

Rackheath Primary School

September Newsletter

Friday 29th September 2023

There has been lots of super learning and teaching going on in school this week. We have had 3 cafes during the week for our 3 eldest classes. It has been great to see so many parents and family members in attendance to work alongside the children.

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.



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 a 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 the Norwich City's Nest Facility. The first date being Monday 13th November.

FORS Coffee Morning – Today the FORS organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. Thanks to everyone who attended or made cakes and savoury snacks. A huge thank you to our amazing FORS team who put so much time in to the school and provide amazing opportunities for the children, they otherwise wouldn't have.



Class Show and Tell Assemblies

Our class assemblies start soon. The full list is below:

The assemblies will start at 2:45 and parents should arrive for 2:40. Entrance will be through the main gates near the hall.

- Tuesday 10th October – Year 4

- Tuesday 7th November – Year 3
- Thursday 9th November – Year 2
- Tuesday 14th November – Year 1
- Wednesday 15th November – Reception
- Tuesday 21st November – Year 6
- Thursday 23rd November – Year 5



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.

Cross County Club – We had an excellent turn-out of 10 children 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 Freddie C, Isobel, Freddie P, Mya, Ayla, Nicky, Cara, Emily, Lola and Jenson. 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!



Year 1 and 2 How Hill Trip

Next Tuesday 3rd October Year 1 and 2 are off to How Hill. I'm sure they will have an amazing time!



The week of the 9th October 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.

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 in the next week or so via School Ping.

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!



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

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson



Here's a quick, easy, and completely free 'wellbeing tool' for people of any age to help restore your sense of calm and increase your capacity to handle challenging stuff. Whenever you notice you're feeling emotionally triggered, focus on how you're breathing. Try to breathe slowly, in through your nose and out through your mouth. Start to make your exhale longer than your inhale. Focus on the sensation of your breath coming into and out of your body. Even just one minute of this breathing technique will help to soothe frazzled feelings. If you're looking to super-charge this, try focusing on the pause between your exhale and your inhale or saying to yourself in your thoughts, "[Insert your name], you can handle this". To provide feedback and your wellbeing activity suggestions, please email me at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk

Happy 10 Year Anniversary Mr Ashman from the Friends of Rackheath School

"Thank you for going above and beyond and for being a great Head Teacher who truly cares for everyone who is part of Rackheath Primary and Preschool!"

"From everyone of FORS we would like to thank you for allowing us to put our event ideas into actual events, not only does this support the children and families it also supports all of the Rackheath Community!"





Bombers

Hello to you all. The children have been looking at 'Harvest' activities this week. We have been enjoying lots of 'vegetable' hammering, apple, carrot and potato printing, the Farm small world and creating 'seed' pictures. We have also been encouraging listening skills with small group games, stories, and cd 'lotto' activities and building positive relationships with 'ring' games and use of timers for sharing and turn taking. We continue to have new little ones join us and so far, they are all settling well and seem happy to be part of our group, which is lovely. We are exploring different textures next week and practising 'cutting' skills with our 'Hairdressers' role-play. Let's hope we can enjoy a 'sunny' week end.

Reception

It's been an exciting week in Reception class as we've embarked on our phonics journey! We have learned the sounds m, a, s and d. We have had lots of fun using our giant voices to make huge letters in the air and draw letters in the rice tray. We thought about what words begin with these sounds – I wonder if, over the weekend, our children could find one object around the house for each sound? Perhaps you're off out and children might spot these on road signs, etc?

We haven't just had fun with phonics this week; we've also been exploring the topic 'All About Me' so we have been discussing our homes and families. The children have loved coming to work with us and drawing their families and explaining who everyone is to us. It is great to know this information as it opens up so many conversations between us and their peers.

Our number work has been exciting, too, as we have been exploring the first few digits in our counting system – we're really trying to recognise small groups of objects without necessarily counting them (a bit like how we instantly recognise the dots on a dice). This helps us to really get a feel for the value of a number. We have also looked at sayings to help us remember how to form/ write each digit.

We are looking forward to creating self-portraits next week!



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have been continuing with our poetry book, *Out and About – a First Book of Poems*. We lit a fire on Monday morning which was very exciting! We thought about all our senses and what words we could use to describe the fire. We then used these words to write our own fire poems. We have made fire pictures with tissue paper and used instruments to make fire music! In Phonics, we recapped the sounds 'oo' (poo at the zoo!) and 'oo' (look at a book).

In Maths, we have been looking at greater than, less than and equal to. We used the symbols $>$, $<$, $=$ to represent these ideas. We learnt that if we put teeth in those symbols they are like crocodile mouths and it always 'eats' the bigger number. We talked about 'equal to' being 'the same'.

We started the Science part of our World Outside Our Window topic this week. We looked at where different animals live and sorted animals into the correct habitats. We also learned about food chains, where animals eat each other and plants. We made our own paper food chains where the animals could 'eat' each other and played a food chain game about foxes and rabbits. We also began a music unit called 'Hey You!'



Year 2

This week the children in Year 2 have worked really hard. They are impressing us with their ideas and thoughtfulness, towards both learning and caring for each other.

In English the children enjoyed writing a poem about rules on Monday and illustrating a poem about looking after a tree throughout the seasons today. They have also spotted powerful verbs in poems and written sentences using a variety of verbs. In Maths we have revised learning on number bonds (pairs of numbers which make 10 and 20) and also been estimating where numbers go on an empty number line.

In science the children have had to think hard as we have been learning about things which are living, non-living (dead) and have never been alive. The children enjoyed PE with Mrs Ashman on Tuesday as well as a session in the library. We have also had guided reading, phonics and handwriting lessons.

On Monday the children will need their green spelling books please as we have our first spelling test. I have set up lots of activities related to our learning on Purple Mash and will send home log-in details on Monday. We are very much looking forward to our trip to How Hill on Tuesday.

Year 3

The class have blown me away this week with their knowledge of comparing and ordering numbers to 1000. They have really enjoyed playing this Caterpillar Ordering Topmarks game, so I have attached the link for anyone who wants to show off their number knowledge to their grown-ups:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/caterpillar-ordering>

In English, we finally finished our book, *The Comet* by Joe Todd-Stanton. At the start of the week, we learnt about comets and had a go at drawing our own using chalk (which thankfully wasn't as messy as I had envisaged) before finishing the week by reviewing the book and having lots of discussions about our

favourite parts and the different types of feelings the story evoked in us. Next week, we will have a go at writing our own stories, which should be lots of fun.



Finally, in our topic afternoons the children have been learning about the 7 life processes and how to group living things. We used the acronym 'MRS GREN' to help remember the processes and used the laptops to create our own posters showing movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion and nutrition. Have a wonderful weekend everyone! Miss H 😊

Year 4

Gosh we've packed a lot in this week! We started our week by hosting our first Café of the year. It was so lovely to welcome so many grownups into our room and I was very grateful for our group participation! We explored times tables and learnt a few tricks of how we can practise our tables at home.



Then, we have been looking at rounding numbers to 10,100 and 1000 in Maths for the remainder of the week. The class have loved it and lots of people told me it was the highlight of their week! Next week, we are beginning our unit on addition and subtraction.

English has also been loads of fun this week. We have explored our responsibility to Planet Earth and considered how we do not own the land we live on, we are just looking after it for now. The children have written letters to Planet Earth and we have also started to look around school to see what improvements we think need to be made. Next week, we will be writing persuasive letters to Mr Ashman asking him to support us making changes around the school.

In science we have been looking at animal classification and we have explored vertebrates and invertebrates and we'll be continuing this into next week.

Year 5

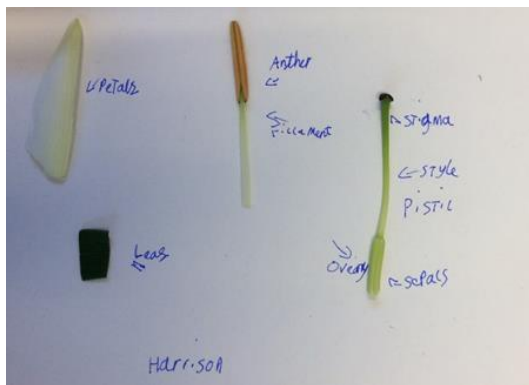
It was so nice to come back into the classroom on Monday after being ill and seeing a sea of smiles greeting me! A big thank you to Mr Ashman and Mrs Cavender for covering for me whilst I was away!

In maths this week, we have moved on to teaching addition – we practised that on Wednesday during our café. We have actually moved on to the formal column method today as the children were working incredibly well!

In literacy, we have been working on our poetry linked to the Midnight fox and how she moves – the main focus for this has been the use of similes to describe the fox. Once these are finished, the children will write them up in neat and we will send a copy home.

In topic, we have continued our work on the British Isles to get us familiar with where places are – we also found places that are important to us because of where family live or wonderful holidays that we have been on. We started our WW2 work by looking at a timeline of events for the start of ww2.

In science, we have looked at the parts of a flower and to do this we actually dissected some! We then had to label the male and female parts and we also used drama to explain the process of pollination.



Year 6

Even though this week has flown by, we have still managed to fit in so many activities! In Maths, we learnt what integers are and then moved onto finding the difference between positive and negative numbers (including decimals). We ended this unit by completing worded problems linked to this topic. In Literacy lessons, the children referred back to their 'wow' words from Boy Overboard and cleverly used them to write a poem focusing on life as a refugee. We then planned a diary entry of all the key events that have taken place so far (from Boy Overboard) and these will be written next week. In art, we began producing a piece of artwork that includes positive and negative space by using watercolours and card. The children also began our Science topic of 'Living things and their habitats' which will soon focus on plants. On Tuesday, they recapped the 7 characteristics of living things (MRS NERG) before learning about seed dispersal. In History lessons, the children researched the influential figures during WW2 as well as discussing how the war started. Ms Holmes and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended our café this morning – we were impressed by everyone's creative skills! For those who were unable to attend, part of the café was linked to Aylmerton and information (such as the kit list) will be given out at home time today.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 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!

Reception had

99%

attendance for the week beginning
18th September. Attendance Bear will
spend next week in Reception.

Attendance Bear

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

STARS  **ANGELS**  **DIAMONDS** 

Year 1	Aminah, Emmy, Chester
Year 2	Landon, Finley, Archie
Year 3	Izzy, Alicja, Jacob G
Year 4	Ayla, Lola, Mr Ashman
Year 5	Isabelle, Olivia, Honey, Harlan
Year 6	Libby, Jayden, Lexi-Louise

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman