

Rackheath Primary School

Hello October Newsletter

Friday 6th October 2023

There has been lots of super learning and teaching going on in school this week. Amongst other things Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a lovely day at How Hill and Year 5 went a walk round the village to look at land use. It's been great to see lots of children enjoying clubs too. On Thursday we had netball club, art club and football club. At pick up time it was almost as busy as at the end of the day!



Monthly SEND Parent Forum – The October SEND parent forum is on Monday 9th October. This will be in the hall from 9am. Mrs Watson will be attending the meeting to talk about our SEND support and provision.

Geography Day 2023

On Tuesday 17th October, we will be taking part in a whole school Geography activity where all of the class from Y1 – Y6 will be swapped around. Each group will be looking to design and then build a new, perfect town – and this will actually be built in the classroom!



For this, we are looking for any materials that you may have at home that would allow us to be creative as possible. We are looking for:

- Clean recycled materials that can be used for junk modelling such as
 - Cereal boxes
 - Cardboard
 - Cardboard tubes
 - Newspapers
- Scrap fabric
- Anything else that may be useful for building our new town!

Please deliver any materials that you may have to your child's class teacher and then keep an eye on future newsletters to see photographs of each class's creations!

Bikeability Training



Next week will see some children from Year 5 and 6 taking part in a week of cycling proficiency with the brilliant Bikeability trainers. It is important that we can provide this key training to keep children safe on their bikes. They should bring their bikes and helmets in to school every day from Monday to Thursday.



Use of the Car Park

A polite reminder that the school car park is not to be used by any parent's at pick up or drop off time. This is to keep our children safe. The only exception to this being for any parents who have a sound medical reason to this and have agreed this with Mr Ashman. There are hundreds of young people arriving or leaving the school at this time and it is not safe to drive into the car park. You may not even be able to see some of our youngest children in your mirrors when you are manoeuvring. Thank you for your help with this.

Governor Meeting – Next Tuesday night we have our first governor meeting of the year. In total the school governors meet 6 times a year. In addition, they spend lots of other time in school monitoring everything from the school budget to learning and teaching to safeguarding. I also meet Darren Murley (chair of governors) and Lisa Bush (vice-chair) every fortnight to discuss our plans for the leadership and management of the school. Thanks to all the governors for the valuable work they do on a voluntary basis.

House Captain Elections

On Wednesday 11th October we will be holding our elections for the house captains of our 4 houses; Ranworth, Barton, Hickling and Oulton. Two of our year 6 children, 1 boy and 1 girl, from each of the houses will be chosen by the other members of their house. Each of the houses get together to hear the speeches of the Year 6 children putting themselves forward and then vote for who they think will be the best house captain.



We will announce the winners later in the week. As usual it will be a tricky choice with so many excellent candidates in Year 6.



School Photographer – On Tuesday Tempest Photography will be in school taking photographs of the children ready for your Christmas gifts. They take individual photographs and photographs of siblings in the school. The photographer will be in from 8:30am and starts the day taking photographs of any children with younger siblings below school age. If this applies to your family, please get to school by 8:30am. The photographer will be based in the hall.

Visits for New Reception Children – We are organising visits over the next few weeks for parents interested in their child joining the school as part of the September 2024 Reception class. If you are interested in a look round or know someone who might please contact the school office on 01603 720098.



Football matches – Year 5 and 6 have their first game coming up on Monday 9th October away at Falcon. We also have the Cluster Tournament in the last week of term as well as 2 games planned against Coltishall. One for our boys' team and one for the girls. We also taking part in 3 tournaments over the year at Norwich City's Nest Facility. The first date being Monday 13th November.

Wellbeing Tip from Mrs Cookson



Sometimes, family life can become a blur, and it's tricky to know which problem you need to tackle first. The Flourishing Families Tool is an online resource designed for families who want a little extra help with meeting their child's needs. If you follow this link: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/flourishing-families/> and answer the questions, the tool will point you in the right direction for guidance and support.

I'm also available in school from Monday to Thursday until around 1.15pm. If you'd like to have a chat about any concerns regarding your child's or family wellbeing then please email me at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or phone 01603 720098.

Class Show and Tell Assemblies – Our class assemblies start soon. The assemblies will start at 2:45pm and parents should arrive for 2:40pm. Entrance will be through the main gates near the hall. Our first assembly is Year 4's this Tuesday 10th October.

Cross County Club

Today we had an even better turn-out of 15 children (and a squirrel) at cross country club. They all ran a mile (or close to) and everyone ran all the way which was brilliant to see. Well done to Freddie P, Isobel, Austin, Freddie C, Harlan, Mya, Ayla, Nicky, Cara, Emily, Lola, Hugo, Jenson, Max and Jack. With the cluster cross country in November, it would be lovely to see even more children next week. Going for a run is a great way to start the day!



Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

Parent's Evening – Parents evenings are on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November with Thursday being the later evening. The sign up for parents evening will go out on Thursday 12th October via SchoolPing.

FORS

Thank you everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning / Bake sale last Friday. We raised £107.53. Anyone who kindly donated any delicious treats, your containers are in the main reception area near the school office.





Bombers

Hello to all our families! We have had a busy week exploring different textures and thinking about how they feel. Whether they are hard or soft, sticky or slimy, smooth or bumpy. We played a game with our textile 'feely' bag, had our touch and feel books out, made collages with a variety of textures and explored shaving foam and 'soapy' sand. All good fun. We had yet more new faces join us this week so a warm welcome to them. Next week we are looking at Autumn activities, looking at colours, trees, leaves, and other natural resources.

As we are approaching half term, we are having a 'stay and play' week from the 16th to the 20th October. This means that parents are welcome to come in earlier prior to collection to have a play and see what we do. They can also have a look through their children's learning stories if they wish. We would suggest from 11am onwards on the morning that your child attends or 2.00pm onwards in the afternoon. Please just let staff know if you would like to come in so we are aware of whom to expect.

We are looking for a volunteer to join us on Friday afternoons. If you are able to assist, please speak to Denise or Michelle!!



Reception

We have been really busy in Reception class this week with singing, maths, phonics and art amongst other things! Our new sounds have been t, n, i and p. We have also begun to practise reading 'red' (or tricky) words – these are high frequency words we see often in reading, on signs etc. and/or words that cannot be sounded out. We have looked at 'and', 'I', and 'to' so far.

In Maths we have continued looking at the value of single digit numbers and how to form them when we write - 8 was a fun but tricky one!

We are loving our Funky Fingers time in the afternoons when we really focus on fine motor skills to build strength and coordination in our hands ready for writing. We listen to music as we do this so it's a very relaxed, calm and focussed time of the day.

We have really enjoyed looking at faces, facial features and how faces change as we grow. We used mirrors to help us study our own faces for self-portraits. We hope you've enjoyed seeing them on our Evidence Me app!

Next week, we are thinking about the seasons and especially Autumn.



Year 1

The highlight of our week in Year 1 was our fantastic trip to How Hill! We had an amazing time, everyone behaved perfectly and we learnt a lot. We were mixed into groups with Year 2s and we did dyke dipping, environmental art and den building. All the activities were great fun. We then wrote about our trip when we were back in school and our writing was super!



Also, this week, we have recapped the sounds 'ar' (start the car) and 'or' (shut the door). We finished our work on Out and About – a First Book of Poems by planning and writing our own sensory Autumn poems.

In Maths, we have continued to learn about greater than, less than and equal to, using the symbols $>$, $<$, $=$. We looked at how we can order numbers on a number line and use that to help us work out if they are bigger or smaller.



We had an extra session of PE this week, and did some large habitat art work on the other afternoons.

Year 2

This week Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a fantastic day out at How Hill on Tuesday. The children enjoyed dyke dipping, den building and environmental art. They spotted squirrels dreys and rabbit burrows as well as catching a frog, a stickleback and lots of pond skaters and water beetles.

Back in school the children wrote sentences about their day using powerful verbs and adjectives. Today we began a new story book by Mini Grey called The Last Wolf.

In maths the children have compared and ordered numbers as well as counting backwards and forwards in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have revised the different ways of making the ay sound this week in phonics: ay (stay, may, play), ai (rain, Spain, grain) and a-e (make, cake, rake).

We looked at some of the environmental art that Andy Goldsworthy has created, stuck photographs of his work in our books and wrote sentences about them.



Year 3

This week in year 3, the children have been working incredibly hard on writing their own versions of 'The Comet'. They came up with new characters for their story, a new setting and an exciting new object for their character to see flying through the sky. They have been editing and improving their writing and as a reward for their brilliant work, were able to finish the week off by designing some wonderful pictures inspired by Joe Todd-Stanton.

In Maths, we have moved onto addition and subtraction. They children have been using base 10 to help them with adding and subtraction 1s, 10s and 100s from 3-digit numbers. Next week, we will continue with this topic but will be moving onto looking at adding and subtracting across 10s and 100s (for example, $256+8$ and $546-9$).

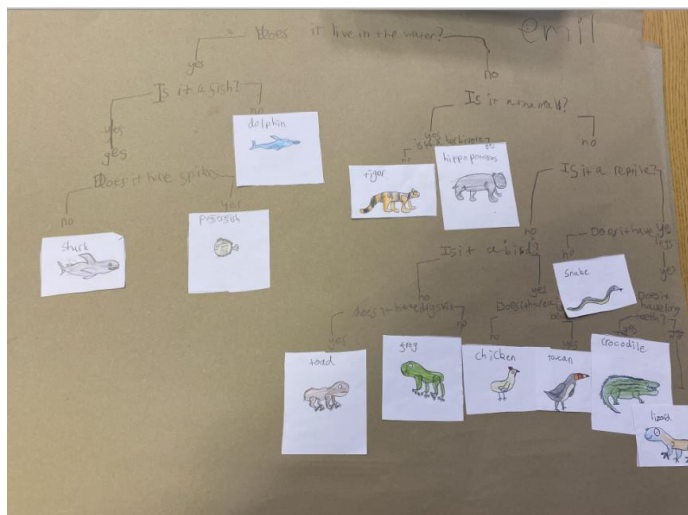
Our afternoons have continued to be filled with science. We have been looking at vertebrates and invertebrates this week and have been studying the five groups of vertebrates: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. It might be fun to test your child's knowledge by picking an animal and seeing if they can identify whether it is a vertebrate or invertebrate! Have a lovely weekend 😊

Year 4

Year 4 have had another smashing week this week! In English, we have been looking at our writing our persuasive letters and we were so impressed by their writing. I know Mr Ashman is very excited to get his post and we are all looking forward to finishing the letters next week.

In Maths, we have begun our unit on addition with the class looking at using place value to support their understanding. Next week, we will be moving onto exchanging.

In topic, we have been creating our own classification grids with the children creating their own animals and questions to create their final piece.



Year 5

What a week! I've worked the children hard this week and they have not disappointed!

In maths, we have moved on to formal subtraction. We started with the place value counters to see what we are doing and why we are doing it, then moved on to showing it as a drawing, until finally today we used the formal column method. We still have a little work to do but they have been great!



In literacy, we have finally found the den of the Midnight Fox but we have also realised that it has been taking the hens from the farm so now Uncle Fred wants to kill it. We have been planning and then writing our persuasive letters to Uncle Fred to try and convince him not to kill it.



In History, we have learnt about the reasons behind the start of WW2 and then begun to look at the evacuation of children – we tried to put ourselves in their shoes by thinking what we would take if we had been evacuated.

In Geography, we looked at maps of Rackheath to learn about its design. We then went on a walk around the village, stopping at 4 points to investigate what we can see and do a small traffic survey.

Year 6

It's been another very busy week in Year 6 and all of the children have risen to each challenge with a positive attitude! In Maths, we recapped column addition before moving on to tricky addition questions with missing digits. The children also continued to learn new tricks / short cuts to tackle arithmetic questions.

During our literacy lessons, the children learnt about coordinating conjunctions and how they can be used in sentences. See if they can tell you what the acronym 'FANBOYS' stands for. We also completed our detailed diary entries linked to Boy Overboard where the children were using vocabulary such as: melancholy, despondent, perilous, coarse, precarious, fatigued, frantic and weary to only name a few!

As part of Black History Month, the children had the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. In Topic, we researched the Battle of Britain in WW2 and learnt about the most affected cities in England. We began our French lessons too, where the class focused on numbers and had fun playing bingo to help them retain their pronunciations.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **21 out of 28** and
Year 5 who had **30 out of 32**

of their children read to their family
at least 3 times at home this week!

Year 6 had

98%

attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend next week with them.

Attendance Bear

Star, Angel and Diamond Certificate Winners – Well done to the following children who got their certificates in assembly today.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Ruby, Mabel, Rocco
Year 1	Lucas, Niamh, Charlotte
Year 2	All of Year 2, Florence, Elliot
Year 3	Oscar, Charlie, Henry
Year 4	Sophie, Sidney, Emily
Year 5	Sebastian, Emily T, Isaac
Year 6	Oscar, Isabel C, Alex

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman