

# Rackheath Primary School

## Newsletter

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

It has been an incredibly busy week in school with so many exciting things going on including:

- A visit from a theatre company performing a panto
- Evacuee Day in Year 5 and 6
- Class assemblies from Reception and Year 1
- 4 different football teams playing matches
- Cluster Cross Country
- Children in Need
- A SEND Parent network meeting
- Governor Day
- Interviews for a new teacher for Year 3

After all that I think we all need the weekend to rest and recuperate!

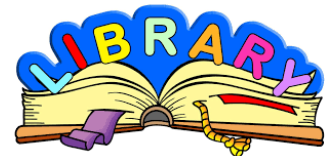
**Miss Hornagold** – I'm very sad to say that Miss Hornagold will be leaving us at Christmas as she is moving to Cambridge. Miss Hornagold joined the school as a newly qualified teacher in September 2019. Meaning that her first year and the ones to follow were all impacted by Covid-19. In education it doesn't get much tougher than starting your career in a global pandemic but Miss Hornagold has risen to all challenges and has been a fantastic class teacher and member of the staff team. This year she has taken on the lead of English too and done a super job. We will all miss her and wish her all the best for the future.

On Thursday we interviewed for her replacement and we are very pleased to have appointed Miss Hannah Holding. She will be visiting the school before Christmas and will start with the class in January.

### Saturday Morning School Library Opening

Tomorrow the school library will be open from 10.30am - 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.



**Governor Day** – On Wednesday 4 of our governor team spent the day in school. The governors spent time in classrooms, meeting children, looking at work as well as watching the Reception Class Assembly and having lunch in the hall. A big thank you to Darren, Lisa, Alix, Samantha and the rest of the governor team. The school really appreciate the important work you do!

## Snow White The Pantomime

On Monday the children and staff were treated to a fantastic performance of Snow White complete with a lot of audience participation. Everyone involved had a brilliant time!



## Aylmerton Residential

On Monday 6th to Friday 10th November, the Year 6s (along with Mr Edwards, Mrs Roe, Mrs Goddard and Mr Cavender) went to Aylmerton Field Study Centre for their residential trip. The children had a fantastic time and took part in so many fun and interesting activities.

Throughout the trip, all of the instructors commented on how well behaved the children were and how they were a credit to our school. Although we don't want to give too much away as a lot of the details will be featured in Year 6s class assembly next week, here are just some of the activities that took place... a WW2 evacuee challenge, a twilight safari, team building tasks, ten-pin bowling, a monster trail, a bird and reptile display, a disco, den building, clue finding in Cromer, a marsh walk in Blakeney and seeing the seals in Horsey!!!



**Class Show and Tell Assemblies** – This week we've had 2 class assemblies. Year 1 had their assembly on Tuesday and then Reception held their first ever class assembly on Wednesday. It was great to hear about all the super learning the children have done so far this year and to see so many parents and other family members in attendance. Next week we have our last 2 assemblies of the term for Year 5 and 6. The assemblies will start at 2:45pm and parents should arrive for 2:40pm. Entrance will be through the main gates near the hall. Dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Year 6
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Year 5



**SEND Parent Forum** – On Monday the group were joined by a guest speaker Nikki Corcoran, from the Norfolk SEN Parent Network. Nikki spent an hour and a half with the parents and from the feedback I've had it was a very useful, collaborative and positive meeting. Thanks to Nikki for coming in and to Emilia Hogarth and all the other parents involved in the group.

**Year 5 and 6 Football at the Nest** – On Monday we took part in the first ever programme of league fixtures in the Norwich City Schools League! Originally, we were taking a Year 6 team but at the last minute another school dropped out. Thanks to the help of parents, we were able to take a Year 5 time at very short notice. Each team played 3 games in their league. The Year 6 team found themselves in a tough league of schools and narrowly lost their 3 games but showed a lot of determination throughout. The Year 5 team lost their first game but from then won their next two. All the children can be pleased with their performances and for taking part in the first ever NCFC schools league afternoon. The Year 6 squad was Alex, Isabel, George, Maxwell, Josh, Jasmine, Finn and Freddie. In Year 5 the squad was made up of Ethan, Ellis, Maxwell, Ricki, Freddie, Harlan, Kian, Harrison and Jake, who was playing for the school for the first time. Thanks, as always to Ms Holmes and our super supporters!

#### **Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson**

This week, I've been blowing the dust off my GCSE biology knowledge and finding out more about the vagus nerve! The vagus nerve helps us to feel emotionally balanced and it runs from the brain, through the face and thorax and into the abdomen. When we sing, hum, or gargle it activates the vagus nerve which sends a message to our brain that we're safe and all is well. If you do one of these when you're feeling emotionally triggered it can help you to feel more relaxed and at ease. Personally, I prefer the singing or humming option - this works especially well if you choose a short, repetitive tune with words which make you feel good.



## **WE'RE HIRING!**

**Bombers Cleaner Role** – We are looking for a cleaner in our Bombers setting. This would be for 5 hours a week either before or after school depending on what hours would work best. If anyone is interested, please let the office know.

**Friday Fun** – we finish the week as we started it... busy, busy, busy! Reports on the Cluster Cross Country, Children in Need and our two football matches against Coltishall will follow in next week's letter.

### **FOR\$ Events**

**Friday 1st December – Non-Uniform Day** - £1 donation requested; money raised will support the chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fayre.

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Christmas Fayre** - We have lots planned for this year's Fayre and hope you can join us; the Christmas raffle will also take place at this event.

**Santa's Grotto @ Christmas Fayre** - Booking is now open and a booking slip has been sent home. Pre booking will close Monday 27th November.

**Christmas Raffle** - We have some amazing prizes, follow us on Facebook to see regular updates. Thank you to those who have returned tickets already. Don't forget you can still get extra tickets from the school office or Tonya Colk. The draw will be taking place at the Christmas Fayre this year.





## Bombers

Hello from a very busy Bombers'. We have been making 'spotty' pictures today and colouring or painting 'Pudsey' images for Children in Need.



The children have been playing with the 'Zoo' small world and completing animal puzzles as well as listening to our 'animal' sound lotto. There has been some good 'climbing' and 'rocking' on our 'go/go' bridges and lots of fun with the sand play. Some days it has been super dry for pouring and exploring sand wheel and funnels and other days we have added water to use pots and moulds.



Next week we will be adding 'ice' to the sand to see what happens and playing 'number' games for our focus activity. We will also be exploring a variety of painting processes/activities.

## Reception

We're at the end of another busy week in reception class – thank you to all who were able to make it to our class assembly – the children did really well, it's not easy to stand up and 'perform' in front of so many when you haven't been at school long and you're only 4 or 5. Well done Reception class!

In phonics, we have been busy learning th, z, ch and qu. Our red words are: **you** and **your**. Please keep practising at home – we can see some of you have been doing this lots and it makes such a difference – thank you! We would love to win Reading Bear again soon.

We have loved joining in with World Nursery Rhyme week. We have enjoyed singing and moving to Jack and Jill, Hickory Dickory Dock, Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and Row, Row, Row Your Boat. We even heard what Heads, Shoulders sounds like in French! The children loved lots of learning linked to these – for example, we investigated all sorts of boats (canoes, sail boats, rowing boats, etc) and even junk modelled our own boats – some of us made super submarines!

We loved the 'Children in Need' fundraising races (or some of us chose to watch) and we enjoyed making Pudsey collages too! (Thank you for being so very generous).

Have a great weekend - we are looking forward to next week when we'll be exploring playground games and activities to help us think about keeping ourselves happy and safe when playing with our friends.



## Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we had our Class Assembly! We are so proud of all the children for how hard they worked on making their performance amazing – we hope you enjoyed it and thanks for coming.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound ‘a-e’ (make a cake) and compared it to ‘ay’ (may I play). This sound is called a split digraph and we call it ‘split e’ when sounding out to write it. In English, we continued with Beegu. We drew speech bubbles for what Beegu and her family might be saying to each other if we could understand their language. We wrote postcards from Beegu to the children on Earth. We also made Play do space items, did alien colouring and looked for more clues for where Beegu had gone.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction again. We counted back along number lines to solve problems, ‘took away’ toys and counted backwards. We recorded our work pictorially and by writing the number sentence.

In History, we continued our Great Fire of London topic by looking at pictures showing why the fire spread quickly. For example, houses were tightly packed, it was windy, there was no fire brigade etc. We are starting to make our own Great Fire of London houses.

We also started to learn the songs for this year’s Christmas Production!

## Year 2

This week began with a fabulous Pantomime performance of Snow White which the children really enjoyed.

This came at just the right time as we have begun reading an unusual version of Rapunzel and also sharing lots of other traditional stories. In our English lessons the children have been making predictions about what might happen in the story and writing sentences about both the witch and Rapunzel. Today we also watched two different versions of the story of Babushka which is the Russian folktale which our Christmas performance will be based on.

The children have been told which parts they are going to be. Next week we will send scripts home for those who have lines to learn and late notes about any costume items which we would like you to provide. We would really appreciate your support with this.

In maths the children have been using equipment to add two 2-digit numbers together before moving on to record using an informal method. We have also practised counting in tens forwards and backwards from any number.

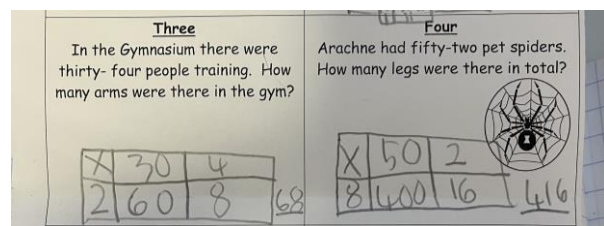
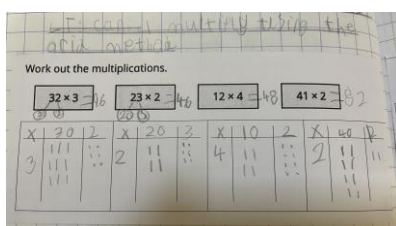
The children have begun learning about London in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century finding out about transport, buildings and they types of jobs which people did. Next week they will start to learn about the Great Fire of London.

## Year 3

In English this week, we have been looking at play scripts. We had some fun at the beginning of the week, acting out Jack and the Beanstalk and George’s Marvellous Medicine before going on to study them in a bit more detail by finding and highlighting the features of a play script. Next week, we will be continuing studying play scripts and have a go at writing some of our own based on the fable stories we have been learning about.



In maths, the children have really impressed me with how quickly they have been able to pick up the grid method to multiply a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number. We started by drawing out the 10s and 1s to help us, before using our knowledge of times tables to help us work them out quicker. We then had a go at some worded problems and missing number problems. Take a look at some examples of the children’s brilliant work...



In the afternoons, we have been continuing with our Geography work, locating countries in Europe. We also had some fun in our computing lesson on Wednesday, designing a Christmas card which will be entered into the Purple Mash Festive card competition at the end of the month. I have also created a 2Do for the children to have a go at this at home if they would like to.

## Year 4

Year 4 have had such a busy week; Monday feels like ages ago!

We've squeezed so much in. Somehow, we've managed to have the majority of the class smash through a new times table certificate. Next week, we will be starting to look at the dreaded 7 times table!

In English, we've been looking at fronted adverbials and we've learnt the story of The Trojan Horse. Next week, we'll be moving onto paragraphs before we start to plan our own myths.

In Topic, the children have been comparing how land is used in different types of settlements by creating their own cities, villages, towns or seaside towns. We've also completed our local maps of Rackheath too!

Just a note to say that unfortunately swimming has had to be cancelled again next week. We are hoping it will return on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Children will need their PE kits on Thursday instead.

## Year 5

What a week! It has been nonstop in year 5 and I'm rather glad it is now the weekend.

On Tuesday, we had our 8-Billion Ideas making day, where the children finally had the opportunity to bring their amazing ideas to life with a prototype model! This meant lots of mess, cardboard, and gluing.



Once all of the prototypes were made, the children then made posters, jingles and a script to allow them to present their work on Friday. We had a member of the Lion's team come in and helped us to judge to find the winning team who will now have their work sent through to the national final which will take place in December. The winning idea came from Connor, Ellie and Jacob who came up with The Bee Box – a box that can be bought from a shop, set up on a window sill and will provide a small ecosystem for bees to thrive! A massive well done to all of the children as they were all creative and really wowed us!



Then, on Tuesday, we had our WW2 Evacuee Day. The children used clay to make WW2 medals, after learning about their differences and reasons. They used water colours to create a Blitz scene and then we briefly looked at the B24 bomber (which was stationed in Rackheath). We were also lucky enough to have a WW2 inspired meal of stew and dumplings, cooked by Shane and Abi in the kitchen (and the children absolutely loved it!). But the real treat of the day was to be visited by Brenda, who lived in Norfolk during WW2. She talked to us about her life then, about rationing and about not being able to understand the land girls who came from Yorkshire. The highlight has to be the stories about the rabbits her family kept! Ask your child to find out more. Brenda also brought in several different resources from us to look at such as a rationing book and a school photo. This was a truly amazing experience and something I am grateful that we could have. Thank you to all who made that day amazing!



## Year 6

This week has absolutely flown by, yet we've managed to (somehow) fit in so many activities! Similar to in last week's paragraph, I'd like to mention again how brilliant the class were at Aylmerton. It made me so proud to hear the numerous compliments from the instructors about how well behaved and supportive they were.

In Maths lessons, we concluded our division topic and ended by looking at some challenging two-step word problems. As always, the children persevered and demonstrated a good understanding. When then moved on to multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10,100 and 1000.



In English activities, we continued our Jabberwocky nonsense poems and then planned a recount text which is either linked to Aylmerton or Gressenhall.

Wednesday was our WW2 Evacuee Day where the children got to dress up as an evacuee, produce a piece of 'Blitz' artwork, make a WW2 inspired medal out of clay, design the contents of a suitcase, learn about the B24 Liberator and compare Rackheath during WW2.

In other afternoon lessons, the children completed a French activity linked to the months of the year and continued our germination projection in science. **Please note that it is our class assembly next Tuesday at 2:40pm and a lot of this is linked to Aylmerton and Gressenhall.**

## 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 **29 out of 31**

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

Year 1 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.

	<b>STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS</b>
Reception	Whole of Class for Assembly, George, Ava, Harry P
Year 1	Reese, Whole of Year 1, Ella
Year 2	Finley, Leo, Jackson
Year 3	Parker, Teddy, Parker
Year 4	William, Lilah-Mae, Xander
Year 5	Jacob V, Ellie, Whole of Year 5
Year 6	Reid, Whole of Year 6, Maxwell