



Headteacher's Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Dates for the diary

Friday 19 th December 2025	End of autumn 2 – Normal school day finish
Monday 5 th January 2026	INSET day
Tuesday 6 th January 2026	Spring term (1 st half) starts
Friday 16 th January 2026	4FH Class Assembly
Friday 23 rd January 2026	4EG Class Assembly
Friday 30 th January 2026	4MS Class Assembly
Friday 6 th February 2026	5AJ Class Assembly
Friday 13 th February 2026	5MS Class Assembly
Friday 6 th March 2026	5AR Class Assembly

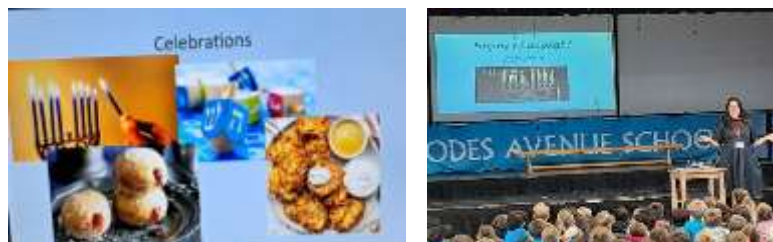
Term dates

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/>

Chanukah

Last week we had assemblies in school about Chanukah, also known as the Festival of Lights. Parent and Eden Primary School Assistant Headteacher, Laura Profitt, led the assemblies. She explained the traditions that take place during Chanukah and how Jewish families celebrate today.



Choir

Annie Ray (Music Subject Leader) writes:

On Wednesday 10th December, our wonderful Rhodes Avenue Junior Choir joined other local schools to perform in the Haringey Christmas Singing Festival at Alexandra Palace. The children gave a beautiful rendition of Home To You This Christmas, filling Ally Pally's East Court with sounds of the festive season. A huge well done to our dedicated choir members and a big thank you to all the parents and carers who came to support us.



At the beginning and end of this week they also performed Christmas songs for those of you who were picking children up. This was a lovely start and finish to our last week before the holidays.

We are looking forward to sharing more of our music making in 2026! Next term I will be starting work on the school's Infant Choir.



Christmas Dinner

Last week staff and children dressed up in their Christmas Jumpers to enjoy a Christmas dinner together. Our Chef Managers, Maria and Carmen, did an amazing job.



Haringey SEN newsletter

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

[SEND Newsletter: Strategy consultation now open, plus resources & winter activities](#)



Leaver

We say a fond farewell this term to Amanda Chilton, our school librarian, who will be leaving Rhodes Avenue. Amanda has worked at Rhodes Avenue for over 17 years. During her time with us, she has made an exceptional contribution to the life of the school, developing a library that has fostered a genuine love of reading across school. Through her dedication, creativity and commitment to our pupils, the library has become a welcoming, inspiring space at the heart of our school. We thank her sincerely for all she has given to the Rhodes Avenue community.

Outdoor Learning

Meghan Grove (Outdoor Learning Leader) writes:

Winter can be a magical time to be outside with so many changes in the weather and natural environment. This year, we are encouraging everyone at Rhodes Avenue to wrap up warm and enjoy some outdoor adventures together. Here are a few ideas of activities which you might like to do with your children during the holidays:

Winter Scavenger Hunt – Make a list at home and bring it on a walk, e.g. ✓ Something red, ✓ A pinecone, ✓ Two different kinds of leaves, ✓ A bird singing, ✓ Animal footprints and ✓ Something only found in Winter.

Winter Bingo – Make or draw bingo cards with winter sights—bird, bare tree, puddle, cloud type, frost, dog walker, etc... and take them on a walk with you. Who will find all of theirs first?

Adopt a Tree – Choose a tree in your local area and visit it regularly over the year to observe changes in its bark, branches, shape and the wildlife it supports.

Winter Photography Challenge – Encourage children to take photos of winter colours, interesting textures, patterns in nature or anything that catches their eye.

Stick & Nature Art - Create mandalas or sculptures using sticks, pinecones, rocks, and leaves. Photograph them before leaving.

Parent Gym

As previously mentioned, the school has secured the ParentGym parenting programme again this academic year which will take place in the Spring term. The Parent Gym programme is a programme made up of six two-hour sessions with missions to complete between sessions. The programme has been designed by psychologists, drawing on parenting research. Sessions are designed to be highly interactive and

participative. The programme is limited to twenty parents and will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis. The sessions will take place on Tuesday mornings starting at 9am, take place in the Music Room and you must commit to attending them all. If you would like to reserve your space on the ParentGym programme please email the school office. You will be emailed confirmation should you be one of the first 20 parents who email.

Dates:

27/1/2025 Taster session

27/1/2025 Session 1 – Chat

3/2/2025 Session 2 – Love

10/2/2025 Session 3 – Behave

24/2/2025 Session 4 – Care

3/3/2025 Session 5 – Discover

10/3/2025 Session 6 - Together

For further information about the programme please click on the link below:

<https://parentgym.com/>

Primary Maths Challenge

Demi Jeffels (Lead Practitioner for Maths) writes:



It's been a wonderfully joyful month in the world of Maths at Rhodes Avenue! One of my favourite parts of leading Maths is seeing just how much excitement and curiosity numbers, puzzles and patterns can spark in our children's everyday lives. Maths really is everywhere, and when we look for it, it has a brilliant way of spreading joy.

In November Rhodes Avenue Primary School took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, a national competition created and run by The Mathematical Association. Aimed at stretching children's reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking, the challenge gives pupils the chance to tackle questions that are fun, surprising and different from their usual classroom maths.

This was only our second year entering—and what a turnout we had! A fantastic 96 children put themselves forward, even more than last year, and it was wonderful to see such confidence and enthusiasm. Although the quiz was certainly challenging, it was filled with plenty of those playful “Wait... I've figured it out!” moments that make problem-solving so irresistible. As Maths Lead, I couldn't have been prouder watching children discover just how exciting a maths challenge can be and I thank you as parents for welcoming and embracing these opportunities.

We are currently awaiting confirmation from The Mathematical Association regarding whether any of our pupils have qualified for the Bonus Round (last year we had four children who were invited back due to their high ranking scores). The anticipation is high—lots of children have stopped me around school to ask eagerly whether the results have arrived!

Maths can be exciting at any time of the year, but with the Christmas festive season now in full swing—and many children enjoying the daily surprise of opening advent calendars—I thought I'd keep the buzz of Maths going and share some maths-themed advent challenges that families may enjoy exploring at home. Below is a selection of maths advent calendars for children who love a puzzle (and grown-ups who enjoy problem-solving alongside them!):

1. NRICH Primary Advent Calendar

Daily December puzzles encouraging reasoning and creative problem-solving.

<https://nrich.maths.org/advent-calendar-2025-primary>

2. NRICH Secondary Advent Calendar

Great for confident Year 6 pupils and older siblings.

<https://nrich.maths.org/advent-calendar-2025-secondary>

3. Maths Eyes Advent Calendar

Encourages children to 'Spot the Maths' in everyday life.

<https://www.mathsweek.ie/2025/00resources/advent-maths-calendar-2025/>

4. Transum Maths Advent Calendar

One puzzle per day with interactive features.

<https://www.transum.org/ChristMaths/Advent.asp>

5. White Rose Maths – Advent/Jigsaw Puzzles

Festive problem-solving sheets suitable for KS1 & KS2.

<https://connect.whiteroseeducation.com/advent>

Reading Challenge

This term's Reading Challenge has now finished. There has been a real reading buzz in the air. In total, over 70 children completed the challenge with many more reading at least one book from it. The top 3 books from each list as voted for by the children are:

Magenta: Joint 1st - Snails of the Unexpected and Pia's Pet Club / Joint 3rd - The Twits and Leonora Bolt

Scarlet: 1st - Diary of a Future Billionaire / 2nd - Asha and the Spirit Bird / 3rd - The Great Fox Illusion

Crimson: 1st: Escape Room / 2nd: Wildlands / 3rd: Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer

Ruby: 1st - The Final Year / 2nd: My Dog / 3rd: Code Name Kingfisher



Winter Warmer Christmas Shows

It has been a busy season in school over the last fortnight.

Our Nursery children starred in their individual nursery class shows which were held in their classrooms. They played bells during Jingle Bells, wiggled their fingers during Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, trotted like Rudolph and shone like the stars they are in their first Rhodes Avenue performance.

Our Reception children delighted us all with their wonderful year group Christmas show last week. Their enthusiasm shone through every song and dance, filling the hall with smiles and proud applause. Well done to Reception for their first show in Witham Hall.

This year saw each year group in Years 1-6 join as one to perform together for the first time. Creativity is one of our school values and we had six totally different entertaining shows. Audiences enjoyed performances filled with festive performances (or as Year 6 said – a Mashup!).

Well done to all our young performers who performed well with their parallel classes, the staff who supported them and the family and friends who came to show their support. A special thank you to Annie

Ray (our new Music Subject Leader) and Dan Shafran (our Specialist Music Teacher) who worked with all the teams in school with these shows.

Smartphone Free Childhood

As promised, please find the links to the recent online sessions organised for parents.

- The Connected Parent (Practical Tools for Parenting in the Digital Age) – with expert Yael Shahar - 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. <https://vimeo.com/1145636718/1ef64543fa?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>
- Understanding and Supporting Neurodiverse Children – with expert Adam Tobias - 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. <https://vimeo.com/1145920613/801077bb9d?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Year 3 trip to St James Muswell Hill

Year 3 visited St James Church as part of their Religious Education learning on Christianity and the meaning of Christmas. Children engaged thoughtfully in an interactive role play that explored the Nativity story.



Year 6 trip to Palmers Green Mosque

Year 6 visited Palmers Green Mosque as part of their Religious Education learning on Islam. They learnt about the five pillars of Islam.



As we reach the end of term, I would like to wish all those who are celebrating a very happy festive season. For everyone, I hope the coming break brings time to rest, reflect and enjoy being with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support this term, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed in the new year.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher

Message from RAPSA

It's been a fantastic start to the academic year for the school community, with the PSA putting on events large and small including our Welly Swap Wednesday and Halloween Bake Sale and Dress Up Day, followed by the absolutely amazing successes of the Winter Festival and our annual Raffle.

The revamped Winter Festival (brainchild of one of our most brilliant parents) was our biggest and best ever, with children across the whole school enjoying a range of fun activities. The teachers (and TAs) got stuck in as part of the inaugural Teachers Have Gone Christmas Crackers campaign, and the Winter Raffle had more prizes and raised more money than ever before. Amongst all this fun, Santa managed to pop to the school and bring some festive joy to children up to Year 2. And gratefulness and joy was spread around the school staff with our Message on Bauble campaign (think Sting and the Police as you say it to yourself).

The support of the school community has been exceptional, whether that's supporting us financially or volunteering time to make our events possible. A huge thank you to each and every one of you.

Fundraising is only part of our purpose, but it's been a really successful period. Since the start of September, we've raised a whopping £19,600. That's huge and puts us in a fantastic position to meet (and exceed) our two year fundraising target.

As a PSA Committee, our dual purpose is to foster and support our thriving school community to be as lovely and as cohesive as possible, and to raise money to support projects around the school that can't be easily funded from the state funding it receives. Some more details are here for those who'd like to know more:
<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/rapsa/>.

If anyone has any questions about our purpose, our work or suggestions for how we could do things better/differently please email on rapsa@hotmail.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you at some of the events we've got planned for the New Year, including a Quiz Night, the annual Jumble Sale, some outdoor movie nights and our Flagship Summer Festival (which will be getting a full glow up this year).

Thanks again and have a great festive break. See you in 2026!

Tom and the PSA Committee

