



Headteacher's Newsletter

Tuesday 24th March 2026

Dates for the diary

Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Parent Consultation Meetings
Thursday 26 th March 2026	Parent Consultation Meetings
Friday 27 th March 2026	3JN Class Assembly
Friday 27 th March 2026	End of spring term – normal school day finish
Thursday 16 th April 2026	Year 5 trip to Bank of England - Class 1
Friday 17 th April 2026	Year 2 International Day
Monday 20 th April	Smartphone Free Childhood Safer Screen workshops for Year 4 + 5
Tuesday 21 st April 2026	Year 3 trip to the temple
Wednesday 22 nd April 2026	Year 5 trip to Bank of England - Class 2
Friday 24 th April 2026	2AC Class Assembly
Wednesday 29 th April 2026	Year 5 trip to Bank of England - Class 3
Friday 1 st May 2026	2BD Class Assembly
Friday 8 th May 2026	2CN Class Assembly
Monday 11 th May 2026	Year 5 trip to Pendarren
Monday 11 th May 2026	Year 6 SATs week starts
Friday 15 th May 2026	Year 6 Picnic
Friday 22 nd May 2026	Year 6 trip to Plexal

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/>

Parent consultation meetings

A reminder that the face-to-face spring term meetings will be taking place this week on Wednesday 25th March and Thursday 26th March. These meetings will be in your child's classroom and are 10 minutes per appointment. Unfortunately, there are no other dates/times where teachers will be leading Parent Consultation meetings.

Author visits

Sophie Papworth (Reading for Pleasure Lead) writes:

Mayo Agard-Olubo came to talk to EYFS and KS1 children and started by helping us say his name - my yo! He told children all about his inspiration for his new book and read the story to us. He then helped the children design their own superhero. Rhodes Avenue children are very lucky as his book is not actually published yet so he signed preview copies and the children were very excited to hear all about Kid Rex and his adventures.



Karen McCombie came to talk to Years 5 and 6 about how she became an author, where she gets her inspiration from and how she does her research. She went on to talk about her new book; 'My Family The Enemy'. Children learnt so much about the history of Alexandra Palace and the local area during the First World War.

Entry to Witham Hall

A reminder to all parents regarding assemblies/performances in Witham Hall: in order to support our safeguarding procedures, we ask that you wait in a line outside the hall door until a member of staff opens the doors and lets parents in at the same time. The door to be used is the fire exit door which needs to be accessed via the school office gate. This helps us ensure that all visitors enter the building safely and that our children remain secure at all times.

Emel Ali

As we approach the end of term, we say a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Emel Ali (Assistant Headteacher), who is retiring after nearly 24 years of dedicated service to our school. Emel joined Rhodes Avenue as a class teacher in 2002 having also trained as a student teacher the year before. Emel has worn many different hats whilst at Rhodes Avenue, including being a class teacher, Year Group Leader, Designated Safeguarding Lead, PE Subject Leader and Assessment Lead being just a few of her roles prior to taking up her Assistant Headteacher role. We are incredibly grateful for all she has given and wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement.



Button Batteries

There have been a few incidents in school of children coming to school with button batteries. Please see the information below regarding the dangers of button batteries and what to do if you think your child has swallowed one.



Extra-curricular clubs

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular clubs at our school where children can enjoy a range of creative, artistic and sporting activities. Some of these clubs are run by our own school staff and others by external providers. If you have any questions about a specific club, please contact either the school office if they are run by the school (School-led) or the club provider directly if they are run by an external provider (External Provider). You can see our extra-curricular club offer and who runs them by visiting the Extra-curricular club webpage (link below). We are constantly looking on expanding our offer, e.g. Spinney Club (External Provider) for Years 5 + 6 will be starting next term as well as Cricket (External Provider) for Years 3-6.

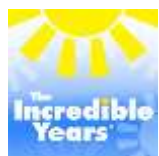
<https://rhodesavenue.school/parents/extra-curricular-clubs/>

French Institute trip

For those parents who do not have junior children at Rhodes Avenue, our school language is French. This half term a group of junior children enjoyed a visit organised by Samantha Gape (Specialist French Teacher) to the French Institute/Institut Francais which encourages cross-cultural exchange and presents the best of French culture. They enjoyed an adaptation of Haut Les Pattes!



Incredible Years Parenting Programme



Haringey Educational Psychology Service will be running an Incredible Years (Webster-Stratton) parenting programme for parents finding their child's behaviour challenging. This programme is particularly targeting parents of children with a neurodivergent/ADHD profile. They welcome families with children on the autistic spectrum and will adapt sessions to families' needs but is not specifically targeting parents with Autism. Please see the link below for further information about the parenting programme. If you would like to attend this programme please email the school office and a member of staff will be in contact in order to make a referral for you.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Flyer-Webster-Stratton-Summer-2026.docx>

Schools White Paper and SEND Reform

You may have heard reference in the news to the recent education White Paper. A White Paper is a government document that sets out proposed changes and priorities for the future of education, often inviting feedback



before decisions are finalised. It is an important opportunity for schools, families, and communities to help shape national policy. We strongly encourage parents to take part in the consultation process. Your views and experiences are invaluable in ensuring that the voices of our community are heard and reflected in future decisions that will impact our children’s education.

You can access the latest Schools White Paper and share your views by clicking:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving>
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10570/CBP-10570.pdf>

You may have also heard reference in the news to the recent SEND Reform. The SEND Reform is proposing changes to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. You can see the proposals and share your views by clicking:
<https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-strategy-division/send-reform-putting-children-and-young-people-firs/>



Haringey SEN newsletter

Please find below the link to Haringey’s SEND Newsletter (February 2026 edition):
<https://us2.campaign-archive.com/?u=d154b1b068c54fa3558c3cb26&id=822ac1b38c>



Using Visuals at Home workshop

Understanding Autism workshop

Holi Festival

Last Friday saw us celebrate our fifth Holi Festival at Rhodes Avenue. Each year this event becomes more and more popular and this year saw 275 children booked onto the event. A special thank you to parent Rupri Shepherd who supported the school in organising the festival and to the parent volunteers and staff who supported the running of the event. Over £1600 was raised for the school from the event.



Learning across the school

Children have been very busy and focussed with their learning this half term. Here is a snapshot of some of the learning across the school.

Kirsty Spittle (Reception Year Group Leader) writes:

Reception children have been enjoying their learning outdoors this half term. One of our core texts has been ‘Yucky Worms’ by Vivian French. The children have been learning how amazing these wriggly creatures really are. They have learnt how the humble earthworm plays a



significant role in the environment. They have learnt facts, looked at non-fiction books and explored new vocabulary. Their favourite part has been looking for worms in the Spinney. The children have learnt how important it is to be careful and respectful when observing worms. They have also been on 'red word' (non-decodable words) hunts and made repeating patterns outdoors using natural resources. We have also begun teaching 'Friendship Terrace.' This an educational resource that has ten stories designed to develop children's social skills. Each story focuses on one character who finds it difficult to relate to and interact with others. By reflecting on events, the characters learn and practice positive friendship skills. We have observed the children talking about the characters in their play and we can see it is having a positive impact on their interactions.



Sophie Papworth (Year 1 Year Group Leader) writes:

One of Year 1's highlights this half term was the fantastic time they had on their educational visit to Tower of London. We were able to see all the features of a castle we have been learning about as well as the crown jewels. We then met Sir Thomas who taught us all about life in a castle in medieval times and trained us all to be pages and knights. Well done Year 1 for a great Spring term filled with great learning and we look forward to Summer term with class assembly fun and lots more learning.

Aileen Cronin (Year 2 Year Group Leader) writes:

Year 2 have had a busy half term. As part of their Religious Education learning, they visited St Peter's Church, Muswell Hill. The visit involved an 'Easter Experience' workshop which consolidated the learning they had been doing all about the Christian celebration of Easter. We have also been doing a very exciting Design and Technology project. The children will be designing and making their own sandwiches. As part of their market research, the children got to taste test some existing products before making a final choice on the design and ingredients for their own sandwich. The children will be making a healthy balanced sandwich.



Joseph Noutch (Year 3 Year Group Leader) write:

Year 3 have had an engaging half term centred on our Ancient Greece topic. The children took part in an immersive Ancient Greek Day, exploring daily life through practical activities including mosaics, pottery, traditional games and medicine-making, before performing and celebrating their learning. We also marked World Book Day by reading with our Year 6 buddies, fostering a shared love of reading. In Science, children have begun learning about forces and magnets, carrying out investigations into how surfaces affect movement and exploring magnetic attraction and repulsion.



Catriona Donnellan (Year 6 Year Group Leader) writes:

Year 6 have had a busy and productive half term, working hard as they prepare for their SATs in May but also finding time for fun and creativity! They have continued exploring their topic on the United States of America, where they particularly enjoyed planning and researching their own driving trips across the country. Year 6 children also spent an afternoon learning outdoors in the Spinney, where they discovered and classified a variety of invertebrates. In Design and Technology, they have been busy designing and making their own soft toys, showing impressive creativity and sewing skills. Well done, Year 6, on another enjoyable and successful half term!



Maths World trip

This half term a group of junior children enjoyed a visit organised by Demi Jeffels (Lead Practitioner for Maths) to the recently opened Maths World, where learning comes alive through interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for children to explore mathematical concepts in a fun and engaging way, from problem-



solving challenges to real-world applications. I had the pleasure of supporting this trip and It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and curiosity of our children as they tackled new challenges and worked together to solve problems.

OFSTED



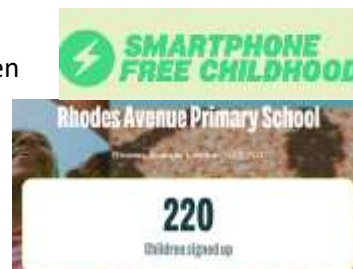
Last week parents were emailed the school's OFSTED report following our inspection last month. We were pleased that the inspectors' judgments matched the school's self-evaluation judgments and that we were graded at the Strong standard in all areas. Thank you to all of you who gave the inspection team your views by completing their survey.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/102128>

Smartphone Free Childhood

Next term children in Years 4 + 5 will be taking part in Safer Screen Workshops. Children will explore how the internet and screen use influence their everyday lives. Children will explore how they spend their time online and are supported to make informed choices that promote their wellbeing. The workshops also examine how persuasive technology shapes behaviour, helping children develop healthier digital habits. Please find below the link to Smartphone Free Childhood's website.

<https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>



Sharing practice with others

This half term Specialist Art Teacher (Rosie Sawyer) and myself led a training day at Rhodes Avenue for 26 trainee teachers from the 2Schools Consortium teacher training provider. Our training day focused on teaching trainees about both the Art and Design & Technology curriculums and what effective practice in the teaching of these subjects is. Sharing practice with others is important for us as a school and is line with our OFSTED next step of driving transformational impact for all pupils, not just those at Rhodes Avenue.



RAPSA – message from Tom and the RAPSA team

RAPSA have put on two great events this Spring term, engaging parents and the community in some good old-fashioned fun, whilst also raising money for the school.

A new look quiz took place on Friday 6 February, with 140 parents taking part in an epic battle of wits, general knowledge and - bizarrely - teabag throwing! Who knew so much fun could be had in Witham Hall on a cold Friday evening! Thanks to generous sponsorship from local building firm Portico, sold out ticketing and a busy bar, the event raised just over £3,500.



Our annual Jumble Sale took place on Sunday 8th March. It's almost impossible to thank enough the huge effort put in by the committee and our army of parent volunteers, whose time (on Friday, Saturday and Sunday), dedication and great humour helped us raise almost £3,100. We were also able to donate masses of left over stock to a local school in an under-privileged Tottenham and various other charities, meaning none of your amazing clothes, toys, books or bric-a-brac donations went to waste. Extra special thanks must go to Jackie for her tireless help in setting up and clearing away, and to Year 4 parent Alex and his son Artem whose amazing espresso skills provided attendees with coffee shop quality lattes, cappuccinos and more from our very own canteen hatch!



What's Next? Attention now turns to prep for the Summer Fair on Sunday 21 June (at which I this time guarantee Whippy Ice Cream!) and to opening our online giving campaign for this year. We're also in the process of updating our website and will share some more information when we do so about what we're hoping to raise money for going forward.



Thanks, as ever, for your amazing support.



World Book Day



Earlier this month, our school celebrated World Book Day with a host of exciting activities that brought stories to life! Children and staff alike enjoyed dressing up as their favourite characters, sharing their favourite books, and taking part in creative reading challenges across the school. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and imagination on display, as well as the joy of coming together to celebrate a love of reading. Can you guess the book characters staff dressed up as?

Unacceptable parent behaviour

I would like to address an issue that arose last week following the passing of the deadline for booking children onto the Holi Festival. A very small minority of parents communicated with members of staff in a manner that was unacceptable, both over the telephone and in person. Every single one of these parents had missed the deadline for booking tickets.

One parent confronted staff in the main office, raising their voice and demanding their child be allowed to attend despite the parent not having bought a ticket. Another parent shouted at a member of staff over the phone and claimed it wasn't their fault they missed the deadline as they don't have time to read school emails. Parents approached members of staff at the school gates and accused them of discrimination, of making their children cry, harming the wellbeing of their children, not sending enough reminders out and of sending too many reminders out. Another parent threatened to make a complaint.

While we understand that situations can sometimes feel frustrating, it is essential that all communication with our staff remains respectful and courteous at all times. Other public sector workplaces including the NHS and TFL operate a zero tolerance approach to violence and abuse, including verbal abuse, threats, and aggressive behaviour. It is sad that we have to point out that Rhodes Avenue staff also have the right to do their jobs without fear of being abused or threatened. I have apologised to all the staff who were treated poorly last week by this small minority of parents.

Last September we shared our updated Pupil Parent School Agreement. I would like to remind this very small minority of parents of point 8 within the Parent section which states: 'Treat all school staff with respect and recognise their role as educators, being mindful about what is the responsibility of the school and what is the responsibility of the parent.'

I want to emphasise that this behaviour was limited to a small number of individuals and does not reflect the overwhelmingly positive and supportive relationships we value with our parent community.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher