



Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th November 2023

Christmas Performances

With Christmas fast approaching I wanted to share the times for the performances held in the last week of term. Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts.

- Monday 11th December Reception Dress Rehearsal - 10.00am
Year 1&2 Dress Rehearsal - 1.50pm
- Tuesday 12th December Year 1&2 Performance - 10.00am
Reception Performance - 1.50pm
- Wednesday 13th December Reception Performance - 10.00am
Year 1&2 Performance - 1.50pm



If you can't make either one of the performances on Tuesday or Wednesday, please do let us know. A smaller audience are welcome to join us for Monday's dress rehearsal. This should just be for those parents and family members who cannot make either of the main performances.

Photographing and Videoing Performances



We are coming up to our Christmas Performances, which are always a special time in school. The children put on a fantastic show and understandably, parents like to capture the moment, perhaps for a family member who can't be there. We recognise this and have allowed filming to take place at performances and at other times of the year such as class assemblies and sport's days, provided that no pictures go onto social media of anyone other than your own child.

There have been previous occasions where this has not been adhered to and videos and photographs have been posted on social media. As such it is important to state that the reason this is an issue is that not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example, where a child's location needs to be protected. Thank you for your understanding.

Class Show and Tell Assemblies – This week we've had our final two class assemblies of the term. Year 6 had their assembly on Tuesday and then Year 5 held their assembly on Thursday. The Year 6 assembly was all about their adventures at Aylmerton where Year 5 focussed on their trip to Gressenhall, Evacuee Day and their 8 Billion Ideas Project. The children all did an amazing job. Well done everyone involved!



Children in Need

Last Friday we raised money for Children in Need with non-school uniform day and lunchtime games. In total we raised £239.90. Thank you all!



Cluster Cross Country – Last Friday we took part in the Cluster Cross Country at Coltishall. In all 37 children across Year 3 to 6 ran in one of the four races. I was very impressed with the efforts of everyone who took part. Wherever the children finished in their race they can be proud of their efforts as they all ran through the pain barrier to achieve their best. We did have some standout performances:

Harlan came 2nd in the Year 5 and 6 boys' race, Isabel came 3rd in the Year 5 and 6 girls' race. Other top ten finishes came from Ayla who was 5th and Rachel who came 9th in their races

Overall, we came third in the school competition. Our team was:

- Year 3 – Jack, Stanley, Alfie, Parker, Louis, Tylor, George, Seb, Ella, Ava, Edie and Matilda
- Year 4 – Hugo, Harley, Jenson, Jack, Lola, Nicky, Millie, Ayla
- Year 5 – Harlan, Maxwell, Ethan, Kayden, Rosa, Dolcie, Millie, Rachel and Mya
- Year 6 – Austin, Freddie, Josh, Finn, Alex, Lacey, Harlow and Isabel

Thanks to Ms Holmes, Mrs Culling and Mr Palmer for coming along with the team and to the parents for their support.



Football – We finished the week with our football team taking part in the NCFC Under 11s Football League Cup. Report to follow next week.

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson

My Nanny King was born in 1898, and I can remember whenever I would visit her home, I was amazed she had an outdoor loo, (with no light and plenty of spiders) a kitchen sink with only a cold tap, (hot water had to be boiled in her whistling kettle) and a mangle to squeeze the water out of her washing, (that she'd hand washed in her kitchen sink). You'd think she'd never have the time to do the things she enjoyed doing because the basic tasks would take so long compared to how we live now. However, she would often talk about meeting up with her friends and neighbours for endless cups of tea, and she'd always have a selection of cream cakes from her walk to the bakery. Thinking about my Nanny King has made me wonder why our lives feel relentlessly busy, even though we have things to help save us time and energy, such as kettles, washing machines, cars, laptops, phones etc. This week I've been encouraging the children to explore ways they can slow down. For example, they could simply sit and look out of the window; snuggle up to a pet or cuddly toy while looking at a book; enjoy a hot chocolate before getting out of bed; relax in a bubble bath; or sit on the sofa with their grown-up and just chat about 'stuff'. Whatever you choose to do, I hope you enjoy the experience of slowing down. Best wishes, Claire Cookson (email me at: ccookson6nrf@six.org.uk).





Bombers

Hello to all our families. We have had a week exploring lots of different painting activities and looking at what happened when we added the ice to our very dry sand. Some comments were "It is a bit cold", "it's very wet", "It's melted". The children have also been busy playing at 'Fireman' role-play, 'Shop' role-play and playing a variety of 'number' games and taking part in 'number' rhymes for 'circle' activities.

Next week we will have the 'Police' role-play and continue with lots of counting and numeral activities as well as starting on Christmas craft activities as time is now getting away as usual. Our student Lily is now with us every Tuesday and Friday and proving popular with the children. We hope she enjoys her time with us. Happy weekend to all.

Reception

It's been an exciting and musical time this week in reception class as we've started to rehearse our nativity!

We have been busy learning lots of new sounds: 'x' and the digraphs: 'ng', 'nk' and 'ck'. This has been interesting as we usually look at the sounds at the beginning of words when we introduce a new sound so we had to think hard about where the sounds were in this week's words, such as 'ring' and 'duck'. Well done, Reception class. Our tricky red words are: **so**, **no** and **go**. The children did the best reading of them today that I've seen so far – keep it up!

In maths, we've been working on finding one less – we've used objects to count and then take away to find one less and also moved backwards on a number line.

Have a great weekend all, we look forward to seeing you on Monday. Get well soon to our children who have been poorly too.



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we made 17th Century houses like those that burned in the Great Fire of London. We used cereal boxes and we cut and glued paper in different colours to make wooden beams, doors and rooves. We acted out the different methods people used to try to fight the fire, looked at who was at fault for the fire, and thought about the problems (and solutions) people faced after the fire.

In Phonics, we have learnt the new sound 'i-e' (nice smile), another 'split e'! We compared it to the sound 'igh' (fly high) that we already know. In English, we finished our Beegu work. We drew storyboards of pictures of the whole story, then wrote the story in our own words. My goodness – they did so much writing! Well done Year 1. We also made a Guide to Planet Earth to send to Beegu to show her the wonderful things about our planet.

In Maths, we moved on to subtracting by using a number line to count back. The children were fantastic at this! We have answered lots of questions, including some children moving on to much bigger numbers! We also worked out the answers to some subtraction word problems.

We all know our parts in the Christmas Production 'Babushka' now, and we are starting to learn the songs. We will provide most of the costumes but will send home a message soon about any little bits we may need your child to bring in.



Year 2

This week the whole class are stars for struggling on despite the fact that most of them have been poorly with coughs, colds, headaches and/or tummy aches. Hopefully, after the weekend everyone will be returned to full health.

In maths this week the children have worked hard using tens frames to add numbers. We have nearly finished the Rapunzel story in English. The children have thought of ideas for defeating witches and written sentences about Rapunzel and the witch using powerful verbs and adverbs.

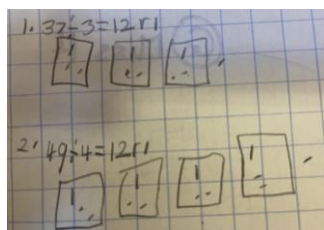
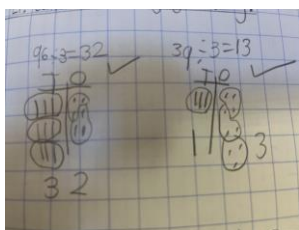
In history the children have been detectives finding clues as to how the Fire of London started. They have also been comparing the St Paul's Cathedral which burnt down in the fire with the one designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built after the fire.

The great excitement of the week for the children has been finding out their parts in our Christmas Production. We have loved singing the songs and reading through the script. If your child has brought a script home, please help them to practice reading it. The Narrators do not need to know their parts off by heart but the others will.

Year 3

This week in English, we have been writing fables in the style of a play script. On Monday, we practised writing the first scene from 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' all together as a class, before going on to write 'The Ant and the Grasshopper' independently. The children picked it up brilliantly and some even started to add stage directions!

In maths, we have been moving onto division. We have learnt two methods: dividing by chunking and dividing by grouping. On Wednesday, I then let the children decide which method they preferred before going on to have a go at some division questions involving remainders. Once again, the children have really impressed me with how well they were able to get to grips with these methods. I have included some pictures to show you how we did it, should you wish to have a go with your children at home...



Following this, we went on a local walk as part of our Geography topic yesterday and have spent the afternoon today creating our own maps of Rackheath, complete with a key and symbols.

I also shared the news with the class this week, that I would be leaving at the end of the term and whilst this will be sad, I have no doubt that Miss Holding will be a fantastic teacher and that the children will get on brilliantly with her.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing week - it's been a busy one!

We have started our new part of our topic which is all about local windmills and how they were used in the past. The children have been identifying how they know something is old and have begun to consider what farming was like in the past.

In English, we have been looking at paragraphs and writing our own versions of the story of The Trojan Horse. Next week, we will be planning our own myths!

In maths this week, we have been exploring the 7x table - which the children will tell you is my mathematical archnemesis! They have enjoyed looking for patterns and using their counting to multiple knowledge to multiply numbers in the 10s and hundreds.

We have been told that the pool should be open next week for swimming but this is being confirmed on Monday so we will let you know!

Year 5

After the busy week of 8 Billion Ideas and WW2 day we last week, we have managed to calm down a little!

In maths, we have finished our work on multiplication and division by looking at worded problems. We have now started our work on fractions by looking at equivalent fractions using a bar to show how different fractions can still be the same amount e.g.

$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$		
$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$

In English, we have continued our Explanation unit by writing the paragraphs for the stages of a Binky – this is a big jump that rabbits sometimes do. Our main focus has been on using sentences containing brackets, dashes and semicolons.

During our afternoons, we spent some time preparing for our class assembly. We also looked at what a battery (or a cell) is made from and how it works. Next week we will be making Anderson shelters as part of our history unit and interactive quiz using circuits. For these we need as many cereal boxes as possible.

Year 6

What a super week it has been in Year 6! I want to start by saying how brilliantly the class performed in their class assembly on Tuesday. The children very much enjoyed sharing their favourite memories from Aylmerton, Gressenhall and our WW2 Evacuee Day. It was great that so many parents and family members were able to attend.

In Maths lessons this week, we completed our unit of work linked to multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1000. Fractions has become our new area of focus and the class started this by finding fractions of shapes and objects. Towards the end of the week, they were confident in being able to quickly find fractions of numbers too.

In Literacy, the children began writing their recounts – which were either linked to Aylmerton or Gressenhall. In addition to this, they completed a series of grammar challenges and it was fantastic to see how much they were able to retain.

In Science, we discussed (and researched) the importance of Carl Linnaeus and I introduced our new topic - Electricity. This is one of my favourite Science topics and I know the children are really looking forward to building their own circuits! In History lessons, we continued our work from the WW2 Evacuee Day, where we created our own B24 Liberator designs. In French lessons, the children learnt the months of the year and moved onto weather conditions.



SANTAS GROTTO – Bookings will close on Monday 27TH November

Bookings will close on Monday so please return your slip and money by the end of the day. We will **NOT** be able to accept additional requests at the fayre to see Father Christmas.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS – Return by Friday 1ST December Midday

Please return these by the morning of Friday 1st December. Additional tickets will be available to purchase at the Christmas Fayre before the draw takes place at 2.30pm.

SCHOOLS CHRISTMAS TREE

We have been very lucky to receive another donation this year from The Hilltop Café. The tree will be delivered on Monday 27th November. We look forward to seeing the children's decorations on the tree. Look out for pictures on our Facebook page.

PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS CLOTHING

If you have any unwanted Christmas clothing items, please drop them in to the office. We will be selling any items donated at the Christmas Fayre.

NON-UNIFORM DAY – Friday 1ST December

We will be holding our annual non-uniform day on Friday 1st December. We are requesting a £1 donation (you can donate more if you wish). All donations will go towards the cost of the chocolates on the tombola stall.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – Friday 1ST December (3.15pm - 5.15pm)

We are so excited for this year's Christmas Fayre.

There are various stalls booked, including some fun games stalls (not forgetting our very busy Chocolate Tombola stall). The event will start straight after school finishes. Look out for directions for the Grotto and some delicious treats as we have had a move around this year. We will be accepting cash and card (**cash is preferred where possible**).

NEW YEARS EVE

Tickets are now available for the FORS New Years Eve Party which is making a return this year in the Village Hall. This is a really fun night for all the family!

Please refer to the schoolPing sent out last week or FORS Facebook page for further details on how to book. Be quick as we only have limited capacity.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **17 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!

Reception Class had

97%

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.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Jaylen, Eden, Pippa
Year 1	Lochlan, Aminah, Niamh
Year 2	Ivy, Archie, Whole of Year 2
Year 3	Sidney, Ali, Mila
Year 4	Jenson, Jack, Nicky
Year 5	Ellis, Leon, Jack
Year 6	Whole of Year 6, Olive, Freddie

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman