



Rachel McMillan Nursery School

Newsletter — Autumn 1 2026

29th September 2026

What a lovely start to the term we've had at Rachel McMillan! The children are settling in beautifully and have been thoroughly enjoying our outdoor learning environment and shelters. All children have been introduced to 'Rhyme Time', and there's been lots of creative exploration in the garden as well as painting, and sand and water play.

On Wednesday afternoon, we gathered in the amphitheatre for a special singing session. Led by Siobhan, the children sang their favourite songs together.

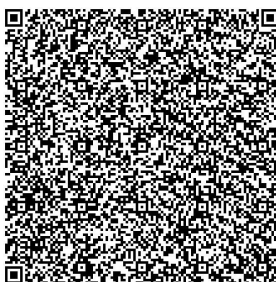
Thank you!

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who came along to our MacMillan Cancer Research coffee morning and showed their generous support.



So far we have raised **£202.00**

If you weren't able to join us, there's still an opportunity to donate. We'd love to extend our fundraising efforts, so please do scan the QR code below to contribute. Every donation makes a real difference to those affected by cancer, and we're grateful for your continued kindness and support.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting **free** books to children from birth to age five.

Inspired by her father's inability to read and write, Dolly started the Imagination Library in 1995 to serve the children of her hometown in Sevier County, Tennessee. Today, the programme spans five countries and gifts over 3 million free, high-quality, age-appropriate books each month to children around the world.

The programme is beautifully simple: once your child is enrolled, they'll receive one high-quality, age-appropriate book every month, completely free of charge, sent directly to your home.

How it works...

If you live in Greenwich, Southwark, or Lewisham, your child is eligible to join. All you have to do is register.

Registration is straightforward—simply click on the link to enrol your child:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>

This is a fantastic way to nurture a lifelong love of reading within your family.

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Tapestry



We have added new children to Tapestry, and families should have received a login email to set up an account. This will enable you to see observations and photos about your child's progress.

Staff will be taking photos and writing observations on designated focus weeks and we will then invite you in for a parent's meeting to chat about how your child is settling in and progressing. Your child's family worker will let you know when this meeting will be.

If you have not received a login email, then please talk to the shelter team.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attending nursery regularly has many benefits for your child: helping them to settle in, make friends, and build their relationships with staff looking after them, as well as developing their learning and language skills.

If your child is unwell, please use the free StudyBugs app (or register on the StudyBugs website) to report absences directly or phone school on 0208 692 4041.

Minor colds and being tired are all things we can support children with at nursery. It will help to build up their immune systems.

Please make sure you always arrive on time for the start of your child's sessions each day. This sets a good habit for primary school and life generally!



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Screen time

The [Best Start in Life](https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/) is a UK government initiative and online hub designed to support parents and carers from pregnancy through to a child's fifth birthday. They have released guidance regarding screen time for under fives: <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/screen-time-under-5s/>

Screen time includes television as well as phones and tablets. Children who spend time on screens can struggle to remain focused on activities and games. It can also impact their communication skills. Please limit total screen time for young children, wherever possible.

- **Under 2 years:** Avoid screen time other than for shared activities with family that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- **2-5 years:** Try to keep it to 1 hour a day. Less if possible.

ParentPay Donations

To enable us to provide activities about food preparation, as well as other resources to support creativity in the environment, we are asking parents for a voluntary contribution of £10 per half term. Please make payment through ParentPay, item name,

The School Enrichment Fund.

Diary Dates

- **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.)
- **2nd November** - All children return to nursery.
- **4th November** - 9am 'Stay and plant'. Stay and plant a spring bulb with your child.