ROTHERFIELD

NEWSLETTER

17/07/2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of another incredible school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that we have achieved together and to thank every member of our school community for making this year such a success.

There is so much to celebrate and so much to be proud of. Our pupils have worked tremendously hard, and our SATs results were above the national average in all areas – a fantastic achievement that reflects the dedication of our children, staff and families. I am especially proud of our Year 6 pupils, whose resilience, determination and positive attitude have been truly inspiring throughout the year.

We have also made remarkable progress in attendance. Persistent absenteeism has reduced dramatically from around 27% to just 16% this year. This is an incredible achievement and demonstrates what can be accomplished when families, staff and pupils work together with a shared commitment to every child's success. A heartfel thank you to Nora for leading on this.

This year has also seen us warmly welcome pupils and families from St Jude's and New North. They have brought a wonderful new dimension to our school, and it has been lovely to see new friendships, opportunities and experiences enrich our community.

Another highlight has been achieving the Healthy Schools Gold Award, recognising the positive changes we have made together, including improvements to packed lunches and our continued focus on children's health and wellbeing.

As we look back, it is clear that our school is going from strength to strength. None of this would be possible without the hard work, commitment and care shown every day by our exceptional staff team. We also say farewell to colleagues who are moving on to new adventures. We thank them for everything they have contributed to our school and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

In particular, I would like to pay special tribute to Karen, who is retiring after an extraordinary 42 years of service. Karen's dedication, kindness and unwavering commitment have touched the lives of generations of children and families. Her contribution to our school and community has been truly remarkable, and we are immensely grateful for everything she has given over the years. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks, admiration and very best wishes for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

Finally, thank you to our children, staff, governors, parents and carers for your support throughout the year. I am so incredibly proud of our team, our children and our wider community. Together, we have achieved so much, and I am excited about all that lies ahead.
Wishing you all a wonderful, restful and happy summer break.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR THE YEAR

Whole school: 93.6%
National: 95%

Apple	96%
Olive	95%
Rowan	95%
Maple	94%
Cedar	94%
Willow	94%
Beech	93%
Silver birch	93%
Pine	93%
Palm	93%
Elm	92%
Mulberry	92%
Ash	91%
Oak	91%

STARS OF THE WEEK

All of our pupils have been stars this year, and we are so proud of everything they have achieved.

We look forward to another year of learning, growing and shining together with our superstars!

Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Our Year 6 Leavers' Assembly was a truly memorable occasion. It was wonderful to hear the children's reflections on their time at Rotherfield, alongside the teachers' heartfelt words about each individual pupil. The moving poem by Dr Seuss at the beginning and Nia's special send-off at the end provided the perfect ending to a celebration of their journey and achievements.

Year 6 Show

We were incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils during their end-of-year production. It was wonderful to see their confidence shine through, with fantastic singing, big smiles and delighted parents in the audience. Most importantly, it was inspiring to watch so many children find their voice and perform with such enthusiasm and pride.

We Did It! Healthy Schools London Gold Award

We are delighted to announce that The Growth Learning Collective Federation has achieved the Healthy Schools London Gold Award - the highest level of recognition for schools committed to improving the health and wellbeing of their pupils.

This award is a celebration of the incredible journey taken by Newington Green Primary School and Rotherfield Primary School. Together, we have created a culture where healthy eating is exciting, inclusive and part of everyday school life. From our Healthy Packed Lunch Policy, Food Council, Family Kitchen workshops, food tasting opportunities, cooking and gardening clubs, and weekly Food & Sustainability lessons, to our freshly prepared school meals made from scratch every day, we have worked together to help children build healthy habits that will last a lifetime. Most importantly, this award belongs to our whole school community.

A heartfelt thank you to Mairead and Nia for their unwavering support and belief in our vision; to all our teachers and support staff for embracing every initiative; to our wonderful children for being curious, adventurous and brave enough to try new foods; and to our parents for supporting these positive changes at home.

A very special thank you goes to our amazing kitchen team: Iggy, Dino, Erica, Tish, Songul, Rachel, Jamie, Hamida, Valbona, Nelcy and Morium. Their daily work, care and the passion they put in the food have made this achievement possible.

This Gold Award is something for our entire federation to celebrate. Together, we have shown that when a whole school community works towards the same goal, we can make a real and lasting difference to children's health, wellbeing and futures - Best Regards, Tiago

Rotherfield Nature Watch

Rotherfield Nature Watch: This week, we found a baby bat in the playground. With help from year 5 and 6 pupils, we rehydrated it and then Malaya's mum took it to a wildlife expert to look after. We were tempted to keep it as a RF mascot but it is in safe hands now. What an amazing experience for everyone who saw it.

Cinema Reward Trip for Excellent Attendance!

Our children had a fantastic time at the cinema watching Minions vs Monsters! There was lots of excitement, laughter and enjoyment throughout the trip.
This special reward was given to pupils who achieved 99% and 100% attendance throughout the year, recognising their outstanding commitment to coming to school every day. We are incredibly proud of their dedication and positive attitude towards learning.
Well done to all of our fantastic attenders! Keep up the great work, and we look forward to celebrating more attendance successes throughout the year.

Chessington Trip

Well done to all the children who were selected to enjoy a trip to Chessington World of Adventures as a reward for their improved attendance this year.
We are especially thrilled to celebrate one child who achieved his highest attendance in four years. Wow! This is a fantastic accomplishment and a wonderful example of the difference that determination and commitment can make. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who have worked so hard to improve their attendance. Keep up the great work!

Attendance Raffle Winners

Congratulations to these children, who have each won a £10 Amazon voucher in our recent attendance raffle! Well done and keep up the hard work next year!

- Rosie (Beech)
- Skye Blue (Palm)
- Julia V (Silver Birch)
- Cyd (Nursery)
- Sarah (Cedar)
- Ayaan (Rowan)
- Millie Mae G (Ash)
- Silvano (Rowan)
- Taaliyah (Oak)
- Bobby (Elm)

🌟 Congratulations to all our winners! 🌟

Busy Things

All children at Rotherfield have free access to the award-winning educational software BusyThings.co.uk. Your child can use it over summer to practice skills for any subject while they play fun and engaging learning games.
Go to BusyThings.co.uk
Click the Logn Button
Username = rpupil
Password = rpupil
Any problems, please email mkelly@newingtongreen.co.uk

Busy Things

Teddy Bear Picnic

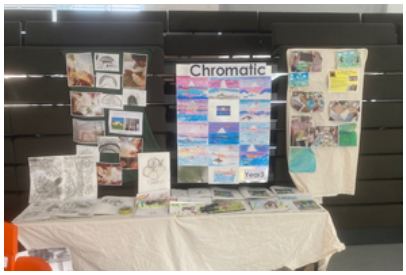
We received a set of incredible new books from Bookmark Reading Charity all about bears! We decided to have a teddy bears picnic to share these lovely stories together. We sat in the Friday afternoon sunshine and read aloud together, enjoying the stories about bears: some factual, some funny and some that brought a tear to our eyes! We also shared some delicious snacks, which was a delicious end to the week. It was wonderful to have a mixture of pupils from different year groups spending time together, reading for pleasure.

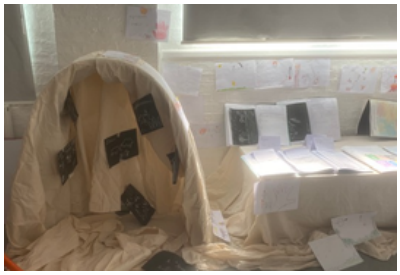
Online Safety Update

Yesterday, we were lucky enough to welcome Toby and Elli to our school. They volunteered their time to tell us about their jobs at the bank and how they use maths every day. After an informative assembly, they joined Year 5 in classroom workshops to explore the many different careers that rely on maths. The children were surprised to discover that even fashion designers and video game developers use maths in their work. It was a fantastic opportunity to see how the maths we learn in school is used in the real world.

Rotherfield Photo exhibition: Our Lives, Our Culture Our London

This week we held our first Rotherfield Photo exhibition: Our Lives, Our Culture Our London.
Children from across the school took photos of scenes from their daily lives. The results were beautiful, inspiring, poetic and affecting. All the children rom across the school came to see the exhibition and it was wonderful to see them celebrating and discussing the great photos their friends had taken.





Year 6 Kayaking

Year 6 had a fantastic time kayaking in the sunshine on Monday and Wednesday! The children thoroughly enjoyed learning how to manoeuvre a kayak safely on the water and quickly developed their confidence and skills. To top off the experience, many of them even jumped into the water – the perfect way to cool down in the hot weather! It was wonderful to see everyone having so much fun while embracing a new challenge. Well done, Year 6!

School Visit to the UK Parliament

Members of the School Council, Debate Club and pupils from Year 6 recently enjoyed an exciting and memorable visit to the UK Parliament in Westminster.

The purpose of the visit was to enhance our pupils' cultural capital by developing their understanding of democracy, how laws are made and the role Parliament plays in shaping the country. During the visit, pupils explored the historic surroundings of the Houses of Parliament and learned more about the democratic process in action.

As an added surprise, former Education Secretary Gavin Williamson was also in attendance. Unfortunately, our accompanying adults did not have time to put any questions to him about some of his past education policies! 🙂
The visit was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to connect their classroom learning with the world beyond school and to see first-hand where important decisions affecting the nation are debated and made.

What our pupils said about the visit:
Adar: "I will never forget this day and hearing Big Ben chime at exactly 12:30pm."
Lilly: "Thank you for bringing me here as I really want to be a lawyer and I'm glad I came to see where laws are passed."
Tina: "I love history and I'm glad I came here today."

We are incredibly proud of how well our pupils represented the school and would like to thank everyone involved in making this valuable learning experience possible.

PTA Fundraising and Support for Our School

As we come to the end of another successful school year, we would like to say a huge thank you to our fantastic PTA, whose hard work and dedication have helped provide valuable experiences and resources for our pupils.

Over the course of the year, the PTA generously donated:

- £1,000 towards the Poetry Retreat
- £466 for Year 6 leavers' books
- £269.40 for Year 6 leavers' cups
- £90 for the Easter Egg Hunt
- £288 for playground equipment
- £290 towards the Year 6 Prom
-

These contributions have enriched school life and created many special memories for our children.
We would also like to thank all the parents, carers and staff who have supported PTA events during the Summer Term. Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible:

- £1,645 from Rotherfest
- £504 from ice lolly sales
- £75 from the bake sale

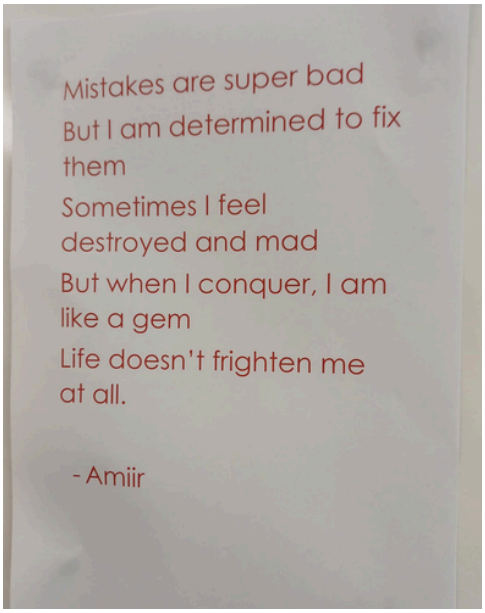
TEAM PTA

Every pound raised goes back into supporting our pupils and enhancing their experiences at school.

If you would like to get involved and help raise money for the school from September, please leave your name and contact number with Lesley in the school office. New volunteers are always welcome, and any time you can offer makes a real difference.
Thank you for your continued support!

Year 5 Poetry

Year 5 have been writing poetry linked to two texts: 'Life doesn't frighten me' and 'Small Things.' Their work has been outstanding and here is an example of a poem which really moved us!



Mistakes are super bad
But I am determined to fix them
Sometimes I feel destroyed and mad
But when I conquer, I am like a gem
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

- Amiir

Message from Katy Singer

Dear NG and RF children,
I have loved working in your schools on a Monday, supporting you, your families and your staff for the past three years.

I have run several family groups, many strategy workshops, seen some of you for 1:1 educational psychotherapy, and more recently introduced therapeutic story group to your schools.

None of this would be possible without the support of your teachers, pastoral team, teaching assistants and the SLT of both schools, as well as your families.

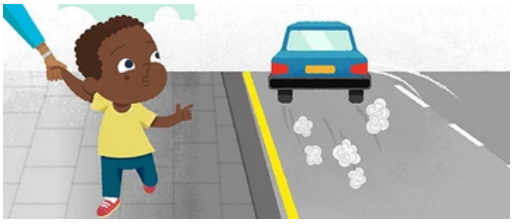
I am moving on to work in a different area closer to home so will not be here in September. I will always remember working with you and the adults around you.

I hope you all have a wonderful and well-deserved summer break and good luck with the move to your next class. You will be well supported by the adults around you. Remember to use your strategies and ask for help if you need it.

All the Best,
Katy (therapist in school)

Road Safety Update for Summer

During the holiday's we spend more time outside, enjoying the sunshine. Here are some top tips to keep our young ones safe when they are near roads.



Brake's top tips for keeping children safe near roads

- Children under 8 should always hold a grown up's hand when walking near roads
- Children under 8 should always cross roads with a grown up, at a safe crossing place
- Until they are 150cm tall, all children should sit in a correctly sized and fitted child seat when travelling by car
- Children under 10 should not cycle on roads, they should keep to cycle paths away from motorised traffic
- Children should always wear a helmet when cycling to protect their head if they fall off

Click here for activities to do with children and for more facts:
Road Safety For Children | Child Accident Prevention Trust
Click here for translated versions: Translations | Child Accident Prevention Trust

Reminders for adults:
Research shows:

- You are 4 times more likely to be in a crash if you use your phone while driving.
- Your reaction times are 2 times slower if you text and drive using a hands-free phone than if you drink drive, and this increases to three times if you use a handheld phone.
- Even careful drivers can be distracted by a call or text – and a split-second lapse in concentration could result in a crash. At 30 mph a car travels 100 feet in 2.3 seconds.

Reminder - Dates for your Diary

All important events can be found on the public calendar on the school website

EVENTS	DATES
Last day of term	Friday 17th July
INSET DAYS	Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd September 2026
Children return to school	Friday 4th September 2026

Online Safety Update

Online Safety Update: Parental Controls and Social Media
There has been an increase recently in children accessing social media apps at home like TikTok, where they are exposed to upsetting and inappropriate content. Many of the videos they are watching are generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) but many children, especially in the lower year groups have trouble deciding if a video is real or fake.

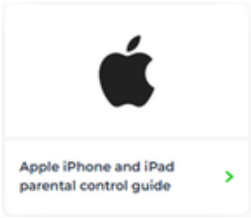
Social Media Ban for Children Under the Age of 16:
We already warn families of the risk of Social media platforms and current age restrictions (many 13+). Further info can be found from the BBC Under-16s social media ban: What parents need to know https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp3xy3gq79eo and Internet Matters https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/uk-social-media-ban-and-new-online-safety-measures

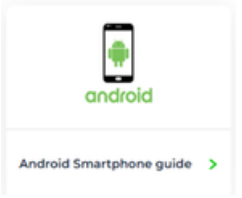
Top tip: If your child has access to a smart phone or iPad, the advice is that they should be kept in a room where you can monitor how they are being used at all times.

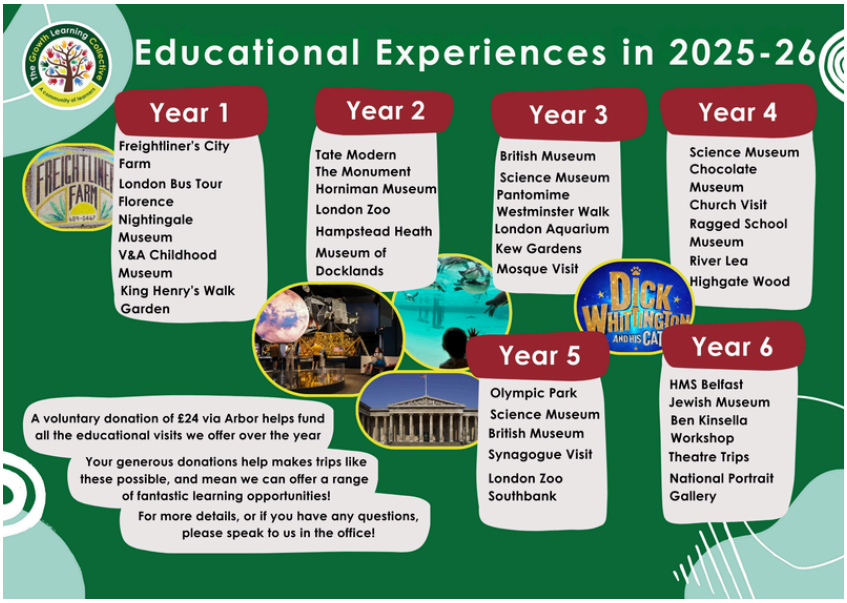
Parental Controls: We have included some step-by-step guides on how to set up parental controls on the most popular devices and apps. These controls put you in charge of what your children access on the devices. If you would like help with this, please email Michael to arrange a meeting where he will help set up your device mkelly@newingtongreen.co.uk.

How to set up parental controls on ipads: Apple iPad and iPhone parental controls | Internet Matters
How to set parental controls on TikTok: TikTok parental controls guide | Internet Matters

We have guides for most apps and devices on our websites: Rotherfield Primary School - Online Safety







Free School Meal Vouchers during school holidays

Do you qualify for free school meals (FSM) status. Anyone who hasn't applied or whose circumstances may have changed please apply on Islington's Citizen portal to see if you are eligible.
Free school meals | Islington Council

Late Collection Policy

The school applies a late collection charge for children who are not collected from school on time. The Late Collection Policy and charges can be accessed using the following link.
Rotherfield Primary School - School Policies

Support with Childcare

If you are a working parent and require help with Childcare please use the links to see what help is available.
Eligibility checker | Best Start in Life
Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK
Free Childcare for Working Parents: Overview - GOV.UK

Lettings / Hall Hire

Rotherfield has partnered with Sharesy to make booking our hall simple. Click below view our spaces, prices and availability: https://www.sharesy.com/v/rotherfield-primary-school
Parents/Carers of pupils attending Rotherfield can email the school for information on available discounted rates.

Islington Healthy School Advisor

Please click here to see community food services available within Islington
Community Food Services - Islington Food Partnership

Clubs contact info

Should you need to reach a staff member after 4PM regarding your child at after-school club (such as late collection from after school club), please call this number for immediate assistance: 07955184099