

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 30th November 2023

The weather has certainly become a lot colder this week as we head into winter and thoughts turn to Christmas. The tree arrived on Monday (thanks to the Hill Top Café for donating and the Halseys for delivering) the stage has gone up (and back down again!) and today it is the Christmas Fayre! This week's letter certainly has a Christmas theme.

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.

Christmas Post Boxes

Rackheath Christmas Post will be up and running from Monday 4th December. Each class will have a special Christmas Post Box outside the classroom for the children to put their cards in to be delivered.



Key Stage 2 Carol Concert

Our special Key Stage 2 Carol Concert with the Salvation Army is at 7pm on Tuesday 12th December. This will be held outside on the school playground. As well as the carols and readings refreshments will be available too. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join our festive celebrations.



We would like the children to arrive no earlier than 6:40pm at which time refreshments will be available. Other members of the community are also invited to join us from 6:50pm in time for the start at 7pm. There will be no charge for the refreshments but we ask for donations which will go to charity.

Should any of you be able to bring in some cakes, mince pies, biscuits or savoury snacks such as sausage rolls for the night that would be great. If you are able to please bring them in during the day of the concert.



Christmas Rudolph Run – On Tuesday 19th we are taking part in the Rudolph Run, which is something we have done for the last few years. The Rudolph Run raises money for Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and families. All the children will take part in the run. If you are able to, we ask for a voluntary donation of £1.

Lion's Santa Sleigh Visit

On Monday 11th December we will have a special visitor with Father Christmas joining us at the end of the day on his sleigh. Children will have a chance to meet Father Christmas once school finishes!



Christmas Lunch

This will be on Tuesday 19th December. Please ensure you book this on the SCOPAY App as soon as possible so that the kitchen know how many meals to cook. The Menu for the week is: Pizza on Monday, Christmas Lunch on Tuesday and Fish & Chips on Wednesday. We are unable to change the actual menu on the app so please just book as above.

School Clubs – Next week will be the last week of school clubs before we break up. There will be no clubs in the weeks beginning the 11th and 18th December. The only exception being choir, which will take place on Monday 11th but not Monday 18th. After School Club and Breakfast Club will continue as usual until the end of term.

Year 5 and 6 Football – Last Friday the school team took part in the NCFE Under 11s Football League Cup. In total around 30 schools took part in the tournament to see who would go on to represent Norwich City in the regional final playing against other football league and Premier League clubs. On a cold and wet day, the team performed exceptionally well. Alex made some great saves, while Ellis and Freddie were fantastic in defence. Further forward Maxwell, Harrison, Josh, George and Harlan worked hard in attack and defence, passed the ball well and showed lots of skill. All of which meant that we got through our group and made it through to the quarter finals where we played Costessey. The whole team put in a great performance and Freddie topped it off with a super finish into the bottom corner just before the final whistle. This put us through to the semi-final where we played Avenue. Avenue scored an early goal and try as we might we couldn't equalise. We lost to the winners as Avenue went on to win the final. Thanks to all the parents for their support and for the coffees! (which were much appreciated on a very cold day).

Year 3 and 4 Football - On Monday 4 children from Year 3 and 4 from year 4 got the chance to play at Norwich City's training ground at Colney. The boys took part in a series of games against other schools where the Year 3 team played the first half and the Year 4's the second. The team loved the experience and played lots of good football to remain undefeated throughout the day. Well done to Sidney S, Stanley, Louis, Jack A, Jack N, Jenson, Sidney T and Xander. Thanks to Mr Palmer and Mr Poole for taking the team.



Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson

Research has found that when participants kept track of their own kind behaviour towards other people, and counted the number of kind acts they did each day for a week, they reported feeling happier compared with another group of people who didn't track their kindness. This suggests that being kind, (and recognising when you are acting kind) may increase your happiness. The kind behaviour can be towards friends, family, strangers, and even yourself. One of my favourite ways of being kind to a stranger is to buy an extra coffee when I'm treating myself to one. I ask the barista to give the coffee to someone they serve later that day. I've been told that one of the strangers who received one of my coffees then immediately 'paid it forward' by buying a coffee for another stranger. I think this goes to show that a simple act of kindness can ripple out further than we imagine. Maybe a good conversation around the dinner table would be sharing the kind behaviour we've shown others that day. Best wishes, Claire Cookson (email me at: ccookson6nrf@six.org.uk).



Bombers

Hello to all. The children have been enjoying starting Christmas crafts and we have been knee deep in glitter! There has been some lovely sharing and turn taking. Our new friends we have welcomed have settled really well, and glad to say seem very happy. Some of the older children have been kind helping the new little ones with their play and routines, which is always lovely to see. We have enjoyed an assortment of inset and connecting puzzles and revisited throughout the week to embed the children's progress. The children have also enjoyed the 'Police' role-play, using the magnifiers to look for 'clues' and the use of the phones and various mark making resources to make 'notes'. As always, there has been some lovely construction and we have sung number rhymes and read lots of 'counting' books. Next week we will have our 'Xmas' dressing up out and the 'Baby' roleplay. Our focus activities will be using one-handed tools, such as Potato / shape hammering, tweezers / pom poms and 'fishing' games. A happy weekend to all.



Reception

We just can't get the Christmas Nativity songs out of our heads – it has been wonderful to see and hear the children enthusiastically learning the words and actions for our performance!

In phonics, we have been learning digraphs – two letters which make one sound: ss, zz, ff, ll. Our tricky words are: **this, them** and **love**.

We have started to write letters to Santa too – we are so proud of the children as they were amazing teachers themselves, telling us the sounds we needed for each word. Lots of the children were also excited to be able to use

some of our red words in their Santa letters like 'to' and 'love'. We'll send a copy home to you as soon as they're all done in the next couple of weeks. Santa writes back to all the children, sending his letter to us here but, of course, you may also be writing letters with your children at home which is fantastic too!

Next week, we will be busy rehearsing for the Nativity again and Wednesday will include our first dress rehearsal. Thank you for sending in the requested items for costumes – please send in any remaining ones ASAP. Many thanks and have a super weekend.



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we started to rehearse for our Christmas Performance! The children have all been amazing so we are looking forward to performing for you!

We have been looking at the names of 3D shapes in Maths this week. We made models using the shapes and sorted them into groups. We looked at the names of their 2D faces.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'o-e' (phone home) and compared it to 'ow' (blow the snow). In English and RE, we looked at how Christians celebrate Christmas. We also looked at the Nativity story. We put pictures of the story in order, acted it out and started to write our own version of the story.

We talked about the ways in which we are all different including differences in our skin colour. We also looked at the ways in which our families are different – some have two mummies, some have one daddy and no mummy, some are the only child in their house.

We had fun making cheeky elf decorations for the Christmas tree in the hall!

Next week we will continue with writing the Christmas story and investigating 2D & 3D shape. We will have a daily rehearsal for our Christmas play, some Christmas maths activities, PE as normal and library time on Monday afternoon so children can change their books.



Year 2

Year 2 have had another busy week with rehearsals every day in the hall. The children have just amazed us with how quickly they have learnt when they go on to the stage and when it is their turn to speak. They are singing beautifully and the narrators have obviously been practising their lines at home. I think you are all in for a real treat when it is time for the performances!

In addition to rehearsing, we have had guided reading every day, revised words with the ir sound spelt ir, er and ur and completed some writing about our Rapunzel story. The children have also completed maths assessment booklets. We were most impressed with how well they applied themselves to having a go at every question.

The children also enjoyed a PE lesson with Mr Palmer, learnt about why the Fire of London spread so quickly and made a decoration for the school tree.

Next week we will rehearse in the hall every morning and also on Monday afternoon. We will also have guided reading every day. On Tuesday afternoon the children will have PE as usual with Mr Palmer. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons the children will learn about Diwali with Miss Knight. On Monday the children will have their spelling test. This will be the last one for this term. I am not here on Monday morning but should be back in at lunchtime. In the morning, Mrs Crook and Miss Knight will be looking after the children.

Year 3

It has been a bit of a funny week in year 3 as the children started the week being taught by Miss Maibaum, who used to teach at the school. They did some wonderful work and I was really impressed with their knowledge of when to use 'a' and 'an'. The rest of the week then consisted of maths and reading assessments, which surprisingly, most of the children actually enjoyed doing! It was a chance for them to show off all of their brilliant maths and reading knowledge and I have been so pleased with their ability to sit quietly, get their heads down and have a go at questions even if they were unsure of them. We have also had some fun creating our Christmas tree decorations for the school hall and finished the afternoon today with a lovely hour with year 4, doing some Christmas French work followed by some fun Christmas activities 😊

This morning, we presented some of the class with the first reading certificates of the year. Congratulations to all of the children who have read x3 a week for 10 weeks and received their Bronze certificates.

There will be a few changes to our usual timetable over the next few weeks in the build up to Christmas. On Wednesday afternoons, we will be practising singing for the Christmas carol concert and next Friday we will be doing our 'Presentations of Learning'. The children will also be having a chance to meet their new teacher Miss Holding in the next couple of weeks, which I am sure they will love.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing week this week!

In Maths this week, we have been looking at multiplying 3-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. The class have done such a great job and we will be moving onto the grid method next week.

In English, we have been planning our own Greek myths which the children have loved.

In topic, we have been looking at the history of our school! We have looked at the old school in photos and looked at old maps of Rackheath where the road near the Sole and Heel was called Slipper's Bottom!

Our time table next week:

Our morning will be generally the same all week. On Tuesday afternoon, we will be starting our 'Presentation of Learning project' where the children will work in small groups to create a presentation about a part of learning from this term which we will be sharing with Year 5 on Friday morning. On Wednesday afternoon we will be practising our singing in the hall with the band. Swimming is on, on Thursday and Mrs Cavender will in class as usual.

Year 5

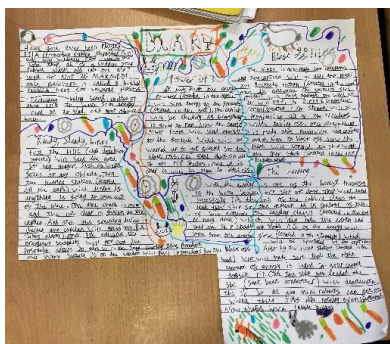
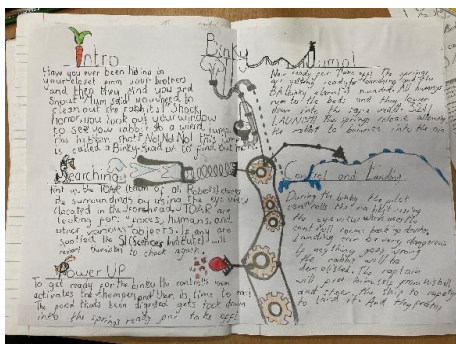
Another busy week in year 5 – and a cold one too!

In maths, we have continued our work on fractions. We have looked at equivalent fractions (e.g. $\frac{3}{5} = \frac{9}{15}$) and then we have moved onto working out fractions of amounts (e.g. what is $\frac{2}{5}$ of £15). We will be continuing with this next week as we prepare for the Christmas sales!

In English, we have put all of our work around how a rabbit will binky and we have created a non-fiction page. As you can see from the pictures, they look amazing!

The highlight of the week has to be our Anderson Shelters that we made as part of our WW2 unit. The children used shoe boxes to show a garden on top, and then they built how it would look on the inside of the shelter. I can safely say that the children absolutely loved this little DT project as they were all so focussed and hard working for the entire day!

Next week, we will have a slight change to timetable as on Weds and Thurs we will be rehearsing along with all of KS2 for the Carol Concert the following week.

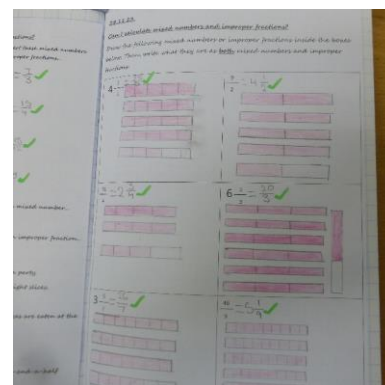


Year 6

Yet again, the children have worked incredibly hard in lessons and should be proud of the work they've produced. In Maths activities, we continued our unit of work linked to fractions. This included learning what improper fractions and mixed numbers are – and how to convert between the two. We then moved on to understanding equivalent fractions and how to show them in their simplest form.

During Literacy lessons, the children started their new topic of newspaper report writing. After discussing (and highlighting) the key features of a newspaper report, the Year 6s began planning their own... but with a bit of a twist! This linked to Humpty Dumpty being *pushed* off the King's wall! Within their plans, the class had to think about potential witnesses, reported and direct speech, key vocabulary and updates on Humpty's recovery. I can't wait for them to be written next week as I know they will be so creative! We also managed to fit in a grammar challenge linked to semi-colons.

In Science, we continued our electricity topic including the difference between electrons and protons. During our Geography lessons, we learnt about the 8 compass points and OS maps including their symbols. In French, the children began learning the names for a variety of pets. Everyone was also very excited to create decorations for the Christmas tree in the school hall!



We hope you all enjoyed attending the lovely festive Christmas Fayre today organised by our amazing FORS committee.

Two of our staff have been very busy over the last couple of days! Ms Holmes and Mrs Goddard baked 680 fairy cakes, 240 biscuits and 100 chocolate rice crispy cakes!

I even lent a hand today and put my icing skills to the test. Ms Holmes has told me that I have progressed to my Level 2 Icing Award.



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.

Year 4 had

96%

Attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them.

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman