

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 26th January 2024

One of the favourite parts of my job is that I am in the fortunate position to be able to drop in and out of all the classes from Reception to Year 6 and see what the children are learning. It's a real privilege to watch the teaching and learning that takes place. The quality of the relationships between the adults and children and amongst the children is always one of the first things I notice. As is the way the staff are so consistent in the way they work with the children. These quality relationships are the bedrock on which everything else is built on. I am very lucky to be able to see this in action every day!

With that in mind it has been lovely to see how quickly and well Miss Holding and Miss Shorten have settled into the school.

Norwich City Football League Competition

On Monday we took part in the second Norwich City Football league. This time we had one team and were in the Championship along with Dussindale, Wymondham College and Bure Valley. We started really well against a strong Bure Valley Team. Harlan marked their star man out of the game and we won 3-1 through goals from George, Maxwell and Freddie. In our next game we played Dussindale. In the first half we struggled to pass the ball as well as we usually do but with Ellis, Josh and Isabel to the fore we took control in the second half. We hit the post or bar 3 times and it looked as though we just wouldn't score. However, with the last kick Freddie unleashed a pile driver into the top corner to win the game 1-0. Going into our last game against Wymondham College we just needed a point to win the league. Alex made some excellent saves and just like against Dussindale we improved as the game went on. After a lot of pressure on the Wymondham goal Maxwell popped up with the winning goal to spark wild celebrations! With 3 wins and a maximum of 9 points the team had won the Championship! In April we take part in the Premier League (hopefully we can do better than Norwich!)



Today the Girls football team are taking part in the Norwich City EFL Cup at the Nest. Good luck to the girls. A report will follow next week!



Our caterers Vertas have just written to us to say that due to increased costs of food and the impact of wage rises school dinners will be going up in price. From the start of the Summer Term the cost of a meal will go up from £2.55 to £2.60.

Online Safety Resource – We know that keeping children safe and happy in the online world is a priority for parents and schools. We have recently joined The Knowsley City Learning Centre Online Safety service. This includes a monthly newsletter for parents about online safety. We sent out the January edition earlier in the term. Linked to the online safety sheet sent there is a virtual Parent / Carer information session on Wednesday 31st January 2024 – 9.30am – 10.15am. The link to this session is below. It is free to attend and there is no need to sign up.

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_ZWQyZjMwMjQtNGVhMy00NDEyLTg2ODItZDQ1OGNjM2FiMjcw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22dadb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%225772fa8f-9814-4199-aef2-9195804f833e%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

This link has also been sent out by Miss Brannan on School Ping.

A couple of reminders.....

School Uniform – We don't have a very strict uniform policy because it is far more important that all our children are in school and learning. However, we are seeing more children coming to school without the proper uniform. A reminder that children should wear school shoes not trainers to school. Additionally, children's trousers should be formal school trousers rather than tracksuit bottoms / leggings.

We appreciate that sometimes shoes and uniform need replacing and if children have no other shoes, then for a few days' trainers are fine. We do have a second-hand rail, which has a good selection of good quality school clothes. Additionally Retro Alley will be running another uniform pop-up shop soon.

Start of the day – The school day starts at 8:45am and it is really important that children arrive in time for the start of the day. Children arriving late regularly often miss key learning at the start of the day.

Dentist Visit – On Thursday Year 1 to 4 were part of an initiative from local dentists. Year 5 and 6 will be able to take part in the near future.

Parent's Evening

You can now sign up via SchoolPing for parent's evening on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th of February. Thursday 15th being the later evening. As well as speaking to the class teacher you can book an appointment with me if you would like, or you can catch me on one of the evenings.



Walk for Water Non-School Uniform Day Friday 9th February

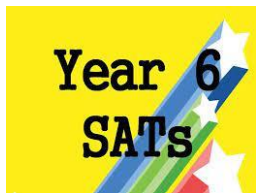
The week starting 5th February is Water Awareness Week. To help raise awareness we are holding a Non-School Uniform day where children can wear 'Blue' for the day and bring in £1 to help raise money for Water Aid.

A few years ago, Water Aid decorated the steps of the awe-inspiring St. Pauls Cathedral with 800 school bags, marking the life of the 800 children under the age of 5 that died everyday due to dirty water and no toilets. Therefore, all classes will take part in a 'Walk for Water Event' where the children will walk around the playground 4 times, (212 children in school x 4 laps is 848 laps) carrying their rucksacks/bookbags and water bottles. The children will also have the opportunity to throw their £1 in a wishing well (AKA a bucket of water) and make a wish for Water Aid.



It will be a great day to raise awareness and some valuable funds for a great cause.

Mrs Goddard



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.



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

My last entry in the school newsletter was inspired by a weekly email I receive from Feel Good Norfolk. This week I've been inspired by Dr Rangan Chatterjee. I've read a few of his books and often listen to his podcast:

<https://drchatterjee.com/blog/category/podcast/>

In one of his books, he writes about micro-stress doses, (MSDs for short). These include things such as: the bleep of your alarm clock; struggling to find your car keys; running out of milk for your morning cuppa; being able to find only one sock; forgetting to put the bin out! They're not major sources of stress, however, if you've already experienced a handful of MSDs before you even set foot outside your front door, it can set a negative tone for your day. Since learning about MSDs, I've made some quick and easy changes such as setting my alarm to wake me up to relaxing music and, as a result, I can tell my nerves are less frazzled! I think it's worth taking five minutes to think about the MSDs you and the rest of your family (children included) encounter on a regular basis and to then make some changes. Even small changes can make a big difference.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk / 01603 720098).

For more information about the wellbeing support available at school:

<https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing>



Bombers

Hello to all. The children have had a lovely time this week exploring many numbers, counting and numeral activities. We have also been getting messy with dough, play foam, shaving foam and slime. Some of the lovely comments were; 'so sticky and slimy', 'disgusting', 'so sticky', 'like glue'. They were very involved and did well taking turns to play using the sand timers to indicate when it was time to let another friend have a turn. The children have also been using the balance beam, the small climbing 'go/go's' and the stepping-stones. We have been doing ring games, action songs and lots of lovely story telling too.

Next week we are focusing on the 'Snail and The Whale' story. Looking at different sizes and creating an 'under the sea' group collage. Hope you all have a lovely weekend.



Reception

Once again, we have enjoyed ourselves in reception class this week! We have been continuing the funny story 'Billy's Bucket' – it's been lovely to hear the children joining in with the words / phrases that they've learned and the accompanying actions! They have come up with some lovely ideas for what they imagine could be in their buckets – from sparkly unicorns to big brothers playing football.

In phonics, we have learned the 'igh' sound (fright, light). We compared it to the tricky red word 'i' and tried to remember that if a word has 'igh' in the middle, we don't use 'i', we use 'igh'. Our red words have been **call**, **ball** and **tall** – the children were brilliant at identifying the red word we already knew that could help us with these (*all*).

In maths, the children have enjoyed a great counting picture book called 'One is a Snail, 10 is a Crab' – without knowing it, the children have had their first experience of algebra! (Though we didn't use that word quite yet). For example, "If I have a snail and a crab, how many 'limbs' is this altogether?" (In the story, snail = 1 'foot', crab = 10 'pincers' so $1 + 10 = 11$). The children loved creating their own number sentences using the different characters and counting their totals.

Next week, we are moving on to a new ocean themed story involving lots of rhyming words! Have a great weekend!



Year 1

This week in Year 1, we really enjoyed making our own 'Ocean in a Box'! We painted our egg boxes blue, then re-used scraps of paper, card and old shells to decorate them. We did this really carefully and they look amazing. We talked about plastic pollution in our oceans and how we can help to make the problem better. We discussed how to reduce, reuse, recycle and repair rather than throwing away.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'er' (a better letter) and compared it to 'ir' (whirl and twirl) and 'ur' (nurse with a purse). In English, we continued with our 'Here We Are' book. We finished writing our Earth pledges for how we can help to save our planet, discussed how we can all be kind to one another, and made posters to welcome people to Earth.

In Maths, we have been doubling and adding 'near doubles' (e.g., 4+5). We used ten frames and counters with a partner to make the same number each, used two matching Numicon tiles, and played games to help us find doubles.

We continued our Music work on Sun, Sea and Sand, using Glockenspiels to make high and low sounds.



Year 2

This week Year 2 have been busy with lots of different learning. The children have really enjoyed our work in English. We have watched a short clip from the story of 'Lost and Found' each day and worked hard on writing accurate sentences about what we have seen. Over the course of 5 or so days this has built up to a lovely piece of writing about the boy and the penguin. Yesterday, the children worked in groups of three in the hall. One read their story and the other two acted out the parts of the boy and the penguin. We had a really fabulous time.

In maths we have continued to learn about equal groups, moving onto creating arrays to show a multiplication statement in an organised way.

The children enjoyed a PE lesson with Mr Palmer, and on Wednesday afternoon made beautiful Birthday cards for a lady called Gwen who is a resident at Ashfields Care Home. It was her 100th Birthday yesterday and I am sure she was delighted to receive her cards.

Today the children have begun to think about plastic pollution in the ocean and have enjoyed the next episode of Sun, Sea and Song in music as well as creating collage houses and blocks of flats which show arrays.

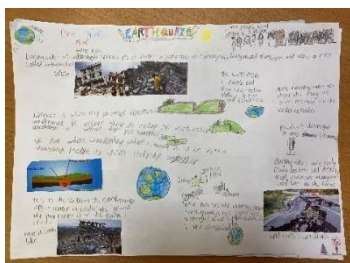
Year 3

Year 3 have continued to work super hard this week!

In English, we have been looking at the use of verbs and how tense changes their written form (particularly past tense and present participle). In addition to this, we have undertaken research linked to waterways and have begun to develop the skill of notetaking.

In Maths, we have started a new unit based on measurement. This week we have specifically looked at measuring in metres, centimetres and millimetres. The children really enjoyed measuring a range of items in the classroom and categorising them into either 'shorter than 10cm', 'taller than 10cm but shorter than 1m' or 'taller than 1m'.

They've also had lots of opportunities for group work. One group task was to create a poster collating all of their knowledge of earthquakes. I am really impressed with the end results! Take a look at these examples.



Our science experiment also lent itself well to another group work opportunity. On Wednesday afternoon, we observed how a solid can change into a liquid as a result of being heated. Our experiment involved measuring the length of time it takes to melt different types of chocolate. We melted white chocolate, milk chocolate and dark chocolate and overall found that on average milk chocolate was most likely to melt the quickest.

Here are some of your little scientists in action. Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing you all again next week!



Year 4

This week seems to have flown by again and we have managed to squeeze so much amazing learning in!

In English this week, we have been looking at note taking and researching the structure of rivers. It's a really tricky skill to master but the class have worked relentlessly hard. We were very impressed by their final pieces. Our big write today was an opportunity to be a little creative and explain where they thought water from steams goes.

In Maths this week we have been exploring perimeter. This is one of my favourite parts of maths and the class loved it!

We have been working on PowerPoints in topic this week. Whilst it was a great opportunity to explain our understanding about volcanoes, the class have loved learning about making interesting transitions on the PowerPoint program! We have some very musical presentations which we have all found very amusing.

Just a note to add that Mrs Cavender is teaching on Monday and Thursday next week although I will be in school both days. Have a great weekend!

Year 5

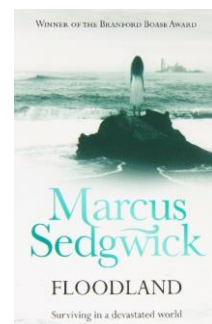
It has been a lovely week in year 5 and the children have worked their socks off! I have focussed on being lesson ready this week so the children have practised these skills by having all equipment to hand and making sure they are facing the front without talking!

In maths, we have been looking at the link between fractions and Decimals. To do this, we have used 100 squares and then have been reading them as tenths and hundredths.



In English, we are still reading our book 'Floodland'. Our focus has been on writing dreams from the main characters point of view imagining what has happened to her so far.

In topic, we have been looking at the process of erosion and how this impacts the shape and journey of rivers. To do this, I used a piece of guttering, sand and water to show that the water washes away the sand! We also held our new weekly quiz based on what we have learnt so far! We had joint winners this week with the teams of Ethan & Jake and Harrison & Ben all coming out on top with an impressive 16 out of 16!



Year 6

The Year 6's have yet again continued to impress both myself and Ms Holmes this week.

In Maths activities, we completed a set of algebra questions which the children were all able to pick up quickly. The class also looked at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages before focusing on purely percentage-based questions.

In Literacy lessons, the children planned their own non-chronological reports linked to the Ancient Egyptians and began writing them today. In addition to this, they completed a series of grammar tasks including how modal verbs can change the meaning of a sentence.

In Topic lessons, we researched the importance of the River Nile for Ancient Egyptians before moving on to finding out about clothes and accessories that were worn during this era. I was very impressed with their Pharaoh artwork too. The children were given a side-profile photograph of themselves and then used brightly coloured oil pastels and geometric shapes to transform them into Pharaohs!

Mrs Grogutt taught another R.E lesson to the class – which provoked lots of deep thinking and discussion, and we also had another Booster Group where the children solved a variety of reasoning problems with Mr Ashman, Ms Holmes and myself.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **16 out of 26** and
Year 6 who had **26 out of 31**

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

Year 1 had

97%

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

Attendance Bear

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman