

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 9th February 2024

It has been a busy and productive week at Rackheath. I have spent time teaching Year 1 and Year 4 this week as well as my Year 6 Booster Group and it has been great to share in the children's learning and see how well they are all doing.

Walk for Water Non-School Uniform Day Friday

Today the children took part in a 'Walk for Water Event' where the children all walked around the hall 4 times instead of the playground as it was raining hard! With 215 children in school this meant 860 laps carrying their rucksacks / bookbags and water bottles to raise money for Water Aid. The children also made a wish by throwing their £1 into a wishing well (AKA a bucket of water). Thanks to the school council and Mrs Goddard, who organised and planned the event. Their report is below:

"Well done to all the classes that 'Walked for Water' today. Despite the rain, we managed to continue with our event. We changed our route and walked around the hall instead! Our wishing well raised £180.30 for this great charity. Thank you to everyone for your donations and helping us raise awareness."

Mrs Goddard and the School Council



A Drop in the Ocean Events - As previously mentioned we have several events over the next few weeks, the first being next Wednesday when we have an exciting presentation from two marine biologists from MarineSpace who will be talking about their work. 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.

Clubs Next Week – There will be no clubs next Wednesday or Thursday as it is parent's evening. Clubs on other days will run as usual.



The FA "Play On" Girls Football Sessions

Earlier in the week we sent out letters to all the girls in Key Stage 2 about the exciting pilot we are taking part in alongside FC Steamers and the Norfolk FA. Anna Larkins, an FA Coach and Norwich City Player, is going to be coming into school to deliver 6 sessions and then a further 2 at the weekend at FC Steamers ground. The first session is on Wednesday 13th March and they run through until May. There are still spaces available if you haven't signed up already.

Next week the Girl's Football team are looking forward to a game away at Buxton Primary on Tuesday after school.

Year 1/2 Football Festival at Colney

On Monday 5th February, a few of the year 1 and 2 children had the chance to play at a football event. This was held at the lotus training ground in Colney. The boys got the chance to play several schools in a variety of different games. The children played exceptionally well in all five of their matches, with a remarkable 17-0 win against Browick. All the children represented the school incredibly well and showed great sportsmanship.

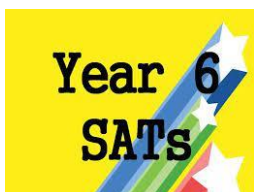
A massive well done to Archie, Ben, Finley and Leighrye from year 2. And to Elliot, Freddie, Kipp and Zachary from year 1.

Results: - Dussindale 7-0 Win (Archie 1, Ben 3, Finley 3), Browick 17-0 Win (Zachary 4, Freddie 6, Ben 3, Archie 2, Finley 2), Mile Cross 8-2 Win (Freddie 2, Ben 4, Archie 1, Finley 1), Hemlington 7-4 Win (Freddie 1, Ben 3, Archie 2, Finley 1), Martham 11-3 Win (Ben 5, Archie 5, Finley 1)



Parent's Evening

Next Wednesday and Thursday is our spring parent's evening. If you haven't already made an appointment you can sign up via School Ping or drop into the office to make an appointment. As well as making an appointment with your child's teacher you can also make an appointment to see me.



SATS Briefing - Thanks to all the parents and family members who attended the SATS briefing for Year 6 parents on Wednesday. If you weren't able to attend Mr Edwards has sent home the information we provided at the evening. Thanks to him for explaining everything so clearly throughout the meeting.



Pre-Loved Clothes and Toys Sale

On Saturday 9th March the School Council will be holding their sale of all the items you have kindly donated. This will take place in the school hall from 10am – 11.30am.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson



As a child if worrying was an Olympic event, I would've been the youngest competitor bringing home gold medals for Team GB! My list of worries was endless. From worrying about Darth Vader jumping out on me when I went to feed my guinea pigs, through to a poisonous spider breaking out of its enclosure at Colchester Zoo and finding its way into my bedroom to bite me in my sleep! One of the key pieces of information I think would've helped bring a welcome end to my Olympic worrying career, is to have been taught a child-friendly lesson about the amygdala (pronounced uh-mig-duh-luh). It's almond shaped and can be found in the brain and it works like a smoke detector constantly looking out for danger. When it senses you're not safe, it sets off the alarm, (i.e., a stress response of hormones and chemicals to help you run, fight, hide). This is fantastic if you're running from a tiger - not so great if you're trying to concentrate in class!

As an adult, I've made friends with my amygdala and even given it a name! Alonso, (after the Formula One driver) constantly has the engine running, foot poised over the accelerator pedal, ready to speed off when he gets the green light. He drives at top speed until he sees the checked flag to signal he can finally stop. In practice, when I notice I've started to worry, I thank Alonso for trying to keep me safe. Instead of letting him get me into a tangled mess of worries, I kindly, (but firmly) tell him that I can handle this, that I'm safe, and I then focus for roughly a minute on making sure my exhale is longer than my inhale. Please don't think this approach makes me immune to worry. However, it does mean I'd no longer get an Olympic medal - maybe I'd get just a certificate for taking part! If you or your child are prone to worrying, I'd encourage you to give this a whirl.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720 098)

More information about our wellbeing service at school can be found at:

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

RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP



WE HAVE A WHEELBARROW!



A massive thank you to the kind people at JEWSON who have kindly donated a fantastic wheelbarrow for us to use in the wild area. This will be used to move the woodchips from the front of the school to the wild area to allow us to put more pathways in!

A thank you also goes out to Miss Scott, one of our parents, who helped to organise this. As you can see from the photo, the children are rather pleased about all of the heavy work they now get to do as a result!!



Bombers

Hi all. Another week has flown by. The children have been enjoying their mark making in a variety of formats. There has been some lovely chalking on the floor outside, the use of pens, pencils and paint sticks to create some lovely pictures. We have also explored printing, soapy paint and drawing in dry cornflour. We have had a 'circuit' on the large carpet area with little climbing bridges and stepping-stones. As always, we have been encouraging lots of singing and listening games.

Next week we are looking at 'celebrations. We have Chinese New Year with the Year of the Dragon, Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day. We are also going to be exploring lacing and threading activities.

Reception

Happy Chinese New Year from Reception class! We have enjoyed learning about the traditions of this colourful festival – from finding out where China is on Google Earth to exploring how families may celebrate. Some children chose to make beautiful dragons – dragons bring good luck in the Chinese festivities and the colour red is also to encourage good fortune and luck. Some of the children cleaned the playhouse and then decorated it ready for the New Year just like the family we learned about. 2024 is the year of the dragon!

For Water Week, we have heard a beautiful, thought-provoking story called The Water Princess. It is about a little girl and her family who have to regularly walk many miles in Africa to find water. Today, the weather meant we had to go to the hall. We walked for quite some time imagining we were in Africa carrying water pots on our heads and watching out for herds of buffalo and fallen branches to collect water for drinking, cooking and washing. The children said, "My arms ached." "I was tired!" "I was thirsty!" We all thought we are lucky to have clean water from a tap just 10 steps away in our classroom. We hope the money raised gives clean water to more people – thank you very much for your donations.

In phonics, we have been learning the 'oo' sound (as in 'moon' and 'poo' – sorry, parents! 😊). Our red words are: **come, here, one.**

In maths, we been learning about money so we have been finding out that each coin has a different value. We have been exploring how to pay for small items, such as fruit and working out what pennies would total the price. Lots of the children adored being 'shop keepers!'



Year 1

This week, across the school, it has been Water Awareness Week. In Year 1, we enjoyed our dressing in blue day and walking to carry our bags and water bottles – we loved the wishing well for our donations as well! On Monday, we listened to the story 'The Water Princess' about a girl who has to walk miles to get clean water. We then tried carrying buckets of water across the playground to see how hard it was. We also looked at how we can stay safe around water.

It was also Safer Internet Day this week, so the children have been looking at how to stay safe online using the message 'Stop, Close, Tell!' We also looked at the book 'Dot' which reminded us about the fun we can have when we switch off and play outside.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'ai' (snail in the rain) and compared it to 'ay' (may I play) and 'a-e' (make a cake). In English, we continued looking at Michael Rosen's poetry. We answered questions about what we had read, looked for rhyming words and wrote our own poems.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value of numbers to 50 and have been doing lots of counting in 10s. We found that grouping a big number of objects then counting them in tens was a lot easier and quicker. We practised making numbers to 50 with tens and ones.

We have been really lucky to get some new outdoor resources to play with and, as you can see, we have had great fun with some of them this week!



Year 2

Year 2 have had another fantastic week, worked hard and been kind to each other. I introduced the class to Lesson Ready this week:

L – listen

E – everything down

S – silent

S – still

O – observe (whoever is talking, whiteboard)

N – notice what is being talked about, ask and answer questions.

The children have responded well to this and learning behaviour has been excellent.

In maths the children have continued to work on multiplication and division. They have divided by 2 using sharing, grouping and on a number line. Today they completed a Noah's Ark challenge.

We have also been using some new songs to help with our learning. These can be found on BBC Teach Super Movers KS1. Some of the children really love them so do take a look.

In English we have had a lesson on homophones and recapped on sentences and non-sentences. On Tuesday the children were able to taste dragon fruit. We collected adjectives to describe what they look, feel, smell and taste like. This is linked to our class novel, "The Boy who Grew Dragons."

The children have learnt about both on-line and water safety and enjoy another ICT lesson using the Spheros.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in egg boxes. We now have enough.

I look forward to seeing you all next week for parents evening.

Year 3

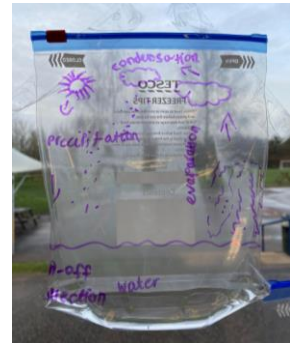
A huge well done to everyone in Year 3 again this week!

In English, we have begun our new unit, 'explanation texts'. So far, we have analysed many examples of explanation texts. This has allowed us to identify their features and create a suitable success criterion which will help us to write our own (next week!).

In Maths, we have further developed our understanding of multiplying and dividing, specifically by 4 and 8. The children have used a range of methods (including arrays, number lines, bar models, grouping) to solve multiplication and division number sentences, before choosing their own method of preference to complete their independent tasks.

Tuesday was Internet Safety Day, so we spent our computing lesson focusing on how to stay safe while using the internet. We learnt about 'spook' (otherwise known as fake) websites and had a go at creating our own versions. In addition to this, we discussed the importance of private online profiles alongside the importance of only sharing photographs with people we trust (for example, siblings, parents, grandparents).

In science, we have begun to learn about the water cycle and as you have probably noticed, we have been busy creating our own 'water cycles in a bag'. Our prior knowledge relating to the three states of matter has significantly supported our understanding of how the water cycle occurs in four stages (run off / collection, evaporation, condensation and precipitation).



Finally, in RE, we have considered the Christian belief that God created Earth. However, linking to last week's learning, we then discussed the damage that has occurred over the thousands of years (or since the beginning of creation) as a result of human behaviour (such as littering and polluting). We then used our imagination to create some truly beautiful pictures of how Earth may have looked when (as Christians believe) God first created it.

I look forward to meeting you all next week at parents evening.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a fabulous week and I know both Mrs Cavender and Mr Ashman who got the privilege of teaching them this week loved spending time with them!

In Maths this week, the children have explored mixed and improper fractions. They are feeling pretty confident with this now and I'm excited for us to move on a bit next week.

In English, we have begun to look at the features of explanation texts. The children will be writing their own explanation texts next week all about the water cycle.

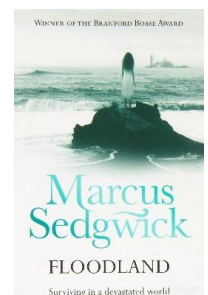
Next week, we will be finishing our topic this term by completing the last few experiments based on states of matter and we will be creating our own water cycles!

Year 5

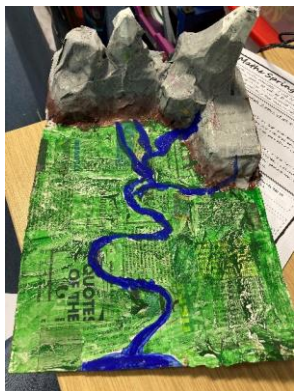
We are almost there!!! What a wet week we have had with lots of indoor play.

In maths, we have moved on to fractions! So far, we have looked at multiplying fractions (such as $\frac{3}{4} \times 8$) and now we are looking at finding fractions of an amount (such as $\frac{2}{5}$ of £45). We have also been pushing our times tables! A massive well done to Ellie and Isobel who managed to complete the sheet for the first time this week.

In English, we have come to the end of our book Floodland. The children have absolutely loved



this book so naturally are a little annoyed that it is finished. We finished the book by writing a short story, using speech, from a cliff hanger in the book!



In topic, we have been making our river systems that we will use to model and explain what happens in a river. They are not quite ready yet, as we still need a few more layers of paint and then our labels!

In Science, we have been looking at what happens to light as it passes through different objects. Using a prism that Jake brought in, we were able to bend light and see the spectrum of colours inside! We then used torches to play with shadow and tried to make them bigger and smaller.

A well done to Leon and Honey who were the winners of our weekly knowledge quiz!



Year 6

It's hard to believe that next week will be our final week of this half term. Where has the time gone?

In Maths lessons, it has been lovely to see how much the children have been able to retain and are able to link previous knowledge to new skills. Earlier on in the week, the children learnt how to multiply or divide a decimal number by an integer (whole number). We also continued with our arithmetic focus where the class developed even more short cuts to calculate answers. Towards the end of the week, we looked at a variety of test questions where they all commented how lots of the questions seemed easier than at the beginning of Year 6!

In Literacy, we completed an activity linked to formal and informal language before studying the life of Howard Carter. The children put this knowledge into a biography plan and this will continue next week. In History, we learnt about the tomb of King Tutankhamun (feel free to ask your child to see what they remember).

In Science, we learnt three new key words: solvent, solute and solution before moving onto our new topic of Light. On Tuesday, as part of internet safety day, we took part in a quiz, had several whole-class discussions as well as making pledges. Our ideas all linked to the theme of being safe and kind online. The end results were brilliant!

In addition to having an R.E lesson with Mrs Grogutt, today we participated in a walk for water challenge to raise money for Water Aid. The children enjoyed putting their pound coins into a wishing well bucket and showed a fantastic understanding of why raising money for charity is so important.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **22 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!

Reception had

99%

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	Eden, Luna, Amelia
Year 1	Jordan, Klarka, Kipp
Year 2	Lily, Hunter, Harriet
Year 3	George, Matilda, Stanley
Year 4	Nicola, Sidney, Amelia
Year 5	Jake, Rosa, Millie
Year 6	Maxell, Tommee, Layla

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman