

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Wednesday 20th December 2023

It has been a very busy first term of this academic year. The children from Reception to Year 6 have once again been amazing! It has been a really busy and exciting terms work culminating in a fantastic last few weeks of Christmas events. It is a real privilege to come to school and work with them every day. Well done to all of you and special "Well Done" to the Reception Class on a fantastic first term in school.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the staff. They are a fantastic team who work hard every day to make sure our school is a happy place where learning is fun and children make good progress. I'm sure you agree that the children at Rackheath enjoy lots of rich opportunities and memorable experiences during a term.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the support you give the school and its events. There is always lots of enthusiasm to attend cafes, assemblies and performances. A lot of you are also active in the FORS, the school governors and in other ways. The voluntary effort you all put in makes a real difference. Thank you!



Sadly, we are saying goodbye to both Miss Hornagold and Mrs Milligan today. They have both been absolute stars in the time they've been in school. They both contribute hugely to the school both in and out of the classroom and we will all miss them a great deal. We wish them both all the best for the future.

Celebration Assembly Autumn Term

On Monday we held our first celebration assembly of the year! All the winners received a special certificate with the reasons why they won the award attached as well as a special badge and pencil. Well done to them all:

- Reception – Mabel and Harrison
- Year 1 – Eve and Reese
- Year 2 – Emily and Elliot
- Year 3 – Eden and Oscar
- Year 4 – Freya and Lola
- Year 5 – Rachel and Harrison
- Year 6 – Libby and Jayden



Christmas Performances - I was lucky enough to spend quite a bit of last week watching the Reception and Year 1 and 2 nativity performances. The children sang, danced and acted superbly and their story telling really captured the spirit of Christmas. They all had a lovely time and I know the audience very much enjoyed the performances too.



KS2 Christmas Carols – It was a magical evening last Tuesday when the school were joined by the Salvation Army for a lovely evening of Christmas Carols. The weather let us down a bit but didn't dampen the enthusiasm. It was amazing to have so many members of the community join us in our celebrations. Highlights included the choir's

performance, the drumming backing for "Little Drummer Boy" and a singing battle between the odd and even sides during "The 12 Days of Christmas!" There are lots of people to thank including the Salvation Army for providing a fantastic musical backing, the FORS for providing drinks and snacks and all of you who helped raise an amazing £226 for the Salvation Army charity. The money all going to support vulnerable families over Christmas.



100% attendance for the Autumn Term - Well done to the following children who have been in every day of the Autumn Term.

- Reception – Max, Grace, Pippa
- Year 1 – Aminah, Emmy, Jamie, Freddie, Ivy
- Year 2 – Lily, Luke, Emily, Oakley
- Year 3 – Jack, Ava, Edie, Alicja, Matilda, Henry, Parker, Ella, Alfie
- Year 4 – Iris, Olivia C, Amelia, Nicky, Jack, Emily, Olivia W, Harley
- Year 5 – Maisie, Harlan, Mya, Maxwell, Emily T, Jacob, Leon, Kayden
- Year 6 – Isabelle A, Lexi



This includes children who have had medical appointments as their only absence.

Lion's Santa Sleigh Visit

Santa's Sleigh visit – It was very exciting to welcome Santa and his sleigh to school on Monday. It was lovely to see lots of the children getting a chance to meet Santa!



Christmas Dinner



The children and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner on Tuesday cooked by our fantastic chefs from EATS Shane and Abi. There was a lovely festive atmosphere in the hall as the staff took it in turns to serve the children. All told 200 children and staff enjoyed a high quality lunch.



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 reading and craft activities. This will be based in classrooms from 5pm until 6pm.
- **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.



Clubs next term – Clubs will re-start in the first full week of the term on **Monday 8th January**. Football club on Tuesday and Thursday will continue as will Cross Country on Friday mornings. Mr Palmer's Wednesday (multi-sports Year 1 and 2) and Thursday (netball Year 5 and 6) will stay the same. You won't need to sign your child up for those clubs. On Monday the club for Year 3 and 4 will be tennis. A sign-up for this will go out on School Ping.

As we reach the end of the first term and the end of this calendar year, the governors would like to take this opportunity to wish our whole school community a happy and healthy festive break.



During the Autumn term, we have the incredible privilege to complete our annual 'Governor Day' visit as well as our termly committees and board. This year we focussed our visit on Inclusion; completing learning walks, enjoying music assembly, interactive class time, experiencing break and lunch time with children and staff as well as some pupil voice time discussing this important area with pupils. We finished the school day with a wonderful reception parent assembly!

As governors, we are particularly grateful to Mr Ashman and all the staff of the school; teaching and non-teaching including FDRS, for their commitment to keeping the school a safe, joyful and inclusive place to be.

But as always - we are most proud of our children who continue to blow our minds with their achievements and talents, but equally their kindness, care and concern for others.

Best wishes for 2024 and we hope you have very Merry Christmas.

Your Governing Board.

We have vacancies on our Governing Board so if you are interested please contact... The School Office

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

As we enter the last days of 2023, we can find ourselves reflecting on the highs and lows of the year. As a child, I used to make a long list of New Year's resolutions: Keep my bedroom tidy (failed); clean my guinea pig's hutch without being asked (unsuccessful); eat less chocolate (debatable). As an adult, I've ditched making resolutions. Instead starting last year, I've completed the Life Compass workbook. It's a free resource where you review the year, uncover patterns in your decisions, and make plans for the upcoming year. As my children are now young adults, I have more time during the holidays to set aside some time to put pen to paper. However, if you find you have a spare ten minutes while your smaller children play, I'd encourage you to take a look: <https://yearcompass.com/> Wishing you all a peaceful and restorative break, Mrs Cookson, (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk - 01603 720 098).



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



Rudolph Run - Nelsons Journey

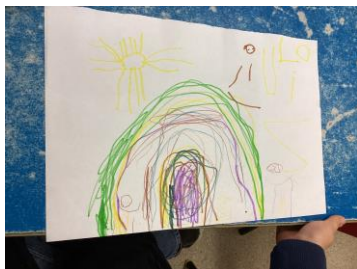
The children have enjoyed taking part in the Rudolph Run over the last 2 days. Thank you for all of your donations, we will be taking £185.20 to Nelsons Journey over the Christmas holidays!





Bombers

Hello from a busy, excited and festive Bombers. It has been lovely having some parents and grandparents back for our 'stay and play' week. We have been making lots of Xmas decorations and pictures and singing lots of Christmas songs and listening to Christmas music CD's. Two children had the special job of taking a Christmas card that the group had made over to the school for Mr. Ashman and all school staff. We also were very privileged to be able to attend the reception class dress rehearsal last Monday. Our children were a credit to us and sat beautifully, enthralled by the wonderful reception performance. It was brilliant. The children have been working off some energy with our lovely new trampoline, which we were able to purchase as our group gift thanks to the FORS team. A reminder that we are back on Thursday 4th January. New funding forms will be given out on our return.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our families and a big 'Thank you' for all our wonderful cards, gifts and good wishes. It is much appreciated.

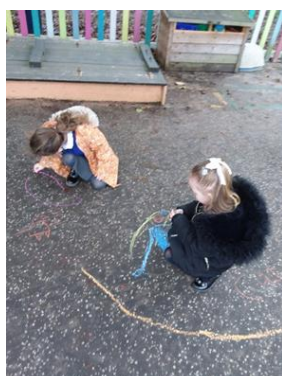
Reception

Ho Ho Ho! We have had a really fun and festive end of the term here in reception class. Our role play area has been Santa's Grotto in which the children have been writing Christmas lists, measuring and wrapping parcels, writing Christmas cards and lots of other Elf duties!

We are so proud of our children – we hope you enjoyed the Wiggly Nativity! If your child had a shy moment or two, the songs can be found online or on music platforms so they may sing along more confidently in the car or whilst playing at home if you enjoyed seeing them bop along. We loved hearing that some of the children were teaching their families the songs and dances at home! It must be daunting performing in front of so many – they are all incredible!

We enjoyed watching the online Panto on Monday which was Robin Hood and we had lots of fun doing the Rudolf Run with our Year 6 Buddies. We enjoyed eating Christmas dinner with our teachers too!

We are so proud of how far the reception children have come since September – it has been a whirlwind of a term! We hope you all have wonderful Christmas break and a very happy, healthy new year 2024. We look forward to seeing you all in January!



Year 1

For the last two weeks of term, we have been very busy! We performed our amazing Christmas play, Babushka. Thank you to everyone who came to watch, and well done to the children for being so fantastic!

We learnt the new sound 'aw' (yawn at dawn) in Phonics and compared it to the sound 'or' (shut the door) that we already know.

We have finished colouring our Christmas tablecloth, finished writing our own version of the Christmas Story, made snowy winter pictures and made Christmas cards. We also wrote letters to Santa! We enjoyed a treat of watching the Robin Hood Panto live on YouTube on Monday afternoon. We enjoyed Christmas baking, the Rudolph Run, Christmas crafts, and finally ended the term with a fun-filled Year 1 Christmas Party!



Thank-you so much for all our thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts. Have an amazing holiday Year 1s, you have had a fabulous first term. See you in January!

Year 2

What a truly magical, busy and wonderful last few days Year 2 have enjoyed at school with wonderful Babushka performances, lots of creative activities and some learning too!

The highlight of last week was a surprise delivery during break time on Friday of presents from Father Christmas. These included an easel/chalk board, Dobble, Uno and geometric shape magnets all of which have been very popular.



This week the children have enjoyed Christmas dinner, a Rudolph run, making Christmas cards, writing and drawing about the first Christmas, a picture quiz, lots of stories and CBBC pantomimes.

Mrs Crook, Miss Knight and I have been overwhelmed with the cards and gifts you have given us. They are much appreciated. You have been incredibly kind and generous.

We hope that you have a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and safe New Year. We look forward to seeing you and your lovely children in 2024!



Year 3

What an extremely busy, yet wonderful, last week and a bit it has been for us in year 3! From watching the virtual panto on Monday; wearing our Christmas jumpers to take part in the Rudolph Run for Nelson's Journey, to eating Christmas lunch together yesterday, it has certainly been a week full of fun and Christmas spirit! In guided reading, we have been learning about the different ways countries around the world celebrate Christmas. In Maths, we have finished our fractions unit by finding out about equivalent fractions and in History we finished our local study by reading through some old newspaper reports explaining the reasons why Rackheath needed a new school.

It has been a lovely last couple of days for Mrs Milligan and I and we would just like to take this opportunity to thank all of the children, grown-ups and staff at Rackheath Primary School for making our time here so magical. We will miss you all and promise to keep in touch! Have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy 2024, Miss Hornagold and Mrs Milligan 😊



Year 4



Not only have Year 4 been absolute superstars all week this week but they have genuinely excelled all term! It has been so lovely to be surrounded by such a gentle, good humoured and fun group of children. We feel very lucky to be their teachers!

This week has been a great one. We've had the laptops out and the children have been typing leaving letters to Miss Hornagold and Mrs Milligan. The children did a great job and they were really proud of their efforts!

Then we had some very special gifts delivered that were supplied by the FORS. The children loved opening them and we are really enjoying our new bean bags, sensory light, glow in the dark blanket and copy of the Guinness Book of Records!

We have finished our week and our term by racing paper caterpillars with our friends! It was great fun!

Thank you everyone for your kind words, presents and well wishes. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas!

Year 5

What a final week (and a bit) it has been! We finished off by writing a school newsletter about the entire term, with each child working in a pair to write about something that has happened this term. It isn't quite finished yet, but as soon as it is we will send a copy of it home for you to read! It made us realise how busy the term has been!

In maths, we finished off work on adding fractions and then moved onto Christmas maths linked to algebra. Our WW2 topic work was finished off with us watching Goodnight Mr Tom, to discuss the life of evacuees. We talked about all of the things that children would have found difficult when moving out to the countryside. We also completed our second piece of artwork linked to this.

The highlight of the week though had to be the cooking that several children had the opportunity to take part in. We made a PBS – also known as a Petie Burkis Special from our book the Midnight Fox. This is bread, filled with spicy sausage, spam, two types of cheese and pickles. I can't believe how much the children absolutely loved it!! There wasn't any left at all!

I want to finish by saying a massive thank you for all of the kind words in cards, and the amazing gifts we have received – I am going to be absolutely stuffed after Christmas!

From all of the year 5 team, we wish you a Merry Christmas!





Year 6

What a brilliant term it has been! The children should all be proud of their efforts and achievements since September. They have all made so much progress and this is down to their positive attitudes and perseverance. Since the previous newsletter, we have seen both KS1's and Reception's amazing Christmas Nativity plays, had a KS2 carol concert, took part in a Rudolph Run with Reception, watched a panto of Robin Hood and had a Christmas lunch! In Maths lessons, we have completed our focus of equivalent fractions, ordering fractions and being able to add or subtract fractions with missing digits. The Year 6s have tackled further grammar challenges too and continued their brilliant newspaper report writing. In afternoon lessons, we have built circuits with a variety of components, learnt about conductors and insulators, and completed an exciting series of 'Crack the Circuit' challenges! We had additional lessons looking at OS maps and their symbols, whilst also being able to correctly use both four and six-figure grid references. Yesterday, we had our Reading raffle, where selection boxes and other treats were given away as prizes after raffle tickets were drawn. Ms Holmes and I would like to say how brilliant and supportive you have all been and are very grateful for the cards and gifts we have received. We'd also like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas!



Year 5 had

97%

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

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all the children again on Thursday 4th January 2024!!!

Have a lovely holiday!

Chris Ashman

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!