

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 8th March 2024

It has been another very busy and exciting week in school. On Monday Will from the Horstead Centre came in to talk to Year 3 and 4 parents and children about the upcoming Horstead trip. On Tuesday it was Year 1's Pirate Day and then on Wednesday we had Ancient Egypt day in Year 5 and 6. Year 1 and 2 also went to the Time and Tide Museum on Wednesday and on Friday we completed the week with a visit from Mad Science to mark the start of Science Week.

Sheringham Shantymen Concert



As previously mentioned, the Sheringham Shantymen are coming to Rackheath for a special concert on Friday 22nd March. They have very kindly agreed that if the weather is good, they will perform outside, which will mean family members would be able to join in the fun! The concert is planned to start at 2pm. The Shantymen raise money for the RNLI so if are able to come along it would be great if you could donate by dropping some coins into their collection boxes. Hopefully the weather will be on our side. We will keep you updated on the day!



Thank you FORS - Last week the FORS ran two events in school. Firstly, there was the Mother's Day Pop-Up shop, which had lots of lovely gifts for the children to choose for their mums. Next, they organised two fantastic school discos, which the children thoroughly enjoyed! A huge thank you to everyone involved in the FORS volunteer team. We are all really lucky to have such an active and well organised parent group.

Horstead Trips

On Monday William Mills, the Horstead Centre Manager, came into the school to meet with parents and children to talk about the upcoming residential and answered questions. The trips themselves are just after Easter:

- Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th April – Year 4
- Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th April – Year 3



Staffing for the trips is almost finalised and we will share this with you soon. Just a quick reminder that the final instalment for payment is due by the 5th April. Please do speak to Mr Ashman if you have any questions about the trip or if you may need financial help towards the trip cost.

Science Fair – 15th March 2024

Firstly, we are very excited about our Rackheath Primary Science Fair next Friday (15th March). For those who have entered, please try to arrive at school by 8:30am. The hall will be open for you to set up on the tables provided. At 8:45am, when the bell rings, your child will go to their classrooms just for registration and will then return to the hall. From 9:30am until 11:00am (with a break in the middle), each class will visit the Science Fair for your child to talk through their project. If possible, please make sure you have enough equipment so the project can be demonstrated multiple times. An alternative could be to film your demonstration at school on an iPad and then the video clip can be played to each class.

Mr Edwards

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

This week I'd like to introduce our school community to 'Fun Tax'. Credit for the concept goes to my older sister, Debbie. She introduced it to me when I was a new Mum with a three-month old baby. I'd phoned her to share how tired I was and that writing out 'instructions' for my Mum to refer to while she looked after Issy felt far too much for my frazzled brain. Debbie gently explained this was the trade-off for having an evening out. Since then, I've named it 'Fun Tax' and I regularly remind myself of the necessity to pay 'Fun Tax' whenever I find myself getting annoyed with the humdrum / annoying aspects of daily life.



Here's what it looks like in practice: I have a car to get me from A to B quickly, (still legally!) and easily - 'Fun Tax' = I have to fill up with petrol and pay insurance. I've had a lovely evening out with my friends - 'Fun Tax' = I feel tired the following morning. I've introduced this to my daughters too. For example, if you go to a concert in London on a week night - 'Fun Tax' = drag your bones into college the following day! Having a sleep over at your friend's house - 'Fun Tax' = get your homework done first. Would your family benefit from trying out the concept of 'Fun Tax'?

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).



Girls FA coaching - We have 20 girls signed up for the sessions with FA Coach Anna Larkins which is great. These sessions start next Wednesday, the 13th March.

School Game v Buxton - The school team play Buxton at home on Thursday 14th March after school.

Year 3 and 4 football - As there is a home football match on Thursday 14th it does unfortunately mean that there will be no Year 3 and 4 football that day.

Cluster Rugby - Ten of our year 6 children will take part in the Cluster Tag Rugby Day on Tuesday 19th March. This is held at, and run by, North Walsham Rugby Club and their coaches. Letters will go out soon.

Girls' and boys' games against Coltishall - We have games away for both teams against Coltishall on Thursday 21st March. We will need help with transport. Mr Cavender has kindly agreed to take Year 3 and 4 football that day. Letters will go out soon about the games.



RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP

The children have completed the first new pathway!!



Bombers

Hello to all. Another busy week has flown by. The children have been busy making cards for 'Mothers' Day and looking at lots of storybooks and story sacks to celebrate World Book Day. We have been exploring the letter 'Aa' with astronauts, ants and apples. The children continue to learn about sharing and turn taking with playing small group games and this week we have had shape, Peppa Pig, and Zoo dominoes as well as other favourite PSE games. We have sung and moved to lots of action rhymes and been busy with the doctors' role-play, the train tracks and washing babies in bubbly water. Outside we have had some budding builders.

