

Horn Park Primary School

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Headteacher Jack Green

Deputy Head Victoria Wood



14th October 2026

Rowan Wood children starting at Horn Park

Dear Parents and Carers,

Earlier this year, I wrote to let you know that Rowan Wood would be temporarily based at Horn Park while its permanent primary school site is developed. Rowan Wood is a new all-through specialist school for children with autism and, like Horn Park, is part of the Compass Eko Trust.

Following a great deal of preparation over recent months, children from Rowan Wood Primary will begin learning on the Horn Park site after the October half-term. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children, their families and staff to our school community.

I know that families may naturally wonder what this will mean for Horn Park children. The key message I want to share is that day-to-day life at Horn Park will continue very much as normal. Rowan Wood will operate as a separate school, with its own leadership, teaching and support staff and its own administrative arrangements. As we explained previously, the Rowan Wood provision occupies its own section of our building.

A considerable amount of planning has taken place to make the arrangement work smoothly. This has included arrangements for safeguarding and visitors, site access and security, cleaning, catering, premises management, communication systems and the use of shared facilities. This preparation is designed to ensure that Horn Park continues to operate as it does now and that the arrival of Rowan Wood has little to no impact on our children's everyday experience of school.

The main difference families may notice will be around the beginning and end of the school day. Rowan Wood has a different school day, beginning at 9.15am and finishing at 3.20pm, and some children will travel to and from school using dedicated transport. Current planning anticipates a small number of vehicles arriving from 9am onwards, and again at 3pm, with Rowan Wood staff supervising their children as they enter and leave site. This has no impact on drop off and pick up arrangements for Horn Park children.

While the two schools will operate independently, we are genuinely excited by the opportunities that having Rowan Wood alongside us may bring. We want this to be more than simply sharing a building. Where it is appropriate and beneficial for children and staff, there will be opportunities to collaborate, including around events and professional learning. At the same time, we will always ensure that any collaboration is purposeful and that the distinct needs and day-to-day running of both schools are respected.

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For us, this also connects strongly with something we talk about regularly at Horn Park: belonging. There is a significant local need for additional specialist school places, and we are proud that we can make good use of our available space to provide children with a welcoming place in which to learn while Rowan Wood's permanent primary site is developed. Our earlier communication highlighted both this local need and the opportunity to strengthen our sense of community and belonging.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to monitor arrangements closely and make any small adjustments needed to ensure things work well for everyone. If there is anything that Horn Park families need to do differently, we will communicate this clearly.

We are very pleased to be able to welcome Rowan Wood to Horn Park and to support their children and families at this important stage in their school's development. I am equally confident that Horn Park will continue to feel and operate as Horn Park, with the routines, staff, learning and experiences our children know remaining at the heart of their school day.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Green
Headteacher