

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Spring Half Term

Friday 16th February

This half term has flown by! It only seems a short time since Christmas and yet somehow, we are in the middle of February. We have certainly packed in a lot to the last 6 weeks with lots more exciting learning opportunities planned for after half term.

Head For the Day

"To begin with, we started our day with holding a staff briefing, which occurs on a Tuesday and Thursday. Throughout the day we had biscuit and drink breaks. After that we headed outside to start off the day for the children, we greeted everyone as they walked through the gates. Then we got the chance to ring the bell; we said bye to the parents and went to the library to give it a tidy.

After that, we went around the classrooms to monitor their behaviour and picked out one person from each class to receive a headteacher sticker. At ten o'clock, we gave out maths and grammar certificates in assembly to children who had reached an achievement. We then monitored key stage one and two's break time and then asked some people a questionnaire, which was linked to our topic (A Drop in The Ocean). We went out to lunch and supervised the children's play, we organised piles of SATS revision books and took photos of the PE lessons. Towards the end of the day, we asked people what they would like on the playground for the future and ended the day with this report. We had a very good day!"



By Isabel Chilvers and Finlay Murley



Working On Worries; Online Training

Mrs Cookson has recently completed training on the "Working on Worries" online course which supports parents to help their children manage their anxious feelings. Parents who have already completed the course have found it makes a noticeable improvement in how much their child's anxious feelings impact their daily life. They've also mentioned they're no longer having to provide their child with constant reassurance to what feels like an endless list of worries.

If you'd like to find out more about whether the course is suitable for helping your child to tame their worry monster, please complete the form that was sent out in a SchoolPing earlier in the week or email Mrs Cookson at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk.

Marine Biologist Visit

On Wednesday 14th February the children received an exciting presentation from Katie and Corinne, two marine biologists from MarineSpace, who talked to the children about their work around the coastline of Norfolk. Amongst other things they talked about the Cromer Chalk Reef, which is the largest chalk reef in the world! The children were very interested, asked lots of good questions and behaved impeccably. A big thank you to Katie and Corinne for giving up their time.



A Drop in the Ocean Diary after Half Term

Wednesday 28th 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 6th March

Year 1 and 2 Time and Tide Trip – On Wednesday 6th March Year 1 and 2 are visiting the Time and Tide Museum which is part of their pirate themed week.

Friday 8th March

Science Week - On Friday 8th March we have another exciting visit from the Mad Science Team. This launches our Science Week, which runs through the week of the 11th 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 22nd March

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

Week Commencing 25th March

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

Parent's Evening – It was great to see so many parents on Wednesday and Thursday. There was lots of positive news to share between parents and teachers across the school.



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.

Girls Football v Buxton Away

On a very wet Tuesday afternoon the girls took part in a very enjoyable game played in a lovely spirit against Buxton. We got off to a great start scoring after just a minute as Isabel played a great pass to Jasmine who smashed it in to the top corner. Buxton quickly replied to make it 1 all. From there on in Rackheath took control of the game. Maisie was excellent in goal, whilst Nola and Layla were determined in defence. Further forward Holly, Harlow, Lacey, Rachel and captain Isabel worked very hard and played some super football. Isabel scored 2 and piled up the assists too passing to our super striker, Jasmine, who was deadly in front of goal scoring a fantastic 7 goals. The final score was 9-3 to Rackheath.



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

To help promote a positive experience of the holidays for all members of your family, I'd like to share the 'do-over'. When it comes to resolving disputes with our children it can feel like we're trying to untangle a knotted ball of wool while wearing mittens! Our well-meaning efforts to find out exactly what happened, so we can provide a fair solution or consequence, can make the situation feel worse for all involved. One of my favourite ways to handle this kind of situation is the 'do-over'. This works well when it's a minor issue or niggle and all it needs is a simple set up in advance. How does this work in practice? When the time is right, (i.e., not mid-argument) explain to your child that there might be times in the future that you'll ask them, (calmly) to 'do-over'. When they're asked to 'do-over' they'll need to repeat what they've just said or done but using a more thoughtful choice of words, a kinder tone of voice, and friendlier body language. In a nutshell, the 'do-over' allows your child to get things back on track without you having to lecture them and it highlights the importance of all family members talking to each other with respect. The 'do-over' works well with all age groups and we can even announce our own 'do-over' when we're in need of a no blame opportunity for a fresh start. If you choose to give this a whirl, I'd love to hear how the 'do-over' works for your family.



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

Click here: <https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing> for more information about wellbeing services at Rackheath Primary).

Young Writers Poetry Competition

Earlier this year, I set the year 5 children a task of writing a poem linked to dreams for the Young Writers Competition. I am pleased to say that all 7 of the children who entered the competition have had their poems selected to be published in a poetry book that will be published later this year. The school will receive a copy of the book that will proudly display in the school library! A massive well done to:



Harrison – Space Dream

Honey – Candy Land,

Emily – In my Dream

Connor – Zombie Apocalypse

Isaac – Dreamy Dreams

Rachel – Dreams

Maxwell – Thank you for my Friends,



Bombers

Hi from a very busy Bombers. The children have had fun this week talking about all the celebrations and engaging in related activities. We have had 'The Dragon and the Princess' cd story and our Knights Castle to link in with Chinese New Year. We also looked at 'Celebration' information books and watched 'Dragon' dancing on the screen. We made 'pancakes' in the craft area and had pancakes for snack this week along with Prawn crackers. The children had red 'hearts' to decorate on Wednesday and discussed 'Valentines' Day. It has been lovely that some children are enjoying making pictures for their friends. We will be looking at the letter 'M' on return from half term and having 'movement' as our 'circle' theme. We will be exploring lots of different painting activities and playing a variety of PSE game each day as our focus. We will be holding our 'stay and play' week 4th – 8th March if any parents / grandparents would like to come in a bit earlier prior to collection to have a look at their children's learning stories and have a play.



Reception

We are half way through the school year! The time in reception class seems to be flying by and it has been wonderful getting to know your children and seeing them grow, develop and learn. We have seen each and every child progress and it has been a privilege to see them take pride in their achievements!

This week, we have been looking at celebrations – Pancake Day and Valentines – the latter being a great opportunity for children to think about how we can be kind to one another. We have read two beautiful books – The Invisible String which is a brilliant way to help your children learn that, though they may not be physically with you, such as whilst they're at school or if you had to work away, love always connects you (the 'invisible string'). We also read a gorgeous story about 'feelings' (In My Heart, Jo Witek) which was a great prompt to help the children think about how they behave when they experience different emotions. We'd highly recommend both books.

In phonics, we have learned the 'oo' sound, as in 'look' and 'book'. Our red words are: **who**, **two** and **very**. Maths has been lots of fun as we've explored measuring and words like distance, length, height, taller, shorter, longer, wider.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term – whilst we will be continuing our Ocean topic after the break, it will take an exciting turn ... eye patches and telescopes at the ready!



Year 1

We have had a lovely week to end the half term. We all used the laptops on Monday to paint a picture of a penguin on Purple Mash. With some help, they all managed to log in and get onto the correct program and to save their finished work. The penguins looked fab! We then moved onto our history unit about famous people. We learned about Lord Nelson and made our own Nelson's Columns using Lego, Duplo and wooden or foam blocks! We found out about Christopher Columbus and wrote our own messages in a bottle. We finished our Sun, Sea and Song music work.

We loved the Marine Biologists visit on Wednesday. It was really interesting to find out about the chalk reef at Cromer and to learn more about seals and wind turbines! We drew brilliant pictures of our favourite things from the presentation.

In Maths, we looked at place value of numbers to 50 and beyond. We practised drawing and writing how many tens and ones are in 2-digit numbers, and used Dienes tens and ones to help us. Some of us could even do 3-digit numbers! We put the numbers in order.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'oa' (goat in a boat) and compared it to 'ow' (blow the snow) and 'o-e' (phone home). In English, we continued our work on poetry and Michael Rosen. We looked at onomatopoeia and rhyming words. We listened to the poem 'Oh Dear!' and wrote our own versions of it.



Year 2

Year 2 have had another fabulous week enjoying their learning, but are definitely ready for the Half Term break!

The children have particularly enjoyed lots of art work, especially creating their ocean in a box which they should all have brought home. On Monday afternoon they mixed the shades of blue which they wanted in order to paint their box, and then yesterday afternoon they created the creatures, plants, divers and shipwrecks to put inside! On Wednesday afternoon they chose the favourite tones and shades of blues and greens which they had colour mixed and, after looking at Dulux paint names, created their own names for theirs.

In English this week we have finished the story of 'Traction Man is Here', whilst also focusing on using commas in a list. In maths we have worked on problems solving using multiplication skills and in odd and even numbers.

On Wednesday morning we had a fascinating assembly with two marine biologists who told the children all about the creatures to be found along and off the coast of Norfolk. We also enjoyed reading an email from Miss Maibaum who is currently visiting the island of Cape Verde and shared some photos and tales of paddling with baby sharks.

The children have had guided reading each day and enjoyed another gymnastics lesson with Mr Palmer.



Year 3

What a fabulous half term we have all had in Year 3 - it has totally flown by!

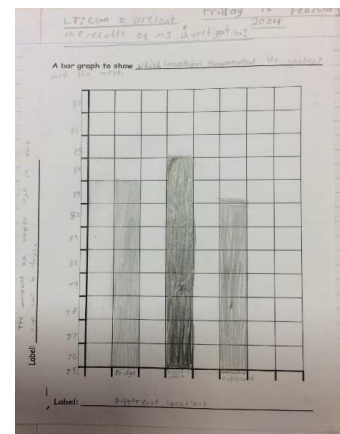
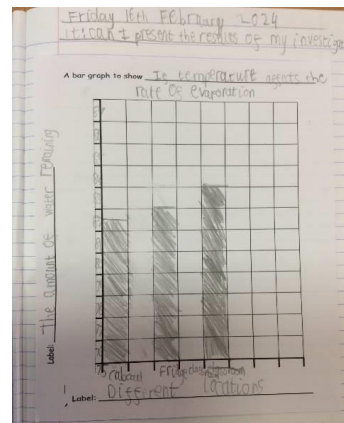
In English, the children have been super busy writing their own explanation texts about the water cycle. At the beginning of the week, they each drafted a plan for their explanations. Their plans supported them to write their first draft. They then spent the latter part of the week making edits and producing a final draft. I must add how incredibly proud I am of the written work they have all produced this week.

In maths, we have continued solving multiplication and division questions. On a whole, they have shown secure knowledge and understanding across the week which I am very pleased about.

In science, we have completed another experiment. This week our experiment has looked at whether temperature affects the rate of evaporation. To test this, we placed three cups of water (containing 100ml each) in different locations around the school. After four days we then remeasured the amount of water in each cup to see which had evaporated most. Each child recorded the results on their own bar graph.

Finally, we exploded our volcanoes on Friday afternoon. We joined Year 4 to do this and it was SO MUCH FUN!

I just want to mention that it was great to meet you all at parent's evening and if you ever have any questions about anything please do ask!



Year 4

Wow, year 4! What a half term we've had. I know lots of you have been feeling super tired this week but have continued to work so hard!

We have started to explore equivalent fractions in Maths this week and you have been unstoppable in your determination to master them.

In English, we have completed our explanation unit and you finished your work on the water cycle.

However, the absolute highlight was erupting your homemade volcanoes this afternoon. I can still smell vinegar now! Thank you for your hard work on these and for family support too.



Year 5

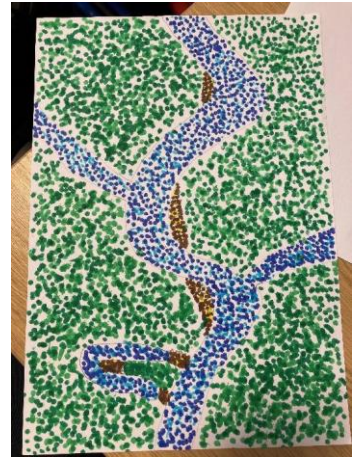
We have had a lovely end to the term with the children being really focussed and working hard!

In maths, we have been looking at perimeter and how to work it out when you have missing lengths! A big well done goes out to Jake, as he quickly spotted the patterns and could explain these to the class! It is now known as 'Jake's Way!'



In English, we have moved onto instructional writing. Eventually, the children will write a set of instructions for how to turn their teacher into a toad! But for now, we have focussed on the features such as imperative verbs, prepositions and time conjunctions. We did this by writing instructions linked to making a cup of tea and a cheese & ham sandwich – which I then made in class following the children's instructions with some hilarious results!

In topic, we have finished our river models (as you can see from the picture) and we also began looking at the middle stages of a river. We did this through a piece of pointillism artwork. Here you can see meanders, tributaries, deposition and an oxbow lake!



Year 6

What a brilliant half term it has been! For part of this week, the children have completed a variety of test questions and it's amazing to see the progress they have made since last term.

In Maths lessons, the children have multiplied and divided decimals by 10, 100 and 1000 and have since moved onto a new topic of averages. This is where they've learnt how to calculate the mean, median, mode and range for a set of data.

In Literacy, the children have produced a fantastic biography linked to the life of Howard Carter and have learnt about the past and present perfect tense.

On Wednesday, to link to our whole-school topic, we were very lucky to have a visit from two Marine Biologists. In our KS2 assembly, we learnt about greenhouse gases, wind turbines and how to help protect the living things amongst our coastline.

In Science lessons, we continued learning about how light travels before researching the functions of parts of the eye. Recently, the children also learnt about refraction. On Thursday, the class used the Sphero devices for a computing lesson where they programmed their Sphero to create shapes and change colour.

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	Ruby, Amelia, Max
Year 1	Arthur, Charlotte, Ella
Year 2	Henry, Landon, Eliora
Year 3	Vienna, Eden, Theodore
Year 4	Lilah-Mae, William, Erin
Year 5	Olivia, Ibbie, Freddie
Year 6	Connor, All of Year 6, Finn

Have a lovely half term. We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 26th February.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