Next week we will have lots of free painting activities and using tweezers and pom poms, along with magnetic tracing boards to help develop fine motor skills.

Reception

We have loved our week in reception! It has been super fun and varied. To begin the week, we enjoyed our pirate theme with lots of role play and increasing amounts of outdoor play and learning (we are pretty tough in EYFS but the weather has beaten us a few times in the last few weeks!). We have also been busy finding out about the celebration of Mother's Day and have been excited to create a little something ready for Sunday – we hope you like them!

We enjoyed World Book Day and loved listening to our friend's favourite stories. We took turns to explain our favourite parts. Thank you for sending in some of your cherished books from your childhood too. The children loved thinking of their parents as little ones enjoying a book!

In phonics, we have learned the 'or' sound, as in 'fork' and 'short'. Our red words are: **any**, **many** and **anyone**. In maths we have been thinking about subtracting.

We had a great morning beginning a science focus in preparation for science week next week. We learned about the sun and light. It was great fun!



Year 1

What an exciting Pirate Week we have had in Year 1! We started the week by finding out about historical pirates and drawing our own pirates, then writing adverts for a job as a pirate. We looked at, and played games with, pictures of artefacts from the Time and Tide Museum. Then we had two very exciting days – Pirate Dressing Up Day and our trip to The Time and Tide Museum!

On Pirate Day, we all looked amazing (a huge thanks to the fantastic effort from parents)! We enjoyed making ship's biscuits, walking the plank to win treasure, and going on a treasure hunt. We made up and played each other's own games inspired by the programme Swashbuckle!

At the Time and Tide Museum, we had a great time meeting a 'real' pirate and a pirate hunter! We practised marching and using a sword, made our own ropes and sang sea shanties, did a treasure hunt for museum artefacts and helped a pirate load and fire his cannon! Everyone was so well behaved and we had such a lovely day.

In Maths, we continued measuring – this time with rulers! We introduced the unit centimetres, and wrote cm to record our measurements. We moved on to ordering measurements from shortest to longest, and solving problems using measuring.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'ire' (fire, fire).

To finish off the week we write about our trip, created our own pirate board games and played them with our friends. We shared our favourite books on World Book Day and enjoyed more Pirate themed stories too.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fabulous week, especially enjoying their visit to the Time and Tide Museum on Wednesday. At the Museum they met pirate hunter Captain Smyth and pirate Will Jaggard. During the morning the children participated in a treasure hunt in some of the galleries and learnt to be good sailors (including cleaning the cannon and loading the gunpowder and cannon ball!). After lunch we were outside where we practised marching and sword fighting, looked at the anchor and then made rope. It was a fabulous day and the children were incredibly well behaved and interested.

Today, we enjoyed mad science day. In our session in the classroom with Dr Electric we explored light, learning about white light and pure light, wearing rainbow glasses and making ourselves into electric circuits!

The children have also consolidated their learning about animal groups, enjoyed a PE lesson, recapped the events holy week in RE and completed some writing tasks relating to our story The Storm Whale.

There will be no spelling test on Monday and I apologise for the incorrect spelling of multiply on the spelling lists!



Year 3

Yet again, we've had another wonderful week in Year 3! In Maths, we have continued learning about mass and capacity. We have had lots of fun with practical learning as the children used water and jugs to measure different volumes of liquid.

In English, we have continued to develop our knowledge of alternative tales. This week, we have focused on switching character roles from the traditional tale of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We have looked closer at the new perspective of the Troll and considered appropriate adjectives to describe him as the good character. Next week, we will look at further writing skills including the use of speech.

In Science, we have continued to study sound. We have specifically looked at how to use instruments to produce a high pitch and low pitch sound. The children created their own panpipes from paper straws to experiment changes in pitch.



Finally, in Religious Education, we have learnt about Hinduism. The class reflected on similarities and differences between this religion and other religions we've recently learnt about (Christianity and Islam). One difference to Christianity and Islam we learnt is that Hindu's celebrate Diwali (also known as the 'Festival of Light'). This celebration is a tradition for Hindu's to show recognition of the day Rama, Sita and Lakshmana returned to Ayodhya. To reflect on this, each created a Diya lamp.

Year 4

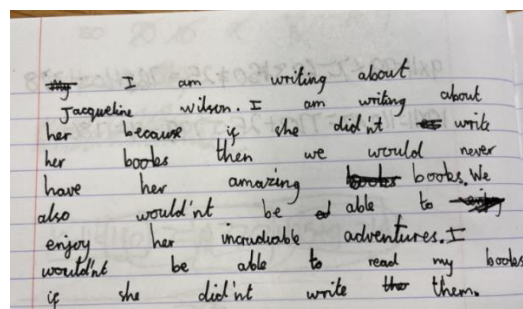
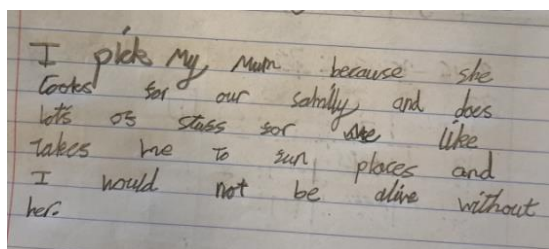
Year 4 have had another fabulous week. The highlight of this week has to be our Mad Science activities today! The children were enthralled by the dry ice they saw and they learnt about sublimation (when a solid turns into a gas without changing into a liquid first).

In maths, we have finished our fractions topic and we will be moving onto learning about decimals next week. Something that I am really excited about!

In English, we have been learning about setting descriptions. The children have learnt about similes and metaphor too. Next week, we will be looking at adverbials in sentences and planning our own sentences.

Today we began our DT topic around baking. The children looked at some well-known baking brands before designing their own logo. Next week, we will look at product tasting; I can't wait!

We finished our week by writing about an important woman in our life as part of international woman's day!



Year 5

What a busy week in year 5!! As well as all of the normal stuff, we also crammed in a big science experiment, Ancient Egypt day, World Book Day activities and the Mad Science workshops! I certainly look forward to this weekend!

In maths, we have started to look at data and how it is shown. We have done this by creating different bar charts to show our favourite pizza toppings and favourite ice-cream flavours.

In English, we have moved on to our new unit which is suspense writing. To start this, we listened to a scene from Monster's Inc and talked about how it makes us feel nervous when we can only hear! When we watched it, the scene didn't seem so worrying! We have then used this to turn rubbish sentences into sentences with powerful vocabulary and multi clauses and to help improve our writing.

In topic, we tested our boats that we had made the week before. We did this by placing them in water a slowly adding weights until they sank – as you can see from the pictures it was good fun! A massive well done to Maxwell, Leon and Sebastian as their tinfoil boat won and managed to hold a whopping 1.850kg before it sank!



The huge highlight of the week was Ancient Egyptian day on Wednesday – and what a day it was! All of the children dressed up and looked fantastic – thank you for the effort you all made! During the day we painted Ancient Egyptian sunset water colour artwork, we created our own bedroom door sign cartouches to keep away the evil spirits and we turned ourselves into Pharaohs using oil pastels. We also tried some foods that the Ancient Egyptians would have eaten: Dates, figs, water melon, chickpeas and Pomegranate; some liked to try new foods more than others! The day was completed with a great Egyptian style meal cooked by Abi and Shane in the kitchen – thank you both! The day was a massive success!



Year 6

It's been an even busier week than usual in Year 6 with so many activities going on! As well as our lessons, we had our exciting Ancient Egyptian Day on Wednesday. In addition to the children dressing up, we designed and then created our own cartouches out of clay. We then produced an Ancient Egyptian piece of artwork using water colours as the background and silhouettes (using black card) for the foreground. A special Ancient Egyptian meal was cooked as a lunch option too. This mainly consisted of spiced chicken, vegetables and rice. In the afternoon, the children had a separate food tasting session, they created their own Egyptian collars and played a popular game from this era – called Senet. The outfits that the children wore were amazing so I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents and family members for your part in this.

On Thursday, we had a variety of activities linked to World Book Day. One was a live 'Booky and Footy' quiz which had a variety of questions linked to both books and football. As a class we scored very highly! It was also fantastic that the children seemed to really enjoy sharing their own (or their parent's) favourite ever childhood book. They were great at recommending their choice of book to a variety of children as well as explaining why. We focused on the life of Roald Dahl where we answered questions before watching a past video clip of him sharing his wisdom!

To keep with the World Book Day theme, Mrs Grogutt taught the class for R.E, but they got to design their own comic strip linked to the Easter story. To end the day, we completed a World Book Day book mark challenge with help from Rob Biddulph!

On Friday, Mad Science visited as a lead up to Science Week next week. As well as hosting a whole-school assembly, they completed a practical Science workshop for each class. In Year 6, ours was linked to dry ice and it was super!



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:
Reception who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 4 who had **27 out of 32**

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



Year 3 had
97%
Attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend next week with them.

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 C, Austin, Enid
Year 1	William, Niamh, Harley
Year 2	All of Year 2, Leo, Finley
Year 3	Ella, Louis, Tylor
Year 4	Xander, Hugo, Emily
Year 5	Jacob, Freddie, Jake
Year 6	Izzy C, Tallulah, Tommee

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman