

Rackheath Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 20th October 2023

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of our first half term of the year. It has been packed full of super learning and teaching. The highlight of this week was geography day. It was amazing to see the children from Year 1 to 6 working brilliantly together to create their own towns. The quality of the ideas and the models were fantastic. Thanks to all the staff for their work on this and to Mr Cavender for organising the day. Thank you to all of you for bringing in the materials to help the children build their models.

Well done to all the children for the excellent start they have all made to the year. With a special mention to our new Reception class who have settled in very well.

A huge thank you as always to the wonderful staff team too.

House Captains

Our house captains were chosen last week. They are:

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

Unfortunately, Holly and Harlow were away today when the photograph was taken.



School Council and Eco-Committee elections - On Tuesday 31st October we will be holding our elections for this year's school council and eco-committees. The school council is made up of 2 children from each class from Reception to Year 6. The eco-committee has 2 children from each of the KS2 classes (Year 3 to 6).

Children are keen to put themselves forward will write a short speech (or say why they are keen) and the class will then vote for their representatives. Thanks to Mrs Goddard and Mrs Milligan for running these important pupil groups.

Class Show and Tell Assemblies – Our class assemblies continue after half term. 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 7 th November | Year 3 |
| • Thursday 9 th November | Year 2 |
| • Tuesday 14 th November | Year 1 |
| • Wednesday 15 th November | Reception |
| • Tuesday 21 st November | Year 6 |
| • Thursday 23 rd November | Year 5 |

Cluster Football Tournament

On Wednesday two of our teams made up of Year 5 and 6 children took part in the cluster football tournament at St Johns.

The children in Rackheath 1 were Alex, Josh, Isabel, George, Maxwell S, Ellis, Harrison and Harlan. In Rackheath 2 we had Ethan, Maxwell W, Jasmine, Oscar, Freddie, Finn, Austin, Kian and Sebastian.

For quite a few in Rackheath 2 it was their first game for the school and all of them can be proud of their performances. Although they didn't win a game, they played some good football and showed good team spirit and determination.



Rackheath 1 were excellent throughout. The team played some super football, scoring some super goals without conceding a single goal through the tournament. They won all 3 of their group games before beating St Johns 3-0 in the semi-final and then going on to win the final 1-0 against Salhouse which meant bringing the trophy back to Rackheath for the 6th year in a row!

A big thank you to Mr Palmer and Ms Holmes and to the parents who came along to support both teams!

Parent's Evening

Don't forget
Parents'
Evening!

A reminder that parent's evenings are in the first week back after half term. They are being held on Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd November with Thursday being the later evening. You can also make an appointment to see me if you would like to discuss anything. Year 1's parents evening are on Wednesday 1st and Tuesday 7th to enable Mrs Pallant to see all parents, with Tuesday 7th being the later evening.

Christmas Cards - As mentioned previously 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 have brought home their design and order form this week. **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.



Visits for New Reception Children

We continue to organise visits over the next few weeks 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

I've been asking the children during our lunches together in my room, what they like to do during their school holidays. Their challenge was to think of activities which they can do indoors for free with their adults. I thought I'd share some of their suggestions with you:



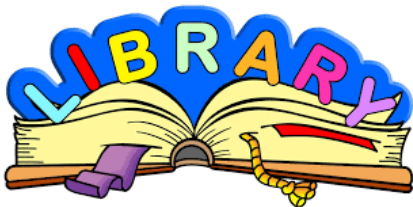
- To play the floor is lava
- Build a den using blankets, (maybe eat your lunch in there!)
- Train your pet to do a new trick
- Make up a dance routine to your favourite song
- Create something, (colouring, drawing, painting, junk modelling etc.)
- Pretend there's a power cut and read stories by torch light

You could also take a look at this website for lots of free outdoor activities:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/50-things>

I hope you all have a lovely half term holiday and get the chance to relax and recharge before we return to school.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Email: ccookson6nrf@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.

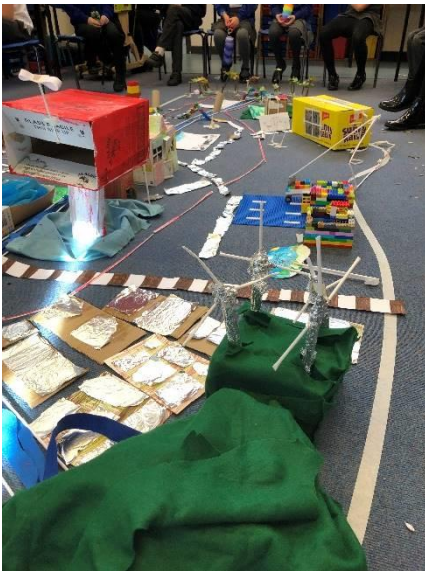


Geography Day 2023

On Tuesday, Years 1 - 6 all swapped around to take part in a whole school project of designing a new town next to Rackheath (linked to the world outside our window topic). As you can see from the photographs, the children had great fun and came up with some amazing ideas! We had solar farms, wind turbines, swimming pools, schools, football stadiums, beaches and even a Paw Patrol style lookout tower! Here are the towns we created:

Happiton	Churchfields	Oakheath
Greenville	Furmington	Boxville

A massive thank you to all of the adults for their hard work on the day - as you can imagine, with 28 children (of varying ages) all building, making, painting, cutting and sticking it can be quite stressful!





Bombers

Hello from all the staff and children. We have been enjoying creating pictures this week with flowers, leaves and sand. We have done lots of action rhymes, stories and sound games. There has been some wonderful 'construction' and imaginative play with lots of lovely ideas.



Our new children are settling and are beginning to play with their 'peers' and we can see some lovely friendships forming. When we return after half term, we will be talking about 'Halloween' and 'fireworks' looking at patterns, shapes, colours and thinking about keeping safe and looking after our pets.

Hope you all have a lovely half term and it's not too soggy!!!



Reception

We can't believe it's half term already! What a busy half term this has been with the children starting their school journey.

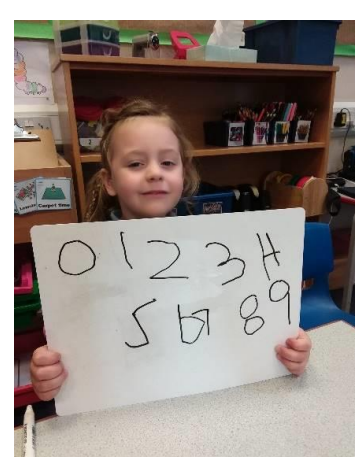
This week we enjoyed a special afternoon for the whole school 'Geography Day'. We looked at Google Earth satellite maps and thought about the geographical features we could see – we found the UK and then Rackheath. We enjoyed looking at photos of things in Rackheath village – we spotted the church, the chip shop and many more! We then had great fun creating landmarks for our class map – we junk modelled shops, the school and the church.

In phonics, we have been busy learning u, b, f and e. These have been tricky to write. We have also been reading the tricky red words 'of', 'a' and 'said' – the children have been great at these!

In maths we loved reminding each other of the sayings for how to form the numbers, look out for these in your child's book bag after half term as we thought they might be useful at home too.

We have loved thinking about all things Autumn. The children really enjoyed exploring animals that are particularly active in this season – we found out that squirrels will find lots of foods to fill up their 'store cupboards' ready for winter. We were excited to find out about hibernation too. We are glad that hedgehogs have those spines to protect themselves from predators.

So, as you can see, we've been super busy and so we hope you all have a very fun but restful break too!



Year 1

Wow! What a fantastic first half term in Year 1! The children have all made such good progress over the last few weeks and have been able to recall facts about all our topic work – well done to all of them.

This week, we had the excitement of joining children from the other year groups, and for most of us working in a different classroom, for Geography Day. It was such a good day, with lots of good ideas for a new town / village and lots of crafting and making. Everyone had really good fun.

In Phonics, we finished recapping the sounds we already know, with 'ou' (shout it out) and 'oy' (toy for a boy). When we return to school, we will start learning new sounds and will be sending these home in Sound Pots for you to practise. In English, we continued with Little Red Riding Hood. We wrote letters to Little Red Riding Hood thanking her for helping people with their jobs, wrote instructions for staying safe in the woods, designed a new dessert to take to Granny and a new disguise for the wolf to wear. We have even been learning some songs to go with the story.

In Maths, we have been ordering numbers. We used Empty Number Lines to work out where numbers would go, using our knowledge of more than, less than, one more, one less. We also used the terms first, second, third and last.

We learnt about the Hindu festival of Diwali which will be taking place after half term. We shared the story of Rama and Sita and learnt how different people around the world celebrate. We made our own Rangoli patterns in chalk outside, coloured Rangoli patterns with crayons and made Diwali paper decorations. We also designed our Christmas cards this week ready to send home on Friday.

Have a lovely week off and we will see you after half term.



Year 2

What an amazing first few weeks the Year 2 children have had. It has been wonderful to share their learning journey, to see the progress that they have made and to see their wonderful characters emerge as they find their feet and feel more confident. In particular we have seen that the children are making superb progress with their independent writing, working hard to spell correctly. They have also shown us this week that they can remember many facts from our topic learning this Half Term.

This week the children have found fact families and number bonds to 100 in maths. We have also continued to practise counting in 2s and 5s which is something you can also do at home. In topic the children have made mini bug hotels and created food chains. On Tuesday the children enjoyed working in mixed age groups designing and creating a new town for our geography day. The children have undertaken writing tasks related to our lovely book "The Last Wolf", and we have revisited the long ee sound in phonics.

After Half Term we will have a week focussing on subtraction in maths. In topic we begin our history learning with finding out about Victorian seaside holidays.

Please do continue to hear your child read as we still haven't had the Reading Bear yet ☺

Have a lovely Half Term and thank you for your continued support.

Year 3

What a busy and brilliant last week of half term we have had in year 3! On Tuesday, we had Geography Day, where all of the children split up into different classes and designed a new town next to Rackheath. It was lovely to hear them all come back from their classes, enthusiastic and excited about their learning and to see their great ideas come to life on our zoom call in the afternoon.

Throughout the week in English, we have been continuing our instructional writing. The children have found features of a set of instructions; had a go at writing a method for 'How to Brush Your Teeth' and finished the week by creating a set of instructions for 'How to Carve a Pumpkin' in preparation for Halloween after half term! In Maths, the children have been working on adding and subtracting using our new and improved methods. After initially finding it a little tricky, the children have really picked it up and are making great progress!



I hope you all have a wonderful half term and I look forward to seeing you soon! Miss H 😊

Year 4

Year 4 have had another spectacular week this week. We have completed our free verse poetry unit today and the children have created some amazing final pieces about emotions!

In maths, we have finished our addition work and begun to look at subtraction. We will be continuing with this after half term just so that we feel really secure before we move onto multiplication and division.

In topic, we have started to look at being able to plot the countries of Europe on a map using quite a tricky online game. The children have asked me to include it in the newsletter so they can practise over half term. It can be found here: <https://www.geoguessr.com/vgp/3007>

On Monday 6th November at 1.30pm we will be doing a local walk around Rackheath as part of our Geography unit. If you are able to support us as a parent volunteer, please can you let us know.

Thanks everyone - have a great half term!

Year 5

What a final week to the half term! We have now finished the Midnight Fox in English. We finished by writing a newspaper article about the Fox being saved and by writing a book review – one child said “it was one of the best books I have ever read!”

In maths, we have been using our adding and subtracting skills to solve word problems with money – it was interesting to see that lots of children didn't fully understand the concept of change as we don't use real money as much anymore.

The highlight of the week for science has to be our bug hunt! On Monday, we set traps and then collected them on Wednesday. We then used magnifying glasses and classification charts to try and identify the little creatures before they made daring escapes. Below are a few of the invertebrates that we found. Finally, I want to say a massive thank you to Mrs Coull for everything that she has done with the class. She has been a massive part of these children's lives for the past 5 years and I know that they have built up strong relationships with her. She will be really missed. From after half term, we will have Mrs Redgrave working in year 5 and I know that she will be a great addition to the team.



Year 6

What an amazing half term it has been! All of the Year 6s should be extremely proud of themselves for their excellent work rate, positive attitude to learning and perseverance throughout tricky tasks.

In Maths lessons this week, we tackled even more reasoning problems linked to addition and subtraction before moving onto successfully using short multiplication. I have been amazed at the effort that they have put into their writing too! At the beginning of the week, the children continued their understanding of non-chronological reports and planned their own versions linked to WW2. Once they decided on four main areas, the children researched key pieces of information before adding them to their own reports. Just some of the areas ranged from: weapons, influential figures, Axis and Allied Powers, rationing, evacuees, the Blitz and the Battle of Britain. Today, they were given a set of grammar challenge cards to complete and it was fantastic to see how much they could retain from previous lessons.

In Science lessons, we discussed germination and planned an experiment which will commence after half term. The children also demonstrated excellent subject knowledge where they could confidently discuss their understanding of vertebrates and invertebrates.

As well as nearly finishing their tessellating patterns in art, the Year 6s had a French lesson (focusing on colours) as well as additional History lessons linked to the Battle of Britain and the Blitz. A huge well done needs to go to the Year 5s and 6s who attended the cluster football tournament on Wednesday. One of the Rackheath teams managed to win the tournament and it was great to hear how well everyone played!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **22 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 2 had
96%
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 certificates in assembly today.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Jace, Jesy, Harrison
Year 1	William, Klarka, Phoebe
Year 2	Luke, Harriet, Leighrye
Year 3	Edie, Jayden, Louis
Year 4	Cara, Poppy, Anya
Year 5	Connor, Maxwell, Mrs Coull
Year 6	Tallulah, Layla, Connor

I hope everyone has a lovely half term. We look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 30th October.

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman

