

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 19th January 2024



This week in assemblies we have shared the story of Rosa Parks and the bus boycott she inspired in 1950's America. We have also been talking about the importance of kindness and exploring the idea of, "in a world where you can be anything, be kind."

Every day the children demonstrate their kindness in so many ways, whether it be through playing well with each other, picking up something that one of their peers has dropped, opening the door for each other or through showing empathy for each other.

They also drew praise from Susan from VERTAS. After last Friday's food tasting visit, she told me that the children from all our classes were the best behaved and most polite children they had ever worked with!

Stories By Torchlight

This proved to be a great success on Monday night. Well over half the school came back from 5-6pm. The children loved taking part in different activities like making models of fish and jellyfish, making jellyfish in a bottle and creating some lovely art work. They also enjoyed the light shows in many of the classes as well as being in school in their own clothes and in the dark! Thank you to all the staff who stayed late and led the event. Thank you to all of you and the children who made it such a lovely occasion.



Photos - Annette

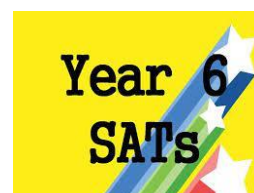
Bad Weather – We are entering the time of year when the weather can cause disruption. Should the school ever need to shut we would let you know through School Ping, our text system and via Radio Norfolk and the Norfolk County Council/Radio Norfolk Website.

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. A schooling will go out in the next week or so with details of how and when to sign up so please keep an eye out for this.



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 have also started SATS booster lessons on a Tuesday afternoon, with the class working in groups with either Ms Holmes, Mr Edwards or myself.





Eco-Committee – Mrs Cavender has kindly agreed to be the staff member on the Eco-Committee, taking over from Mrs Milligan.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

When we do things that make us feel good, our body and brain release a hormone called oxytocin. It's often called the love hormone - it makes us feel calmer, lowers stress, improves our quality of sleep, and makes us feel emotionally closer to those around us. It's therefore a good idea to identify what makes us feel good, so we can experience a regular supply of oxytocin.



When your family has the opportunity, such as while you're eating your evening meal together, I'd encourage you to all make a list of what personally makes each of you feel good, (you can draw pictures if you prefer). To help get you started you could consider the following questions: Who do you like to spend time with; where do you like to go; what helps you relax; what makes you laugh; what makes you feel energised? When you have your lists, choose two or three of the activities and think about what you need to do to make sure they happen, (i.e., book time in your diary; make a phone-call to a friend / family member; buy some bath bubbles!). The final step is to do two or three of the activities over the next week. If you really enjoy them, try to make them a regular thing. To make sure I practice what I preach, instead of heading home on a Wednesday afternoon, I'll be going to one of my favourite cafes to savour a coffee while reading my book!

Sending you all wellbeing wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk / 01603 720098).



We have football matches and tournaments on Monday and Friday..... John G Plummer Dentist is coming into school on Thursday to look at children from Reception to Year 4. They will only see children who have been signed up (closing date was 15th January). We are unable to take any more forms as final numbers have been given..... and we are hosting a cluster staff meeting on Wednesday after school.

Pupil Numbers -On Monday we welcome two new children to the school. This will take our numbers up to 215.



Bombers

Hello to all. It has been a very busy week and the children loved seeing our first flurries of snow.

We have been looking at 'shapes' and also creatures that live in the sea. There has been some lovely cutting, printing and drawing activities as well as lots of singing and 'action' rhymes.

Next week we will be looking at number activities with counting and recognising numerals in a variety of activities. We will also be playing with 'malleable' and 'sensory' materials as a craft theme.



In our day-to-day play, we will be using many timers and listening activities to nurture sharing, attention and turn taking. Happy weekend to all.

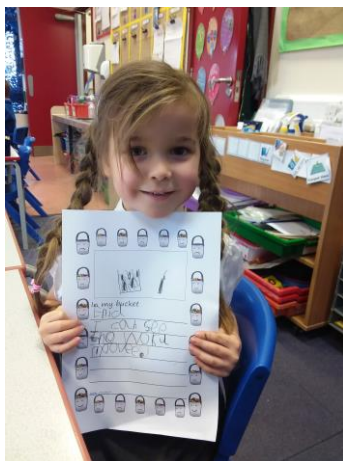
Reception

We have had another enjoyable and busy in week in reception class! We had a lovely time together for the topic launch event on Monday evening. We read the beautiful story *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, which is about friendship, sharing and happiness. We made our own colourful fish and enjoyed lots of singing and dancing!

In phonics, we have been learning the vowel digraph 'ee' as in 'feet' and 'need'. Our red words this week are: 'they', 'are' and 'all'. When we learn these tricky words, we try and work out which bits are challenging and unfamiliar and which bits are easier. So, for example, we have learned the 'th' sound in 'they' before so it's the 'ey' ending which needs to be learned as a tricky, red pattern of letters as it doesn't often make this sound in other words, so, we try and memorise the 'shape' of this word as a whole, using the 'th' as a good starting clue.

In maths, we have been working on 'taking away' – as always, this has started with lots of playing, e.g., there are 10 little people on the bus, when the bus stops, take off 3 passengers, how many are left on your bus? We looked at using a number line to subtract on too.

Have a great weekend all; we are looking forward to continuing work on the funny story 'Billy's Bucket' next week.



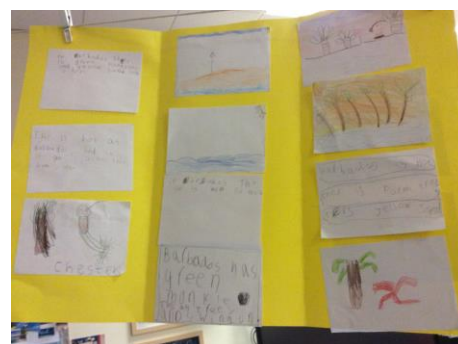
Year 1

This week in Year 1, we continued with the book, *Here We Are*. We drew and labelled pictures of human bodies, drew pictures of ourselves, said and wrote simple sentences about ourselves and other people, and looked at how to help look after animals and our planet. We introduced the term 'verb' as a state of being (e.g., I am... I have...)

In Maths, we have been adding within 20 and using number bonds to 10 and 20. We have used ten frames, number lines, part-whole models and Numicon to help us. Our adding skills have really improved! We have also been counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and we are beginning to learn the 2 times table.

In Phonics, we have learnt the new sound 'ur' (nurse with a purse) and compared it to the sound 'ir' (whirl and twirl) that we already know.

We continued practising the 7 continents and 5 oceans with our songs this week. We looked closely at two contrasting beach locations, Barbados and Cromer. We discussed similarities and differences, and looked on Google maps to see where they were and how we would travel to get there. We made holiday brochures for the two places in small groups.



Year 2

This week Year Two have enjoyed reading and watching the story "Lost and Found" by Oliver Jeffers. They have been working hard to write sentences recounting all of the things which happened to the boy and the penguin on their voyage.

We began the story on Monday evening with the children who came back for the twilight session. After reading and talking about the story the children had great fun designing and making fabulous model boats.

In maths we have been working on recognising and creating equal groups, on writing repeated additions and then writing them as multiplication sentences.

On Wednesday afternoon we looked at some paintings of the sea and then made shades and tints by adding white and then black to blue paint.

In ICT with Mr Edwards the children continued to learn about algorithms by having fun with the Spheros. The children have also had a PE lesson with Mr Palmer, learnt a little about Antarctica and designed posters advertising trips there, learnt about soft c in spelling lessons and taken part in guided reading groups.



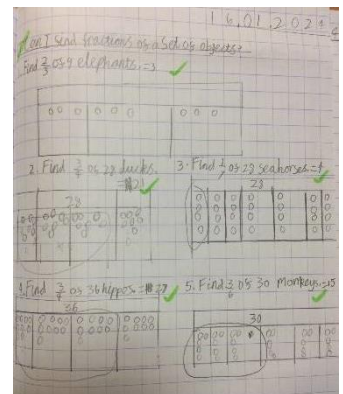
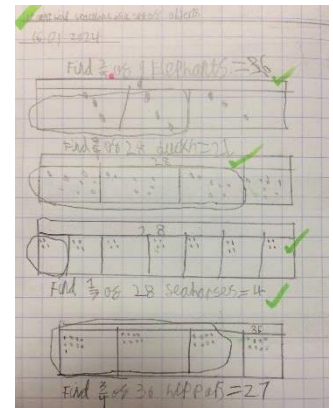
Year 3

We have been highly productive this week in Year 3!

In English, we have continued to read, discuss and write about our book, 'The Rhythm of the Rain'. We are really enjoying this text and the children have made some lovely links to their personal experiences with water, from playing with water balloons to taking a trip on a boat on the Norfolk Broads.

In Maths, we've completed our fraction unit of work. At first, we found non-unit fractions of an amount quite challenging. However, after breaking the process down into three concise steps everyone has made significant progress; I am really proud of them and the growth mindset they have collectively shown. Take a look at the work in these books!

Furthermore, we have also continued with our 'Volcanoes and Earthquakes' topic, where the children have further developed their knowledge of tectonic plate boundaries (Convergent, Divergent, Transform and Subduction Zones). We've been using our hands to represent the different movements between two tectonic places. I wonder whether your child can name and act out the different plate movements for you?



Year 4

Year 4 have had another fantastic week!

We have begun to explore our text, 'The Rhythm of The Rain' in English and the children have been getting to know Isaac, the main character. We have explored how we can create multi-clause sentences by using conjunctions. The

class are making so much progress with their understanding of punctuating their work correctly which we are all feeling very proud of!

In Maths this week, we have explored area by looking initially at counting squares inside shapes before learning about CM2. We had a problem-solving session today where they had to calculate area when we couldn't see the whole shape!

Thank you so much for the amazing homework tasks that have been sent in this week. We had had amazing edible layers of the earth, earth made out of plasticene, activities completed on Minecraft and many more!

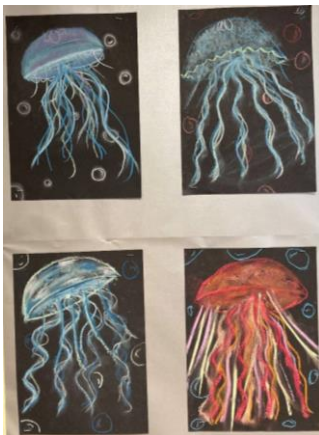
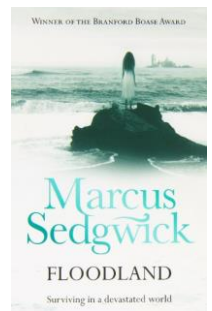
Year 5

What a chilly week it has been in year 5!

We have had a big push on reading this week and I have been making sure that the children have their book with them in school each day so that we can read at every available moment. I will be doing the same next week too, to try and get the children in to the habit of reading rather than talking if they have finished their work.

In maths, we have been looking at using the formal division method – you may know this as the bus stop method! The children have become excellent at using it but some are still being held back by times tables. To help the children with this, we will now be having a weekly 20min session to help practise.

In English, we have started our new class book called 'Floodland' by Marcus Sedgwick. The book is based in the future where the world has flooded leaving a girl called Zoe trying to survive on an island, called Norwich! The children are absolutely hooked on the book already.



In Geography, we have looked at how rivers start by learning about the Water Cycle and its link. For History, we have looked at Egypt as a country to see what it is like. We have learnt about neighbouring countries, cities and important features. In DT, we have been looking at different types of bridges and why they are built in that way – we will then use this later on in the term to help construct our own bridges! Finally, we also continued on with our water theme by using chalk to draw a Jellyfish – with some amazing results!

Year 6

Our second full week back at school has been brilliant and Ms Holmes and I have both commented on the children's work rates and enthusiasm for learning. In Maths lessons, we have continued our geometry unit where the class have had to answer reasoning questions linked to the four quadrants, reflect shapes in a mirror line and draw lines of symmetry onto 2D shapes. They have also completed a range of arithmetic questions to see which tricks and short cuts they could retain from last term.

In Literacy, we completed our persuasive texts and I couldn't believe how detailed they were! As well as this, we had a grammar lesson focusing on determiners and learnt to make notes and turn them into descriptive sentences.

In Science, the children learnt about reversible and irreversible changes and were able to confidently give examples of both. The class had another R.E lesson with Mrs Grogutt, and during Topic lessons, we researched foods and drinks that were popular in Ancient Egyptian times. This led to the class creating their own menus for a restaurant. They also got to complete their artwork linked to negative space and it was lovely to hear how much they enjoyed it. Finally, the evening book-and-craft session was fantastic. The children were introduced to 'Flotsam' before showing off their creative sides!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:
 Reception who had **19 out of 30** and
 Year 6 who had **28 out of 31**
 of their children read to their family
 at least 3 times at home this week!

Year 6 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	Freya, Harrison, George
Year 1	Spencer, Lochlan, Alexa
Year 2	Leo, Leighrye, Luke
Year 3	Mila, Jacob G, Jack
Year 4	Lola, Jack, Anya
Year 5	Mia, Kian, Isabelle
Year 6	Alex, Cody, Reid

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman