

# Rackheath Primary School

## September Newsletter

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

It has been another busy week in school. The Reception Class have completed their first full week in school and are already going out to join the rest of the school at lunchtime. They and their buddies are already bonding fantastically well. Clubs and music lessons have started too and there is a lovely buzz around the school. We have also held 4 well attended cafes for parents and Year 3 and 4 have been on lovely trips to How Hill as well as Year 1 and 2 walking through the village to post special letters.

**Parent Volunteers – We really value the support we get from parents who volunteer to spend time in the classrooms. We are always looking to add to our volunteers. If you would like to spend some time in school doing things like hearing children read or helping them learn their times tables please do let me know at [head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk)**



### After School Activities

**Clubs – It has been lovely to get the clubs going again this week. The weather has generally been good and it's been great to see all the children taking part really enjoying themselves.**

A reminder for parents of year 5 and 6 children attending clubs to please complete the consent form we sent via School Ping if you haven't done it yet. This asks whether you are happy for us to send your child home at 3:15 if a club is cancelled, or you would rather let us know on the day of the club depending on your circumstances (in that case we would keep your child in school until we had heard from you).

### Art Club

We all had a great time this week and started our canvas painting using 'Fluid Acrylic' (no mess)! technique.



**New Lunch Payment System** – On Monday the new Scopay system was launched. After a few understandable teething problems the system already seems to be working well and we are very pleased with the positive impact it is already having. As always we value your feedback, should you have any, positive or negative, please do let us know.



**Parent Cafes** – It has been great to see so many families attending the first cafes of the year. Feedback from Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3 children, staff and families has been very good. Next week's cafes are:



- Monday 25th – Year 4
- Wednesday 27th – Year 5
- Friday 29th – Year 6

### Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I hope you've all had a good week. I shared the following handy hint with one of my friends recently. The next day, she sent me a text saying, "Thank you for the kitchen 'reset' idea. Simply brilliant! It works!" So I thought it would be a good idea to share it with school too:



It's important for children to do 'their bit' in the home. Depending on their stage of development, it might be making their own bed, tidying away toys, or clearing the dinner table and filling up the dishwasher. However, it's easy as their grown-ups to fall into the trap of either doing all the chores or finishing off the ones they've nearly completed. This can leave us feeling worn out and unappreciated. To avoid this trap, you could do the chore with your child while you talk through what you're doing. This will show them what a good job looks like. You can then both admire your efforts while you explain this is what a bed / toy cupboard / dishwasher reset looks like. Then in the future, when it's time for them to do the chore again, ask them to, "Reset their bed / toy cupboard / the dishwasher". This will hopefully avoid the need to explain the chore in detail and then giving up and doing it all yourself!

P.S Credit for this handy hint goes to someone I follow on Instagram



## Bombers

Hi to all our families. It has been a busy week with more new little faces settling in. We have been looking at 'All About Me' this week with 'self portraits', 'Doctors' roleplay, 'Skin' tones in paint and drawing round the children's feet to cut out to decorate and compare sizes. Needless to say lots of handprints too. At 'circle' we have talked about where they live and looked at 'Emotion' pictures and feelings. Next week we are exploring 'Harvest', with fruit and vegetable puzzles, information books, farm small world and fresh fruit and vegetable craft activities.

Have a good weekend everyone.

## Reception

We've had another fun and challenging week in reception class! We loved singing and acting out 'The Grand Old Duke of York!' Some of us found it really interesting building hills for soldiers to climb like in the song and also exploring ramps and vehicles.

We have continued to look at stories by Julia Donaldson - it has been wonderful to see the children join in with these narratives because they are firm favourites at home. We've hopefully added to their story banks with some new titles too! The children loved completing the rhymes as we read together.

We have really enjoyed spending time with your child 1:1 as we've carried out lots of the baseline assessments - many of the children have even asked to come and work with us!

Next week, we're excited to start learning some of the letter sounds in phonics. I wonder if the children can tell you which sound we've learnt. Can we spot them on road signs or food packaging, etc?

A big thank you for coming to our parents meeting about phonics and our sharing app 'Evidence Me.' Please don't worry if you couldn't make it, we will email out any necessary information, and, of course, our door is always open for questions/ queries.

Have a great, restful weekend reception class!



## Year 1

We had two special events this week in Year 1 – our first Curiosity Café and our walk to the Post Office. We really enjoyed so many grown-ups joining us to read 'Stuck' and to make a picture of our own tree. We planned our walk to the Post Office using large maps at the start of the week, then followed our route to go and post letters. We had written to whoever lives at our house to tell them our favourite things about Year 1. We had to write our address on the envelope so the postman could find the right house!

In English this week, we started to look at the Shirley Hughes book, 'Out and About - A First Book of Poems'. We wrote about what we like to do outdoors, played outdoors and drew pictures of the outdoors. We shared the poem, 'Wind', which was very appropriate on a very gusty day! We practised reading it

aloud with expression and actions and then performed it to each other. We recapped the sounds 'igh' (fly high) and 'ow' (blow the snow) in Phonics.

In Maths, we have been practising finding one more and one less by counting forwards and backwards. We used Numicon, number lines, 100 squares and ten frames to help us.

We enjoyed our first trip to the school library on Monday afternoon. We will do this every week, where we will share stories and be able to choose a book to take home for the week.



## Year 2

Year 2 have settled into routine this week and been working hard as well as having fun.

On Monday the children all wrote letters to a family member, pet or teddy at home. Later in the week they addressed an envelope and yesterday afternoon we enjoyed a walk to the post office. Every child carried their own letter which they posted and are now eagerly waiting for it to arrive.

Thank you to all of the parents and grandparents who joined us for our class meeting on Wednesday morning. The children listened beautifully while I talked and then enjoyed some autumn artwork with the grown-ups.

In English this week the children have enjoyed reading and illustrating poems. They have focused on the diagraphs qu and ng in phonics and we have also begun our guided reading groups. In maths we have been practising our counting backwards from 100 and have also been ordering numbers to 100.

The children enjoyed PE with Mr Palmer on Tuesday and today we fitted in some singing.

Year 1 had more reading stars than us this week – let's see if we can beat them next week but keeping up the good work with reading at home!

## Year 3

It has been a super busy week for us in year 3! We had our curiosity café at the start of the week, where grown-ups came into the classroom to learn about all the exciting things we get up to in year 3 and to discuss the learning that takes place across the year. The grown-ups and children even practised some reading fluency techniques before having a go at creating a Henri Matisse inspired piece of art using his 'painting with scissors' technique.

In maths we have continued our work with 3-digit numbers, finding 1, 10 and 100 more and less and finished today with a problem solving task, using counters to make as many 3-digit numbers as possible. The children also really enjoyed playing a maths game, involving placing numbers on a number line, so I have included a link to the game in case anyone wants to have a go at home:

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/37/placing-numbers-on-a-number-line>

In English, we have been writing some descriptions of scenes outside Nyla's window using expanded noun phrases and today we wrote a letter to Nyla's dad offering him advice on how he could help Nyla settle into her new home.

Finally, on Thursday we had our brilliant trip to How Hill, where the children had a go at dyke dipping; explored the wet and dry woodland on a nature trail around the secret gardens of How Hill and were lucky enough to visit the 'Hathor' wherry! It was a brilliant day and the children all absolutely loved it-the dyke dipping in particular! Enjoy the weekend, Miss H 😊



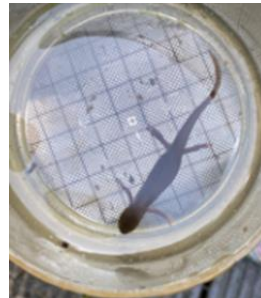
## Year 4

Mrs Cavender has been in our class for much of this week and she has been absolutely blown away by the group's resilience and flexibility to what to out to be a very different week indeed! It's so lovely to come back and hear how well they have been doing!

We were lucky to finish of our week by visiting How Hill today. I was so pleased to see the sun shining and the class were on great form. We did some dyke dipping and we were very impressed by our catch. Both groups were lucky enough to catch a newt and we saw lots of different types of invertebrates too. After this, we visited a Wherry which was absolutely spectacular! The children were so sensible and asked amazing questions. I am always proud to work here at Rackheath but hearing the lovely comments from members of the public and from the volunteers at the centre about how amazing our children are really shows how special they are! We finished our day by going on a nature walk and looking at the mud on the broads which I know was an absolute highlight!



Just a reminder that we have our class café on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> at 9am. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!



## Year 5

Mr. Cavender has been unwell and not in school since Monday. He would be very pleased with how well Year 5 have done in his absence. The class have continued their work on the Midnight Fox, writing newspaper reports about the first sighting of the fox. In math's lessons they have taken on some tricky

multiplication and division challenges. They also proved themselves Wordle masters – getting the right word with 4 or fewer guesses every time this week!

In the afternoon they have worked well in their PE lessons and produced some super map work and art too. Well done Year 5!

### Year 6

The children have continued their fantastic start to Year 6 by showing an excellent work rate in lessons and for being wonderful buddies to those in Reception! In Maths lessons this week, we have opened our own shops and decided on a variety of items to sell. When the children created their own prices, they had to round these to the nearest £1, £10, £100, £1000 and 10p. We also ordered decimal numbers as well as learn some 'tricks' and short cuts to complete a range of arithmetic questions. In Literacy, we discussed the differences between formal and informal language before planning an informal letter linked to Boy Overboard – our class book. The letter was written in first person from Afghanistan (where the story is set) to a friend back home in England. The children were amazing at learning lots of advanced vocabulary and remembering to include them in their work. Also, it was fantastic to see them clearly put across their feelings and emotions. In art, we continued our one-point perspective water colours and the end results were very impressive! In History and Geography lessons, we continued our learning of WW2 by learning about influential figures, the countries involved and by plotting the countries (and cities) of the United Kingdom. **Just a reminder that it is our class café next Friday and a part of this will link to Aylmerton. If you are unable to attend, then the information will be given to your child to take home.**



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **22 out of 28** and  
Year 3 who had **29 out of 31**

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

Well done to Year 6 who had  
**99%**  
attendance last week. Attendance  
Bear will spend next week with them.

Attendance Bear  
**Attendance Bear**

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

**STARS**  **ANGELS**  **DIAMONDS** 

<b>Year 1</b>	Freddie, Arthur, Ada
<b>Year 2</b>	Ben, Mia, Hunter
<b>Year 3</b>	Jacob P, Mila, Isobel
<b>Year 4</b>	Joey, Olivia C, Bonnie
<b>Year 5</b>	Freddie, Mya, Jack
<b>Year 6</b>	George H, Holly, George F

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

*Chris Ashman*