

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023

It has been another busy week in school. It's hard to believe that the first half term of the year is almost complete. Thank you to all of you who have been parking carefully around the school and for not using the school car park at pick up and drop off. This helps to keep all our children safe. With the weather changing and the days drawing in it is important that we all collectively continue to keep the area around the school as safe as possible for all the children.

House Captain Elections – On Friday each house voted for their new House Captains. Year 6's from each house put themselves forward for election and then the children voted for their house captains. This year I was particularly struck by the fact that all the children would have made fantastic house captains. The voting was very close but, in the end, the following children were chosen. I am sure they will do a fantastic job.

- Hickling (Green) George H and Harlow
- Oulton (Yellow) Freddie and Holly
- Barton (Blue) Josh and Trinity
- Ranworth (Red) Finlay and Isabel C



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 went out yesterday on School Ping. Year 1's parents evening is on Wednesday 1st and Tuesday 7th to enable Mrs Pallant to see all parents. Tuesday 7th is the later evening.

Christmas Cards - Like last year the FORS and the school have teamed up with Cauliflower Cards. They produce different Christmas products like cards, wrapping paper and mugs using the children's designs. Last year the finished products looked amazing! The children will complete their designs in school and then bring them home for you to decide if you wish to order anything. To get everything ready in time for Christmas there is quite a quick turnaround time.



- The children will bring their design and order form home between Tuesday 17th and Friday 20th October. **Orders need to be placed online using a special code before the 6th November.**
- All completed forms with the design attached are then returned to school ready for collection. Designs and forms need to be **returned by Monday 6th November at the very latest**, to ensure that everything is ready in time for collection by the Cauliflower Cards team. Any orders in later may not be ready in time for Christmas.

School Photographs – Individual and sibling photographs were taken on Tuesday this week. The children took the forms home with them on the day. Any orders need to be made online, information on this went home with the photographs. Remember to place them by the deadline to avoid having to pay postage.



Football Match away at Falcon Junior

On Monday the Year 5 and 6 team played their first game of the season against Falcon away. Unusually, we played 9 rather than 7 aside which was lots of fun and gave a good chance for 12 children to represent the school. The game was played in an excellent spirit and was fun to watch. Captain Alex and Freddie C both performed well in goal. The defence made up at different times by Isobel, Freddie P, Finn, Jasmine, Alex and Austin were strong in their tackling and organisation. The midfield and attack of George, Harlan, Freddie C, Maxwell, Josh and Reid combined really well and put together some great attacking moves. The game finished 6-1 to Rackheath with a hat-trick for Harlan and a goal each for Josh, Maxwell and Freddie C.

A big thank you to the family members in attendance for your excellent support.

Football Matches – We also have the Cluster Tournament in the last week of term as well as two games planned against Coltishall after half term. One for our boys' team and one for the girls. We also taking part in 3 tournaments over the year at the Norwich City's Nest Facility. The first date being Monday 13th November.

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



We had 20 Year 5 & 6 children take part in Bikeability training this week - where the children are taught to safely ride on roads, navigate traffic and use junctions.

The instructors commented on how amazing our children were, with one saying **"I wish all children from other schools were like this!"**

A massive well done to the following children all received certificates and badges: Connor, Harrison, Mya, Mia, Kayden, Kian, Harlan, Emily, Jacob, Ethan, Ellis, Jake, Emily T, Olivia, Maxwell, Dolcie, Rachel, Freddie, Rosa, Maisie and Skylar.

We are hopeful that this will run again next year as we know how valuable it is.

Thanks also to all the parents who helped bring bikes into school and made sure the bikes were all ready to ride!



Visits for new reception children – We are organising visits over the next few 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.

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson

If you're searching for a solution, or at least a different approach to an issue, please take a look at our wellbeing page on the school website. You can find it by following this link: <https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/about-us/wellbeing/>



You'll find a variety of resources - from how to support your child's emotional development and sense of wellbeing, to help with living costs.

One of the most recent additions to the wellbeing page is a link to Qwell: <https://www.qwell.io/> It's a **free**, NHS funded service for adults to chat online to registered counsellors about anything that's affecting your mental wellbeing. There's no referral process. No waiting list. Just sign up, and access the support today.

Best wishes, Mrs Cookson (you can email me at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or phone 01603 720 098).



Bombers

Hello from a very busy 'Bombers'. We have been exploring 'autumn' activities this week. The children have looked at leaves and conkers and made some lovely 'leaf' / 'tree' pictures in the craft area. We have talked about the leaves changing colours as well as acting out some lovely 'Autumn' songs. We continue to nurture their listening skills with sound games and stories and encourage their interaction with lots of ring games and turn taking activities. A reminder that it is 'stay and play' week next week. This means that parents/carers are welcome to come in for a little while if they wish prior to collection. With half term soon approaching, we will be exploring 'Halloween' and 'Fireworks' when we return.

Reception

It's been another busy week in Reception class as we've been learning the story 'The Little Red Hen' – we were super excited to hear that some of the children had been performing it at home! Well done! We were very keen to make bread just like the hen! The children loved making it together and we hope they liked eating it! We have learned words and actions like mix, knead and grind from the story and our baking session.

We held our first 'scribble write' and 'dough disco' sessions too this week – these are to help our motor skills and coordination. We listened to pop tunes to help us with the actions – as we do it more, maybe the children can tell you what we call our fingers! (Tommy Thumb, Peter Pointer, Toby Tall, Ruby Ring and Pinky Small!)

In phonics we have been learning the new sounds: g, o, c and k. In maths we have continued our focus on number; the children are working really hard to recognise the digits 1-5 for some and higher if we're feeling more confident.

We are looking forward to finding out more about Autumn next week. Have a great weekend all!



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have recapped the sounds 'air' (that's not fair) and 'ir' (whirl and twirl). We started to look at the traditional tale of Little Red Riding Hood. We have read two versions of the story and are watching some clips on the Whiteboard of another retelling. We have been writing sentences to retell the story, drawing our own wolf, acting out the story with props and story spoons, and colouring a wolf picture on Purple Mash. We have also been learning a song linked to the story.

In Maths, we have been looking at adding and using the + and = signs. We have been using part-whole models to show how the two parts add up to one whole. We have loved the online game on the ICT games website called 'Smoothie Maker' which has helped us with our adding skills.

For our Topic work this week, we have done some artwork from nature. We looked at the artist Claude Monet and tried to recreate some of his artwork using pastels, pencil crayons and painting with sponges. We also really enjoyed making individual Bug Hotels to finish off our science unit of work.

We have been enjoying the Charanga music unit called 'Hey You!' We are learning to sing the song and rap and have been using glockenspiels to accompany us!



Year 2

This week the time has flown by as the children have been busy learning. In English we have been enjoying the story "The Last Wolf". The children have written in speech and thought bubbles, improved sentences with powerful verbs by adding adjectives and also thought about how the story might continue.

In maths the children have found bonds of 20 using their knowledge of bonds of 10, and also worked out bonds for other numbers less than 20. Today the children worked in pairs to find all of the possible additions which can be created by rolling 2 dice.

The children enjoyed a PE lesson with Mr Palmer, have worked on the long ee sound in phonics, learnt about food chains in science and yesterday created the most amazing environmental art in the hall using conkers, petals, leaves, twigs and so on. Thank you to everyone who provided materials for us to use.

We still need more recycled materials for our Geography Day next Tuesday please.



Year 3

The maths work in year 3 has been a little bit trickier this week. We have been adding and subtracting across 10s and 100s (such as, $325 + 8$ and $245 - 90$). We have been using, what Mr Cavender calls the 'cheating method', to partition numbers to help us get to nice, easy multiples of 10s and 100s. For example, breaking down $430 - 70 = 360$, by doing $430 - 30 = 400$ followed by $400 - 40 = 360$. Any practise you can do with your children on these skills, will really help them to sharpen up their mental maths!

In English, we have started looking at instructional writing. At the beginning of the week, we looked at different types of instructional writing, before using our own to help our partners make their own paper hats. The children really enjoyed doing this! We have also been studying imperative verbs and looked at how they are used within a set of instructions.

On Wednesday, we had a great computing lesson, where almost every child was successful in coding their turtle character to draw a square using the 'repeat' code 'forward, 90 degrees'. The children really loved doing this and it is clear to see how much their confidence is growing!

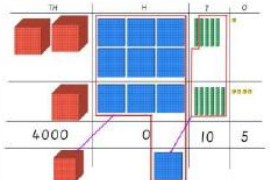



Year 4

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at our class assembly on Tuesday afternoon. The children were so pleased that so many grown-ups were able to attend and the whole class did an amazing job!

Our assembly was the focus for the first part of our week, but after this we have started a new English unit on Free Verse Poetry. As a starting point, the class wrote a poem based on, 'The Magic Box' which could hold anything they could think of! We had some great ideas!

In Maths, we have been continuing our work on addition and we have been looking at exchanging numbers across the place value columns. So far, we have been drawing our calculations and then we will look at writing the numbers using the abstract method.

Concrete	Pictorial	Abstract
$2651 + 1364 = 4015$ 	$2651 + 1364 = 4015$ 	$2651 + 1364 = 4015$ $\begin{array}{r} 2000 + 600 + 50 + 1 \\ + 1000 + 300 + 60 + 4 \\ \hline 4000 + 0 + 10 + 5 = 4015 \\ \hline 1000 \quad 100 \end{array}$

Next week, we will be enjoying our whole school Geography Day on Tuesday - I cannot wait!

Year 5

It has been a strange week in year 5 as we have had around 20 children out at different times for bikeability – it has meant that our week has been rather disrupted. As a result of this, we have not carried on with our usual Midnight Fox work in English, or Number operations in Maths as we did not want anyone to miss out. Instead, in maths we have focussed on investigations. I asked the children to find out which number comes up most when rolling two dice and why – the answer was 7!! They proved this with a bar chart.

In English, we have focussed on sentence construction through the use of adverbial starters, speech and relative clauses. We then used these skills to write a short story based on an image of their own choice.



In the afternoons, I tasked the children we had left with designing a new cereal! We had some great ideas:

- Foot'E'os
- Strawberry Bursts
- Choc'a'lot
- Smor'e'os

I'm tempted to take some of these ideas to Kelloggs to try and get rich!

We also looked at the male and female parts of flowers through artwork with pencil sketches of different flowers.



Year 6

The Year 6s have been superstars again this week and have produced some fantastic work. In Maths lessons, the children completed a variety of subtraction questions. It started with using column subtraction but moved onto solving problems. Some of the reasoning questions contained missing digits and they even balanced equations using subtraction!

In Literacy, the children found key information linked to the next set of chapters from Boy Overboard and were confident enough to demonstrate their viewpoints and predictions. We then moved on to learning about non-chronological reports. We looked at some examples and then highlighted the most important features. Once this was completed, we then began planning our own non-chronological report - which will link to WW2.



In Science, flowers were brought into class for the children to open and dissect. In doing so, they were brilliant at being able to identify the various parts such as the ovary, style, stigma, filament, anther and sepal to only name a few. They then researched the function of each one.

In History, the children learnt about The Blitz during WW2 and tried to understand what life would have been like as an evacuee.

In art lessons, the Year 6s looked at some artwork by Escher and then went onto start their own tessellating patterns. Finally, I would like to say a massive well done to all of the Year 6s who put themselves forward to be a House Captain!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **21 out of 28** and
Year 6 who had **27 out of 31**

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

Year 5 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	Luna, Delilah, Austin
Year 1	Yanna, Ivy, Henry
Year 2	Rosie, Eliora, Evie
Year 3	Ava, Jack, Alfie
Year 4	Aria, Madi, All of Year 4
Year 5	Ricki, Ibbie, Rachel
Year 6	Finn, Isabelle A, Harlow

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman