

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd November 2023

It has been a very busy first week back in school. We have held a very successful parents evening and been buffeted by the wind and rain additionally some of the school have been on trips as well as having visitors into school.

On Wednesday Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic World War 2 day at Gressenhall and then yesterday Year 4, 5 and 6 took part in Sustainability and Recycling Workshops led by Cara from Everfi. Both Cara and the Gressenhall staff commented on the excellent behaviour and attitudes of our children during the time they spent with them. Well done everyone in Year 4, 5 and 6 – it's always great when people from outside the school pass on praise. Thanks also to Mrs Goddard for organising the Everfi workshops.

School Council and Eco-Committee Elections

This week we have held elections for our new School Council and Eco Committee. Lots of children in all the classes put themselves forward and spoke really well to their classmates explaining why they thought they would be a good school council or eco-committee member. The class then voted for their choice and the winners were shared with the class later in the week.

The new school council group, which is made up of 2 children from each of the 7 classes is as follows:

- Reception – Rocco and Ruby
- Year 1 – Zachary and Ada
- Year 2 – Leo and Willow
- Year 3 – Max and Esme
- Year 4 – William and Lola
- Year 5 – Maxwell and Emily T.
- Year 6 – Connor and Layla

The Eco-Committee is made up of 8 children; 2 per Key Stage Class as follows:

- Year 3 – Izzy and Ava
- Year 4 – Nathan and Erin
- Year 5 – Freddie and Rachel
- Year 6 – Jayden and Tallulah

Well done to all the children who were voted in. They all received their badges in assembly today. Mrs Goddard and Mrs Milligan, who organise the two groups, will meet with the children soon.

Year 6 Aylmerton Residential

Year 6 residential week is from Monday 6th to Friday 10th November. A huge thank you to the staff going with the class. Mrs Goddard, Mrs Roe, Mr Edwards and Mr Cavender. Mr Cavender will be at Aylmerton from Wednesday evening so Mr Edwards will be teaching Year 5 on Thursday and Friday that week.





There is lots happening this half term in the run up to Christmas. No doubt more dates will be added to the list below as the term progresses.

Fri 1 st December	FORS Christmas Fayre – 3.15pm
Mon 11 th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – am Year 1/2 Dress Rehearsal - pm
Tues 12 th December	Year 1/2 Performance - am Reception Performance - pm
Weds 13 th December	Reception Performance - am Year 1/ 2 Performance - pm
Tues 12 th December	KS2 Carols with the Salvation Army – 7.00pm
Tues 19 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Class Show and Tell Assemblies – Our class assemblies continue next week with Year 3 and Year 2. The full list is below:

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

- 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

Parent's Evening – It was lovely to see so many parents in school over the course of the last 2 days. I know lots of positive news was shared between teachers and parents about how well the children have settled into their new classes.

CAULIFLOWER CARDS

Christmas Card Designs

A reminder that all completed forms with the design attached 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.



Sports Update – Unfortunately our planned football double header against Coltishall, which was due to take place today was called off due to the heavy rain yesterday. Some Year 6 children are taking part in a football competition at the Nest on Monday 13th November. Then on Friday 17th November we have Cluster Cross Country for Year 3 to 6.

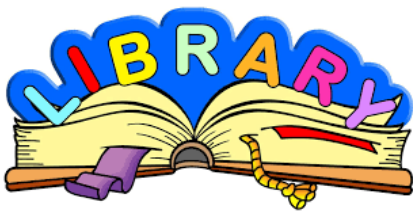
Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson

I hope you had a good half term break. This week, during my lunches with the children, we've talked about all the noises we constantly have around us. Our list of noises included: alarm clock, mobile phones, TV, Xbox, car horns, radio / music, supermarket tills, traffic, and tablets. Our brains haven't changed much since we lived in caves with only the sounds of nature around us. It's therefore a good idea to regularly (even for two minutes a day) escape the noise and distractions of the modern world and to enjoy the peace and quiet instead. I've challenged the children to try this out, and for the children who already do this, to invite family and friends to join them.



I'd love to hear your feedback and thoughts about what wellbeing activities work well for you and your family. I can be contacted at: cookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk

Saturday Morning School Library Opening



On Saturday 18th November the school library will be open from 10.30-11.30am. School families will be welcome to come and spend some time reading. You will also be able to select books to borrow and take home. Coffee, tea, squash and biscuits will be available.

Mrs Grogutt and Ms Holmes look forward to welcoming you. We hope to open the library one Saturday each Half Term.



Bombers

Welcome back to all our little ones following our half term break. As you can imagine we have been having lots of fun this week talking about Halloween and 'Fireworks'. The children have carved pumpkin, made collages with the seeds and used balls and paint rolling in a box to create patterns. We have talked about 'Firework' safety and looking after our pets and singing firework action songs.

The children have been busy in the 'Vets' role-play looking after the animals, building some lovely structures with the megablox and creating some lovely mark making on the screen and large whiteboard.

We will follow up fireworks next week and explore 'loose block' construction as well as going to the 'moon' and playing with our 'space' vehicles and aliens in our 'Space' station small world.

Reception

Welcome back all – we hope you had a fantastic half term break – we have loved seeing all our children again! We hope all the children enjoyed Halloween if this is something they participate in – we have given a gentle nod towards this festival this week by reading the classic Ahlberg story, 'Funnybones.' The children have enjoyed joining in with the repetitive language and getting to know the characters!

In phonics, we have learned l, h, sh and r. We're very impressed as the children tackled their first digraph 'sh' very well! We thought about words like: shop and ship. (Digraph: two letters making one sound). We also looked at the rhyming red words: he, me, we – I bet the children can spot the pattern there.

Maths has been lots of fun as we've explored using number lines – these are a great visual resource that we've used this week to help us count but also to think about finding 'one more'. The below number line also shows the superb 'Numicom' shapes resources that we use to give children a concrete/ tangible example of a number. The photo shows one of the **many** ways the children might use it in class.



We have really enjoyed meeting you all again at Parents Consultations and hope you found them useful – if there is anything you didn't get a chance to ask or want clarified, as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Don't forget – please could the children collect sticks for next week's learning. (Bring in Monday if possible). We need a variety: teeny, small, medium, big – maybe no more than around 10 each and none longer than 1 metre, please. Many thanks.

Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we finished our work on Little Red Riding Hood. We re-ordered pictures from the story and used these to tell the story to a friend. We then wrote letters, pretending to be the wolf, to say sorry to one of the other characters. We also coloured in pictures from the story, drew an alternative ending, and made Red words using magnetic letters.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'ea' (cup of tea). We compared it to the sound 'ee' (what can you see?) that we already know. When we saw another way of writing the same sound we said, 'Same sound, different appearance!' We wrote words and sentences using both ways of making the ee sound. In Maths, we looked at addition and subtraction. We used part-whole models to find four matching number sentences, e.g. $4+2=6$, $2+4=6$, $6-2=4$ and $6-4=2$. We are loving playing on Sumdog at school!

We started our history topic this week by talking about things we know that are old! We then looked at toys, vehicles and technology from three different eras and looked at what has changed and what has stayed the same. We made posters to show how times have changed.

We had fun sketching a variety of pumpkins as the children were so excited about Halloween, and ended the week making sparkler pictures to celebrate Bonfire Night!

Remember: Monday is our Victorian Day so come to school dressed like a Victorian!



Year 2

This week has been another busy one with lots of learning and some pumpkin fun too!!

On Monday we listened to some of the story about Winnie the Witch and the enormous pumpkin. The children wrote their own endings to the story. The next day we read some pumpkin poems together and thought of interesting ways to describe pumpkins. The children wrote some fabulous poems which they will share in our class assembly next week. They also created wonderful pastel pictures of pumpkins. We have also finished the story of 'The Last Wolf' this week, and worked on the long o sound in phonics.

In maths we have focussed our learning on subtracting. The children have used bead strings, hundred squares and number lines to subtract a one-digit number from a two-digit number.

The children have also enjoyed learning about life in Victorian times and had PE with Mr Palmer.

On Monday we look forward to seeing everyone dressed up for our Victorian school day.

Year 3

We have got straight back into the swing of things in year 3 and it has certainly felt like a busy week with Halloween; school council and eco-committee elections; parents evening and practising for our class assembly! In English, we started our fables unit of work, watching, listening and reading many fables, discussing what each of the characters learnt in the story and the moral that we can take away from it. We have also been having a go at punctuating direct speech, making sure the inverted commas, punctuation and reporting clauses are in the right place. The children have found this a little tricky, so any practise you can do with them at home will really help, including pointing out speech and talking about how it has been punctuated in their reading books.

We had some fun at the start of the week in maths with our Halloween themed place value activities but since then, have been practising subtraction using the new method. We are still getting to grips with this, so will continue to practise it the coming weeks to help consolidate the children's learning.

On Thursday, the children had a great PE lesson with Mr Ashman followed by a little bit of Geography, studying the countries that make up the United Kingdom. We have also been practising for our class assembly and cannot wait to show the grown-ups what we have been getting up to next week. Have a lovely weekend, Miss H ☺

Year 4

Year 4 have started the term off brilliantly! We have started a new unit of English which is all about Greek Myths. So far, we have explored the story of Pandora's box which the children loved. Today, we have been re-telling the story of Icarus and the children have been story tellers which was great fun!

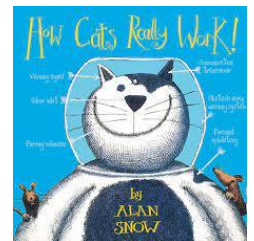
In Maths, we have finally mastered our method for subtraction and the class are feeling very proud of themselves. Next week, we will be beginning to explore multiplication and we will be looking at our times tables in more detail.

In Topic, we started to look at the local geography around us by creating sketch maps and also looking at creating keys. On Monday, we will be completing a local walk of Rackheath and we are still looking for helpers! If anyone is able to help out, please let us know. Children will need to make sure they have a coat with them please.

Lastly, swimming on Thursday 9th November has been cancelled due to the pool having some maintenance work done. Please could the children bring their PE kits in instead. Swimming will resume as normal on Thursday 16th until the end of term.

Year 5

What a week it has been! In English, we have moved on to our new unit of work based on the book 'How Cats Really Work' by Alan Snow. For this unit of work, we will be writing explanation texts linked to my pet rabbits and imagining that they are really just robots controlled by smaller robots – the children are all very excited!



In maths, we are moving on to large multiplication through partitioning – the most important skill for this is times table knowledge so any work you can do at home to help will be really helpful.

In science, we have looked at the work of Carl Linnaeus and how he developed a method of classifying animals. For 8 billion ideas, the children have developed a final design and are now ready to make. They may start asking for recyclable materials that can be used.

The most exciting part of our week was our trip to Gressenhall to learn about WW2. As you can see from the pictures, the children had a fantastic time and learnt lots! They also looked fantastic – a big thank you for that. On the day we learnt about the Homeguard by practising some drills, rationing by making mashed potato truffles and about the land army by helping out on the farm. It really was brilliant, and the children were really well behaved!





Year 6

It's been a fantastic first week back where all of the children have continued to work hard. In Maths lessons, we have concluded our multiplication topic with a series of reasoning and worded problems. The Year 6s then moved on to using short division where they were able to tackle some very tricky questions!

In Literacy, the children were given a copy of the 'Jabberwocky' poem by Lewis Carroll. It was fantastic to see them deconstruct the poem and give their opinions on what it is about – even though a lot of the words are made up! They then produced an illustration of what they thought the Jabberwocky would look like and then used their grammar knowledge to highlight the nouns, adjectives and verbs of the nonsense words.

In Science, we learnt about classification keys and the children began creating their own examples from scratch. A large part of our history learning linked to the Gressenhall trip on Wednesday. Not only did the children behave well and demonstrate a fantastic understanding, but they also got to participate in a variety of fun activities linked to WW2. Yesterday, we were lucky enough to have a visitor from EVERFI who ran a workshop with the Year 6s linked to sustainability.

Please remember that the children will need to bring a packed lunch to school with them on Monday as well as everything else on the Aylmerton kit list. I'm sure the children are going to have an amazing time and I'd like to also say a massive thank you to Mrs Roe, Mrs Goddard and Mr Cavender who are giving up their time away from their families to join us on this year's residential.



Year 4's Letter from His Majesty the King!

On Monday, we received a special letter addressed to 'The Pupils and Staff of Year 3 Rackheath Primary School'. It had been stamped with an official Buckingham Palace stamp!

It was a thank you reply from the letters we had sent to the King last school year explaining all the work we had done on our year 3 topic, 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle'. Everyone was so excited to receive the letter and the children went home with a copy of it. We will frame and display the original in school.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **26 out of 31**

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

Year 1 had

98%

attendance before half term.

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	Grace, Amelia, Jacob
Year 1	Harley, Jordan, Cian
Year 2	Lily, Kory, William
Year 3	Eden, Bonnie, Esme
Year 4	Harley, Erin, Amelia
Year 5	Jake, Ellis, Rosa
Year 6	Cody, All of Year 6, Jasmine

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman