and the Octopus' in order to build empathy and raise awareness of what life is like living with Autism.

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.

We have:

- registered for the Rights Respecting School award journey.
- all early years staff have undertaken LEEP screening in order to support the identification of and provision for speech and language difficulties.
- begun work trialling a new sentence curriculum in collaboration with the other schools in our school's Network Learning Community (Highgate & Muswell Hill).
- introduced the Word Aware intervention to support target children's language.
- Developed new assemblies on speaking up for ourselves and for others.

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.

We have:

- updated our curriculum with environmental themes which link to current learning in each year group.

- introduced a new Big Read text to each year group which focusses on environmental themes.
- appointed class teachers Kate Macaulay and Meghan Grove as the school's new Subject Leaders for Geography.
- ensured that sustainability and recycling were a key element during the school's current tendering process for school meals.

School Meals

A tender is currently underway for the school's Catering contract. We will communicate to parents when the tender process has been completed. All feedback which the school receives regarding school meals is forwarded to our current contractor. Next month, School Council will be taking part in a tasting session with our caterers in order to design the next menu.

Currently, a sweet treat is only available as a dessert on a Friday. Fresh fruit or yoghurt is available every day as the dessert option.

The current school menus are always available on our school website. Variations to the meal of the day may happen should a stock/delivery issue arise for the caterers.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/school-meals/>

SEN Support Plan Meetings

If you are a parent of a child on the school's SEN register you have already been notified of the date and time of your child's SEN Support Plan Meeting. SEN Support Meetings are planned in the school calendar on set dates. Unfortunately the school has not been able to be flexible about the dates and timings of these meetings this term due to internal cover arrangements for staff to be able to attend these meetings and the technical issues we are having this term with our new Parent Booking system. If you would prefer an online meeting instead of a face-to-face one please email office@rhodesavenue.org.uk and we will make the necessary arrangements. Parents will also have the Parent Consultation Meeting with your child's class teacher in March. We are hopeful that the booking system will be fully operation for parents to select a time in future.

Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC)

At Rhodes Avenue, we are committed to promoting online safety. In my previous newsletter, I highlighted our school's support for the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) campaign, in collaboration with schools in our Network Learning Community.

Following the interest generated at the Rhodes Avenue PSA's winter fair, a group of parents have formed an SFC representative team - with almost one representative per class. If your class does not have a representative and you would like to volunteer, please contact the office and we will connect you with the group. Further information about the SFC rep group (<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Rhodes-SFC-reps-QA.pdf>).

The role of the representative is to raise awareness about the impact of smartphones on children, inform parents about workshops and talks that will be organised by the school, and signpost guidance on using technology positively, including alternative options like feature phones.

As part of this initiative, the SFC group would like to know what topics would be most helpful to parents. They are planning an event in early May and are currently considering key topics for the

session. In the coming weeks, the rep group will circulate a poll to gather your input on what you would find most beneficial.

If you would like to learn more about the initiative do contact the representative for your class.

Also, here are some resources you may also find helpful:

- www.internetmatters.org/
- www.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

In collaboration with Rhodes Avenue's SFC Parent Leads Miranda Yau, Jeyda Star and Rachel Ormsby, we have arranged a Parent Talk for Rhodes Avenue parents. On Thursday 1st May 2025 we will be hosting SFC's Nova Eden (Children's Mental Health Expert/Digital Wellness). Further details will be shared with parents but please do add this date to your diaries.

Smart Watches



A reminder that watches can be worn in school but these must not be smart watches.

Stationery

Many of you support the school in providing stationery for your children to bring into school. Children do not need to bring expensive stationery to school. We encourage the use of standard stationery items and have stationery available for all children to use. Please also remember to label all personal items to help us return any lost property. Please remind your child not to swap stationery with others, as this can lead to misunderstandings or lost items.

Term Dates

The term dates for this academic year, 2025-26 and 2026-27 are available on the school website. <https://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/diary-dates/>

Changes to the law regarding attendance were made in August 2024. The school is unable to authorise requests for taking holidays during term time. Headteachers can only grant leave in exceptional circumstances. We follow the government guidance and are obligated to comply with these regulations. Our Attendance and Punctuality policy is currently being updated to reflect the government guidance. The latest government guidance supersedes any policy on our website. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

Treats

We love celebrating children's birthdays at school and children are currently allowed to bring in small treats to share with their class, if they choose to. Not all schools allow birthday treats to be brought into school. Recently, staff and a number of parents have reported concerns with the quantity and size of treats being brought into school. Please be reminded that birthday treats should be small and individually wrapped. They will only be given out at the end of the school day so that parents can decide if their child may have them.

A Healthy School is one that supports the overall health of its children. If the size and quantity of treats continue to be a concern we will not be allowing birthday treats to come into school. Should this be decided we will of course still celebrate children's birthdays in school. This is a polite warning and we appreciate your cooperation with this. This will be reviewed at the end of the spring term.

A reminder also that treats are not to be sent into school for any other reason other than birthdays. Please do not place staff into the difficult position by sending in treats for any other reason.

Vision

Do you know the missing 3 words from our school vision? Answers at the end of the newsletter.

At Rhodes Avenue, we want our children to:

Know who they are

Respect others for who they are

Never stop learning

School values:

We will act with **respect** because we are a **community**.

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

We will show **consideration** as everyone is of equal value and importance.

World Book Day

The school will be taking part in World Book Day activities on Thursday 6th March 2025. If your child would like to dress up on this day they can.



Young Voices



Last week our Junior Choir performed at The O2 as part of the largest children's choir in the world – Young Voices. This is the third year Rhodes Avenue has taken part in this event and year on year more and more children participate as our choirs continue to grow. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne McGahon who continued to come into school after she left Rhodes Avenue to support the children in their preparation for this event. The children gave up one lunchtime a week in order to learn all of the songs and dance moves. Thank you also to the parents who supported us in getting the children to the venue, supporting the actual event itself and for late night pick up. A short clip below for you to enjoy!

<https://x.com/RhodesAvePrim/status/1881386783784755410/video/2>

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher

Vision answers

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