

# Rackheath Primary School



## Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

It has been another super week in school with lots of great learning and teaching taking place. Breakfast Club started this week and has run very smoothly and already we have good numbers attending. Next week all our clubs re-start so lots to look forward to!

### Reception Class 2022-23

It has been great to see how well the new Reception class have gelled together and settled into the school, culminating in their first full day today. In the last few days the children have met their Year 6 buddies. Watching the relationships develop between the two classes is always a highlight of the year and already you can see firm friendships being made. I have been hugely impressed with the way the Year 6 children have taken to the role, they do such a great job helping the Reception class settle into the school. Over the last few days it has been lovely to see both classes eating lunch together too. Thanks also to the Reception Team for all their hard work in making the children's first two weeks so successful.



**Parent Volunteers** - We really value the support we get from parents who volunteer to spend time in the classrooms. We are always looking to add to our volunteers. If you would like to spend some time in school doing things like hearing children read or helping them learn their times tables please do let me know at [head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk)

**Parent Cafes** – Our first cafes of the year take place over the next two weeks. Year 3 and 4 taking place first next week. As usual they will run from 9am until 10am. The focus for these cafes is to give you the opportunity to take part in some exciting learning whilst seeing the children in their new year groups with their new teachers. Before the café parents can wait in the hall before being collected and taken to the classroom. The only exception being a Tuesday café when the hall is in use for ukulele. In this case Year 1 parents can wait in the entrance hall.

- Year 3 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 1 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>
- Year 2 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup>
- Year 4 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>
- Reception Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Year 5 Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>
- Year 6 Friday 29<sup>th</sup>

**Update from Mrs Cookson** – “I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. Starting next week, I'm going to pop some wellbeing hints and activities into our school newsletter. If you have anything which works well for you and your family, and you'd like to share it with our school community, then please let me know. You can email me at: [ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk](mailto:ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk) or ask your child to come and tell me all about it”.

Claire Cookson - Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner



**Clubs** – We are looking forward to clubs starting again next week. As always we want to ensure that the clubs run as smoothly and safely as possible. To help us with that if, on the day, your child is not going to be at a club please do let the office know so they can mark this on the register. This will mean that staff running the clubs know why someone down to attend the club isn't there.

If we have to postpone a club on the day we will let you know. For children from Reception to Year 4 we know that normally parents then pick their children up at the end of the day. However, we do know that some parents may not be able to pick up at short notice so we will make provision for those children to stay in school until the clubs scheduled end.

This is slightly different for our Year 5 and 6 children who have permission to walk home. For Year 5 and 6 we will send out an additional consent via School Ping which will ask whether you are happy for us to send your child home at 3:15pm if a club is cancelled, or you would rather let us know on the day of the club depending on your circumstances (in that case we would keep your child in school until we had heard from you).



### SCOPAY – New School Lunch and Payment App

Your child will have brought home a very important letter today and you will also have received a schoolping / email with further information. Please ensure that you set this up this weekend in order to book your child's lunches for next week.

### SEND Parent Forum

Our SEND Parent Forum held their first meeting of the year this Monday. The plan for this terms meetings are below. Everyone is welcome and I know they would love lots of you to join them. You can attend all the meetings or it might be that just one of the meetings feels relevant.



#### October

Monday 9th – 9.00am (Duration: 1 hour)

Topic: SEND School Improvement Plan and Q&A Session - Mrs Watson

#### November

Monday 13th at 9.00am (Duration: 1½ hours)

Topic: SEND Support Toolkit - Nikki Cocoran - Norfolk SEN Network

#### December

Monday 11th at 9.00am (Duration: 2 hours)

Topic: How to deal with emotional outburst during the festive season Emma Whymark - Changing Behaviour

#### January

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – 9.00am (Duration: 1 hour)

Topic: The Importance of our Mental Health - Speaker TBC

**Information from Norfolk County Council** – We have had two pieces of useful communication this week from the Local Authority. Firstly, they have sent information about an SEND Information Fair for families and professionals. Secondly they have sent “A Parent’s Guide to keeping kids healthy this school year”. Information and the links for both of these can be found below:

**Making Sense of SEND** is a free information fair for SEND families and professionals. The aim is to share information with you and enable you to meet the people behind the services.

Their flier states: Our [next event](#) is at the King's Centre (Kingsgate) in Great Yarmouth on 3 October from 10am - 12pm. We are being joined by over 15 organisations who will be on hand to share information about their services and answer any questions you may have. There will also be a talk about SEN Support at 10.30am that is optional to attend. Free refreshments will be available.

We'd love it if as many people as possible could benefit from this event, so please do share with any families or colleagues you work with that may have an interest in attending.

Tickets are **free but must be booked in advance**. For more information: [Making sense of SEND Events](#)

**A parent's guide to keeping kids healthy this school year** - This [article written by the UK Health Security Agency](#) covers the role of healthy hygiene habits, vaccination, spotting the symptoms of common illnesses, and how to make informed decisions on whether a sick student is well enough to attend school or college.

**New School Website** – Over the summer we have modernised and updated our website. We are very pleased with our new look site which can be found at <https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/> and will be much easier to look at on a phone or tablet.

This is a useful place to find out more about the school. You will find lots of information about the school’s curriculum as well as our weekly newsletters and lots more.



## **Bombers**

Hello and a warm welcome to our returners and also our new families that are joining us.

We have been exploring sensory and tactile activities within our craft this week ( sand, cornflour, playdough) and the children have enjoyed lots of construction and ‘cooking’ in the home corner along with some budding ‘Doctors’ in the role play. We are looking at ‘All About Me’ this half term to link in with reception and will also explore ‘Harvest’ and ‘Autumn’, looking at colours, shapes and foods. The children have loved ‘apple’ hammering today and we took a small group the other afternoon to collect leaves, fir cones , sticks and feathers on a little nature walk.

## **Reception**

Year 4 have had an amazing first week back! They are such a lovely bunch and we are really enjoying getting to know them. A big highlight of our first week has been our art project based on, ‘If I could be anything, I would be...’ The children have reimagined themselves in their dream future careers and their final pieces are really amazing!

In English we have been enjoying a book without words called ‘Belonging’. We have created poems to show how the landscape has changed.

In Maths we have been exploring place value up to 10,000.

Next week, on Friday we are venturing on our first Year 4 trip to How Hill. At the moment, the forecast is looking a bit wet. Please send children with wellies in a plastic bag, and waterproofs if you have them, as we will be outside all day. Thank you to all of the grownups who have offered to help on the day. I'm just waiting to hear back from How Hill on how many groups we need and then I'll be in touch!

## Year 1

What a wonderful start Year 1 have had to the year! Well done everyone. We have had a lovely time getting to know the children, and we are beginning to see their personalities shine. Well done, as well, to Year 1 for being so welcoming to the four new children to our school.

We have started to recap some Phonics sounds from last year, 'ay' (may I play) and 'ee' (what can you see). We have been looking at Sidney Spider – A Tale of Friendship, a short story about a spider making new friends. We have made spiders, which are dangling in our classroom!, decorated spider biscuits, written some sentences about where spiders hide, and been on a minibeast hunt to make our own insect factfiles. We have enjoyed starting to hear the children read this week.

In Maths, we have been practising our counting forwards and backwards to 20 and beyond. We have reminded ourselves of how to form numbers correctly, and have been putting numbers in order. We are really enjoying completing our 'rainbow challenges' by completing lots of different activities during the week.

We started our whole school topic, World Outside Our Window, with a Geography focus. We looked at the United Kingdom and which four countries make up the UK. We looked in more detail at England and made dragons from the story of St. George and the Dragon, we made castles linked to Wales, and designed our own tartan from Scotland.

Of course, we have also had lots of time to play! We have enjoyed getting to know the new toys and exploring outside and our Wild Area.



## Year 2

The Year 2 children have settled in to new routines brilliantly. They all have superb attitudes to learning, work hard and are kind and caring towards each other. Some have found the first whole week back tricky though, and there have been a few very tired children today.

In English we have been reading a book called 'In Our Hands' which is about a world that loses all of its colour. The girl in the story saves the day when she discovers a magical seed washed up in a bottle. She plants the seed, and with the help of her friends colour is restored. We have had lots of discussions about the story and the children have completed some simple writing tasks. We have also revised the sounds ch, tch and ck.

In maths we have worked on place value, especially thinking about numbers that are one more and one less, ten more and ten less. We have also practised counting backwards from 100 which you can do at home too please.

The children have also enjoyed a PE lesson with Mr Palmer and found out lots about England and Scotland. There may be a few children who wish to go and see if they can find the Loch Ness Monster!

Today your child will have brought home a new reading book. In Year 2 they only have to read it once or twice at home before getting a new book. We have a tub in the classroom for books that need changing so please remind your child to put their reading and contact book in the tub as and when they need to. I look forward to seeing many of you on Wednesday morning when I can share more about how we organise reading and spellings in Year 2.

### Year 3

Firstly, I want to say a huge well done to all of the children for how brilliantly they have started year 3! It is not always easy at the beginning of the year, as the expectations of being in KS2 can often be a bit difficult, but together the children are rising to challenge. They have been writing their own dates and learning targets; doing guided reading and spellings as a whole class and even had their first French lesson yesterday with Mrs Cavender.

In Maths, we have been looking at the place value of numbers up to 1000. We have spent lots of time partitioning 3-digit numbers, so that the children have a solid understanding of hundreds, tens and ones before moving onto addition and subtraction in a couple of weeks' time.

In English, we have been looking at a book called 'The Comet', which the children seem to be really enjoying! They have acted out scenes from the book; created a 'role on the wall' of the main character Nyla and have written diary entries as Nyla as she moves homes.

In topic, we have been studying the artist, Henri Matisse. We have been looking at his most famous pieces of artwork; creating collages using his 'painting with scissors' technique and have mixed colours to create the colour wheel.

Well done on your first full week in year 3 and I look forward to an exciting week next week with our Curiosity Café on Monday and trip to How Hill on Thursday!

### Year 4

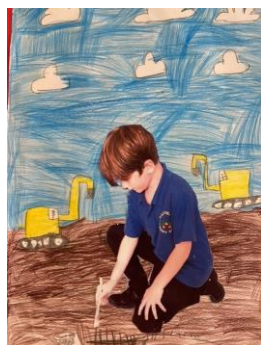
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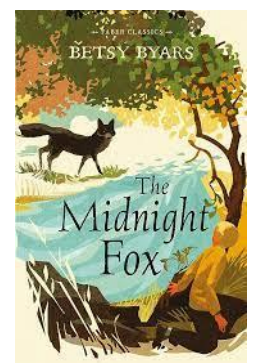
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### Year 5

It has been a brilliant first week and a bit with this new class – they might be loud but they are very keen! In literacy we have started our unit based on a book by Betsy Byers called The Midnight Fox... it is one of my favourite books. One of the highlights so far has been our freeze frame work and next week we will be trying out some cooking based on the book! In maths, we have been looking at place value by trying to read large numbers and rounding them – Ben has been excellent at reading these for us.

In topic we have started by looking at the World Outside our Window by looking at where we are in the world and locating important features; I was pleased to see that the children knew lots of the eras that we talked about! In science, we have started by recapping living things including plants. We have also started our 8 Billion Ideas project, where the children work in groups to come up with a world changing idea!



We also had the new Reading Journals sent out this week - we have had a look at them today to see how they are being used and it is great to see so many brilliant comments in there. They will be checked and marked every Friday so please ensure they have been sent in.

## Year 6

What a fantastic week and a half it has been! The children have all worked their socks off in class and should be very proud of themselves. Ms Holmes and I have already been impressed by the children's work rate and perseverance during a variety of challenges.

In Maths lessons, our main focus has linked to place value and being able to write (and order) numbers up to 10,000,000.

In Literacy, the children have enjoyed listening to our class book – Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman. So far, we've summarised the first few chapters, written predictions, found key evidence and are now planning an informal letter from Afghanistan (where the book is set).

In Topic lessons, the class are learning about WW2 and have created a timeline of events and then learnt about the axis and allied powers. In Geography, the children took part in a 'I bet you can't locate these' challenge. This is where the class had to locate a variety of physical features within a world map. I was also impressed by the children's focus in our art lesson yesterday – where they produced a drawing to a one-point perspective. When these are finished, I will show some examples in the next newsletter!

Finally, it was great that the Year 6s met their buddies and even got to have lunch with them on Wednesday and Thursday. I can tell already that they will be fantastic role models to them throughout this year. Well done!

**Well done to 3 who had  
99%  
attendance last week. Attendance  
Bear will spend next week with them.**

Attendance Bear  
Attendance Bear

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

*Chris Ashman*