

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 21st July 2023

Today we said goodbye to Year 6, Emma and Darcy. We wish them all the best of luck for the future!

This has been the first full year since 2018-2019 which hasn't been impacted in a major way by Covid-19. It is fair to say we've made sure to pack a lot in... it has certainly been busy!

Thank you again to everyone in our community. The list of people to thank is just too long so instead I'd like to say thank you to all facets of the school community; all of you, the FORS, the Governors, the staff and the amazing children.

It is far from a complete list but during the year we have:

- Welcomed a new class and lots of new children to Rackheath
- Held a 'Horrible Histories' Day where we were visited by a Roman Soldier
- Studied the stars during our star gazing evening
- Held Autism Awareness Week across the school
- Introduced a SEND parent forum (thanks Mrs Hogarth and all involved)
- Presented our 'Here Comes The Sun' learning to families on our museum days
- Enjoyed sports taster sessions in cricket, rugby, archery, badminton, sailing (year 5) and karate
- Remembered Queen Elizabeth II and celebrated the coronation of King Charles III
- Produced school Christmas Cards
- Developed our wild area
- Enjoyed a teddy bear clinic with Rackheath vets
- Been on residential trips to Aylmerton and Horstead
- Taken part in the #wewillrecycle project and fashion show (year 4)
- Been on a whole school trip to the Hippodrome Circus (thanks FORS)
- Been visited by Mad Science and a Planetarium and by authors, illustrators and dancers
- Been on local walks and visits to museums, building sites and places of interest
- Raised money for EACH, The Salvation Army, Comic Relief and Children in Need
- Been visited by Father Christmas
- Held an open-air Christmas Concert with the Salvation Army
- Had school musicians perform at various live events, including the Summer Fair, and taken exams
- Taken part in competitions like the 8 billion ideas project
- Enjoyed lots of different sports events and special sports days including Sports Week
- Installed monkey bars (thanks Alice!)
- Visited different religious buildings – Norwich Cathedral, a mosque and a synagogue
- Won the Cluster Cricket, Swimming and Football Tournaments and taken part in different cluster events and other sports events
- Run lots of clubs after school including sports clubs, craft clubs, gardening club and choir
- Involved families in cafes and held class assemblies and parent lunch month for parents
- Camped Out on the School Field
- Held two water fights
- Performed Christmas plays, concerts and end of year plays as well as watching performances
- Enjoyed a wide selection of events organised by our amazing FORS including the recent summer fair
- Had a successful OFSTED visit

On top of all this on a day to day basis the staff teach exciting and stimulating lessons. Once again, our school performance data in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 was very pleasing. This is really important as it

shows that the staff manage to combine exciting extra opportunities with academic progress and achievement and I thank them all for it.

House Point Champions - Well done to the Greens of Hickling. Winners of the House Cup Competition this year.

Year 6 leavers – Our Year 6 children have had an incredible year and we are so proud of them all. They finished the year in style putting on a fantastic performance of Robin Hood. They have been fantastic role models for the rest of the school and great buddies for Reception class. Through their kindness they have made such a positive impact at the start of the Reception children's time in school. I know they will all go on to do great things at high school and look forward to hearing about all their future success. We will miss them all very much.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Edwards, Ms Holmes, Mrs Howes and Mrs Crook for the fantastic work they have done this year.

Leaver's Trophies – All children in Year 6 received an award this week. After much deliberation we also chose the children to win our special awards. They have their name engraved on a shield kept in school as well as receiving a trophy, which were presented in assembly today:

- **English Award** – Sasha Muzembe
- **Mathematics Award** – Noah Collin
- **Sportsman Award** – Jack Fleetwood
- **Sportswoman Award** – Natalia Lukaszewicz
- **Outstanding Contribution Award** – Honey Wright

SATS Results – As usual children in Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 took part in national assessments. Children in Year 1, 2 and 4 all performed very well in their different tests. In Year 6 we have results for the school alongside the national averages.

- In maths 88% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 73% nationally
- In reading 91% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 73% nationally
- In grammar, punctuation and spelling 91% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 72% nationally
- In writing 81% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 71% nationally
- 81% of our children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to 59% nationally.
- Additionally, our Greater Depth results were very good too. With 44% of children reaching the higher standard in grammar, 13% in writing, 34% in reading and 31% in maths.

Whatever their results all of our children can be proud of what they have achieved and the progress they have made. The results reflect the hard work of all in the school community – parents, staff and above all the children. A special mention to Mr Edwards, Ms Holmes, Mrs Howes and Mrs Crook for all their hard work in Year 6.

Swimming Gala

On Monday we took part in the last sports event of the year - the swimming gala. This was a special and emotional event as after many, many years teaching generations of children in Broadland to swim this was Mrs Mutimer's last gala, as she is retiring. The children from all the schools certainly made it a competition to remember. Coming into the last race Rackheath were a point behind Coltishall. In the last race, a boy's relay, we finished in second one place ahead of Coltishall, which meant that both schools had the same points and shared the trophy.



During the gala there were lots of strong Rackheath performances including four winners:

- Cairo - Boy's breaststroke
- Jack - Boy's backcrawl,
- Isabel Girls backcrawl
- Cairo, Leo, Jack, Alex - Boys medley relay

The rest of the team all contributed points too. Lacey came 2nd in the girl's freestyle. Orlaith and Darla came third in the relay along with the other girls.

Celebration Assembly

On Thursday we held our Summer Celebration assembly, where each class team picks two children who have performed exceptionally well this term (never an easy task given the fantastic children in every class. This term's winners were:

- Reception Yanna and Elliot
- Year 1 Henry and Leo
- Year 2 Henry and Jacob G
- Year 3 Ayla and Iris
- Year 4 Ellie-Mae and Harlan
- Year 5 Holly and Alex
- Year 6 Olivia and Archie
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Reception and Year 1 Water Fight

All children and adults involved had a fab time in the water fight on Wednesday. It was great to run around soaking each other and having fun! There were lots of happy but soaking wet children and adults by the end!

Summer Fair – The Summer Fair on Saturday was a lovely day. Although the windy weather meant we couldn't have the bouncy castles the promised rain stayed away and this allowed everyone to have a super time. It was great to see so many people enjoying the entertainment, refreshments and the stalls. Well done to the musicians and choir that performed on the day. Thank you to Miss Hornagold and Mrs Brown for attending too.

A big well done and thank you to everyone who joined us and all the children and parents who helped on stalls. The biggest thank you must go to our fantastic FORS; Mrs Colk and Mrs Crane

and the other FORS members who did an incredible job to make it so successful. I'm so pleased the weather stayed dry as it meant all their hard work paid off. I know they already have big plans for next year.



The School Day Next Year – A reminder that from September the school day will last 15 minutes longer. School will start as usual at 8:45 but will finish at 3:15pm.



Bombers

We have had a very busy half term. The leavers enjoyed a wonderful 'magic' party and have had a few visits to the school Pirate Ship over on the field. Transitions have gone well and all the children that are transferring to school are excited and ready for new challenges. We have joined the school with visits from the Fire Service, Police and Dentist. We have welcomed new families to visit who will join us in September. We wish all the leavers lots of luck at school and a big thank you from us all for the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes. Happy summer holidays!

Reception

Wow! What a fantastic final couple of weeks we have had in Reception class! (And not to mention an absolutely amazing year).

We enjoyed circus fun last week - we read a story about a little boy who lived in a travelling circus. We also kept fit and healthy practising our circus skills – we really had to work on our co-ordination, balance and strength! We had a super afternoon where we planned, rehearsed and held our own class circus show. It was spectacular with acrobats, jugglers, clowning around and even children who were the circus staff! They made advertising posters, tickets and items for the gift shop such as puppets! (Prices varied from 'free', to '10p' and also 'one million pounds' so we best get saving!).



The fabulous week culminated in our visit to the Hippodrome in Great Yarmouth! As always with the little ones, half the excitement is the coach journey. We then had a super time watching the motorbikes, dancing, acrobats and water spectacular. We'd like to say a very big thank you to FORS for funding this – we are very lucky children and staff indeed!

This week, we have been thinking about being healthy – Miss Brannan and Mrs Rivett ran the Norwich 10K on Saturday – WELL DONE! This helped us to understand what training is and exercising gradually to build up to a goal. We have also enjoyed finding out about the Women's World Cup! Reception class are following Canada, China, Morocco and Zambia so good luck to those countries. Although, we've practised our other chant: Come on, England! Wednesday was a wet one for all – not only the weather but our water fight. The children were amazing – so full of energy and fun but also so sensible (and brave – that water was cold!!!). Their laughter was absolutely infectious – even with a very sore, injured toe, Mrs Rivett couldn't be convinced to take a back seat with her super soaker! If the children had as much fun as us, then we're very pleased! ☺



Finally, all our Reception staff would like to say a massive thank you for all of the cards and gifts we received – it is incredibly generous of you and it has been a pleasure getting to know you all. Your wonderful children are extremely kind, fun and caring – we are really looking forward to seeing them thrive in Year 1. It has been an absolute joy telling the Year 1 staff all about our gorgeous bunch – we will miss them so much! Thank you for all of your support this year. Have a wonderful summer

Year 1

What a fantastic end to Year 1! Our whole-school trip to the Hippodrome last Friday was amazing – thanks to the FORS from Year 1. We had the inflatable assault course on the field on Thursday which we really enjoyed! We had the Reception and Year 1 water fight which was so much fun! We played football to celebrate the start of the Women's World Cup, and decorated flags from some of the countries involved. We also watched the Year 6 Dress Rehearsal and they were all brilliant.

Last week, we completed our Charanga music unit, including playing glockenspiels and recorders! We also finished our Art unit on weaving this week. We finished learning about time and how long it takes to complete different activities, as well as telling the time using 'o'clock' and 'half past'. We finished our stories from around the world with the Jewish story 'The Blue Coat'.

Well done to everyone in Year 1 for working so hard and being so well behaved this year. We have loved teaching you all this year and know you will all be amazing in Year 2. We have collected in reading books and reading records ready for September so please make sure you keep reading your books at home or borrow books from the Library over the holidays.

Thank you so much to all the parents for all your support this year, and a huge thanks for our lovely gifts as well. Have an amazing summer holiday!



Year 2

I can't quite believe that we have reached the end of another school year. It has been such a pleasure to get to know the Year 2 children and support them in their learning journey this year. They are a busy (often noisy!) class, but they are interested, enthusiastic children who are also incredibly kind and caring. The children support and encourage each other and have really grown and matured throughout the year, making fantastic progress both academically and socially. We will miss them very much, hope they have a fabulous holiday and wish them well as they begin Key Stage Two with new challenges and experiences in September!

This week we have enjoyed lots of end of year activities as well as some interesting discussions in our SRE and RE lessons. We have thought about safe and uncomfortable touching, how good can come out of difficult situations and the difference between secrets and surprises. The children have also learnt some new songs as well as singing old favourites, shared stories and studied the map as we have learnt about where everyone is off to over the summer. Having shared a video on the Camp Tel Noar website (which is where I am off to on Sunday) many of the children are thinking that they might like to be Camp Counsellors for a summer when they are 18! Yesterday, the class had great fun on the inflatable assault course, racing each other in pairs.

I would like to end by thanking you all for your support throughout the year. Mrs Crook and I would also like to say a huge thank you for all of the gifts, cards and kind messages that you have given to us this week – they are very much appreciated, especially our gift vouchers which are a very generous and personal touch – they will be used and enjoyed. Thank you so much.

Year 3

I cannot believe this has been the children's final week in year 3 and what a wonderful week we have had! We have been continuing with our 'Fluent in Five' maths starter tasks, remembering how to use the formal methods to complete addition, subtraction multiplication and division tasks, before spending the rest of our time together doing some super art and DT tasks! On Monday, we spent the morning designing Mayan War masks, before going on to create them out of air-dry clay. I was really impressed with the final results and hopefully some of them stayed intact for you to paint them with bright, bold colours over the summer.





We also learnt about the traditional art of Mayan weaving and had a go at making our own using a loom and the 'over and under' technique. The children absolutely loved weaving and were so engrossed in the tasks that they would have done it for hours on end! This morning, we had the tricky job of taking them off the looms and tying lots and lots of knots to make sure they didn't come off. Of course, we also had the bouncy castle obstacle which was lots of fun and finished the week today saying goodbye to the year 6's and our own class member, Darcy, who we will also miss immensely!

Finally, Mrs Milligan and I just want to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of the children for being so amazing this year! They truly are a special group of children that have been a pleasure to teach every day and to watch grow and develop over the year. We have been thoroughly spoilt with your kind cards and incredibly generous gifts and want to say a massive thank you to all of the parents and carers for their continued support over the year.



Have an amazing summer! Miss Hornagold and Mrs Milligan ☺

Year 4

Wow - Year 4, you did it! You are all officially ready to be Year 5's (after a wonderful summer of course!) This year has been spectacular and this week has been no exception!

We started the week by having our kite building day. We used a range of materials and equipment, including hacksaws which was very exciting, Then, on Tuesday morning we held our Kite festival. (Unfortunately, the wind didn't get the invite!) Nonetheless, our kites flew and judging by the amazing photos we had the best time. Well done guys!



We finished the week off yesterday with our Harry Potter movie day and our bouncy castle time. Honestly, we have had such a blast this week!

Thank you to you all; children and parents alike. Your hard work and support this year has been unending and we appreciate every kind word and gift that has been sent our way. I will miss you Year 4, have a great summer and I'll look forward to seeing you in Year 5 next year!

Year 5

What an end to an incredible year! Last week, we spent a day on our DT project of making chariots for our Spheros. The idea was to build a frame for the sphero to allow it to pull a chariot across the hall. We built a frame using wood and saws, glued it all together and then built a chariot and connected it however we wanted to. For lots of us, it was the first time they had used saws independently. We tested to see whose chariot would travel the straightest and the longest due to it being built the most accurately – the winner of these tests was Layla!



This week, we have spent time preparing welcome cards and 'Welcome to Rackheath' information leaflets for our new buddies for September – the children were really excited about this! I know that these children will support the new children incredibly well.

On Wednesday, we made the long awaited 'Petie Burkis Special' – the food from our book the Midnight Garden. It is basically a loaf of bread with pickles, cheese and different meats baked inside. As disgusting as it sounds, it is REALLY tasty!



We then finished the week with our class disco which was a reward from meeting our out class target last term!

Finally, Mrs Bird and I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the cards and gifts we received – it is incredibly kind of you. This bunch of children are thoughtful, honest and caring – I really look forward to seeing them excel in year 6. Thank you for all of your support this year.



Year 6

The Year 6 team would like to start by saying how amazing the Year 6s have been throughout all three terms. We have all been incredibly proud of what they have achieved, how supportive they have been of one another, the effort they put into the leavers' performance and how caring they are to their buddies – the list is endless! We are really going to miss this class but wish them well in their next chapter at high school.

I couldn't write this paragraph without mentioning the two unbelievable performances of Robin Hood. Clearly, their hard work paid off as they both sang loudly and acted with confidence! Although sadly I was not in school on Thursday, I heard how great the inflatable assault course was. The children also enjoyed receiving their fun certificates. Lots of them included hilarious memories – some of which dated back to the beginning of the year and were forgotten about! Thank you so much to all of the parents and family members who attended the Leavers' Assembly this morning, and for your support throughout this year. Although it's always an emotional part of the day, we really enjoyed listening to the children's speeches where they shared their best moments of their time at Rackheath Primary School. It was then time for our five special awards and the Leavers' DVD. Thank you to Brian Gardner who as always did a superb job of both filming and putting it all together. Ms Holmes, Mrs Howes, Mrs Crook and I are going to miss this class so much! Finally, all of the Year 6 team would like to say another huge thank you for your generosity for all of the thoughtful gifts, flowers and cards. It really is appreciated. Have a lovely summer everyone!

**Well done to Reception Class who had
100%
attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend the first week of term
with them.**

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

"I can't quite believe I started at Rackheath in September 2013. Which means I have been lucky enough to be headteacher of this incredible school for 10 years so far! Thank you to everyone who has been part of the last 10 years.

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a fantastic summer break. We will see you all on Wednesday 6th September for the start of another exciting year."

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

