



Rachel McMillan Nursery School

Newsletter — Autumn 1 2026

5th October 2026

The Deptford Mission

For some time, Rachel McMillan Nursery School has worked to build links with local community groups. We have been working with The Deptford Mission for the last three years. The Deptford Mission is an elders and disabled people's contact and is a registered charity. It aims to reduce isolation in elderly and disabled people.

Children in their final year at Rachel McMillan will have the opportunity to visit The Deptford Mission fortnightly on a Thursday afternoon in a small group. It is an opportunity for staff and children to build friendships with members of the local community through fun activities, such as singing, music and stories. We had our first visit last week and everyone really enjoyed the visit!



Meet Coach Frankie

Coach Frankie, from AW Football Coaching, visits the Nursery every Tuesday morning. The children take part in fun and active sessions, developing gross motor skills as well as important skills such as listening, following instructions and cooperation.



Rhyme Time

For the next two weeks, the children will be singing 'Hey Diddle Diddle' in their Rhyme Time session.



Hey, Diddle, Diddle



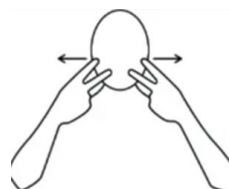
Hey, diddle, diddle,
The cat and the fiddle,
The cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed
To see such fun,
And the dish ran away with the spoon.

Within school we use Makaton to support our communication with the children. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help communication. The use of visual support is often crucial in helping children to develop an effective means of communicating with those around them. By using signs (gestures) or symbols (pictures), a child can tell someone what they want, make choices and join in.

Click [here](#) to watch a video of 'Hey Diddle Diddle' with the Makaton signs the children will be learning.

Here are some of the key signs from the nursery rhyme:

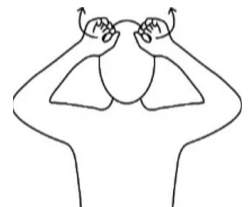
Cat



Dog



Cow



Fiddle



Moon



Laugh





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Snacks at Nursery

We provide healthy snacks such as crackers, breadsticks, toast, fruit, cereals, cheese and vegetables as well as milk or water to drink during morning and afternoon sessions.

Please do not put any food or drink in your child's bag as we have a number of children with severe allergies.

Please **do not** leave any snacks or food items on your child's pushchair in the buggy park. As well as clever children, we also have clever and curious squirrels, who can sniff out and get into any food left on the buggies! If you need to leave snacks or food for your child because a different adult is picking them up, then please hand these items to your child's staff team.



Baby Sensory and Play Quaggy at Rachel McMillan



Wednesdays 10.00 - 11.00

Explore wonderful sensory activities with your baby or toddler!
3 to 24 months

No need to book – just drop in
Come along and enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable session with our friendly team. Sensory play supports your child's development and is a great way to meet other local families.

This event is open to families living in the borough of Greenwich

'It was such a joy to see my granddaughter go to messy play. She was reluctant to touch stuff at first but ended up loving it.'



Scan to visit our website

www.quaggydevelopmenttrust.org
McMillan St, London SE8 3EH
Tel: 020 8465 9785



@quaggycc1



@quaggycc



Save time
Register online

Keeping in Touch

We value our communication with parents and carers and use a range of ways to keep you informed:



Studybugs



Email updates



Letters



Our School Website



Day-to-day chats with staff



Newsletters

Diary Dates

We try to give as much notice as possible for upcoming events and will send reminders closer to the time. Please make sure to add dates to your calendar, diary or phone so you don't miss out!

Autumn 1 2026

- **7th October** - 3:30pm 'Come back and play' session (for the children who left Rachel McMillan in July 2026).
- **15th October** - 9:30am Little Wandle Parent Phonics workshop.
- **16th October** - 2:30pm Little Wandle Parent Phonics workshop. (Both phonics workshops will contain the same content, so there is no need to attend both sessions. These are aimed at the parents of children who will be moving to primary school in September 2027.)
- **23rd October** - 3pm Shelters close for the half term break. (Extended Day finishes at 5:30pm. Holiday provision will be available—A booking form will be sent in advance.)

Autumn 2 2026

- **2nd November** - All children return to nursery.
- **4th November** - 9am 'Stay and plant'. Stay and plant a spring bulb with your child.
- **18th December** - 2pm Shelters close for the Christmas break. (Extended Day finishes at 5:30pm.)