

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 15th March 2024



Mrs Grogutt – After an incredible 20 years at Rackheath Mrs Grogutt has decided to retire at the end of this school year. She has taught hundreds of children across the school in her time here and they have all benefited from her super teaching. We will all miss her a great deal but wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement! I'm sure you will all wish to join with us in making sure that her last term here is a special one.

A Drop in The Ocean Presentation of Learning

To mark the end of the term we will be holding an event where parents can come in to see what the children have been learning this term. The children will present their learning in what we call our Rackheath Museum!

- The Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to 6) Presentation of Learning will be on Tuesday 26th March from 2:15pm to 3.15pm in the afternoon
- The EYFS/KS1 (reception to Year 2) Presentation of Learning will be on Wednesday morning 27th March from 11-11:45

Family members will have a chance to move from group-to-group hearing about everything the children have been learning about.

Science Week

Our main curriculum focus this week has been on science. There has been lots of science taking place across the week. Including a visit from Thorpe High Students, who delivered a science roadshow for our Year 5 students. We finished the week with a Science Fair, which was an amazing morning and super way to finish the week. The children absolutely loved looking round the fair. A huge well done and thank you to all the children who shared their experiments and to the family members who helped out. Also, a big thank you to Mr Edwards who organised it all. A longer report with the results and photos will be included in the next letter.



Comic Relief – Today we raised money for Comic Relief through a non-school uniform day and fun lunchtime games. **In total we raised £265!**

School Dinners – A reminder that after Easter 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. The cost will be changed on SCOPAY from April 15th.

Sheringham Shantymen Concert

As previously mentioned, next Friday, 22nd March, is our exciting visit from the Sheringham Shantymen. 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!



End of the School Day



I have always enjoyed the fact that lots of the children enjoy playing on the field at the end of the day. At every other school I've worked at the children have been in a rush to leave! With this in mind I really want this to continue but I must remind children and families that when Mr Grubb (or other staff members whistle to lock up) that the children do need to leave there and then rather than carry on their games.

Firstly, Mr Grubb needs to get on with his day. Secondly, we often have clubs and need to make sure that the children at the clubs are safe and locking the gates ensures this is the case.

Horstead Trips Staffing



Year 4 go to Horstead from Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th April. Staff going with them are Mrs Watson, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Rivett and Mrs Crook. Year 3 are going from Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th April. Staff taking them are Miss Holding, Mrs Tunmore, Mrs Howes, Mrs Spurling and Mr Ashman. Thank you to all of the staff for kindly giving up their time to take the children.

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.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I've been busy adding new resources to the school wellbeing service Padlet. If you haven't had a look recently, I'd encourage you to follow this link: <https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing> so you can take a look. It's important to me that I provide guidance and support to all members of our school community, so if you notice any gaps in the resources, please let me know by emailing me at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk



It's not long until the clocks go forward on Sunday 31st March. This means an hour less in bed, ('Fun Tax') however, we'll start to have the benefit of waking up to lighter mornings and later sunsets. I often think of this time of year as being an ideal opportunity to do something different. It doesn't have to be anything grand. Often, the simpler it is, the better. It could be drinking tea instead of coffee; driving / walking an alternative route to school or work; swapping seats at the dinner table with other members of your family; listening to different music; or wearing a different perfume / aftershave! By doing something different, it can help break the spell of living each day on auto-pilot. We can then experience the pleasure of being more aware of where we are and what we're doing. Is there something you and your children could do differently?

Best wishes, Claire Cookson

Summer Term Topic Healthy Me!



We are already planning events for the Summer Term, which seems to be coming round incredibly quickly! Our topic is "Healthy Me," which will link in well with lots of sport taking place in school and around the world. Before the end of term, we will send out a draft diary detailing some of the exciting events we have planned including class assemblies, Sports Week and Passport Day!



Girls FA coaching – It was lovely to see over 20 girls take part in the first Play On session with FA Coach Anna Larkins which is great.

Unlikely Hat-trick Hero! (School Football v Buxton)

I have been involved in football for a long time and thought I'd seen everything you could see, but it turned out I was wrong. The first half was a very tight affair with lots of determined play but not too many chances for either side. The second half saw more action with Josh hitting the bar before Buxton took the lead from a corner. At this point our goalkeeper, Alex, decided that making lots of saves wasn't enough for him and proceeded to score straight from a goal kick. He didn't stop there – he then did it twice more!! The game finished 3-1 with Alex scoring all our goals, meaning he joins the famous Paraguay Goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert as a hat-trick scoring goalkeeper!

Amongst this history making it should be noted that there were lots of other good performances from the team. Well done Alex, Austin, Finn, Freddie, George, Izzy, Jasmine, Josh and Oscar.



Cluster Rugby – 10 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.

Girls' and Boys' Games Against Coltishall – We have games away for both teams against Coltishall on Thursday 21st March. We still do need some more help with transport for the boys. Mr Cavender has kindly agreed to take Year 3 and 4 football after school that day.

Veolia Competition Winner

A while ago Isabelle in Year 6 won Veolia's Bin Lorry Banner Design Competition. We are still waiting for Veolia to complete the new banner for the side of their lorries and hope to see it driving around soon. In the meantime, I wanted to share Isabelle's design with you, and a photo of her with the five fruit trees that she also won for school. Isabelle, Mrs Bird and Gardening Club will be planting some of the apple and pear trees in the wild area. While others will be planted at the front of our school. Well done Isabelle!

Mrs Goddard



RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP

This week it was all about clearing some of the long grass areas to make way for future projects! We can safely say that the boys (Micky, Harley and Ricki) absolutely loved doing this as they found a difficult root and spent around 30 minutes digging it out!!



Bombers

Hello from a 'Red Nose Day' Bombers. The children have enjoyed their painting activities this week and today worked together to make a 'Red Nose' and colour in the letters that our student Lily kindly made for us. Some made some smaller circle 'noses' to take home. We read 'Little Red Riding Hood' story at circle today and there has been some lovely building and imaginative play with lots of small world characters. We have made good use of some strong boxes as well this week. They have been 'cars', 'trampolines' 'stepping stones' and 'beds'. Who needs toys!!! We have explored the letter 'Ss' this week with spider, strawberry, scorpion and snake and the children did sticking and decorating with 'S' shapes. Next week we will be focusing on Easter activities and 'Spring' animals.



Reception

We have absolutely loved science week in Reception class. We have explored magnetism, forces, biology and materials. We were so proud of the class for how sensible and curious they were at the fair! They were a joy to be

with. The families that presented were amazing too and we were so impressed with how those children explained their experiments and shared them so well with others. WEL DONE! Big congratulations to our science fair scientists and presenters – Enid, Harry Pentney, Mabel and their families.

In phonics, our new sound has been ‘air’ – the first sound that can be a word in itself! Our red words are: *how*, *now* and *down*.

In maths, we have been exploring doubling, we have used concrete resources such as putting spots on the ladybird and then pretending to be dogs with a ‘Double Trouble’ role play!



Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have enjoyed Science Week. We started the week by looking at different materials and then worked together to solve ‘Ted’s Problem’. Ted wanted to go out in the rain without getting wet so we tested different materials to find out which one was the most waterproof. We used the results to design and make umbrellas for Ted.

In English, we started to look at the book ‘The Storm Whale’ by Benji Davies. We drew our own illustrations from reading the first sentence, acted out how the characters might be feeling, made predictions and wrote speech bubbles for Noi and his dad. We invented our own games for Noi to play to stop him being bored.

In Maths, we completed a challenge booklet practising all the maths we have learnt so far this year. The children loved the booklets and all did really well! We also practised our counting in 2s, 10s and 5s and the 2 times table. In Phonics, we have learnt the new sound ‘ear’ (hear with your ear).

Year 1 really enjoyed the Science fair, well done to everyone who participated, a special mention to our year 1 pupils, they were fantastic and thank you to the grown-ups for supporting them with their projects. We learned a lot and had so much fun. What a lovely way to end the week!



Year 2

It has been a busy week again in Year 2 ending with the fabulous Science Fair in the hall this morning. Elsie and Kory both had fabulous experiments to share and all of the children enjoyed looking around. There were so many

different experiments to watch and participate in. We had a fabulous half hour in the hall, ending with going outside to watch a rocket launch.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings the children completed this terms Maths assessments. The children were fantastic concentrating really well, all trying their very best. Today we started our new unit on Fractions.

In English we have finished reading the story of The Storm Whale in Winter, written letters to the author Benji Davies and replies to a message from the character Noi when he couldn't find his dad. Next week the children will rewrite the story from the point of view of Noi.

The children enjoyed a PE lesson with Mr Palmer and an ICT lesson with Mr Edwards. In art they used pastels and paint to finish their lighthouse pictures and in science we have begun to learn about the suitability of different materials.



Year 3

Year 3 have had another super week! In Maths, we have continued learning about capacity. This has involved some exciting hands-on measuring. We used green food colouring to help us see the liquid (water) easier in our measuring jugs. Because of this, it felt like we had helped ourselves to the GFB's shelf of lotions and potions. We have also just begun our new maths unit, 'Statistics' and so far, have interpreted data from pictograms and created some of our own.

In English, we have continued to develop our knowledge of alternative tales. This week everyone has worked incredibly hard to develop a character description for their troll (from The Three Billy Goats Gruff) alongside an introduction to their own alternative version of the story. We have also taken the time to delve into the use of inverted commas to show direct speech. We will continue with this next week to ensure that this important Year 3 objective is securely embedded.

To celebrate science week, we undertook a fun experiment to test whether different sized surface areas affect the speed of which a pendulum swings. Overall, we discovered that the larger the surface area of the card the quicker the pendulum stopped.

In RE, the children have also reflected on learning from across the term and have produced group posters displaying their knowledge of Christianity, Islam and Hinduism.

Finally, we have also begun Design and Technology! So far, we have looked at many bakery brands (with a focus on Warburtons) alongside evaluating (tasting!) existing products. I think the double chocolate hot cross bun was a firm favourite. Next week we will be making and evaluating our own hot cross buns – you won't want to miss it!



Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing week this week. The highlight of the week was starting our DT project on Wednesday and getting to food taste a range of different hot cross buns! The children have now designed their own hot cross bun recipe (mostly involving chocolate!) and next week we will be baking them. It's going to be a good week.

This week in Maths we have started to look at decimals which seems to feel a lot easier than fractions. The children have zoomed through the first few objectives, we have been very impressed!

In English, we have looked at speech dialogue and planned our stories. The children are very excited to get writing next week - I can't wait to see how much progress they've made!

Next week, Mrs Cavender will be teaching on Monday and we will be doing some of our end of term tests too.

Year 5

What a noisy and messy start to the week we had!! The first three days of the week were spent on our DT/science project linked to moving cars. The children were tasked with making a vehicle out of wood, which we would then roll down a ramp to see whose was the straightest and whose travelled furthest. We then also looked at the best builds and the best designs. Below are the winners in each category:

Travelled furthest **1st – Ben, 2nd – Kian, 3rd – Jack**

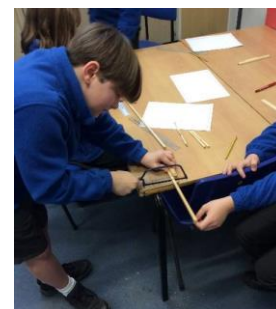
Travelled straightest **Isabelle, Emily T**

Best build **Harlan, Jake, Ellis**

Best design **Ethan, Leon, Emily T, Maxwell**

The children made these using a wooden frame, and used cardboard triangles and glue to join the pieces. We then added the axels, wheels and an outer frame. The children could shape their car in any way they wanted, and could have either 2 – 6 wheels!

As you can tell from the photos, the children had so much fun – and the teachers found it very stressful!



Year 6

What a brilliant week it has been! The children have approached every task with a positive attitude and both Ms Holmes and I have been impressed by their enthusiasm.

In Maths lessons, we completed our unit of work linked to pie charts and have moved onto reading and interpreting line graphs.

In Literacy, we have undertaken a variety of grammar challenges and have started to plan (and then write) a creative narrative linked to a fascinating photograph of a castle on a stump of land.

As part of Science Week, the children were quick to recap their learning from Mad Science's visit last Friday before beginning an experiment. The children had a lesson linked to water resistance where they learnt, in detail, about what makes items float. After learning key words such as displacement, they began planning a boat challenge during the second lesson. Firstly, they sketched three initial designs and used scientific vocabulary to explain why each design should be successful. Then, after choosing a final design, the class (in pairs) built their boat using only tinfoil.

It was a fantastic challenge that they seemed to thoroughly enjoy. Today, we also had our Science Fair in the hall. The class got the opportunity to explore and ask questions about each presentation. A massive well done needs to go to all of the children who took part!

In addition to this, we spent some time getting into small groups in preparation for our Presentation of Learning Day. After choosing a topic from this term, the children have begun researching and discussing key information to go onto their display board. Finally, the children were excellent at lunchtime for our Comic Relief races today – especially when helping their buddies complete the various activities.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **24 out of 30** and
Years 4 & 6 who had **26 out of 32**

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

Year 1 had

97%

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	Harry P, Aubrey, Delilah
Year 1	Emmy, Spencer, Ella
Year 2	Elsie, Kory, Elliot
Year 3	Jayden, Ava, Edie
Year 4	Madi, Sophia, Iris
Year 5	Dolcie, Jake, Mitzy
Year 6	Oscar, Olive, Trinity

Our next letter will be on the last day of term, Wednesday 27th March.

Chris Ashman