

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 8th December 2023



Goodbye to Mrs Milligan – We are very sorry to say that Mrs Milligan will be leaving us at the end of the term. She is going to work for the Big C charity supporting patients with cancer and their families. I'm sure she will make a real difference to the families she works with.

Mrs Milligan has worked in the school for over 8 years in a number of roles, which she has always performed brilliantly. She has been a big part of our school team. In the last 4 years she has formed a fantastic team with Miss Hornagold. We will all miss her and wish her all the best for the future.

New Look Year 3 Team



After Christmas there will be a new look to the Year 3 team. Joining Mrs Penson will be the new class teacher Miss Holding as well as Mrs Howes who will be in the class at the start of the week and Mrs Tunmore on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Howes and Mrs Tunmore both work in the school already and as such know the school and the class well.



Reception Staffing – With Mrs Howes moving into Year 3 we are very pleased to welcome Miss Shorten who will be joining our team after Christmas in the Reception Classroom.

Christmas Performances – Next week is dominated by Christmas performances. Reception and KS1 performances are in the hall. Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts.

- Monday 11th December – Reception Dress Rehearsal 10.00
- Monday 11th December – Year 1/ 2 Dress Rehearsal 1.50
- Tuesday 12th December Year 1/2 Performance 10.00
- Tuesday 12th December Reception Performance 1.50
- Wednesday 13th December – Reception Performance 10.00
- Wednesday 13th December – Year 1/ 2 Performance 1.50



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.



There will be no tuck shop Monday to Wednesday next week.

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 in the hall. 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 would 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.



Photographing and Videoing Performances

Next week it is 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.

To allow everyone to enjoy the performances we would also remind parents that:



- Everyone should stay sat quietly in their seats through the performance
- During the performances we do use the back of the hall and the sides so these need to be kept clear

- Younger children can attend but it is important that they sit quietly. If they get distressed they can go outside to calm down
- There isn't space for buggies given the size of the audience - buggies can be left outside
- Sometimes the children do get stage fright. Staff will support them in the first instance and decide what to do next



Spring Term –Although December is a very busy time we are already planning for the Spring Term 2024! Our whole school topic is entitled, “A Drop In The Ocean.” Some of the key dates are below:

- **Monday 15th January – The children will be invited to come back to school once it is dark for some special activities.**
- **Week of the 5th February - Water Awareness week**
- **Week of the 11th March – Science Week including a Science Fair**
- **Week of the 25th March – Rackheath Museum week – Family members will be invited in to the school for each class to present their “A Drop In The Ocean,” learning.**

A Drop In The Ocean Planning Help – It is always great to involve parents, families and friends in our learning. This term we would love to hear from anyone involved with work that involves the sea, the coastline or marine life. For example a fisherman, marine biologist, someone involved with beach cleans or someone working offshore. Please get in touch with me at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk if you have an idea or a useful contact.



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.

School Clubs – This 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.

Lion's Santa Sleigh

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



Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 19th December. Please book this on the Scopay App as usual. The Menu for that week is : Pizza Monday, Christmas Lunch Tuesday and Fish & Chips Wednesday. We are unable to change the menu on the app so please just book as above.

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson

Wellbeing tip from Mrs Cookson - The festive season is usually a time of joy, happiness, and celebration. However, for some it may not be such a positive experience. Shorter days, colder temperatures, and the pressure to provide our families with a 'Christmas to remember' can all have a negative impact on our sense of wellbeing. This year I'm writing myself a Christmas and New Year's Eve to-don't list and I'd like to encourage you to do the same thing too. So far, my to-don't list looks like this: 1. Don't send Christmas cards - donate to charity instead. 2. Don't peel the potatoes and parsnips - let Aunt Bessie take the strain. 3. Don't feel guilty about spending time in the kitchen on Christmas day - shut the door, put my favourite music on, and enjoy the experience. 4. Don't stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve - go to bed early and watch one of my favourite films with a cup of tea and some chocolate Hobnobs, (bliss!!). Whatever you choose to put on your list, I hope you feel the liberation of taking good care of your needs too.



Thank you to everyone who attended the FORS Christmas Fayre last Friday, what a busy few hours it was.

Everyone who won on the raffle have now been contacted. For anyone unable to visit Santa but paid for a ticket all gifts have now been handed to your child/ teacher.

With a great turn out we can confirm that we were able to raise a grand total of £1303.13

We look forward to seeing lots of you at key stage 2 Carole concert on Tuesday 12th Dec.





Bombers

Hello from a festive 'Bombers'. The children have been busy this week making cards and decorations. We have been singing Christmas songs, playing instruments and reading many Christmas stories. We have focused on using one handed tools with tweezers and pom poms, hammering activities and lots of mark making .A reminder that next week is our 'stay and play' week for any parent that would like to come and join us for a little while prior to collection. Just mention to a staff member so we know whom to expect. Next week we will be continuing with lots of Christmas activities and our focus will be playing Christmas games, e.g. pairs, snap, Christmas lotto and dominoes. We will be encouraging lots of turn taking, looking, and listening carefully. A happy weekend to all.

Reception

The festive feel is in full swing in Reception class now! We are busy singing our Nativity songs at any given opportunity and it has been brilliant watching the children humming/ singing them whilst working or bopping away as we walk to assemblies, etc!

We have only had one new sound this week, 'wh' as in 'when' and 'whisk'. Our red words have been: **then, there** and **saw**. We have played maths games together this week and done lots of counting/ singing, along with brain gym and coordination activities.

We are so looking forward to welcoming you all next week to our Nativity performances. The children are very excited!



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been perfecting our Christmas Performance, 'Babushka'. We did a pre-dress rehearsal in costume on Wednesday and we are fantastic! We continued to rehearse all week and look forward to performing for you next Monday-Wednesday. We enjoyed our sneak preview of Reception's performance too as their class's Presentation of Learning.

We continued to write the Christmas Story this week in English. In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'u-e' (huge brute) and compared it to the sound 'oo' (poo at the zoo) that we already know. In Maths, we completed our work on 2D and 3D shapes. Some of us printed with paint using the 3D shapes to show their 2D faces. We all made patterns using shapes.

We enjoyed sharing our books and work with Year 2 for our Presentation of Learning this week. It was fun to see what we had done the same and what was different.

We have really enjoyed starting to colour a giant Christmas tablecloth that was the kind gift from one of our parents this week – thank you so much. The children also had fun in our classroom Christmas grotto!

Next week, we will be performing on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and we will be watching Reception perform on Monday. The rest of the week will be completing a Christmas maths booklet, Phonics, finishing our Christmas stories and Guided Reading; along with some Christmas crafts!



Year 2

Year 2 have had an amazing week, full of fun and hard work.

The children have been performing brilliantly, although they would all benefit from one last practice of their lines, ensuring they know what the line is before theirs. They sing beautifully and look incredible in costume – you are all in for a real treat next week.

As well as rehearsals the children have learnt about the story of Rama and Sita, and why light is important in this story. They also learnt about how Diwali is celebrated, drew Rangoli patterns and made Diva lamps from air dry clay.

We have read the story of Vlad and the Fire of London, completed our own writing about the Great Fire and revised our learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Next week the children will do phonics, handwriting and guided reading on Monday. In the afternoon we have our dress rehearsal. On Tuesday morning we have a performance. In the afternoon the children will do guided reading and watch the Reception Class performance. On Wednesday the children will do Christmas themed maths and guided reading in the morning. In the afternoon it will be their final performance. On Thursday the children will have maths, guided reading and art. Then on Friday they will learn about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah, make Christmas cards, have guided reading and quiet choosing. Have a lovely weekend.

Year 3

It has been an exciting week in year 3, with the putting up of the Christmas decorations; meeting Miss Holding and doing our presentations of learning to year 6! In Maths, we have been looking at fractions, learning about the meaning of numerators, denominators, ordering and comparing non-unit and unit fractions. The children have picked this up really well and we will continue with this next week. In English, we have been looking at non-chronological reports. We started by looking at a variety of reports, before going on to study their features and planning our own based on the UK and Europe.

We have also spent a lot of time this week preparing our presentation of learning to year 6. The children split off into groups, decided on the area of learning they wanted to talk about and then

created their own posters linked to this topic. They really enjoyed the process of designing their posters and had a lovely time today presenting them to year 6. We also really enjoyed heading over to year 6 to look at what they had been learning about.

Next week, we will really start to get into the Christmas spirit with the KS2 Christmas Carol Concert on Tuesday night, followed by a day of watching Reception's and KS1's Christmas performances on Wednesday – I'm looking forward to it already! Have a great weekend, Miss H 😊

Year 4

The highlight of our week this week has been our presentation of learning project which the children completed with determination and great team work. They shared their work with Year 5 and both classes had created really amazing final pieces of work.



Our time table next week:

Our week will be slightly out of routine next week. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday we will be completing our end of term tests.

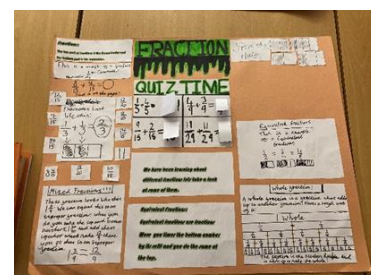
We will be finishing our story writing too.

On Tuesday we will be seeing the Reception Nativity in the morning and on Wednesday afternoon we will be watching the Key Stage 1 production.

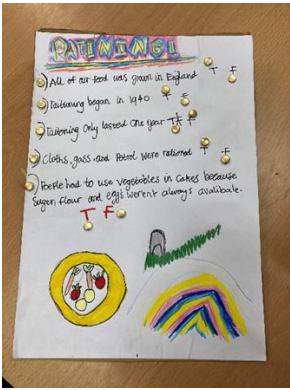
There is no swimming next week so children will need their PE kit on Thursday

Year 5

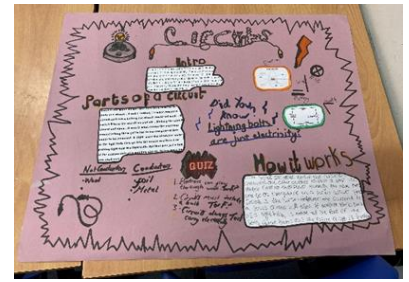
It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas...in year 5! We now have a tree up, along with some beautiful lights! I have said to the class that if any of them wish to make small decorations at home for the classroom then they can!



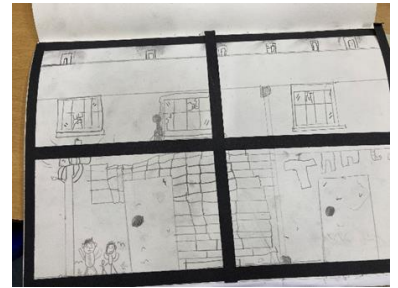
In maths, we are still looking at fractions. We have looked at improper fractions, mixed number fractions and then have moved on to adding and subtracting fractions. We will be continuing with this until the end of term.



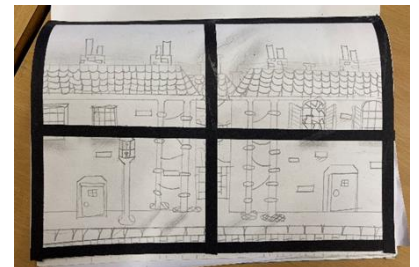
In English, we have moved on to Report writing as we will be writing a School newspaper based on all of the amazing things the school has taken part in this half term. The paper will be called the Daily Rackheath Press and will be available from next Friday.



In topic, we have been looking at the lives of Evacuees during ww2. This week, we have been comparing their lives before being evacuated and during the evacuation, with them living in the countryside. This week, we learnt about inner city life and imagined what we would see through our bedroom windows. In science, we have used our knowledge of circuits to make a quiz that will show the correct answer by lighting up a bulb.



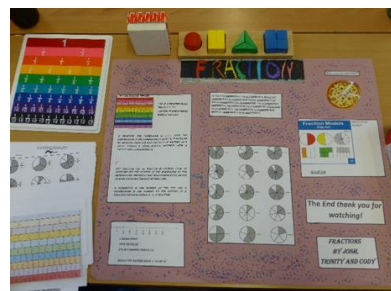
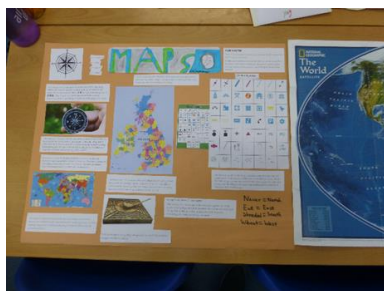
We have also spent time preparing for our Museum presentations to year 4 based on what we have learnt this term.



Next week: We have a slight change to the timetable as on Monday and Tuesday afternoon, we will be watching the Reception and KS1 Christmas performances.

Year 6

The Year 6s had to complete their first set of tests of the school year and they all stayed positive and tried their best - which is all we can ask for! They should all be very proud of their perseverance and determination. Other parts of the morning enabled the children to look back at any questions they did not understand and we then answered them as a team. In the afternoons (for the majority of this week) the Year 6s were put into small groups for our presentation of learning day. This is where the children get to present (to Year 3) an area of learning from the current term. Just a few of the chosen topics included: The Blitz, Classification, Fractions, Tessellating Shapes and OS Maps. It was excellent to see how well the children could articulate their knowledge to the younger children as well as involve them in activities too. I know all of the staff members could see how much effort they had made and all of the facts they've been able to retain. It was also enjoyable to decorate the classroom by putting up a variety of Christmas decorations – thank you for allowing your children to bring some in! On Monday next week, we will be watching both Reception's and KS1's nativity performances. I know the children are very excited to see their buddies. Have a lovely weekend everyone!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **24 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **25 out of 31**

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

Reception 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.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Max, Isla B, Archer
Year 1	Charlotte, Ivy, Jamie
Year 2	Elliott, Elsie, Luke
Year 3	Edie, Tylor, Theodore
Year 4	Nathan, Erin, Micky
Year 5	Ethan, Mya, Rosa
Year 6	All of Year 6, Jessica, Reid

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman