

Rackheath Primary School



Newsletter

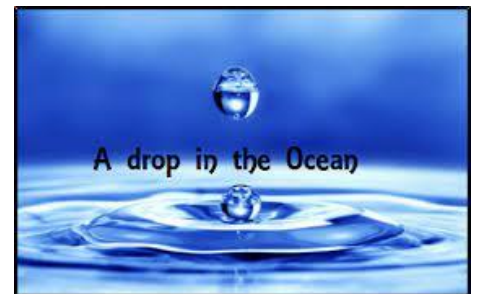
Friday 12th January 2024

Welcome back to a new term and a new year at Rackheath. I hope you and your families and friends had a lovely Christmas. It has been a super start to the new year at Rackheath. The children have come back to school and settled straight back into routines. They are all working hard at the start of our Drop in The Ocean topic.

Spring Term

This term our whole school topic is entitled, "A Drop in The Ocean." Some of the key dates are below:

- Monday 15th January – The children have been invited to come back to school once it is dark for some reading and craft activities. This will be based in classrooms from 5pm until 6pm (see details below).
- 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.



Stories by Torchlight

At the start of our Drop in the Ocean topic we have invited the children to an exciting 'Stories by Torchlight' evening on Monday 15th January, based around our topic.

Children are invited to come back to school from 5pm until 6pm to enjoy some stories by torchlight and take part in craft activities. The children can bring a torch and can wear their own comfortable clothes (no pyjamas). Children will be dropped off and collected from their classrooms. All children, including those in Year 5 and 6, will need

to be collected at 6pm.

To help us plan for the event please could you fill in the form on School Ping if you haven't already had the chance to do so.

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.

Parents' Evening

Parent's Evening – Our second parent's evening of the year will be in the last week of this half term. With the dates being Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th of February. Thursday 15th being the later evening.

SATS Briefing – On Wednesday 7th February Mr Edwards and I will be holding a briefing for parents of our Year 6 children about the SATS tests the children will sit in May. We very much hope that all Year 6 parents will be able to attend the briefing, which will be in the hall at 6pm.

Year 6
SATS



Food Tasting Experience – Today Susan from our caterers VERTAS came in to lead some food tasting workshops with all the classes. The focus was on trying fruit and vegetables with mange tout, peppers, beetroot, kiwi and pineapple amongst the tasty treats to try. Thanks to VERTAS for putting this on.

Extra-Curricular Provision – It has been great to see lots of children enjoying clubs which re-started this week. Peripatetic music lessons and Ukulele lessons have re-started too. Year 3 have had a busy week not only have they got a new teacher; they've started swimming and ukulele lessons too!

This morning we had 9 children braving the elements at cross country club!

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson



I find it very hard to start new habits and even harder to stick with them. I recently listened to the book 'Atomic Habits' by James Clear as the blurb talks about making tiny, easy changes that deliver big results. One of my biggest takeaways from the book was **'habit stacking'**. This involves tagging a new habit onto an existing one. The well-practised, existing habit acts as a mental prompt to do your sparkly new habit. I'm putting this into practise by listening to a podcast while I drive to school. It saves me from listening to the news - something I feel is a guaranteed mood zapper! One of the lovely ladies at my singing circle, Sarah Groves, has recently launched a podcast called **Feel Good Norfolk**. Her mission is to help you discover ways to enhance your wellness, embrace self-care, and foster a sense of community. The added bonus is her focus is on what's available to people who live in Norfolk. So, while you're walking your dog, cleaning the bathroom, or tackling some life admin - maybe this could be your opportunity to do some 'habit stacking' and listen here:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7iSnZ8FheZhrFOFOyced16?si=bgBKT1eTaeuDkMjOCzTgQ>

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk - 01603 720 098 - more information about our school wellbeing service and useful resources: <https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/rackheath-primary-school-wellbeing-resources-g888y3rmox7zr61b>).



Bombers

Welcome back to all our families and 'Happy new Year' to everyone.

The children have settled back quickly and are really enjoying being back in routine. We have also welcomed some new faces and they have come in happily and settled into new surroundings really well. We have been exploring many 'shape' activities with puzzles, magnetic shapes, printing, stencils and damp sand.

We have also been looking at textures and counting activities as well as ensuring that we are encouraging more singing, stories and rhymes.

We will continue looking at a variety of shapes next week and having water play with 'sea' creatures, 'laundry' role-play and using a variety of stencils in the craft area and at the easel. A big 'thank you' for all our wonderful cards, gifts and good wishes received for Christmas. It was much appreciated.



Reception

Welcome back and happy new year to all our lovely reception children and families! We are really starting to see a difference in the children as the academic year progresses – lots are more confident in their own voice, with phonics skills, counting and number work, imaginative play, dancing...the list goes on!

In phonics this week, we have been learning the digraph, 'ay' as in 'play' and 'day'. Each Friday for the next few weeks, we will be incorporating learning to recognise and form capital letters into our phonics session. We started today with A, B and C.

In maths, we have been using all sorts of resources, such as numicon, small world objects and even ourselves to work out addition problems. Lots of us have been



writing number sentences too to show what we have done, for example, we might have gathered together 6 and then 3 farm animals, we then showed this with the number sentence: $6 + 3 = 9$. Together, we also looked at adding using a number line too – we started on the bigger number and counted on to find the total.

We have really enjoyed starting our new topic, 'A Drop in the Ocean!' We are really focusing on using new vocabulary and enriching our word banks too so we have been describing sea creatures: Octopus have long tentacles and strong suckers and crabs have pincers (we wanted to call them 'pinchers' but we've learned the correct word!) We loved looking at Google Earth

satellite maps and thinking about where the land, ice, mountains, deserts and oceans were. (We looked at Atlases too!)

We are looking forward to continuing this topic next week and enjoying a new fiction book. We hope the children are excited about coming back to school on Monday 15th at 5pm, if they can make it, for some sea-riously good fun and learning! 😊



Year 1

Year 1 have had a fantastic start back after the Christmas Holiday. They have been calm, engaged and ready to learn!

We learnt the new sound 'are' (care and share) in Phonics and compared it to the sound 'air' (that's not fair) that we already know. In English, we have been looking at the book, 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. We started the week by making our own planets from our Solar System with Lego. We then made a class poem based on 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong and wrote our own lines and verses for it.

In Maths, we have been finding one more (by adding one) and one less (by taking one away) and we have been ordering numbers, some as big as 100! We used ten frames and number lines to help us.

We started our new Whole-School topic, 'A Drop in the Ocean' by sharing the Knowledge Organiser for this term. We looked at the names and locations of the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We labelled and coloured maps, but our favourite part was learning: '7 continents song' and '5 oceans song'. You can search for these on YouTube if you would like to sing them at home! We watched some clips from David Attenborough's 'Seven Worlds, One Planet' about life on each of the continents. We started a unit of music called 'Sun, Sea and Song'.



Year 2

What a fabulous week we have had! Year 2 have come back happily; all seem well and have settled quickly back into routine after all the different Christmas activities at the end of last term.

This week we have started topic "A drop in the Ocean" by learning a little bit about the seven continents and five oceans and identifying them on a World Map. In singing assembly, we listened to the Song of the Ocean and in our music lesson we began a BBC Teach Radio programme called "Sun, Sea and Song." We have begun to learn two new songs with a sea theme.

In English we have used the well-known story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff as a focus for our learning on reading and writing sentences. The children have become good at spotting the verb and subject in a sentence even when the verb is a being verb such as was or is. Next week we will finish writing the story of The Billy Goats Gruff and begin Lost and Found which fits with our ocean theme.

In maths we have tackled money. The children have found counting pounds and pence when the pounds includes both notes and coins tricky. Whilst we appreciate that we live in an increasingly cashless society if you can give your child experience of handling money it would be helpful.

This morning the children enjoyed tasting some different fruits and vegetables with our visitors from Vertas.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a super first full week of 2024! They have been so welcoming and have been superstars at helping me get to grips with how things run in Year 3 at Rackheath Primary. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of your wonderful children.

Over the course of the week, I have noticed that their enthusiasm for learning is unmatched.

In English, we have spent valuable time looking at the use of a verb and a subject in a single clause sentence. I wonder if your child can remember the three types of verbs?

In Maths, we have continued solving problems involving fractions.

In Topic lessons, the class have begun learning about volcanoes and earthquakes which they've found very exciting, especially as my sister is currently travelling around Central America where there has just been a small volcanic eruption which she managed to video/photograph and send to us. As a result of her experiment, we've produced an extensive list of questions to ask her and cannot wait to hear her response. Also, take a look at our rather impressive 3D 'layers of Earth' models (pictured).

We have also begun ukulele lessons which seems to be a firm favourite across the class, with one child asking me 'When is it going to be Tuesday again... I really want to play the ukulele again!'

Please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office if you have any questions. I cannot wait to spend the rest of the year with your children!



Year 4

It has been so lovely to get back into our normal routines in class - Year 4 can lift anyone's January blues!

We hit the ground running this week by starting our new topic 'A Drop in the Ocean' with a look at tectonic plates and volcanoes. We had a wonderful educational but edible lesson on Tuesday where the children were exploring the vocabulary of convergent, divergent and transformation by using biscuits and jam to model how tectonic plates move. It was such a fun lesson and I know the children have learnt a lot!



In Maths, we have explored factors, prime numbers and finished the week by looking at division with remainders. Next week, we are moving onto area of shapes which I'm really looking forward to.

In English, we have been exploring verbs, subjects and conjunctions in lots of detail and today the class created their own whole class poem which was really good fun.



A few messages for you:

We will be having PE with Mrs Cavender every Thursday this half term. The children will need their indoor PE kit every Thursday please. We are also really lucky to have Mrs Petraglia teaching us for RE for 1 hour every other Thursday. We will see her again on Thursday 25th January.

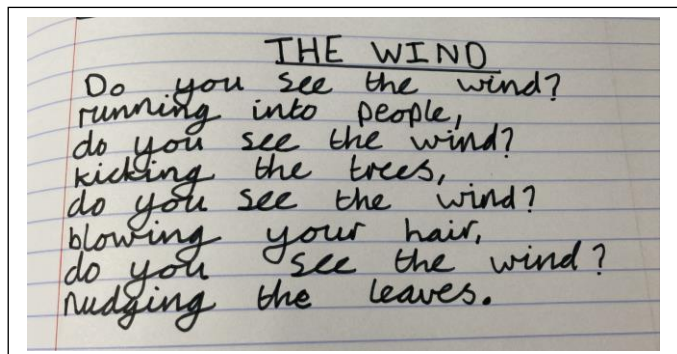
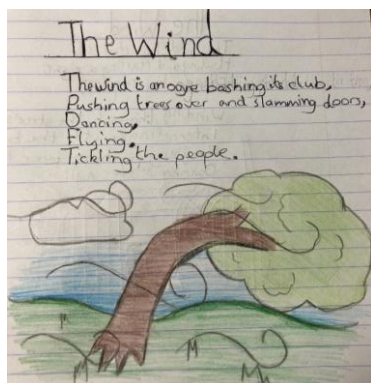
We would love to welcome parent volunteers to hear readers or test times tables. If you are available, please get in touch!

Year 5

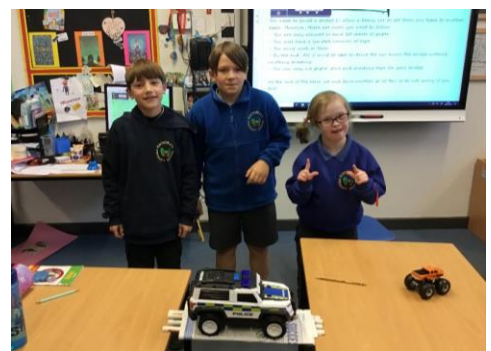
Our first full week back – and it has felt like a long one. We are all rather tired now!

In maths, we have been looking at multiplying 3-digit numbers by 2-digits using the formal method, such as 434×53 . If you want to see how the children solve this type of question, the maths calculation policy can be found on the school website to show how we do all of our calculations!

In English, we have been looking at poetry using similes and metaphors. In particular, we have been using personification to describe the weather in winter. Below, you can see examples of one of our completed poems.



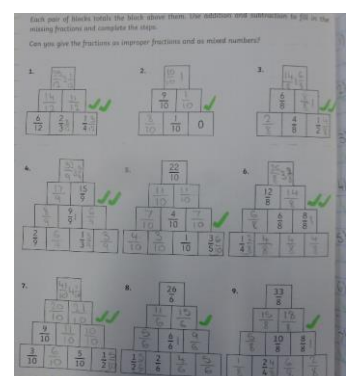
In topic, we have started our new units linked to 'A Drop in the Ocean'. In geography, we are looking at rivers and coasts and for history we are learning about Ancient Egypt. As always, we will be having a themed dress up day for this unit, which will take place later in the second half term. More details will be sent out in the next week. In DT, we are looking at bridges. The children were tasked with trying to get across a 40cm gap with only 11 pieces of paper. A massive well done to Jake, Sebastian and Ibbie as they were the only group who managed to complete the challenge!



Year 6

Firstly, I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! The children have started the new term brilliantly and we have been able to fit in so many activities.

In Maths lessons, we completed reasoning problems linked to fractions and then moved onto geometry as our new topic. This included coordinates on a four-quadrant grid and learning how to translate shapes to a new position. The children seemed to really enjoy playing coordinates bingo too!



In Literacy, we studied the different types of verbs (physical, mental and state of being) before beginning to look at persuasive texts. The children identified key features before planning their own text based on a new invention!

After revealing our new History topic (Ancient Egypt), we looked at other ancient and early civilisations and placed them in chronological order on a timeline. Next, the class researched a variety of key events that took place in Ancient Egypt.

For Science, the children discovered the difference between particles in solids, liquids and gases and completed a water- colour piece of artwork focusing on negative space. Today, we also took part in a food workshop where the children had the opportunity to try a range of fruits and vegetables.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **17 out of 26** and
Year 4 who had **27 out of 31**

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

Year 1 had

97%

attendance week beginning 18th
December. 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	Jacob, Mabel, Jesy
Year 1	Phoebe, Summer, Henry
Year 2	Sonny, Sienna, Ben
Year 3	Alfie, Ava, All of Year 3
Year 4	Bonnie, Hugo, Freya
Year 5	Rachel, Sebastian, Kayden
Year 6	Austin, All of Year 6, Lacey

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman