



Headteacher's Newsletter

Friday 10th July 2026

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Open Classroom
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Junior Choir at Singing Festival
Tuesday 14 th July 2026	Boyband Concert
Friday 17 th July 2026	End of Summer 2nd half term – normal school finish times
Friday 17 th July 2026	Year 6 Leavers' assembly
Monday 20 th July 2026	INSET day – school closed to children
Wednesday 2 nd September 2026	INSET day – school closed to children
Thursday 3 rd September 2026	INSET day – school closed to children
Friday 4 th September 2026	INSET day – school closed to children
Monday 7 th September 2026	Autumn term starts
Friday 11 th September 2026	Year 6 Curriculum Meeting for Parents
Monday 14 th September 2026	Year 5 Curriculum Meeting for Parents
Tuesday 15 th September 2026	Year 1 Curriculum Meeting for Parents
Wednesday 16 th September 2026	Year 2 Curriculum Meeting for Parents
Thursday 17 th September 2026	Year 3 Curriculum Meeting for Parents
Friday 18 th September 2026	Year 4 Curriculum Meeting for Parents



Assistant Headteacher recruitment

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed a new Assistant Headteacher who will be starting at Rhodes Avenue in September. Kayleigh Meek will be teaching in Year 2 and will be leading on Behaviour and Attitudes.

Premises hire

Did you know that our premises are open to community use? We have many spaces – indoor and outdoor – available to hire on an hourly or daily rate before or after school, at weekends and during the school holidays.

Some of the available spaces we have for hire are: a large air conditioned school performance hall with a lighting and sound system, a large sports hall, an enclosed outdoor sports pitch, a large playground, a large nature area (Spinney), a computer room and an art room.

For further details on hiring any of our school spaces for parties, events, celebrations or learning classes please contact Andrew Satwick (Facilities Manager) via lettings@rhodes.haringey.sch.uk / 0208 826 1810



A Year of English... some of the highlights!

Natasha Morgan (Subject Leader for English) writes:

Rhodes Avenue Reading Challenge

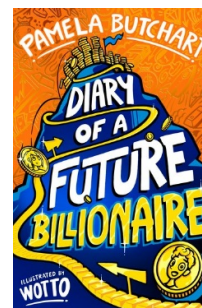
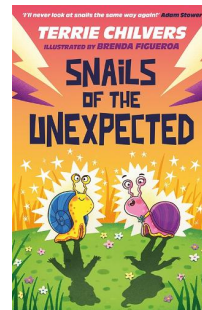
We started with year with the Key Stage 2 Rhodes Avenue Reading Challenge which really created a buzz about books all around school. Over 70 children completed the challenge, reading over 8 books from their chosen list, and many others also got involved. Pupils enjoyed voting for their favourite books too and the 'winner' from each list was:

'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow (Ruby list)

'Escape Room' by Christopher Edge (Scarlet list)

'Diary of a Future Billionaire' by Pamela Butchart (Crimson list)

'Snails of the Unexpected' by Terrie Chilvers (Magenta list)



BiblioBuzz Reading Challenge

After Christmas, Year 5 and 6 continued with another reading challenge – the Alexandra Palace BiblioBuzz competition. The 52 children who read the 6 shortlisted books were invited to vote for their favourite and then attend the awards ceremony at Alexandra Palace in April where we had a fantastic workshop with one of the authors (Patrice Lawrence). There was also a quiz, a poetry performance by A.F. Harrold and the overall winning book – 'The Beck' by Anthony McGowen – was announced.

'Book in a Box' Competition

We held our inaugural 'Book in a Box' competition across the school in the Summer Term. We had over 100 submissions and we were so inspired by the variety of book choices and wonderful, creative ideas and materials used – lego, balloons, toothpicks and clay, cupcake cases, cotton wool, natural materials from your garden or outdoor spaces - pine cones, twigs, leaves, ferns - 3D printed tiny toilet rolls for Billionaire Boy and even chocolate and sweets! Thank you to our judges Amanda (our lovely Librarian who came back specially to judge) and Leonie from Year 6. Boxes were judged for originality, creativity, character portrayal and attention to detail, how details from the book were shown.

Runner up KS1 - Ethan, 1MG for Stuck by Oliver Jeffers

Winner KS1 – Eva 1MG for Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton

Runner up KS2 – Liza 3EB for 13-Storey Treehouse by Andy Griffiths

Winner KS2 – Connie, 6CD for Coraline by Neil Gaiman

The children's choice award - Matilda, 4FH for Matilda by Roald Dahl



CLiPPA Shadowing Scheme



This year, Years 1 to 6 took part in the CLiPPA poetry shadowing scheme, organised by the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education, which encourages pupils to explore the work of the five shortlisted poets, particularly through performance. Years 1 and 2 choose to perform poems from 'A First Book of Bugs' by Simon Mole; Year 3 looked at 'The Poetry World of John Agard' by John Agard; Year 4 chose from 'This is Not a Small Voice: Poems by Black Poets' edited by Traci N. Todd; and Year 5 and 6 opted for poems from 'Press Start to Play' by Sam Gayton.

Children worked together to devise their own performances for their chosen poem and then took to the stage in our series of poetry assemblies. We were thrilled that so many parents were able to join us to celebrate the joy and fun of poetry and it was wonderful to see the children's creativity, confidence and personal interpretations of the language and rhythms. We hope you all enjoyed the performances as much as we did.

We are also extremely proud that four of our Year 6 pupils, Klara, Lyra, Margot and Auraya from 6MD, were selected from hundreds of entries to perform their poem, 'Online Boy – A Spooky Poem' from Press Start to Play at the CLiPPA Award Ceremony at The National Theatre, London. They will enjoy brilliant performance workshops with professionals from the National Theatre and perform at the Poetry Show alongside the 2026 shortlisted poets. Children's illustrator Chris Riddell will also be live drawing the whole event which will make it a day to remember!

Author Talks, Writing Workshops and Poetry Performances

In the Autumn term, Tolá Okogwu came to speak to pupils in Year 4, 5 and 6 about her new book, 'Champions of the Galaxy', a sci-fi, action-adventure. She spoke about how she creates her characters and her focus on showing how people's insecurities can often end up being their biggest strengths.

Year 6 also attended an inspiring talk by the poet and writer, Matt Goodfellow, about his verse novel 'The Final Year'. As well as reading some of his extremely powerful poems, he spoke about his own experiences of having ADHD and his school life.

To celebrate World Book Day, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 joined Mayo Agard-Olubo for a session all about his new book, 'Kid Rex to the Rescue'. As well as reading the story, he talked about his inspiration for it and also helped the children design their own superhero.

Karen McCombie also came to talk to Year 5 and 6 about her book, 'My Family The Enemy' which was particularly fascinating as it is based in Alexandra Palace and so we learnt lots about the history of our local area during World War 1.

In May, Years 3 and 4 had the opportunity to celebrate Michael Rosen's 80th birthday by attending a special performance by him at Alexandra Palace Theatre. The children were treated to many of his famous poems and brilliant storytelling, and were, of course, encouraged to join in!

Also in the summer term, some Year 4 children were invited to attend a creative writing day with poet, Neal Zetter. They came back incredibly inspired and particularly excited by the fact Neal had encouraged them to focus on creativity and ideas rather than just accuracy! He was extremely complimentary about the poems our pupils wrote.

An extract from William's (4FH) poem, 'The Year 3000'

It looks like a metropolis,

(Is it Earth? Yes!)

When it's the year 3000

Playgrounds hover,

4D football? (Yes)

It's the year 3000...

What goes now?

Do I get an 'eye-vice'? (Yes)

It's the year 3000, yes, it's the year 3000,

Wow, this is really fun!

I'd settle here forever,

It's the (great) year 3000!

New Texts

We are always updating our core texts (used in English lessons) and Big Read texts (used for reading sessions) to ensure we share a wide range of genres, authors and characters with our pupils. This year, some of our new texts have included:

- Onyeka and The Academy of the Sun by Tola Okogwu (Year 6)
- Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll (Year 5)
- Varjak Paw by S.F. Said (Year 3)
- Little Red by Bethan Woollvin (Year 2)

Haringey SEN newsletter

Please find below the link to Haringey's SEND Newsletter (June 2026 edition):



[Stay safe in the heat + SEND support and activities](#)

Heatwave

The recent spell of hot weather has presented challenges for us as a school. Throughout the heatwaves we have made a number of reasonable adjustments to help keep our children and staff as safe and comfortable as possible. These have included adapting the school day where appropriate, encouraging regular hydration, making greater use of shaded areas, limiting strenuous outdoor activities during the hottest parts of the day, adapting the school meals menu, moving classes to other areas of the school and ensuring classrooms were managed as effectively as possible to reduce heat are some of the things we did.

While these measures have helped in the short term, we recognise that periods of extreme heat are becoming more common. We are continuing to work closely with our Governing Body and Haringey Council to explore longer-term solutions that will improve the learning environment for our children and staff during hot weather. We will keep parents informed as these plans develop and thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Leavers

We would like to thank the following members of staff who will be leaving at the end of term.

Verral Paul-Walcott started working at Rhodes Avenue in November 2017 as a teaching assistant and has supported many children throughout the years. Verral will be focusing on his work with the homeless and domestic abuse, causes he has been working on outside of Rhodes Avenue over the last few years.



Fran Tyler started working at Rhodes Avenue in June 2025 as a teaching assistant supporting children. Fran will be continuing to work in education and will be working in a local secondary school's Autism Resource Provision.

We thank them both for their hard work with our children in the roles they have had and wish them luck in their next adventure.

Modern Foreign Language (MFL)

Samantha Gape (Specialist Teacher for French) writes:

During the Spring term Year 3 learnt how to ask food in French. As part of this we read the 'Hungry Caterpillar' story in French and wrote our own versions with some very greedy caterpillars indeed! If you are going to a French speaking country this summer make sure you get your children to order their own ice-cream - it is a word they should remember well!

In Year 4 we have been learning all about Paris in comparison to London, their Geography topic in Summer 1. As part of this we have learnt to describe the key landmarks and give simple directions to them, putting them to the test in an outdoor treasure hunt! Year 4 also really enjoyed our work in the Spring term about Francophone Africa! This linked in with their Geography topic 'Africa is not a country'. We found out where French is spoken in Africa, discussed why and presented key information about the different countries in French.

Year 6 have been learning Spanish! As a new addition to the curriculum, this half-term Year 6 have been doing a taster unit of Spanish. Half of the year group will be studying Spanish in Year 7 so the basics learnt will help them in their transition to secondary. Nevertheless, being a Romance language like French, constant comparisons are being made between the two languages and language learning skills gained from four years of French are being practised in lessons. ¡Olé!

Music

Annie Ray (Subject Leader for Music) writes:

At Rhodes Avenue we love making music from Nursery right up to Year 6 and all children come together to enjoy singing in weekly music assemblies. On Wednesday 10th June, the Reception children sang with confidence and musicality in their performance assembly and even encouraged parents in the audience to join in with one of the songs. Last week, children from Years 3-6 showcased their creativity, commitment and cooperation in an orchestra and solo performance concert. There was an eclectic mix of pieces, including fantastic renditions of everything from Bach to The Can-Can! In the last week of term, Junior Choir are looking forward to participating in a singing festival at the Wigmore Hall to round off another fantastic year of music making.



Reading books

Please return any school reading/library books you may still have at home into school before the end of term so that the school does not unnecessarily order replacements.

School Council visit

This week School Council had the exciting opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament.

During their visit, the children explored both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, gaining a fascinating insight into the history, traditions and workings of the UK Parliament. Seeing these iconic chambers firsthand brought their learning about democracy and government to life.

They learnt more about how laws are made, the importance of representation and the role that Parliament plays in shaping our country. They participated enthusiastically, asking thoughtful questions and demonstrating an excellent understanding of British values and active citizenship.



A real highlight of the day was a surprise visit from our local MP, Catherine West, who kindly joined the group for a question-and-answer session. The children impressed her with their insightful (and very challenging) questions on a range of topics, and they enjoyed hearing about her role as an MP and the work she does on behalf of the local community.

School Development Plan

We are very pleased with the progress we have made this year in relation to our School Development Plan priorities. Here is a short summary of some of the actions we completed since my last update to you.

Priority 1: Rising Numbers

Priority Target: To further strengthen the teaching and learning of Mathematics by developing number pedagogy, deepening fluency and understanding, and fostering a culture where Maths is meaningful, engaging, and enjoyable for all members of the school community.

This year the school has taken part in the Mastering Number trial where children in Reception to Year 2 have taken part in a programme designed to secure firm foundations in maths fluency, flexibility and number sense. We have been pleased with the progress made by children and will be continuing with the programme going forward. Lead teachers in these year groups have also undertaken additional training and observed practice in other schools. We have also joined networks within NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) and have been fortunate to have a specialist support us with looking at our current Maths curriculum. They will be continuing to work with us next academic year as part of the school's work on preparing for the new National Curriculum which will be launched next year. We have been very pleased with the number of children participating in Maths Competitions which we have been running in school. We are also very pleased with the progress made in our school data for children attaining the higher band within the Year 4 Multiplication Check compared to previous years. This year's results have been the highest yet to date since its introduction.

Priority 2: Safe, Seen, Supported

Priority Target: To strengthen the school's approach to wellbeing, behaviour, and relationships by enhancing staff knowledge, embedding supportive systems, promoting equity and attendance, and deepening partnerships with families and the wider community.

This year staff in school have received further training on Unconscious Bias, Trauma and Attachment, EBSA (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) as well as training on The Anchor Project. We have developed a new Restorative Conversation framework for our SEND learners. We now also have an EYFS ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) in addition to our main school ELSA. We have looked at our RSHE curriculum in light of the new guidance and adapted our Ourselves and Others curriculum in preparation for September. We have also submitted our Bronze Rights Respecting Schools Award accreditation and will be working on Silver accreditation next academic year.

Priority 3: Learning Beyond the Walls

Priority Target: To use the outdoors to help children learn, feel calm, work together, and enjoy nature through Forest School, Outdoor Learning, and fun experiences beyond the classroom.

This year we introduced a new Outdoor Learning teacher (Ivana Grant) and we are pleased to announce that she will continue to work with us next academic year. We have used her expertise to train all Year 4-6 classroom teachers. Links to Outdoor Learning across our school curriculum have been made. We also introduced Active Leaders into the playground at lunchtimes and the Year 6 Active Leaders have worked well in supporting target children

We will share our whole school attainment data as soon as we receive it. The Department for Education has informed us that we will be receiving it later than usual.

School Meals

As part of the school's risk assessments for when amber and red heat alerts have been issued one of the adjustments we have looked at is reducing the amount of heat generated in school. There have been some changes to the school meal menus as a result over the last fortnight and will continue next week. Children have responded very well to the colder menus and we are looking at introducing these as part of the summer menus for next academic year.

Science

Catriona Donnellan (Subject Leader for Science) writes:

This year, a key focus of the school has been developing sustainability across the school and encouraging pupils to become environmentally responsible citizens. As part of this work, our school participated in the *In the Know* programme, an in-school sustainability and waste prevention initiative delivered by the North London Waste Authority (NLWA). The programme supports schools in reducing waste, promoting sustainable behaviours and embedding circular economy principles across the whole school community.



Throughout the year, children and staff took part in a range of activities including waste audits, surveys, workshops and assemblies. These helped us identify areas for improvement and develop an action plan to reduce waste and improve recycling practices across the school. As a result of this work, the amount of correctly sorted waste has improved across all categories, demonstrating that our school community is becoming more confident in using the correct waste and recycling bins. While there is still more work to do, this represents a significant step forward in reducing mis-sorted waste and increasing environmental awareness.

Alongside this project, we have also been working to develop opportunities for outdoor learning through the creation of a new community garden. Thanks to grant funding and generous donations from RAPSA, this exciting project has become a reality.

A special mention must go to our dedicated parent volunteers, whose enthusiasm, expertise and commitment have been instrumental in bringing the garden to life. The garden would not have been possible without the generosity of the parent volunteers who gave their time during our Community Dig Week and who continue to work alongside the children each week. Their ongoing commitment has transformed an underused area into a thriving outdoor learning environment that the whole school community can enjoy.

Screentime guidance

Haringey Public Health writes:

As you know, screen time and online safety are major concerns for children and young people. With increasing national focus on this issue, including the recent announcement on a social media ban for under 16s, supporting families to build healthy digital habits has never been more important.

As part of this, we have developed a practical guidance document for parents and carers, with tips and advice to support healthy and safe technology use at home. We are also sharing [these key messages through a short social media video](#) featuring Lucy from ABC Parents.

<https://rhodesavenue.school/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Haringey-Screentime-Guidance-for-Parents-and-Carers.pdf>

Sports Days



Chelsea Orridge-Golding (Sports Coach) writes:

This year's Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of teamwork, determination and fun across the whole school.

Our Nursery and Reception children enjoyed their Sports Day together, taking part in a variety of exciting activities including hurdles, egg and spoon races, sack race, sprint races, beanbag throw, javelin and football dribbling. The children showed great enthusiasm throughout the afternoon.

Our infant children also took part in the same range of events, demonstrating excellent effort and encouraging one another as they competed in the different events.

For junior children, they enjoyed the some of same events while also taking on some additional events such as long jump, howler and chest push. This year, Archery was introduced for the first time which the children all loved. They also competed in the 100m and 400m timed races, with the fastest children qualifying for the finals.

It was wonderful to see every child giving their best, supporting their classmates and enjoying an active and memorable Sports Day.

Term dates

The term dates for next academic year (2026-27) are always available on the school website.

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

Volunteers wanted

Meghan Grove (Year 1 Year Group Leader in Sept 2026) writes:

Throughout the Autumn term, we continue to use Continuous Provision in Year 1. This approach allows children to learn through play-based and exploratory activities. Adults take the learning to the children by modelling concepts, introducing and reinforcing key vocabulary, and facilitating deeper thinking through conversations.

We are looking for volunteers to help in Year 1 during the Autumn term. If you are able to volunteer for a particular day or half-day each week during the Autumn term (e.g. every Monday morning or every Thursday), we would love to hear from you.

To help our new Year 1 children settle in and avoid any confusion, we are looking for volunteers who are parents or carers of children in other year groups.

If you think you might be able to help, or if you would like to find out more, please email me via the school office or pop in to see me in Badger Class.

What's Clicking in Computing?

Alison Davies (Subject Lead for Computing) writes:

It has been an incredibly busy and creative time in Computing across the school. Our digital journey spans all year groups, with pupils developing amazing coding and robotics skills.



Reception to Year 2 have been building foundational coding skills with the brilliant Bee-Bots. Year 3 became robot experts! They programmed their Botleys to drive through fun and difficult challenges.



Year 5 have been diving into physical computing using Crumble kits to wire and code their own creations. Year 6 are developing their logical thinking by creating block-based code for Micro:bits. They design their programs on screen, then download the data onto the external hardware to execute the instructions.

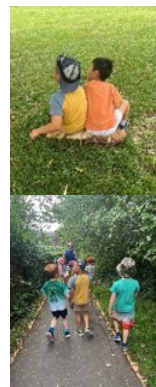
Beyond coding, we welcomed the experts from 3Discovery for interactive workshops on internet safety. They also unlocked our pupils' creativity using iPads, teaching them to design professional posters and bring their own drawings to life through animation.

Finally, our digital designers across the school have been busy entering a special App Design Competition, carefully considering target audiences and real-world uses—stay tuned, as the big winner will be announced later this year!

Year 1 learning

Sophie Papworth (Year 1 Year Group Leader) writes:

Year 1 have been enjoying their Summer term's learning; we are currently enjoying our Geography topic 'All Around the World' and our Science environment topic. We have been on a summer walk to look for signs of Summer and we are also learning how to programme in our Computing lessons. In English we have been enjoying a new book 'The Snail and the Whale' and are learning about questions and statements. We are also learning how to tell the time in our Maths learning.



Year 3 learning

Joseph Noutch (Year 3 Year Group Leader) writes:



In Year 3, we began Summer 2 by looking at money in Maths, including pounds and pence, adding and subtracting amounts, and finding change. In Writing, we have been enjoying *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, using it to inspire our own descriptive writing. Our Geography topic, *Angry Earth*, has introduced us to volcanoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. In Science, we have been learning about light, including how shadows are formed. In Art, the children have been creating volcano and tornado-inspired pieces. In Computing, they have been using Botleys to develop their coding and debugging skills.

Year 4 learning

Elaine Gambin (Year 4 Year Group Leader) writes:

Year 4 have had a busy and exciting half term. We kicked off the half term with the Multiplication Tables Check. We are incredibly proud of the effort all pupils have put into preparing for this. Their resilience and hard work really paid off. Well done to all! Recently, as part of our History learning on the Victorians, we visited Gunnersbury Park Museum where the children experienced what life was like in a Victorian classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity to step back in time and deepen their understanding. In Design and Technology, children explored different joining materials, testing pasta, sweets, Blu Tack and tape in preparation for building their own pavilions. In Science, the children visited the school spinney to identify and classify different leaves. Using identification sheets, they then created their own classification keys, demonstrating excellent observational and scientific skills.



Year 6 learning

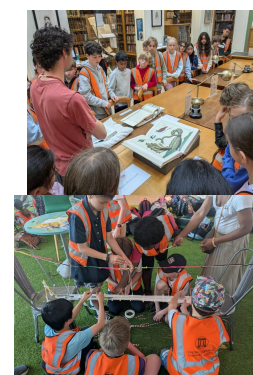
Catriona Donnellan (Year 6 Year Group Leader) writes:

Year 6 have enjoyed a very busy and rewarding summer term packed with learning, adventure and exciting opportunities! Among the many achievements this term, the children completed their SATs with determination and resilience. We were immensely proud of the hard work, focus and positive attitude they showed throughout.

Following SATs, the children enjoyed their residential trip to PGL, where they took part in a range of outdoor adventure activities. From climbing and team-building challenges to developing their independence and confidence, the trip provided many memorable experiences and opportunities for personal growth.

This term has also included several educational visits linked to our learning. We visited the Linnean Society, where the children participated in a workshop on evolution and inheritance. During our visit, we were even able to view a signed copy of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*!

We also visited Plexal, a vibrant innovation hub in Stratford, where the children learned about the role of engineering in solving real-world problems. As part of the visit, the children took part in a fun engineering challenge, applying what they had learned to design and build a bridge capable of holding weight. It was lovely to see them working collaboratively and problem solving as a team.



As part of our history topic on the Windrush Generation, we visited Bruce Castle Museum and took part in an engaging workshop that helped deepen our understanding of the experiences and contributions of the Windrush pioneers. The children asked thoughtful questions and demonstrated a genuine interest in this important part of British history.

Year 6 also attended the Junior Citizenship Programme at Scout Park. This interactive event gave pupils the opportunity to explore a range of real-life scenarios and learn valuable safety and life skills as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. Through practical activities and discussions with local agencies, the children developed their confidence in making informed and responsible decisions.

Alongside this, children are taking part in the KS2 £5er Challenge, an exciting enterprise project in which teams use a £5 investment to create, market and sell their own products or services. The challenge encourages creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial thinking, and we are excited to see their business ideas come to life.

It has certainly been a packed and rewarding term, filled with learning, adventure and new experiences. We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved and look forward to celebrating the end of their primary school journey together.

Year 6 Leavers Show

This week our Year 6 children proudly presented their 'Mamma Mia's Excellent Adventure' Leavers' Productions to family and friends. We are proud of each of them individually and all of them as a group for bringing the production to life. They creatively presented school life and some of the inspirational people they have learnt about whilst at Rhodes Avenue with the Mamma Mia twists. Next week they will receive their final Rhodes Avenue applause as we wish them well in their next step. They proved they are indeed Super Troupers!



Year Group Curriculum Meetings for Parents

Please note the date and time of the Year Group Curriculum Meetings for Parents which will be taking place at the beginning of the autumn term. This is where there will be a chance to meet your child's class teacher and the year group teaching team who will outline the curriculum and arrangements for your child's new year group. All meetings will take place in Witham Hall at 9.10am. The curriculum newsletter and any other relevant information will be shared with all parents after this event should you not be able to attend.

Year 1	Tuesday 15 th September 2026
Year 2	Wednesday 16 th September 2026
Year 3	Thursday 17 th September 2026
Year 4	Friday 18 th September 2026
Year 5	Monday 14 th September 2026
Year 6	Friday 11 th September 2026

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support and partnership. I wish you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer holiday. I hope you enjoy spending precious time together, making special memories and returning in September refreshed and ready for another exciting year.

To our Year 6 children, as you prepare to leave us and begin the next chapter of your journey, we send you with our very best wishes. You have been a valued part of our school family, and we are incredibly proud of all you have achieved. Be brave, be kind, believe in yourselves, and never stop aiming high. We will miss you all and look forward to hearing about the wonderful things you go on to accomplish.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Best wishes,
Maria

Maria Panayiotou-Argyrou
Headteacher

RAPSA

Message from Tom, chair of RAPSA writes:

Rhodes Fest: Our Summer Festival

We were so pleased to welcome hundreds of children and their families to Rhodes Fest a couple of weeks ago. It was a fantastic day, with lovely weather and a really relaxed vibe. Despite it being Father's Day, we were busier than ever, reflected in how much money we were able to raise (see below).

Thank you to everyone for making this year's event a huge success. It was amazing to see the kids having a lovely time, eating Whippy (Yes!!! 🍩) and taking part in the various games and activities on offer. We know our begging for volunteers can get a bit intense towards the end, but hopefully you can now see what we are able to deliver with your support!9

Buy Rhodes a Coffee per Month

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rhodesavenue2425>

With thanks to....

Thanks to all of our contributors and performers, to DJ Jim, Jessica, Teresa, Viola and Andy for entertaining us on the stage, and to the Rhodes Community Garden massive for their cakes and plant sale and showing us around the lovely new allotment beds.

Thanks to Andrew (our first aider and Facilities Manager Extraordinaire) and Jackie, without whose tireless work nothing would be possible! Thanks to the RAPSA committee members who gave up most of their weekend (and a lot of their previous week) to get things set up. And thanks to our Rhodes Avenue staff who donated the most amazing promises for our auction. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and those who came and had fun. Finally, we are hugely grateful to our sponsors, Element Properties for their contribution before and on the day, including running a fabulous raffle.

Fundraising update

Drum Roll.... since our email to parents, fundraising has increased with some more auction of promises bids and additional contributions on JustGiving. Taking everything into account, we've raised more than £12,000. This is a record breaking amount and will help fund to some vital things to support our school. For anyone who still wants to contribute to push the total even higher, there's a just-giving link [here](#).

Congratulations to:

- The lucky winners of the Jellycat Raffle: Kitty (Maple), Connie (6CD), Dana (5AR) and Isaac (Fox). Enjoy your small cuddly ones!
- Olivia O'Grady whose lovely poster helped us advertise the Festival. The heat on the day meant we didn't get to run a dog show, so Olivia didn't get to choose her favourite pooch - but thank you to her and everyone else who gave us some amazing entries for our poster competition!

The all-new Rhodes Community Garden

We've recently put some of your kindly donated money to work setting up a new Community Garden, also funding a potting shed which you can find at the top of the infant playground, backing onto Rhodes Avenue. Work on the Community Garden kicked off with a team of 20 parent volunteers digging, clearing, repairing and preparing the school's old allotment beds for planting. At the start of the Summer term children from Years 1 to 5 planted fruit and vegetable plants into the beds and planted seeds to nurture in their classrooms. They then planted seedlings after the cold snap in good time before heatwave landed! Many children have since been tending the beds - watering, weeding, tying in, pricking out.

The beds now look incredible! They have really thrived. And soon some of the produce will be ready for harvest. Growing at the moment are raspberries, strawberries, potatoes, courgettes, beetroot, carrots, broad beans, French beans, spaghetti squash, tomatoes, bell peppers and more!

We have also funded and planted flowers and shrubs throughout the school grounds to brighten the environment for children, staff and parents. Just this week a determined team of Year 3 children dug out a large trench near the Hedgehog outdoor space and planted the beginnings of a sunflower field!

If you'd like to help keep the lovely garden going, please volunteer your time or money using the links in the Community Garden Sign in this newsletter. It is only by the hands of parent volunteers and parent funding that this work has been possible and both are needed for it to continue!

Making the heat a little more bearable

During the heatwave a week or so ago, some kind RAPSA volunteers visited each classroom to distribute ice pops to refresh the staff and children. They were gratefully received and it's something we're happy to repeat if/when the sun comes again.