

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024

It has been a super start to the half term. It's one of the shortest half terms I can remember but we are certainly packing a lot in. On Tuesday a group of headteachers visited the school to see what we do; on Wednesday we had our Anglian Water themed day. This morning we had our Mother's Day Pop Up Shop and we finish the week with the FORS Spring Disco!

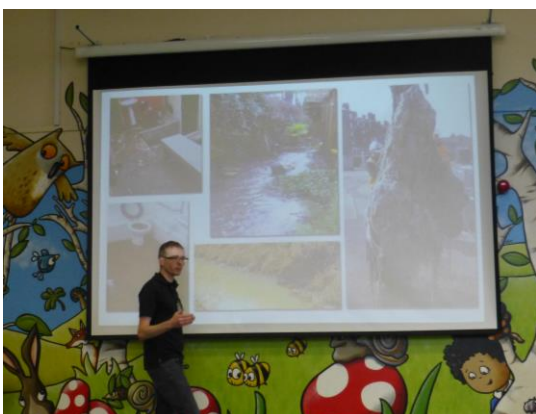
Next week is a really busy one too:

- Monday 4th Year 3 & 4 - Horstead Meeting for parents after school in the hall
- Tuesday 5th Year 1 & 2 - Pirate Day
- Wednesday 6th Year 1 & 2 - Time and Tide trip
- Wednesday 6th Year 5 & 6 - Ancient Egypt Day
- Friday 8th Mad Science are visiting the school to launch our science week

Anglian Water Curriculum Visit - Wednesday 28th February

It was a really interesting and fun day on Wednesday led by the team from Anglia Water. The younger children designed posters all about saving water, whilst KS2 learnt about what happens to water as it enters the sewers, what ends up mixed in with the water and how our water is treated. In the afternoon our Eco-Committee carried out a water audit in the school to see what we can do to save water and they also judged the KS1 posters. Well done to them and the winners of the competition. Their posters will go up round the school.

A huge thank you to Richard, Liam and Lisa; the team from Anglian Water for coming in for the day!



Horstead Parent Meeting – A reminder that William Mills, the Horstead Centre Manager, is coming in to school on Monday 4th March to meet with parents and children to talk about the residential and answer any questions you may have. This will be held in the Hall at 3.30pm and only last for about half an hour.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I hope you all had a good half term break. I've been making a head start on my spring cleaning. In the depths of my wardrobe, I found the family rules I'd framed when my daughters were still at primary school. At the time, I thought it was an extravagance to go online and pay for a professionally designed and printed version. However, I think it's one of the best things I invested my time, money, and energy into. Here's a few of our family rules, (in no particular order): Be You, (speaks for itself) - Lighten Up, (see the funny side of things) - Be Fair and Be Polite, (again, speaks for itself) - Do What Ought to Be Done, (kitchen bin is spilling over? Empty it). Over the years, I used our family rules on countless occasions to give me clarity on what battles were worth fighting and to get me back on track when I felt like I'd lost my way. They also cut down on, (but didn't eliminate) the number of times I'd find myself lecturing my daughters to get my point across! What family rules do you have? Does everyone know what they are and what they need to do to follow them? Would it help your family to write them down and to display them somewhere you can all see them?



Best wishes, 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).

Ancient Egyptian Day

As mentioned in previous letters, on Wednesday 6th March year 5 & 6 will have an Ancient Egyptian day where we have asked the children to come into school dressed up. We will also be having an Ancient Egyptian themed lunch, provided by the kitchen staff. The options for the meal are:



M = Egyptian Spiced Chicken Mummy Wraps with Rice
V = Egyptian Spiced Quorn Mummy Wraps with Rice.

Should your child want these meals, they should be booked using the school SCOPAY app, using M for the main and V for the vegetarian. These meals are priced the same as a normal school meal. Children are able to book a lunch, but also bring in a packed lunch if they are uncertain.

On the day, we will also be tasting some Egyptian fruits / vegetables. These are: Figs, Dates, Watermelon, Pomegranate and chickpeas.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the year 5 or 6 team.



FORS NEWS

This morning FORS opened their Mother's Day pop-up gift shop for the children to choose their pre-paid gifts.

The children were all beautifully behaved, enjoying the opportunity to choose and wrap their gifts with the support of our team of helpers.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing gifts or helping out this morning, it is very much appreciated.

If your child was off school today their gifts have been put to one side for them to bring home on their return.

Bomber's children will be bringing their gifts home next week.

RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP

This week, with the use of the new wheelbarrow, the children have been digging the new pathways and then using the woodchips from the front of the school to fill them out. They absolutely worked their socks off this week in some pretty wet conditions!



Bombers

The first week back after half term has been a whirlwind. The children have been looking at the shape and sound of the letter 'Mm'. We have been doing many 'movement' activities, a variety of painting activities and focusing on 'turn taking' with favourite resources and PSE games.

The children have been glad to have the space back in the garden now our fence has been repaired and continuing with lots of moving outdoors. Next week we have our 'stay and play' for any parents/carers that would like to come in for a little while prior to collection.

Reception

Welcome back, Reception class. You have settled back in really well – helped by your excitement and enthusiasm for our Pirates topic! This week, we have been reading '10 Little Pirates' by Brown and Rickerty and it was super to hear about all the other books the children have read from this series at home (dinosaurs, princesses, monsters, etc). We enjoyed identifying the rhyming words – it was tricky with such long verses. We have loved exploring our new pirate ship roleplay area – the children can 'walk the plank' and steer the ship!

In phonics, we have been learning the 'ar' digraph, as in 'car' and 'sharp'. (Very handy that we're studying pirates this week too ... "ar, me hearties!" worked very well! Our red words are: *could, would, should*.)

In maths, we've enjoyed the picture book 'One Night at the Zoo' as we've used this to generate our own number sentences – adding different numbers of zoo animals.

Next week we'll enjoy more pirate stories. Don't forget to send in your favourite book from your childhood (or your child's) on World Book Day – Thursday 7th March. Have a great weekend!

Year 1

This week, we have been learning about Grace Darling in Year 1. We found out about her daring rescue, re-enacted it in small groups, and wrote about why she wanted to save them. We looked at lifeboats and how they have changed over the years. On Wednesday we had an assembly with a visitor from Anglian Water – they set us a challenge to make a poster about water efficiency. In the afternoon, we found out the winners!

In English, we have started looking at the book 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. We looked at lighthouses and labelled their features. We designed our own disgusting sandwiches to deter the seagulls! We continued to look at past tense verbs and recapped our key terms of 'sentence', 'verb' and 'subject'. We ordered pictures from the story and wrote sentences to retell it.

In Maths, we have been measuring length. We have been using the words longer, shorter and taller and the same as or equal to, to compare lengths. We measured how many cubes long items are, and solved problems involving length.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'ew' (chew the stew) and compared it to 'oo' (poo at the zoo) and 'u-e' (huge brute). We reminded each other that we need to read, read and read some more to remember which sound to use when.

Remember: next week is Pirate Week. Dress up as a pirate on Tuesday and our trip to Time and Tide on the Wednesday (please only send your child with their lunch, drinks and coats).



Year 2

The children have come back after half term ready for learning and had a busy week.

In maths we have focused on doubling and halving numbers. The children learnt to halve numbers using tens and ones equipment, exchanging a ten stick for 10 ones when needed e.g., when halving 32. They really impressed themselves with their ability to halve relatively large numbers using this strategy. The children also learnt to identify odd and even 2-digit and 3-digit numbers.

In English we have started a new text 'The Storm Whale in Winter'. The children have enjoyed making predictions and using adjectives to write statements and questions about one of the illustrations.

It has been a busy topic week. The children have loved learning all about Admiral Nelson and Grace Darling. We also learnt a little about the local lifesaving RNLi legend Henry Blogg who served for 53 years with Cromer lifeboats.

Year 2 have also enjoyed a PE lesson outside, learnt about silent k in Spelling Zone, worked out how to send the spheros in a square in ICT and participated in guided reading every day.

We also had the most reading stars in KS1 this week! Please keep up the home reading so that we can hopefully have Reading Bear again next week. Thank you.

Year 3

Wow! What a super first week back, Year 3!

In Maths, we have been working on measuring the mass of objects in grams and kilograms. So far, everyone has been brilliant at this! We will continue to look at mass in more detail next week before moving onto capacity.

In English, we have begun our new topic 'Traditional and Alternate Tales'. This week, we have predominantly discussed traditional tales, with a specific focus to The Three Billy Goats Gruff. As a result of looking at a few traditional tales we have noticed that there are slightly different versions of the same tale. For example, our Goldilocks and The Three Bears story didn't include the part where Goldilocks broke Baby Bear's chair as opposed other versions which do mention the broken chair.

In Science, we have also started a new topic, 'Sound'. We have looked at how sound travels through vibrations and have had lots of fun playing a variety of instruments to identify this. We also ventured out of the classroom to undertake a sound walk through school. Whilst on our walk we heard many sounds, from Reception jumping up and down in PE (in the hall) to the sound of an aeroplane flying above the playground.

I cannot forget to mention the amazing time we had on Wednesday with our visitors from Anglian Water. Our day began with an informative assembly before an exciting practical workshop based on sewage. We asked Lisa and her colleagues many questions which helped widened our knowledge of the water industry. Following the session, we concluded that regular reflections of our water usage habits is vital for helping to reduce unnecessary water wastage.



On an additional note, here are some photographs of our amazing volcano explosion afternoon at the end of last half term.



Year 4

Year 4 have started the new half term spectacularly.

We have begun our new science topic of sound. The class have loved using instruments to explore amplitude and pitch. Although I think we all have a new found appreciation for a quiet classroom!

In English, we have started our new story writing topic which is based on 'The Night Zookeeper'. The children have loved creating their own characters and today we wrote a character description.

In Maths, we have continued our fractions work. Next week we will be looking at adding and subtracting fractions.

After school on Monday, we have Will from the Horstead centre coming to talk to us about our residential. It would be great to have any many of you join us as possible. Children are welcome and the talk normally lasts about 30 minutes. Have a great weekend!

Year 5

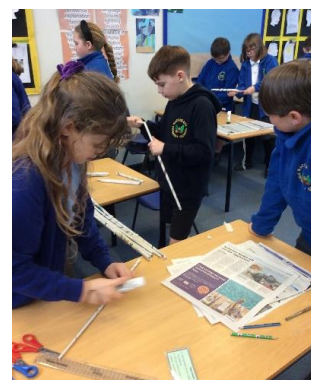


What a first week back! In maths, the children have been looking at how to work out area! We looked at simple shapes, using squares to count and then moved on to more complex shapes and used our times tables to help us. Why not practise this by working out the area of things in the house such as the bedroom floor, table or even the garden (if it ever stops raining!).

In English, we have finished off our Instructions of how to turn a teacher into a toad. I will say, the children got far too into this piece of writing with some of them even trying to find out how I take my coffee so that they could mix the potion into my drink!

On Wednesday, we had Anglian Water in telling us about the waste in our pipes at home – THIS WAS BRILLIANT!

For DT, we finished our bridge work by building bridges using 20 sheets of newspaper to cross a 50cm gap which would allow a heavy vehicle to cross. As you can see from the photographs, the children worked incredibly hard! However, The M-Club (Millie, Max and Mia) easily won the competition as their bridge didn't move even a millimetre when I put the heavy vehicle on. In fact, they only dropped 1 point!



As part of History and Art, the children have made Canopic Jars out of clay and then painted them this week – and they look amazing! Later on, Mrs Cavender will be getting them to draw body parts to fill the jars with, just like the Ancient Egyptians would have done.

REMINDER: Next week, on Wednesday, year 5 & 6 have their Ancient Egyptian day. We have asked if children could dress up to make the day as authentic as possible. We will also be having an Ancient Egyptian style lunch, cooked for by the kitchen staff. If you would like this meal, then please book it through the SCOPAY system as detailed above.



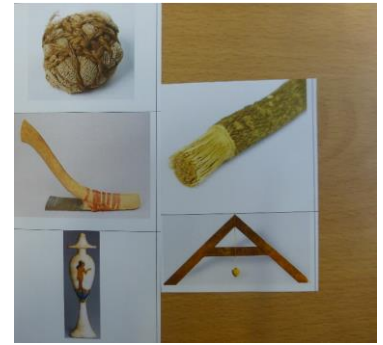
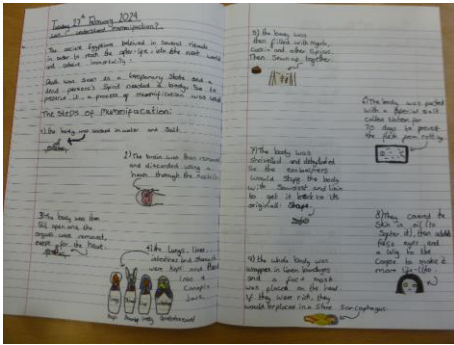
Year 6

It's been a fantastic first week back and the children have all worked their socks off. In Maths lessons, we concluded our 'averages' unit of work by completing a series of challenges linked to the mean, median, mode and range. We then moved onto learning about the area and perimeter and it was lovely to hear how much the children enjoyed our two main challenges. One was where they had to design a garden and had to calculate the perimeter and area of the patio, shed base, turf, fence panels and soil borders.

In Literacy, we began our new unit of work linked to instructions. After identifying the key features, the children had to plan a set of instructions to an alien who has joined Rackheath Primary!

On Wednesday, we had a very exciting day as we were visited by Anglian Water. After they led two assemblies, we also participated in a workshop for most of the morning. The children thoroughly enjoyed creating their own sewage and learnt how this can clog up pipes. Feel free to ask them which 4 things are allowed to go down the toilet! The demonstration included lots of interesting facts about being resourceful, how money can be saved and what they do to ensure the water going back into rivers do not harm wildlife.

In History lessons, we learnt about the different stages of mummification where the children were able to illustrate and label what they can remember. We also looked at five different objects that were used during the Ancient Egyptian era and the children had to guess what they were (and why). Can you guess any correctly from the image below? Finally, the children had another R.E lesson with Mrs Grogutt linked to Lent.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:
 Year 1 who had **18 out of 26** and
 Years 4 & 6 who had **28 out of 32**
 of their children read to their family
 at least 3 times at home this week!

Year 1 had
99%
 attendance before half term.
 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	Isla B, Tyler, Eden
Year 1	Arthur, Charlotte, Zachery
Year 2	Mia, Elsie, Archie
Year 3	Izzy, Parker, All of Year 3
Year 4	Olivia C, Xander, Amelie
Year 5	Isaac, Honey, Harrison
Year 6	George F, Harlow, Jasmine

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman