

# Rackheath Primary School

## Newsletter



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

### A Drop in the Ocean Calendar of Events

There has already been lots of fantastic learning as part of our Spring Term Topic. We have lots more exciting events planned, many of which involve parents and the community.

#### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Walk for Water Non-School Uniform Day** - The week starting 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February

**Marine Biologist Visit** - On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February we have an exciting presentation from two marine biologists from MarineSpace who will be talking about their work.

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

**Anglian Water Curriculum Visit** - Just after half term a team from Anglian Water will be coming in to talk to the children about the water cycle and the role Anglian Water play in providing homes with clean, safe water.

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

**Year 1 and 2 Time and Tide Trip** - On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March Year 1 and 2 are visiting the Time and Tide Museum which is part of their pirate themed week.

#### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Science Week** - On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March we have another exciting visit from the Mad Science Team. This launches our Science Week, which runs through the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> March culminating in a Science Fair for budding scientists to show what they can do with help from home. More information on this has gone out in a letter from Mr Edwards.

## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Sheringham Shantymen Celebration Concert** – On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Sheringham Shantymen Band will be performing a concert to the school.

## Week Commencing 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Presentation of learning to families** – In the week of the 25<sup>th</sup> March the children will be sharing their terms learning in our “Drop in the Ocean Rackheath Museum”

### Norwich City Girl's Football Tournament

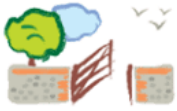
On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January the girl's team took part in the Premier League Primary Stars U11s Girls Cup at the Nest. We had a fantastic day and all the team performed extremely well. The tournament involved 28 schools split into 4 groups. The top 2 from each group going through to the quarter finals. We started the group with a 2-0 win over Ashleigh Primary School and from there went from strength to strength. We defended brilliantly; with Maisie fantastic in goal and Layla, Nola and Skylar strong and determined in defence. Further forward Holly, Harlow, Jasmine and captain Isabel played some super football. At the end of our group, we had a perfect record played 6, won 6, scoring 14 goals and conceding 0.

This meant we went through as group winners. In the quarter final we played Firside. The game was very close and it wasn't until extra time that Isabel scored a great goal and put us into the semi-final. We knew this would be tough as Woodlands had some super players. The girls played fantastically well but lost out 3-1. Our goals were shared between two players with Jasmine scoring 6 goals and our player of the day Isabel scoring an amazing 9 goals.

It was an absolute pleasure to take the girls to the tournament. Their attitude was spot on all day. Thanks to Ms Holmes and all the family members who cheered us on. The story of the day can also be found on the Norwich City Community Page along with some great photos of our team. <https://www.communitysportsfoundation.org.uk/news/premier-league-primary-stars-u11s-girls-cup-recap/>



**The FA “Play On” Girls Football Sessions** – We are very pleased to say that we have been asked to take part in an FA Pilot scheme for girl's football. This is a great opportunity for our girls and I hope lots of you will be able to attend. Anna Larkins, an FA Coach and Norwich City Player, is going to be coming into school to deliver 6 sessions. The first session will run from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March to Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May. A letter will go out next week with a consent slip to return. This will initially go to Year 3 to 6 children. Depending on response we may then be able to open it up to younger girls. One of the FA aims is to get more girls playing at local grassroots clubs. Anna is linked to FC Steamers.

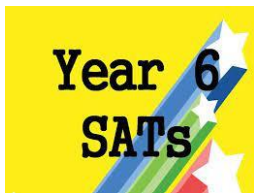


**Aylmerton Information Meeting** - I have had a few parents ask initial questions about the Aylmerton residential for later this year. To help answer these to all parents, I will be holding a brief meeting on Tuesday 6th February to allow parents to ask any questions that they may have. The meeting will take place straight after school in year 5. Children (and siblings!) can come along too!

Mr Cavender

### Parent's Evening

There is still time to sign up for our spring parent's evening which is the week before half term. The dates are Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of February. Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> being the later evening. As well as speaking to the class teacher you can also book an appointment to see me.



**SATS Briefing** – Next Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> 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. We will share information about the week and give out some support sheets. There will be tea and biscuits too!

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.



### Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I've been struggling with inspiration with what to write for my newsletter entry this week. Sometimes, when I feel like I can't get my brain in gear, I fall into the trap of turning into a growling army drill sergeant! "Come on Cookson!"...."Think!"...."What's stopping you?"...."Get. A. Move On!" Does this sound familiar? Do you have your own well-meaning drill sergeant dishing out their 'motivational' talk? Whenever I recognise this is happening, I try to take a break to redress the balance with some **self-compassion**. I follow three basic steps.



1. Without judgement or over-reacting, I recognise I'm feeling stressed.
2. I talk to myself as I would a close friend, (i.e., "Even though you're finding this tough, you can handle it. You're doing your best").
3. I remember that everyone feels like this - I'm not the only one.

Next time your drill sergeant puts in an unwelcome appearance, please remember to deploy some of your own self-compassion. Or, if you witness your child giving themselves a hard time, encourage them to explore some of their own self-compassion too.

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

For more information about the wellbeing support available at school:

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

# RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP



We are still on the hunt for a wheelbarrow! If you have a spare one that you would like to donate to the school, please do get in touch!



## Bombers

Hello to all our families. The children have been very busy playing and learning about different sizes, looking at their whole bodies, hands, feet and a variety of small, medium, large resources.

We have been acting out the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' story sack and reading 'The Snail and the Whale' story. We have had the 'doctors' role-play, the zoo and a variety of size cars in the cars / garage small world.



The children worked well together to create our lovely group 'Under the Sea' and 'Whale' collage and made individual fish and snails.

Next week we are focusing on 'mark making' in a variety of formats. Not only pens, paints pencils but also using flour, dry sand and printing objects to create marks. A happy weekend to everyone.



## Reception

There's been a 'Commotion in the Ocean' in Reception class this week thanks to the lovely poetry book by Giles Andreae and David Wojtowycz! The children have loved joining in with the lyrics and identifying the rhyming words. We have enjoyed making ocean themed music with a variety of percussion instruments and thinking about which instrument could represent each sea creature and the way they behave. The children have developed their own play too putting on puppet shows for one another!

In phonics, we have learned the 'ow' sound like in 'blow' and 'snow'. Our red words have been: **put**, **have** and **some**. In maths, we have loved learning about 3D shapes, such as cubes, cylinders, pyramids, cones, cuboids and spheres. We looked at the shape of the faces as we know lots of the 2D shape names. We have been on shape hunts around the school and looked at real items to identify what shapes are good for certain objects, e.g., why is a football a sphere?

Next week, we have two really interesting themes which will really get our brains thinking about life and traditions in other countries. Have a lovely weekend everyone!

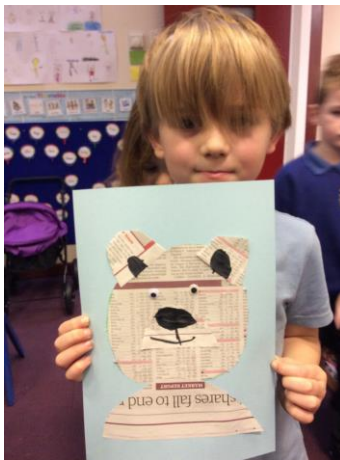


## Year 1

This week in Year 1, we really enjoyed finding out about animals and grouping them by type – amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, mammals and insects. We learned key features of each group; for example, fish have fins, they have gills, they live in water and they lay eggs. We printed fish using polystyrene tiles, made polar bears (mammals) using newspapers, invented new birds and decorated them with feathers and printed turtle pictures using bubble wrap.

In Phonics, we have looked at the new sound 'ow' (brown cow) and compared it to 'ou' (shout it out). In English, we started to look at poetry and at the author Michael Rosen. We read 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', 'This is Our House', 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo' and 'The Bear in the Cave'. We looked at the language he uses and how he performs it, and looked at nouns and verbs that are used in the books.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction. We used number bonds to help us; for example, if we know that  $7-4=3$ , we know that  $17-4=13$ . We used toys, number lines, ten frames and Empty Number Lines to help us answer word problems, and even made up our own questions!



## Year 2

We've had another lovely week in Year 2 with a focus on PHSE including a circle time focused on accepting each other's differences and a lesson on self-esteem in which we considered how we feel about ourselves and the things that we like about ourselves. Our Playground Buddies initiative continues to be going well with all of the children thinking more about making sure that everyone in the class is included and having fun outside.

In English we have begun a new book: 'Traction Man is Here'. The children have written questions, a thank you letter, descriptions using adjectives and a set of instructions for caring for a pet scrubbing brush! Next week we will have another focus on correct sentence writing and also a one-off lesson on when to use is and are (e.g., she is eating lunch, they are eating lunch).

In Maths we have been continuing to work on Multiplication and Division with the children learning to divide by both sharing and making equal groups. We have been really impressed by their understanding of this area of maths.

We have learnt about dropping the e before adding a y in spelling, had guided reading and a PE lesson with Mr Palmer. This afternoon we enjoyed another music session using the BBC Teach Sun, Sea and Song programme. On Wednesday the children learnt to programme the spheros to go under their Lego bridges with Mr. Edwards.

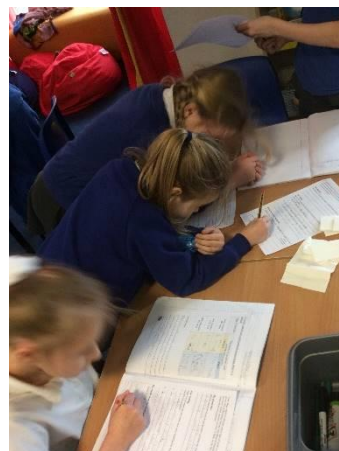
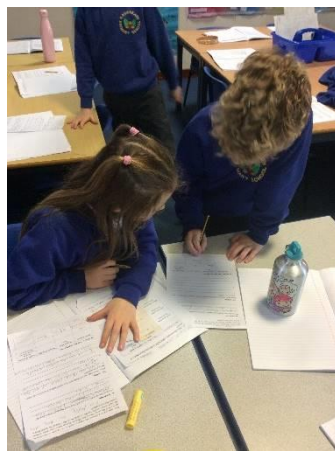
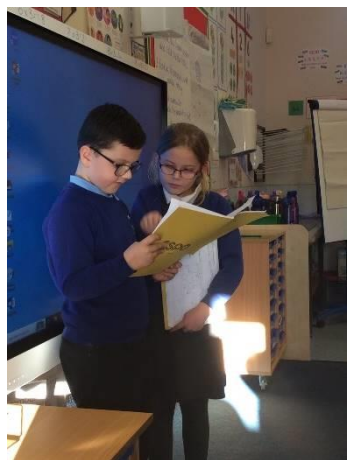
### Year 3

I'm proud to say we have had another successful week. I don't think I've ever repeated the phrases 'you've blown my socks off' as much as I have done over the past five days – well done Year 3!

In Maths this week, we have continued to learn about perimeters, specifically calculating them. I have been very happy with everyone's understanding of this as it's not an easy concept to grasp.

In English, we have spent the week focussing on what it takes to be an environmental activist. Which involves thinking about what we can do ourselves before considering what we can convince others of. This has included analysing David Attenborough's speech from the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) which we've all found very influential. In fact, so influential that we've had a number of children voluntarily picking litter up from the playground during their break and lunchtimes in order to create a cleaner environment for both ourselves and the wildlife we share our environment with. Everyone has been highly dedicated to creating their own speeches and were amazing at performing them today.

We've also undertaken two science experiments. The first required everyone to make observational recordings as they watched the changes to a wet handprint on a paper towel over a period of ten minutes. This helped us to understand the process of evaporation and we associated this with drying clothes on a washing line. Whilst the second provided us with an opportunity to use digital weighing scales (which we found very exciting!). Our second experiment of the week involved discovering whether gases have a weight. To test this, we recorded the weight of a fizzy drink (containing lots of carbon dioxide/ bubbles). Before stirring continuously for ten minutes to remove as much carbon dioxide (to turn the fizzy liquid flat) and reweighing it. Our results proved that gas does have a weight as they all weighed less the second time around.



### Year 4

Yes Year 4, you did it! You got the Key Stage 2 Reading Bear. Congratulations, I know this was a huge achievement for you so well done. I wonder if we can do EVEN better next week!

Well done for another fabulous week. You have been loving our work in Maths where we have started to explore fractions. We'll be continuing this next week by looking at mixed numbers and improper fractions.

In English this week, we have been looking at some of the work of David Attenborough and creating our own persuasive speeches to present to the Year 3s. It has been such a lovely week and our final session today was really fantastic! Well done!

We also started our science unit on the states of matter where we explored solids, liquids and gases. We carried out an experiment to see if carbon dioxide weighs anything (it does!) and then we have started to explore the water cycle. The children have been learning an absolute ear worm of a song to help the remember the process- they are loving it!

## Year 5

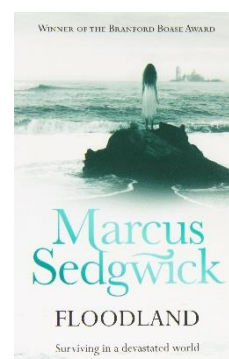
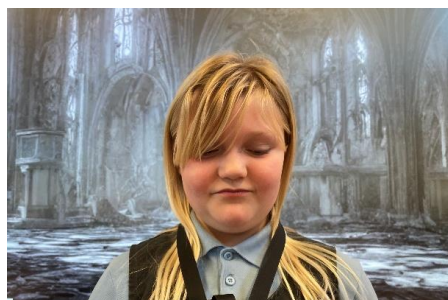
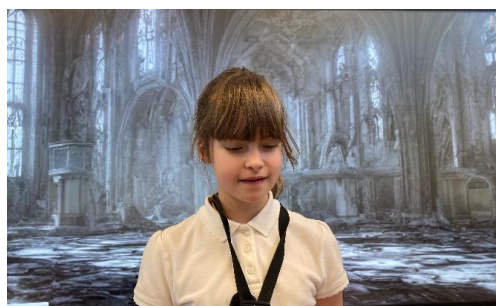
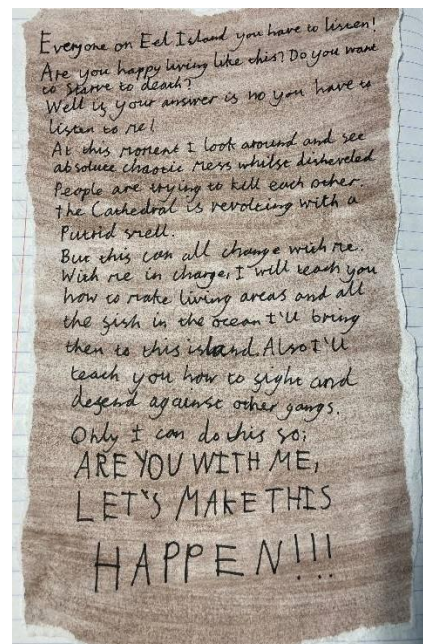
A brilliant (but noisy) week in year 5!

In maths, we have continued our work with decimals and have been trying to order and round these numbers. We focussed on money to help us with this.

In English, we have continued reading *Floodlands* and are now moving towards the end of the book – only one week to go! I know that the children will be sad when we finish reading it! Our work has focussed on persuasive speeches, imagining that we are one of the main characters trying to convince people to pick us as their leader. We then painted some paper to give an old effect, and then performed them. You can see Maxwell's work on the right!

In topic, we have started the Papier-mâché of our river systems which we will use to help teach about the aspects of a river – I forgot how messy this is!!

Just a reminder that on Tuesday after school I will be holding a brief meeting to answer any questions that parents may have about Aylmerton for next year. If you have a question, or would like to know a little more about the trip then please come along.



## Year 6

It seems that we have been able to fit so many activities into this week and as always – it has flown by!

In Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of percentages and this involved finding percentages of amounts, comparing percentages to decimals and fractions, and then solving two-step word problems.

In Literacy this week, we continued our non-chronological reports linked to Ancient Egypt and completed a series of grammar challenges. One of these linked to ambiguity where lots of children said it was their favourite lesson! The children thoroughly enjoyed researching and then creating their own hilarious examples of ambiguous sentences. Please ask your child to give you some examples!

Our Topic lessons have mainly focused on Ancient Egypt, where we found out about the purpose of the Great Pyramids of Giza and then researched some amazing facts linked to both the interior and exterior. The children had to draw their title out of a hat for a lesson on Ancient Egyptian society. Once they found out what tasks would have to be completed during this era, they had to persuade the Pharaohs that their job was the most important.

In addition to having a further R.E lesson with Mrs Grogutt, we also produced a fantastic piece of artwork linked to our whole-school topic of A Drop in the Ocean. **Please remember that the SATs briefing is taking place in the hall next Wednesday (7<sup>th</sup> February) at 6pm.**

# Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **21 out of 30** and  
Year 4 who had **28 out of 32**

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

Year 5 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.

	<b>STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS</b>
Reception	Archer, Isla C, Liam
Year 1	Eve, Harley, Lucas
Year 2	Ivy, Oakley, Rosie
Year 3	Sidney, Teddy, Louis
Year 4	Micky, Cara, All of Year 4
Year 5	Ellie, Emily O, Harrison
Year 6	Skylar, Lexi, Josh

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Chris Ashman*