



Headteacher's Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 20 th January 2026	ParentGym taster session
Wednesday 21 st January 2026	Coffee morning – starting to understand anxiety
Friday 23 rd January 2026	4EG Class Assembly
Tuesday 27 th January 2026	ParentGym Week 1 Chat
Friday 30 th January 2026	4MS Class Assembly
Monday 2 nd February 2026	2AC trip to Guildhall Art Gallery
Tuesday 3 rd February 2026	ParentGym Week 2 Love
Tuesday 3 rd February 2026	2CN trip to Guildhall Art Gallery
Wednesday 4 th February 2026	2BD trip to Guildhall Art Gallery
Friday 6 th February 2026	5AJ Class Assembly
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	ParentGym Week 3 Behave
Wednesday 11 th February 2026	Parent Consultation bookings go live
Friday 13 th February 2026	5MS Class Assembly
Tuesday 24 th February 2026	ParentGym Week 4 Care
Tuesday 3 rd March 2026	ParentGym Week 5 Discover
Friday 6 th March 2026	5AR Class Assembly
Tuesday 10 th March 2026	ParentGym Week 6 Together
Friday 13 th March 2026	3EB Class Assembly
Friday 20 th March 2026	3AG Class Assembly
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 27 th March 2026	3JN Class Assembly

Back to school

The start of the spring term has been a real pleasure. It has been wonderful to see the children return with such positive attitudes, settling quickly back into their routines and classrooms. There is already a calm, purposeful atmosphere around the school, and the children have shown enthusiasm, kindness, and readiness to learn. It has been a very encouraging beginning to the term. Staff and children also undertook an unplanned fire safety evacuation which was completed swiftly. Here are some examples of the learning experiences that have taken place in school.

Kirsty Spittle (Reception Year Group Leader) writes:



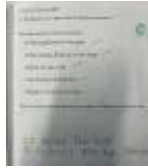
It has been wonderful welcoming the Reception children back into school. We have introduced our core text 'Emily Brown and the Thing' by Cressida Cowell. It is a magical story about overcoming fear and going on adventures. The children have been making their own 'things' in our school Spinney, re-telling the narrative and have been learning new vocabulary. The children have also been enjoying their daily 'Mastering Number' sessions. We have been focusing on 'whole' and 'part' numbers by printing. You might also hear our Reception children singing new songs that they have learnt with Annie Ray (Subject Leader for Music) during their weekly singing assembly. We are looking forward to another action packed half-term of fun, creativity and learning.



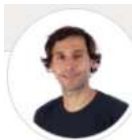
Sophie Papworth (Year 1 Year Group Leader) writes:



Year 1 are settling back into the class routines. We have enjoyed our Maths and English learning with a mixture of outdoor continuous provision, carpet learning and book work. Throughout the week, the children work with their class teacher as well as work independently. All children have a lesson where they can self select activities to support and consolidate their learning.



Joseph Nutch (Year 3 Year Group Leader) writes:



As part of their Ancient Greece learning, Year 3 have been researching and sketching Ancient Greek pottery, exploring common shapes, patterns and symbols. Using their designs, the children will go on to make their own clay pots with air-dry clay, developing skills in shaping, joining and decoration while linking their learning to our History topic.



Elaine Gambin (Year 4 Year Group Leader) writes:



Year 4 have been very busy since the start of the new half term, enjoying a range of exciting new topics. In Geography, we have begun our unit 'Africa is Not a Country', where pupils explored what they already know about Africa and discussed common misconceptions versus facts. In Science, we have started learning about sound by going on a sound walk in our school Spinney, identifying natural and human-made sounds and observing which were louder or more distant. We also investigated how sound is made through vibrations and explored which state of matter sound travels through best, concluding that sound travels best through solids after making string telephone cups. In Design and Technology, we have been tasting a variety of curries in preparation for creating our own! We are also very excited to be preparing for our class assemblies taking place later this month.



Clothing

A reminder that children should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather each day, including bringing a waterproof coat and a full PE kit on PE days. We aim to be outdoors whenever possible, and suitable clothing helps ensure that all children remain comfortable and ready to learn, whatever the weather. We would also appreciate all coats and items of clothing being clearly labelled to help them find their way back to their owners.

In The Know

Catriona Donnellan (Subject Leader for Science) writes:



This academic year Rhodes Avenue is proud to be taking part in the 'In the Know' programme, which aims to establish a strong culture of waste prevention within primary schools. The programme works closely with school staff and North London borough officers to strengthen sustainability education and to improve how we communicate about, manage, and recycle our waste. Following an initial audit of our school's waste in September, I shared the results with infants and juniors in assemblies and discussed practical ways we can all reduce waste in school, encouraging pupils to take small but meaningful actions to make a positive difference. <https://www.nlwa.gov.uk/InTheKnow>



Haringey SEN newsletter



Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (January 2026 edition):
[SEND Newsletter: Last chance to share your views, ADHD and online safety workshops and more](#)

EBSA Parents' Conference 2026 – message from Haringey SEND Service

Haringey SEND Service are organising a conference in the summer for parents of children who are out of school for emotional or mental health reasons. What kind of conference would be most useful - online or in person? And what topics would you like to see discussed? Let us know here:
<https://forms.office.com/e/YsRhiKwNWX?origin=IprLink>



Coffee morning – Starting to understand anxiety

COFFEE MORNING

Introduction to Haringey GEMHS and starting to understand anxiety

Haringey GEMHS are the Mental Health Support Team in the borough. They will be starting work in Rhodes Avenue this term. Come and meet the practitioner and find out what they offer.

They will also be presenting on the topic of ANXIETY. Topics will include:

- Understanding what is anxiety
- Exploring why a child might experience anxiety
- Exploring what people at home can do to help

Wednesday 21st January 2026
9:00-10:00

Please email the school office by Monday 19th January if you are interested in attending.

INSET day

Inset days are busy and purposeful days of learning for school staff. They provide dedicated time for training, professional development and collaborative planning, ensuring that staff continue to develop their skills and knowledge.



During last week's INSET day, all staff received training on Martyn's Law (the Protect Duty). This new legislation is designed to strengthen safety in public places, including schools, by encouraging sensible and proportionate planning and awareness. For our school, this builds on the strong safeguarding practices already in place and helps ensure that staff feel confident and prepared, while maintaining the calm, welcoming environment our children need to thrive. As a school, we are required to follow this law, and you may have noticed small changes to routines or procedures as a result. These adjustments are not intended to create distance between home and school, but to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children.

Staff also completed Racial Literacy training that equips staff with skills to identify and disrupt unconscious bias, understand diverse cultures, and build a more inclusive environment to improve outcomes for minority ethnic pupils.

Staff also received allergy and anaphylaxis training along side health and safety training.

As part of our work with local schools, teachers visited partner schools to share expertise around the teaching and assessment of writing. Writing is a key focus across the network, and these visits allowed staff to compare approaches, moderate standards and reflect on how we can continue to strengthen the teaching of and assessment of writing to best support pupils' progress.

Network Learning Community

Did you know that Rhodes Avenue does not work alone? Rhodes Avenue, together with the following schools, is part of the Highgate and Muswell Hill Network Learning Community:

Alexandra Park School, Blanche Nevile School for Deaf Children, Coldfall Primary School, Eden Primary School, Fortismere Secondary School, Highgate Primary School, Muswell Hill Primary School, Our Lady of Muswell Hill Primary School, Rhodes Avenue Primary School, St James CofE Primary School, St Michael's CofE Primary N6 and Tetherdown Primary School.

We are part of a cluster of local schools in Haringey which collaborate to improve education, share resources, offer joint staff development, peer support through joint activities like subject-specific networks or focused improvement areas, fostering collective growth and tackling shared challenges in a high-support, high-challenge environment. We lead together on shared priorities, such as curriculum, pedagogy and leadership.

We actively engage in peer evaluation to prevent insularity and drive improvement. Our collaboration enables us to be more innovative and effective than working alone. We continuously learn from each other and work together to enhance outcomes for all of our children.

2024-2028 Priorities

- To refine the teaching of Writing to improve outcomes across the Network Learning Community (specifically for boys and Disadvantaged learners).
- To become a Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) community – supporting parents and carers to raise their children with positive self-confidence, good mental health, healthy, equitable relationships and friendships.
- To enhance provision for children with additional needs (children with EHCPs, children on SEN support and those with additional needs) across our community.
- To work collaboratively to find ways to reduce the financial impact on resources across the Network Learning Community.

Online Safety and radicalisation awareness sessions for parents

As part of Safer Internet Day in February, Haringey have organised sessions for parents on understanding how online radicalisation happens and to keep children safe. Key topics include: How extremist content and harmful narratives spread online; Warning signs and early indicators of risk; Digital boundaries, parental controls, and healthy online habits; Supporting vulnerable people with confidence; Having open conversations about online harms; and When and where to seek further support.

There are 3 sessions for parents being delivered during the same week, which are open to any parents that want to attend them. Parents must book onto the session they would like to attend.



Outdoor Learning staff training



You will know that developing our Outdoor Learning provision continues to be a key priority for the school. Over the coming weeks, Year 4-6 parents will receive communication about upcoming Outdoor Learning training sessions that will involve all of the classes in Years 4-6. Training sessions will take place in the school Spinney, be led by Ivana Grant (our Outdoor Learning Teacher) and will train and support teaching staff in developing high-quality outdoor learning

experiences for children. Please look out for this communication and make sure your child is prepared for their designated sessions.

Parent Gym



We currently have spaces on the ParentGym parenting programme which is due to start in school. 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 shortly should you be one of the first 20 parents who email. For further information about the programme please click on the link below:

<https://parentgym.com/>

Dates:

20/1/2025 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

Rhodes Avenue road safety

The school has received a number of concerns from local residents and parents regarding unsafe parking and driving at drop-off and pick-up times. These include blocking driveways, double parking, idling, dropping off children in the middle of the road, carrying out three-point turns in the road, parking on the double yellow lines, parking on the school Keep Clear markings as well as using the service road leading to Alexandra Park Secondary School and our staff car park. Earlier this week there was a near miss, which could have had serious consequences. Photo evidence submitted to the school confirms that those involved in concerns reported are parents from our school community. We ask all families to show consideration for residents, pedestrians and other road users, and to park legally and safely at all times in order to protect the children. When we park and drive with consideration and cooperation, we protect our community and show creativity in finding safe solutions.

Term dates

The term dates for this academic year, 2025-26 and 2026-27 are always available on the school website. Holidays during term date will not be authorised. <https://rhodesavenue.school/news-events/diary-dates/>

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher