



Rye Park Nursery School



"Nurturing every child to fulfil their potential"

February Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am always amazed at just how quickly the spring term flies by and yet again we are already half way through. Next week is half-term and if you're stuck for any ideas you could visit the Tiny Happy People website for some inspiration [Tiny Happy People](#), remember you can share your experiences with us on Tapestry.

Although the weather has been excessively wet at times this past half term the children have still engaged in both indoor and outdoor learning. To support outdoor exploration we have invested further fundraising monies in the purchase of dungaree style waterproof trousers, these have proved amazing for splashing in puddles, much mud play and just generally keeping drier. Over the half term is an ideal time to refresh clothing and refill blue bags, not forgetting all items that your child may need including socks, wipes, nappy sacs.

With the success last year of offering pre-loved clothing at one of our coffee mornings, we have based a trolley for such items in the corridor on the way to Wren and Wagtail rooms. Please pause to take a look and help yourself to anything suitable. Thank you to those who have also donated. After half-term, on dry days, items will be on offer outside the main entrance, again please help yourself to what's useful.

Spring is a fantastic time of year and provides a wealth of wonderful learning opportunities, with signs of new life and growth all around. We are very excited for the living eggs, which will hatch into ducklings this year, see dates plan for their arrival.

As part of our school development for this year we have planned to further our risky play opportunities within the outdoor learning environments, we are starting with a focus on mud play and real tools, which includes digging areas and kitchens. Further in this newsletter you'll find a list on 'Too good to through away' items and if you're spring cleaning/sorting we would love for you to think for us first before recycling elsewhere. As the term continues our development will extend to gardening and large outdoor woodwork.

Finally a reminder to please engage with Tapestry, enable notifications, check when your child's focus week is, add a comment after your keyworker discussion and click on 'like' when receiving anything new from the school. It helps us to know that you're keeping up to date.

After half-term Helen Blay (Robins lead and SENCO) will be on jury service, in her absence please direct any queries to the office or myself.

Lastly, I would like to wish you all a happy half-term break and a reminder that the children return on Tuesday 24th, as it's Inset day on Monday 23rd.

Best wishes, Debbie Penwill Head teacher

Places for September 2026

For those children staying with us this coming year, either pre-school or nursery aged, please complete and return your request by Friday 27th February.

We want to secure your places before we begin external allocations.



Funding check - are you eligible for 30hrs?

Check on the 'Best Start in Life' website as to whether you are eligible for supported or working family funding. Share your code with us once you have received it.

[View All Schemes - Best Start in Life](#)



Safeguarding - Keeping your child safe online

You do not need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child safe online

Childnet offer tips, advice, guides, and resources to help keep your child safe online

[Keeping under fives safe online | Childnet](#)

Friends of Rye Park Nursery School (FORPNS)

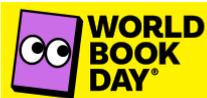
Our next meeting is coming up on Friday 27th February at 1.30pm, where we will be organising our next event and sharing thoughts for the summer funday. We welcome parents and carers to come along with their ideas and get involved.

FORPNS organised coming events include:

FORPNS Raisin Box Challenge held in March (dates tbc)

Ark Farm visit for the children, paid for by fundraising (date to confirmed)

FORPNS Summer Funday - Saturday 6th June (save the date) fun for all the family.



World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Books and stories form an integral part of our curriculum. We read often and enjoy telling and making up stories with the children, fostering an early love of reading.

World Book Day provides an opportunity for us to share books. We are inviting the children to bring in a favourite book from home to share with their keyworker and group.

Children may bring in their book anytime between Monday 2nd March and Friday 6th March. We ask that the book your child brings to school is suitable for their age group and is named.

Follow this link for information on World Book Day as well as stories to listen to and fun activities to try out at home.

[Get Ready for World Book Day 2026 - World Book Day](#)

Hertfordshire Healthy Mouths Scheme

Health for
Under 5s

Do you need support or advice to care for your child's teeth?

Hertfordshire have developed the Hertfordshire Healthy Mouths programme to help address some of the inequalities that exist in the oral health of children. The Healthy Mouths programme is aimed at improving the oral health of vulnerable under 5's in Hertfordshire and is available through your local Family Centre or Health Visitor.

If you need good oral health advice or support speak to your local Family Centre by calling **0300 123 7572** or register with them by visiting their website [Family centres in Hertfordshire](#)

Health for
Under 5s

[Hertfordshire's Healthy Mouths Scheme - Hertfordshire | Health for Under5s](#)



Stay and Play

Come along to one or both of our sessions with your child, to spend time playing together and sharing activities that your child enjoys.

Session times

Tuesday 3rd March
and
Thursday 5th March
4.00-5.00pm
(Siblings welcome)



Calendar and Events for your Diary

SPRING HALF TERM - Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February (school closed)

Monday 23rd February - INSET DAY (school closed)

Children return to school from Tuesday 24th February



FORPNS meeting Friday 27th February 1.30pm, all welcome



STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

Tuesday 3rd March and Thursday 5th March 4pm-5pm



World Book Day Thursday 5th March

Children may bring their favourite book to school to share with their keyworker and group during the week - Mon 2nd- Fri 6th March (No fancy dress please)



Living Eggs Arrive - Tuesday 17th March



Last day of Spring term times - Friday 27th March

Full Day Friday children - 8:45am-1pm

Friday AM children - 8.45am - 10.15am

Friday PM - 10.30am - 12noon

EASTER BREAK - Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April (school closed)

SUMMER TERM BEGINS - Monday 13th April

Monday 13th April - **INSET DAY (school closed)**

Children return to school from Tuesday 14th April

Occasional Day - Friday 1st May (school closed)

Polling and Inset Day - Thursday 7th May (school closed)

Further dates are available on the school website



Please don't throw me away!

We are always busy creating and planning exciting projects. Please help us by not throwing away any of these items and donating them to school. We would love them! All we ask is that items are washed and cleaned of any residue. If you come across anything else that you think we might find useful please send us a message and photo on Tapestry. We love to be resourceful and use as many natural or recycled materials as possible. Thank you for your support!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bottle tops, lids, corks• Cardboard tubes of any size• Ribbon, wool, lace, wire, twine, string• Buttons• Beads• Small elastic bands• Scraps of material• Interesting packaging• Foil tins• Flowers (ones past their best for mud kitchen cooking)• Artificial plants• Egg boxes• Straws (unused), wooden sticks• Old CDs• Unwanted rolls of wallpaper• Odd bits of wood (softwood)• Curtain rings, napkin rings | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used greeting cards (back removed)• Tissue paper/shiny paper• Envelopes• Shells, drift wood, pebbles, pine cones, conkers• Wooden logs, slices• Decking, larger pieces of wood (good enough to use)• Wooden cable reels• Old phones for role play• Hats, scarves, shoes, jewellery for dressing up• Planters, troughs, small garden tools, seeds, and even suitable plants• Kitchen items such as wooden spoons, utensils, pots and pans, tins, metal bowls, jugs, etc for our mud kitchens |
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