



Headteacher's Newsletter

Friday 11th July 2025

Dates for the diary

Friday 11 th July 2025	INSET day
Monday 14 th July 2025	3EB trip to Natural History Museum
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	Year 4 Celtic Harmony trip
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Show
Tuesday 15 th July 2025	New Nursery playdates
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	New Nursery playdates
Wednesday 16 th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Show
Wednesday 16 th July	Open Orchestra Concert for Orchestra children's parents
Friday 18 th July 2025	Year 3 Choir + Boyband Concert
Friday 18 th July 2025	Summer Choir Concert
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	End of summer term

Attainment

Primary school performance is measured through a variety of measures. Attainment is one measure and focuses on the achievement at the end of a key stage. Our provisional attainment measures for the end of Key Stage 2 (Year 6) for this academic year are as follows:

Subject	Expected Standard (2025)	Expected Standard (2024)	Greater Depth Standard (2025)	Greater Depth Standard (2024)
Reading	96%	94%	67%	59%
Maths	98%	96%	64%	60%
Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (SPAG)	90%	91%	56%	60%
Writing	93%	93%	32%	30%
Combined (Reading, Writing + Maths)	91%	91%	29%	27%

Our measure is our school's vision and values:

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 cooperation 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.

Infant Sports Day

Sports Coach (Chelsea Orridge-Golding) writes:

The children were all looking forward to sports day and they all enjoyed their day. There were lots of smiles, lots of cheering and lots of evidence of supporting each other throughout the day which was lovely to see. The children took part in 7 events which were: 50m, hurdles race, egg and spoon race, sack race, bean bag throw, howler throw and football dribble. They showed great passion and determination throughout the day and I hope they are all looking forward to next year's sports day.

Junior Sports Day

Sports Coach (Chelsea Orridge-Golding) writes:

The junior children all enjoyed sports day and they showed great courage and determination throughout the day. They all supported and showed respect to each other. The children took part in 7 events which were: chest push, bean bag throw, football dribble, howler throw, standing long jump, standing triple jump and the hurdles race. These events were scored by Alexandra Park School pupils and the points went towards the children's continent teams. The children also took part in 2 timed events which were the 100m and 400m races. The children with the quickest times from Year 3+4 and Year 5+6 qualified for the finals where medals were awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Well done to all of the children for taking part in Sports Day. A big congratulations to Poppy in 6EL as she broke the school 400m record! Well done to Europe who were the winning continent!

Kelly Hashemi

Kirsty Spittle (Reception Year Group Leader) writes:

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know that our beloved Kelly (ex-Rhodes Avenue class teacher) has died. She lost her long and brave battle to cancer. We would like to send our sincere condolences to her husband Ayra, daughter Tabitha and family. We are thinking of them during this incredibly difficult time.

Kelly was an inspirational Reception teacher at Rhodes Avenue and she touched the lives of so many children and families during her time with us. She was kind, gentle, creative and child-centered. The children adored her and Kelly made teaching look effortless as it was so natural to her. Kelly had such a calm aura and enjoyed teaching children yoga. She was extremely 'green fingered' and loved planting, teaching children how to grow vegetables and was a real advocate for outdoor learning. Kelly also loved to travel and always brought her cultural experiences back into her classroom. She had a real passion for inclusion, diversity and making sure that every child she taught was happy, learning through play (following the Reggio Emilia approach) and learning.

One of Kelly's favourite places in London was Kew Gardens. We know that lots of our families go there. We wanted to share this with you as it could be a special place for us to remember her. Kelly's life was taken away too quickly but she had such a huge impact on those who were privileged enough to know her. Kelly was undoubtedly one of the best and she will be sorely missed, but never forgotten, by the Rhodes Avenue community.

Any parents wishing to send Kelly's family a card can leave a card in the school office with a stamp on it and we will make sure it is sent to them.

Leavers

We would like to thank the following members of staff who will be leaving at the end of term. We thank them for all of their hard work with our children in the different roles they have led and wish them luck in their next adventure.

Gillian Copas

School Meals Supervisory Assistant Gill started working at Rhodes Avenue in 2014. We are very grateful for the support she has given to our children during a very important time of the day.



Jill Karavias

Nursery Nurse Jill joined Rhodes Avenue in 2016 and has worked across our early years classes, supporting children in the crucial foundation years at school and life.



April Keen

Class teacher April joined us in the spring term this year in order to cover a maternity leave and taught in Year 1. We wish her luck in her new school and life in Brighton.



Madiha Shah

Class teacher Madiha joined us this academic year and taught in Year 1. We wish her luck in her new school and wish her congratulations on her forthcoming wedding this summer.



Nina Watson

Class teacher Nina joined us as a newly qualified teacher in 2010. Nina led Physical Education at Rhodes Avenue. Nina will continue to work in education and we wish her luck in her next teaching journey.



Nursery trip to Old Macdonald's Farm

Sally Eustance (Nursery Manager) writes: This week the nursery classes visited Old MacDonald's Farm. We had a fabulous day and saw lots of animals including llamas, cows, ponies, rabbits, hedgehogs and wallabies. The weather was amazing and the children had great fun exploring the outside spaces and especially enjoyed riding on the train and wobbly tractors. What we had in our packed lunch boxes and how soon we could eat them was the talk of the outward journey; once eaten and relished the children enjoyed the rest of the day.



Year 1 trip to Woodberry Wetlands

Sophie Papworth (Year 1 Leader) writes: Over the last two weeks all Year 1 classes have been very lucky to be able to visit the wonderful Woodberry Wetlands nature reserve. This trip has enhanced our plants science learning and brought the subject to life for the children. We saw a variety of plant life and learnt more about what each part of the plant does. We furthered our learning on pollination and were able to see lots of pollinating insects in action. We did several activities, including bug hunting which the children enjoyed.

Year 3 Trip to Gurdwara

This week, Year 3 visited the The Khalsa Jatha British Isles, also known as Central Gurdwara (Khalsa Jatha) in Shepherd's Bush as part of their Religious Education learning about Sikhism. This Gurdwara holds special historical significance as the oldest established Sikh place of worship in the UK. During the visit, pupils explored the prayer hall, listened to stories from Sikh scripture, and learned about the core Sikh values of equality, kindness, and community. A highlight of the trip was being invited to share in Langar—the free community meal offered to all, regardless of background. The children were enthusiastic about trying new foods and showed real appreciation for the experience. We're incredibly proud of how respectful, curious, and mature the children were throughout the visit. They asked thoughtful questions, made meaningful links to their classroom learning, and represented the school wonderfully. This memorable trip helped bring their RE learning to life and deepened their understanding of how religious beliefs are expressed through places of worship.



Year 5 Trip to Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition

On Tuesday 1st July, 5CD had the exciting opportunity to attend the Royal Society's Summer Science Exhibition, which hosted a special schools-only day. The children had a fantastic time exploring cutting-edge science exhibits, engaging with interactive displays, and learning about the latest innovations in science and technology. It was an inspiring experience that sparked curiosity and encouraged our young scientists to think big about their future careers in STEM!



Smartphone Free Childhood

As the school year ends, we want to celebrate the progress of the parent-led Smartphone Free Childhood initiative at Rhodes Avenue. This group of parent reps has worked hard to raise awareness about healthy digital habits and the benefits of delaying smartphones until age 14 and social media until 16.

The initiative is part of the national Smartphone Free Childhood Parent Pact, which aims to reduce peer pressure to have a smartphone before age 14 and encourage a balanced approach to technology. Thanks to strong parent engagement, Rhodes Avenue has risen to the top of the leader board among North London schools for the number of parents signed up - highlighting our community's commitment. While the initiative is parent-led, the school actively supports it and is proud of the growing engagement and conversations it has sparked within our community.

This year's highlights include:

- Parent reps at winter and summer fairs, sharing information on feature phone options.
- A full house of parents at the 'Parenting in a Digital Age' talk featuring Kevin Tibble, education technology advisor and lead of digital literacy at King Alfred School.
- Safer screen workshops for Years 5 & 6, encouraging critical thinking about screen use.

If you'd like to learn more about the initiative, please contact Jeyda Star, Rachel Ormsby or Miranda Yau.

Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) workshops

This week Safer Screen presentations were delivered to all children in Years 5 and 6. The workshops were accessed from Smartphone Free Childhood and were led by Joanie Adler. These sessions gave children the opportunity to explore the impact of the internet on their lives. Aligned with our Ourselves and Others curriculum, they encouraged meaningful discussions about both the positive and negative aspects of online activity. Children gained insights into their digital habits and learnt how to make healthier choices for their well-being. The sessions also explored how persuasive technology influences individuals and society,

offering practical tips for managing screen time and fostering a balanced relationship with technology, all in a fun and interactive way.

Please find a link below to an article on the Smartphone Free Childhood website about why delaying smartphones gives your child secret superpowers. <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/resource/delaying-is-a-superpower>

Social Media

Social media refers to online platforms that enable users to create, share and interact with content, fostering virtual communities and networks. Which of the following are social media platforms?



The answer is, all of the above. The number of social media platforms are increasing. When the school requests that parents do not share media/images of children that parents do not have parental responsibility for we mean all social media, including but not limited to the above. In order to support our safeguarding procedures, we also request that parents do not use social media platforms to update other parents about where classes are if they are supporting an educational visit.

Speakers

Since the last newsletter we have had two speakers come into school to speak to children about their careers.

Creative Technologist, Elite Sher came in to speak to the children about her work around new technologies. Children were very interested in hearing about augmented reality, virtual reality and generative AI.



Explorer, television presenter, and current UK Chief Scout, Dwayne Fields, came in to speak to the children about his work in television and his passion for the wild world, including being the first black Briton to reach the north pole.



Surveys

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible education and school experience for your child, we are inviting you to take part in our Whole School Parent Survey. Your views are important to us and play a key role in shaping our priorities and planning for the future. The survey covers a range of areas including communication, teaching and learning, wellbeing, and school culture. On Monday you will receive the survey link via email. Please do take the time to share your thoughts – your feedback makes a real difference. The survey will close on Monday 21st July 2025. Parents of children on the school's SEN register will receive an additional survey which focuses on SEN only.

Turning Earth

Rosie Sawyer (Subject Leader for Art) writes: As part of Haringey Creates Creative Conversations initiative we have received a £2000 grant to work with Turning Earth pottery studio in Highgate next year. Expert ceramicists from the studio will be coming to Rhodes Avenue to work with students and inviting members of staff to learn skills at their studio in Highgate. They may even be able to help us set up our own kiln! <https://www.turningearth.org/highgate>

Here are just some of the therapeutic and educational benefits of working with clay for children:

- Development of fine motor skills
- Enhanced creativity and sensory development
- Emotional regulation and self-awareness
- Self-expression and self-esteem boosting
- Improved social and communication skills



Year 5 Active Bystander workshops

Aileen Cronin (Ourselves and Others Lead) writes: As part of the Ourselves and Others curriculum, Year 5 have discussed how stereotypes can promote negative feelings and images. Year 5 children were very lucky to have a workshop visit the school in order to discuss gender stereotypes further. The children were involved in conversations regarding the importance of respect and were able to consider a variety of scenarios as well as taking part in role play activities. The scenarios and role play activities

encouraged and supported the children in being able to identify and challenge harmful comments they may hear inside and outside of school regarding stereotypes.

Celebrating Year 4's Brilliant Achievement in the Year 4 Inter-school Maths Competition

This week at Rhodes Avenue, we held a special assembly to celebrate the exceptional achievements of 20 of our Year 4 children who recently took part in an inter-school Maths Competition — and we are delighted to share their fantastic success with you! This was the first team competition we've entered at Year 4, and what an incredible introduction it has been. The competition was rigorous, engaging, and designed to stretch the children's problem-solving and reasoning skills through a series of challenging mathematical puzzles, logic-based questions. This competition wasn't just about numbers — it was about collaboration, communication, and creative thinking. The children had to work together to solve complex problems, stay calm under pressure, and use their individual strengths to support one another. We couldn't be prouder of them all.

With 122 teams entered from across the county, the standard was incredibly high. We were proud to enter five teams into this prestigious event, and the results were outstanding. One of our teams — Julian, Arlan, Mario, and Harith — scored an incredible 149 points out of a possible 199, earning them a Gold Award and placing them 25th overall. They missed out on a place in the Grand Final by just one point, with the qualifying score set at 150 — an extraordinary achievement.

Another of our teams also shone brightly, scoring an impressive 143 points, securing a Silver Award and placing well above the average score of 125. Well done Isaac, Daniel, Irem, and Amaya! These results are a testament not only to the children's mathematical ability, but also to their perseverance, creative thinking, and excellent teamwork under pressure where answers had to be given within a time limit.

A special thank you goes to our Rhodes Avenue families for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for Maths this year. It has been wonderful to see so many parents encouraging their children to embrace mathematical challenges and enter competitions with excitement and confidence. Your engagement has made a real difference in fostering a love of learning and helping the children see Maths as something exciting, meaningful, and fun. We are immensely proud of all 20 children who took part. Their energy, positivity, and commitment truly reflect the spirit of Rhodes Avenue. We can't wait to build on this momentum and look forward to entering even more competitions next year.

Year 6 make a creative exit!

Rosie Sawyer (Subject Leader for Art) writes: We have been lucky to have talented artist Kiran Kaur Brar work with Year 6 on their legacy art project this term. Kiran spoke about her work at a Year 6 assembly where children interviewed Kiran about her career and artwork. A selection of children who submitted outstanding project proposals have been working with Kiran and Rosie on plans for a wider project that will include all year 6 students. We look forward to the unveiling of the Legacy art project at the leavers assembly.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher