



Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 17th May 2024

This week the Year 6 children have taken the SATS tests that all Year 6 children in the country take. The children have applied themselves brilliantly all week and all staff involved have been hugely impressed with their determination and resilience. The traditional SATS breakfasts were lots of fun too. The bacon rolls and croissants were the big favourites this year!

A huge thank you to the Year 6 staff team (Mr Edwards and Ms Holmes) for their super work this week and throughout the year. Thank you to all the staff who helped with supporting the children with the tests and to Mr Cavender for being a big part of the breakfast café staff! Thank you to all the Year 6 parents too.

Today Year 6 headed out on their post SATS treat trip to Great Yarmouth. From now we will be getting into all the usual exciting leaver's events in the second half of the term.



Staff Appointments

After a busy and productive couple of days of interviews we were very pleased to appoint Miss Freya Shorten to the post of Year 2 teacher and Mr Alex Spencer to work in Year 4 when Mrs Watson is on maternity leave. Both of them will be starting in September 2024. Before that Miss Shorten and Mr Spencer will be visiting the school to meet the children over the course of the next half term.

Parent Surveys – Thank you to everyone who has already returned their parent surveys. It is always useful to read your views about the school. It would be great to get a response from as many families as possible for the end of this half term.



Norwich City Author Day visit – Norwich City Community Foundation kindly invited the Year 4 children who were due to take part in the recent postponed football competition to an author day at the Nest. This took place today and as part of the day the children met Jess French, the author and TV Presenter and were presented with a signed copy of one of her books.

School Jumpers



As we head into the warmer months, please do make sure names are in jumpers, fleeces and cardigans. The children often take their jumpers off when they go outside and leave them on the field. Having a name in the jumper makes it much easier to return them to their owner and means that they don't get lost!

Book Looks

This week we held book looks for years 1, 3 and 5. Reception, Year 2 and Year 4's book looks are next week all starting at 2:45. The dates for these events are below:

- Monday 20th May - Year 4
- Tuesday 21st May – Reception "Come and Play"
- Wednesday 22nd May – Year 2



Class assemblies – We have one more class assembly before half term. With Year 1s assembly next Thursday. These all start at 2:40pm and parents should arrive for 2:35pm. The dates of the next three class assemblies are below:

- Thursday 23rd May – Year 1
- Thursday 6th June – Year 2
- Thursday 13th June – Reception

Year 4 Class assembly had to be moved. Once we have a new date, we will let you know.

Online Safety – Our monthly briefing for parents all about online safety was sent out on School Ping earlier this week.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

As adults we can often get lost in a vast sea of life admin. Things like: paying bills; booking appointments; washing clothes; doing the food shop; picking up and dropping off family members at clubs and play dates; checking school bags have been packed and homework completed - the list goes on!



So, when I was visiting my daughter in London this weekend, and we walked past a playground, I gave my inner child permission to have fun. Five minutes on a swing was unbelievably therapeutic! I laughed a proper belly laugh and the six-year-old me thanked me for it.

The next time you're at the playground with your children, I'd encourage you to have a go on the swings. If they're not your thing, you could try blowing bubbles, flying a kite, making a daisy chain or crafting a paper aeroplane. Just make sure it has absolutely nothing to do with being an adult.

I'm now off to have a go on the pirate ship slide. I'll be taking food and water with me...just in case I get stuck!

Best wishes to you all, Claire Cookson (aged 49 and a quarter).

For more information about our school wellbeing service, please follow this link:

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

Clubs After Half Term – Football clubs for year 3 to 6 will stop at the end of this half term. We will run an athletics club instead. Details of all clubs to be sent out soon.

Next Week....

It's a busy and exciting end to the term. **Year 3 and 4 Ancient Greeks Day is on Monday 20th**. A letter went out about this earlier in the week.



Sports - The cluster cricket tournament is next Wednesday 22nd and we have 2 teams and 16 children from Year 5 and 6 taking part. There is also a football competition on Thursday 23rd at Stalham Academy.



Friday 24th May - FORS "Ashman Day"

We finish the term with the FORS planned Ashman Day. As I am excluded from the planning of the day and know next to nothing about it is making me feel a little nervous! Especially as Mr C is liaising with the FORS in the planning.

What I do know is that it promises to be a very exciting and fun packed day for everyone! It is humbling that the FORS are organising something like this to mark 10 years of me being Head at Rackheath and it sounds as though everyone is going to have an amazing day!

I understand that the FORS have sent out a letter giving more detail about the day earlier this week.



Bombers

Hi all. What a mad quick week it's been here with our younger ones. We have explored the letter 'Gg' and move on next week to 'Oo'. The children have been mark making, hammering, fishing and making bracelets to nurture their fine motor skills. We will continue next week with threading, lacing and cutting activities. There has been lots of play and imagination with the river stones and the children at present love the Scooby Doo small world.

Reception

This week has been lots of fun in Reception class as we have enjoyed a wonderful story set in Kenya in which a little girl goes on a journey to surprise her friend with a basket of fruit ... but her journey doesn't go smoothly! (The book is called 'Handa's Surprise'). We practised our food preparation skills by making healthy fruit kebabs - we were impressed by how well (and carefully!) the children used the knives to slice the fruit and how sensible they were with the sharp skewers. Unsurprisingly, their favourite part was the eating!

Today, we loved having a visit from Edie and Mila in Year 3. Edie had written a story about a Jellyfish and her friends and Edie kindly (and very bravely!) read it to us. It was brilliant! Thank you, Edie – superstar author (and thank you Mila for supporting your friend).

We have loved designing and building a large den in our outside area – it had entrances, different levels and lots of the children worked collaboratively with Mrs Coull to build and play in and around it!

In phonics we have been revisiting the 'oo' (pool!) and 'oo' (look) sounds, we scored our best ever time on the Red Words Tricky Trucks game. Well done!

In maths, we have once again explored sharing / dividing using lots of practical games and resources. If the children were ready for the next step, we have been writing number sentences to show how we've shared out the items.

(PS – the children are very excited because the caterpillars are busy making their cocoons!)



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have continued with The Bee Who Spoke in English. We wrote sentences about plants in nature that can help us, recapped our work on food chains, wrote about the countryside and finally wrote diary entries as if we were Belle.

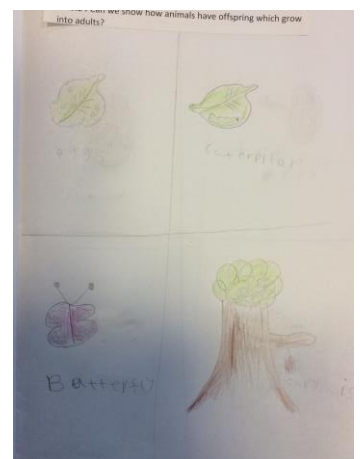
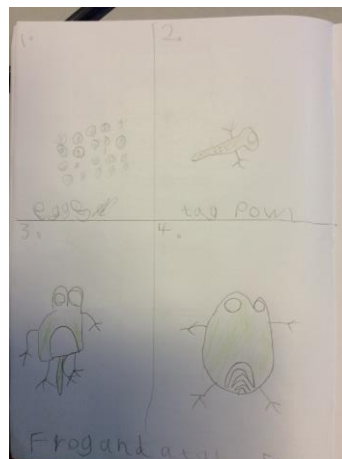
In Phonics, we practised the sounds 'ew' (chew the stew), 'aw' (yawn at dawn), 'oa' (goat in a boat) and 'er' (a better letter). The children are doing so well at reading real and alien words – keep practising at home, and keep using their sound pots.

In Maths, we finished our work on dividing by looking at division by sharing. We helped each other remember to be fair by saying 'one for you, one for you' and so on. We then moved on to fractions and looked at halves. We emphasised that halves mean two equal parts. We found halves of shapes, then moved onto finding halves of amounts, e.g., half of 4 is 2, using counters and small toys to help us.

As part of our Healthy Me work, our Science this week looked at how animals grow and change. We started with humans and then looked at the life cycle of other animals. We looked closely at the metamorphosis in butterflies and frogs.

The children enjoyed family members coming in to look at their books with them on Wednesday and were able to share all their hard work.

We started to practise for our Class Assembly. We hope you can come and watch next Thursday!



Year 2

In maths this week the children have completed a unit of work on measuring. They have measured in both metres and centimetres, ordered lengths and heights and completed number problems involving measuring.

All of the children have completed their own versions of The Paper Bag Princess story in which Princess Elizabeth sets the dragon a variety of challenges. Today the children enjoyed working in pairs. They read their story to each other and then wrote two stars (two things they liked about it e.g., fabulous adjectives, great challenges, neat handwriting etc) and a wish (e.g., use your dictionary more or keep your writing neat!). They absolutely loved doing this and wrote some thoughtful comments.

Our two art lessons have been challenging but enjoyable! The children have completed a piece of paper weaving which they will decorate using Kente patterns next week. In science they have learnt a little about our internal organs and their functions. Some children have begun to complete reading comprehension assessments in guided reading.

We hope to see lots of you for our book look on Wednesday afternoon.

Year 3

I can't believe another week has just flown by!

In English, we have been super busy developing questions to interview Leo and Lyra (two characters from our book). Leo and Lyra lived during the Ancient Greek period and we discovered more information about their personal lives, ready to write a non-chronological report about the Greek hero and his close friend.

In Maths, we have been learning about money. This week we recapped the difference between pounds and pence. We also developed our knowledge of addition and subtraction through the use of money. Overall, I believe everyone is feeling confident with unit. Next week we will be looking at finding and giving change.



During topic lessons, we have been learning about the Ancient Greek Olympics and Greek philosophers. Following this, we considered the Ancient Greece legacies that continue to have an impact on modern life.

In RSE, the children have developed their knowledge of good hygiene. In addition to this, we looked at the names of our body parts. Later in the week we thought about our similarities and differences, discussing the importance of being our unique selves. Our discussions also covered family dynamics. We completed a lovely activity to show that our similarities actually link us together. For every shared similarity we passed the ball of string to another person in our circle creating a 'web'.



It was great to see so many of you at our book look afternoon; it was lovely to see the children showcasing their hard work.

Just a reminder that Ancient Greece day is due to be held next Monday. I can't wait to see your costumes!

Year 4

Come on down to 'Musty, Crusty, Dusty' where all items are under £10, or visit 'CPJX' on your way to 'Magical Mayhem'! This week in maths the children set up their own shops; pricing up different items ready to sell. We took in turns to visit each other's shops; buying items with cash and giving the correct change.

In English we have been reading 'warning stories' and the different features that they include. In art we added Modroc to our Greek Vases; this was very messy, but extremely fun and they look great so far! In our topic lessons this week, the children



have been learning what the Olympic Games would have looked like in Ancient Greek times. We shall be learning LOTS more on Monday during our Ancient Greek Day – so please don't forget to come dressed in costume- also if you have any plastic milk bottle tops, please bring these in, as we will be using them!

Year 5

In maths this week, we have continued our shape and position work by looking at coordinates and then moving on to something called 'translation' – this is when you move a shape from one point to another. The class smashed the coordinates, and we finished with making pirate maps and trying to navigate our friends around the grid using coordinates. The translation proved to be a little trickier!

In English, we have been looking at how to use persuasive language to make something sound more appealing – this is for when we begin to write about Brazil, and create our travel brochures.



In Science, we have been looking at the role of the heart and how it supports the body. We have learnt that our heart has two sides – one for blood with oxygen and one for blood without oxygen. We have made a clay heart to show this and next week we will paint them and label the different parts.

In Geography, we have started to name the countries of South America and have found some of the physical features of the continent. DID YOU KNOW – both the tallest water fall, and the longest mountain range are in South America!

Mr Edwards and I are busy planning our Brazilian Samba Day which will take place next half term! Keep an eye out for more information about this!

Year 6

This paragraph will be slightly different to previous ones as I wanted to discuss SATs Week with you all. The children were absolutely amazing and we are so proud of them! Tests can be daunting for a lot of children, but they remained positive, persevered and took everything in their stride. I even heard some children say they enjoyed the week – although that was probably down to the SATs breakfasts! We know they have tried their best and that is all we can ask for.

As mentioned, the SATs breakfasts were a massive hit and it was lovely seeing the children having fun and being relaxed whilst enjoying their food. I know they are all looking forward to our Post SATs trip today to Great Yarmouth. This is where we will play games in the arcade, go ten-pin bowling, have a fish and chip lunch, spend even more time in the arcade and if they wish to – buy an ice cream by the pier! I'm sure it will be an amazing day out and it's nothing more than they deserve for all of their hard work in Year 6.

Finally, as well as thanking the children for being amazing, I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff members who helped out with the SATs breakfasts before school each day. I hope your children have a well-earned rest this weekend!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Reception who had **19 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **20 out of 32**

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



Year 3 & 4 had
97%
last week. Attendance Bear will spend
next week back 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	Eden, Luna, Tyler
Year 1	Cian, Aminah, Kipp
Year 2	Jackson, Rosie, Hunter
Year 3	Matilda, Vienna, Sidney
Year 4	Poppy, Joey, Olivia
Year 5	Rachel, Ben, Maxwell
Year 6	All of Year 6

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman