



Rye Park Nursery School



"Nurturing every child to fulfil their potential"

January Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and we wish you all a Happy New Year for 2026. We would also like to warmly welcome our new children that have joined us this term and everyone to the beginning of the Spring term.

Last week we were on the look out for snow but unfortunately it never materialised, such a disappointment as we love to play in the snow. Two years ago a giant snowman welcomed us back after a snowy spell. Never mind there's still hope. Although the risk of snow has passed for now the children have still enjoyed outdoor learning, with the addition of frost, ice and often wind and rain to explore. Outdoor learning is available for much of the day so please continue to wrap your children up warm and with waterproof outer wear if you have some. Children that wear wellingtons or snow boots to walk to school will need to bring their shoes or trainers to change for indoors. Blue bags with spare clothes including a few pairs of socks are needed everyday.

We have had a couple of recent staff changes, Katie Rowley from Robins left at the end of the Autumn term, we wish her a fond farewell and good luck with her new adventure. Sam Mowlem and Susan Deacon have now joined the Robins team in the mornings as well as the afternoons.

In the Autumn term we held our 'Stay and Play sessions' on a Monday and Wednesday, this term they will be on Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th March between 4-5pm. You are invited to join us along with your children to play and explore together across the school.

We also have our annual 'Open Morning' coming up on Saturday 7th February 10-12noon. This is for parents wishing to join the school, so please do share this event with others.

Working together with our families is something that we pride ourselves on across the school and we thank you for your partnership working and engagement.

Just a reminder that any important parent notices will be emailed from the office and/or to you as a memo through the Tapestry App (please ensure that notifications are enabled).

Thank you again for choosing to be a part of our Nursery School,

Best wishes, Debbie Penwill Head teacher



Tapestry update for parents

New to school - Please check your email (including clutter/junk) for the link and create your account. If you need any help please ask or email the office. There are Tapestry help videos available through our website [Tapestry Online Journal | Rye Park Nursery School](#) and many more on YouTube.

What to do if you can not access your account - Ask the office for a password reset

Safeguarding Update

Our designated safeguarding team across the school are as follows:

Debbie Penwill - designated safeguarding lead

Helen Blay, Ayla Caruso and Hannah Webber - deputy designated safeguarding leads.

All have received full training and are here to help you.

All staff across the school are committed to Keeping Children Safe in Education and receive regular training. As topics arise we share these with you, such as internet safety and more recently car safety. We are currently organising a visit from the Hertfordshire Road Safety team for the children, but I would just like to take this opportunity to remind all parents/carers of the advice and law for child car seats.

Children must normally use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135 centimetres tall, whichever comes first.

Children over 12 or more than 135cm tall must wear a seat belt.

You can choose a child car seat based on your child's height or weight.

There are only a few exceptions to this advice. Follow the link for more information or to check that your children's car seats are correct for their age, weight or height.

[Child car seats: the law: Using a child car seat or booster seat - GOV.UK](#)



Important Reminder - Primary School Applications

The application deadline for children due to be starting school this September 2026 is
tomorrow Thursday 15th January

For further information on schools and to apply follow the link

[Primary, junior and middle school places | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

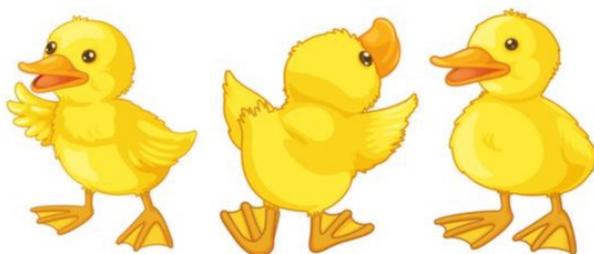


FORPNS - Fundraising

A huge thank you again to everyone for supporting our Christmas fundraising events. Since September we have used funds to purchase a number of new bikes and buggies for dolls and children. We are planning our next event for before the Easter break and would like to invite anyone who would like to get involved to come along to our next meeting.

FRIDAY 27th February at 1.30pm FORPNS meeting held in school

Spring is a very exciting time to explore new life. Every year the school organises living eggs which are paid for through our fundraising efforts.



Children's Own Toys and Comforters

We are asking for your help to keep the children's own toys safely at home where they belong. We recognise that some young children may require a comfort item when they first start with us and this can be discussed and agreed with your child's keyworker.

We are kindly asking that all other items, especially children's own toys stay at home or in the car or buggy, ready for them to enjoy at the end of their session. Toys brought in from home cause issues with sharing and upset if they go missing.

Similarly, we ask that children's dummies stay at home, as prolonged use can effect children's growing teeth and speech.

For further guidance on the use of dummies, and tips for weaning your child off, follow the link below or speak with your health visitor or local family centre for support.

[Dummies and weaning: How and when to stop dummy use - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Five Ways to Well-being

Healthier practises often play a part in many New Year's resolutions. Here is a reminder of the Five ways to well-being and a few ideas and links that you could try out at home or explore with your children, family and friends.

You could add your photographs to Tapestry, we would love to see them!

Connect- Spend time developing and nurturing relationships with friends, family, neighbours and colleagues

Meet up with a friend or family member for a walk, trip to the park, coffee and a chat or just smile and say good morning to someone new.



Be active - Physical activity helps to maintain positive mental health

Walk, ride or scoot to school whenever possible. Wrap up warm and have fun playing outdoors. Take a walk and explore the world around you. Follow the link for a handy spotting check-list.

[27 things to spot on an autumn or winter sensory walk with your child - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)



Keep learning - Builds confidence and self-esteem

Check Tapestry for what's on the weekly spotlight? It could be one of our core stories to enjoy over and over or a new poem or rhyme to learn together.

At school we love to cook, it's part of our curriculum - why not find out more about the benefits of cooking [Cooking with toddlers: Tips, benefits and activities - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

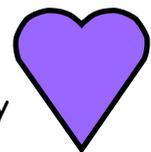
and follow this link for some easy recipes to try together

[Easy recipes for kids - BBC Food](#)



Give - Acts of giving and kindness create positive feelings

Help and learn together. Children love to be involved in tasks, can they help set the table, sort and pair the socks, wash up their dishes and tidy together or play simple games that require turn taking and sharing



Take notice - Paying attention to the present moment

Pause, take a moment and reflect on the here and now. Stop and listen outdoors, notice your breathing and sounds around.

Have a go at the daily actions for happiness [Happier Kinder Together | Action for Happiness](#)

Calendar and Events for your Diary

Spring term 2026

Monday 5th January - Friday 27th March

Deadline for Primary school applications - Thursday 15th January

Friends of Rye Park Nursery School (FORPNS) meeting - Friday 27th February

OPEN MORNING - Saturday 7th February 10am-12noon

The school will be open to prospective parents and current parents who want to view the school prior to September transitions

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

World Book Day Thursday 5th March - Children may bring their favourite book to school to share with their keyworker and group. No fancy dress.

Spring Inset - TBC

END OF TERM - Friday 27th March (times to be confirmed)

SUMMER TERM BEGINS - Monday 13th April

Inset - Monday 13th April

Children return to school - Tuesday 14th April

Occasional Day - Friday 1st May

School closed for Polling and Inset Day - Thursday 7th May

Further dates are available on the school website

REMINDER

Please do not use your mobile phone in school. You are not permitted to take photographs unless authorised and please finish calls outside before entering.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Car parking and local residents

We are a very busy school and therefore ask that you please park considerately of other users and local residents.

For safety please ensure that you hold your child's hand when in the carpark and near the road.

Thank you for your support

