



Headteacher's Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

Dates for the diary

Monday 27 th -Friday 31 st October 2025	October half term
Monday 3 rd November 2025	Autumn 2 nd half starts
Wednesday 5 th November 2025	Year 5 Viking workshop
Monday 10 th November 2025	Bookings for Parent Consultation Meetings go live
Monday 10 th November 2025	1MG trip to Woodberry Wetlands
Tuesday 11 th November 2025	1SP trip to Woodberry Wetlands
Monday 17 th November 2025	1LC trip to Woodberry Wetlands
Monday 24 th November 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings
Tuesday 25 th November 2025	Parent Consultation Meetings
Wednesday 26 th November 2025	INSET day
Friday 28 th November 2025	Understanding and Supporting Neurodivergent Children Parent Workshop
Monday 1 st December 2025	The Connected Parent Workshop
Friday 19 th December 2025	End of autumn 2 nd half

Haringey SEN newsletter

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

<https://mailchi.mp/haringey/send-news-oct2025-5755659?e=8837f264a8>



Maths - from curiosity to confidence:



Demi Jeffels (Lead Practitioner for Maths) writes:

This term, we've made an exciting start to the year by celebrating and strengthening our love of Maths across the school. The children have shown wonderful enthusiasm, curiosity, and eagerness to learn as we launched our new 'Mathematician of the Week' award. Each week in assembly, one child from every year group is recognised for their effort, progress, or creative thinking in Maths – and proudly takes the Mathematician of the Week trophy back to their classroom. This celebration will continue throughout the year, helping to keep our pupils motivated, confident, and proud of their achievements in Maths.

Alongside this, we've been boosting maths oracy and mental arithmetic fluency through the introduction of playing cards in every classroom. Each class has received enough packs for children to play one between two, and the excitement has been infectious! Pupils have been learning new games, practising number facts, exploring patterns, and enjoying the buzz of mathematical talk and teamwork.

We'd love parents to keep this enthusiasm going at home too. Talking about Maths in everyday life—counting coins, comparing prices, estimating time, or spotting shapes and patterns—helps children make meaningful connections and see how maths is all around us. Simple card games are a brilliant way to build fluency and confidence together as a family. Children can play with siblings, parents, grandparents, or any family member—it's a fun and easy way to make maths part of everyday life and home learning.

Try games such as 'Make 10' (find pairs that add to 10), 'Multiplication War' (turn over two cards and multiply them—highest product wins), 'Number Snap' (match odd/even, greater/less than, or number patterns), or 'Target 21' (use addition or subtraction to reach a set number). For older children, you can make games trickier by including larger numbers, introducing division or fractions, or setting time challenges to develop speed and accuracy. You could even try creating your own rules—for example, 'Target 100' using mixed operations, or 'Prime Number Challenge' where players race to identify prime numbers from the cards they draw!

As we move through the rest of the year, we're excited to see children continuing to grow in confidence, creativity, and enjoyment of Maths—both in school and at home. Every conversation, every game, and every spark of curiosity helps to build a strong mathematical foundation. For more ideas, tips, and card game suggestions, please visit the [Maths webpage](#) on our school website.

On a separate note, we're excited to announce that Rhodes Avenue will be entering the Primary Maths Challenge (optional competition) for children in Upper Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6) in November and the First Maths Challenge (optional competition) for Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) in June. Information will be emailed about this separately to the parents with children in those year groups. More competitions may be added throughout the year so watch this space.

Outdoor Learning update

You will be aware from the last two newsletters that Outdoor Learning is one of the school's priority areas on our School Development Plan. This was identified as an area the school wanted to focus on at the end of last academic year and we have a development plan with objectives and actions which has been carefully thought out.

Last month the school received communication from a group of parents within school about Outdoor Learning.

The school's latest response to the parent group was as follows: *I want to reassure you that the school is on the same page as you in recognising the value of Outdoor Learning and it is important to us too. This is why Outdoor Learning has been identified as a priority area within this year's School Development Plan. Thank you for your personal suggestion. We will consider this suggestion, your previous communication as well as feedback in last term's Parent Survey as part of our work on this priority area. This will be considered alongside our findings from our own training, research, and involvement from the Outdoor Learning professionals we have sought guidance from as we work through the actions set in our School Development Plan.*

We have already begun working through our action plan. All year groups have been actively looking at their curriculum for purposeful Outdoor Learning links, e.g. Y4 were inspired by the story Leaf Man and children created their own leaf man and recreated scenes from one of the places Leaf Man visited and Year 6 have explored vascular and non-vascular plants as part of their Science topic.

We will keep you updated on the progress we are making in this priority area.



I am aware from several parents that Outdoor Learning has been a topic of great discussion in class Whatsapp groups. Parent Whatsapp groups sit outside of the school's remit and I refer to them now only because increasingly large numbers of you have contacted me about what is being said in them (not only in relation to Outdoor Learning) and how they are making you feel.

We know that parent WhatsApp groups can be a helpful way to share information and support one another. When discussions become unhelpful or upsetting, it can take away from that purpose. In school we encourage children to communicate kindly and to step away from conversations that don't feel positive and to tell one of their 'Give Me 5' adults. If we were talking about Whatsapp groups in school, we would tell children to consider muting notifications, report content to someone or consider leaving the group. I hope the school's update on Outdoor Learning will support all parents in knowing that Outdoor Learning is important to us and that we are actively working on this area. Our school values of Cooperation, Community, Consideration, and Creativity are the 'how?' of how we are working towards our vision for Outdoor Learning.

SEND update

Every mainstream school must have a SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). You may be aware that there is a significant number of vacancies for this position in schools nationally. Following a two-year recruitment process, we are pleased to announce that Rhodes Avenue now has two SENDCOs. Kate McAulay joins Jette Rayner who has been the school's sole SENDCO up to now. Kate is the SENDCO (working days: Monday-Wednesday) for Nursery-Year 1 and Jette is the SENDCO for Years 2-6.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Call for new reps for Reception and Nursery Classes

As we welcome our new Reception and Nursery families, we are looking for parent volunteers to join the successful Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) initiative at Rhodes Avenue. This parent-led initiative, supported by the school, promotes healthy digital habits and encourages families to delay smartphones until age 14 and social media until 16.



Thanks to strong parent engagement, Rhodes Avenue School is now among the leading North London schools in sign-ups to the national SFC Parent Pact – a reflection of our community's shared commitment.

Whilst we are a mobile device free school, we remain focused on supporting children to develop a positive and balanced relationship with technology. We are proud of the growing engagement and positive conversations this initiative has sparked.

If you are a Reception or Nursery parent and would like to get involved or learn more about the initiative, please contact Jeyda Star or Miranda Yau via the school office.

Safer Screen Workshops

We are pleased to be organising a new series of Safer Screen Workshops in collaboration with One Collective Power, for both students and parents.

Following the successful sessions held in the summer term last year, we will again run tailored workshops for Years 4 and 5, aligned with our Ourselves and Others curriculum (our current Year 6 cohort took part in the previous sessions). These will take place in the new year and more information will follow.

Parent Workshops

We are also offering two sessions for parents:

- **The Connected Parent – a virtual session with expert Yael Shahar, Monday 1 December at 7pm** - This practical workshop bridges the gap between theory and action, providing real-world tools to navigate the emotional and digital challenges of modern family life. Topics include managing screen time, addressing peer pressure, and creating a family tech agreement. Parents will leave with simple, effective strategies to reduce conflict, improve communication, and build stronger connections.
- **Understanding and Supporting Neurodiverse Children – with expert Adam Tobias, Friday 28th November at 9.30am** - This insightful session offers a compassionate and practical approach to supporting neurodiverse children in a digital world. It will explore emotional regulation, sensory sensitivities, and executive functioning,

with actionable strategies for building calm routines, advocating in school, and supporting healthy digital habits.

We look forward to sharing more details soon.

Term dates

The term dates for this academic year, 2025-26 and 2026-27 are always available on the school website.

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

Thank you

Thank you so much to the family who donated a book gift voucher to the school. Here is a photo of the books Amanda Chilton (our School Librarian) purchased for the library.



Winter Warmers Christmas Concerts

Annie Ray (Music Subject Leader) writes:

Rhodes Avenue is excited to present our Winter Warmers Christmas Concerts, where each year group will share their own special performance to celebrate the festive season. The dates and times of each concert are as follows:

Reception	Thursday 4 th December 2025	9.30am (Witham Hall)
Woodpecker nursery	Monday 15 th December 2025	9.30am (Woodpecker Classroom – access from the Woodpecker gate only)
Hedgehog Nursery	Monday 15 th December 2025	2.15pm (Hedgehog Classroom – access from the Rhodes Avenue entrance only)
Year 1	Tuesday 16 th December 2025	9.15am (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)
Year 4	Tuesday 16 th December 2025	2.30pm (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)
Year 2	Wednesday 17 th December 2025	9.15am (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)
Year 6	Wednesday 17 th December 2025	2.30pm (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)
Year 5	Thursday 18 th December 2025	9.15am (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)
Year 3	Thursday 18 th December 2025	2.30pm (Witham Hall – access from office gate entrance only)

We are looking forward to coming together as a school community to celebrate our children's creativity, enthusiasm and festive spirit. I will shortly be sharing details of events which will be led by our Junior Choir, including the Singing Festival at Alexandra Palace and Carol Singing.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher