

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 24th May 2024

We finished last week with a lovely trip to the seaside with Year 6. It was an absolute pleasure to spend the day with the class and we all had a brilliant time! I even beat Mr Edwards at air hockey, which was great (although he did beat me at bowling!).

This week has been another productive and busy week. Year 3 and 4 really enjoyed their Ancient Greek Day on Monday. Thanks to Miss Holding and Mrs Cavender for organising.

I am writing this before we end the half term with "Ashman Day." A lot of what is planned has been kept from me (which is slightly worrying!) but it sounds as though everyone will have a lovely time. It is very kind of the FORS to mark my 10 years at Rackheath in such a way. It is an amazing place to work and I feel very lucky to be part of such a super community.

Mini-Football Tournament

The school team took part in a mini-tournament at Stalham on Thursday. The tournament was very close with Stalham and Worstead playing out a 0-0 draw. Before Rackheath had an exciting and end to end game with Worstead which again ended in a draw, this time 2-2. Going in to the last game Rackheath could have finished anywhere from first to third. In the event the team beat Stalham 1-0. Meaning we won the competition. After half term the plan is that we will hopefully play the winner from another group of schools in a final. Well done Josh, Isabel, Alex, George, Freddie, Maxwell, Harrison, Harlan and Ellis on a strong team display. Thanks to Mr Palmer and Mr Poole for taking the team.

New Parent Meeting – We have sent out letters to the parents of our Reception Intake for September 2024. Our meeting for new parents is on Tuesday 11th June at 6:30pm. Following that we will have other transition events, the dates of which we will share on June 11th.



Book Look – We held book looks for Year 4 and Year 2 this week. It was great to see lots of you coming in to look at the children's work. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the Reception "come and play" session due to staff absence.

Class assemblies – Year 1's class assembly was on Thursday this week. The class did a great job sharing all their learning. They have been looking at keeping healthy and even did a quick workout! Well done Year 1 and their staff team! The dates of the next 2 class assemblies are below. Assemblies all start at 2:40. Parents should arrive for 2:35:

- Thursday 6th June – Year 2
- Thursday 13th June – Reception

Cricket News - The cluster cricket tournament had to be called off this Wednesday. It has been re-arranged for Wednesday 5th June. The children representing the school will stay the same.

Some Key Dates for next Half Term

Year 6

- Weds 3rd/Thurs 4th July Broadland Transition Days
- Friday 5th July Camp out
- Tues 16th/Weds 7th July End of term performances 6pm
- Thursday 18th July Leavers Assembly Awards
- Friday 19th July Leavers Assembly

June 17th Sports Week – incorporating Sports Days

- Monday Fun Sports (AM)
- Tuesday EYFS- Reception and Nursery (AM)
- Wednesday KS2 (AM)
- Wednesday KS1 (PM)
- Thursday / Friday Reserve days

Passport Day – Passport Day will be on Friday 21st June and will link to Euro 2024 and the Paris Olympics. On passport day we set the hall up as a departure lounge. The children jet off on a flight with Captain Edwards and visit a new country. Don't worry we have them back ready for the end of the day!



Transition Morning – Our children will have a move up morning on Thursday 4th July. New Reception children will also come in for a visit on that day.



Euro 2024 – The European Football championships start on the 14th June. We will hold a draw in an assembly after half term. Each class will then “follow” the countries they pick.

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. The sports clubs running after half term are:

- Monday: Year 1 & 2 football
- Tuesday: Year 3 to 6 athletics
- Wednesday: Year 3 & 4 tennis
- Thursday: Year 5 & 6 netball
- Friday: Year 5 & 6 cricket

Cross Country will also still be on Friday morning before school.



We subscribe as a school to the PE scheme of work, GetSet4PE. The link below takes you to part of their website called Active Families. This aims to promote a healthy lifestyle across the community, and is open for all to enjoy with no login required. It has a selection of active games to enjoy playing at home.

Mrs Pallant

<https://www.getset4pe.co.uk/ResourceBank/ResourceCategory/1002>

Norwich City Author Day Visit

Some of Year 4 were extremely lucky to visit 'The Nest' in Norwich last week for a Special Author Day. We got to meet the author Jess French and learn how she gets inspired to write her books. We also had the chance to play fun games which were linked to literacy.

The children had a great day and were all given a signed copy of her new book when they left.

Mrs Goddard



Head For the Day Report

"At the start of the day we went into a teacher briefing meeting where Mr Ashman talked about the week. We then went on a learning walk around the school and chose two people from each class and gave them a Headteacher sticker. We also got to help with KS1 breaktime and did a questionnaire with Year 6 about SATs. After that we went out to lunch for our well-deserved break.

Then we went around the classes and did another questionnaire about geography. Some people did good but other people were questionable. The next thing was our favourite part of the day we got to help out in reception, they were doing PE. Once we had finished helping in reception the day was just about over."



George H and Harlow

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I love a quick wellbeing hack - (you've probably guessed that already!). Something simple that can be deployed whenever it's needed that doesn't take up lots of time or energy.

For my newsletter entry this week, I'm going to share one of my top ten favourites:

The next time you, or one of your family members, are in need of a wellbeing boost - step outside and listen carefully for birdsong. Our brains and bodies are wired (from when we lived in caves) to start to relax when we hear birdsong because it means there are no predators about to pounce! Even sitting by an open window or listening to a birdsong track on Spotify will make a difference. If you find yourself somewhere too noisy to pick out birdsong, try looking around you for other signs of nature - especially trees. I'll explain why in my newsletter entry after we return from our half term break!

Best wishes to you all, Claire Cookson

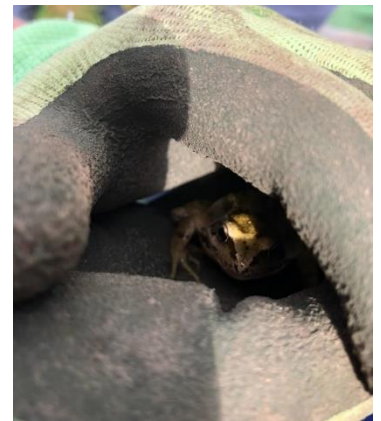
For more information about our school wellbeing service, please follow this link:

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



RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP

It is so nice now that the sun is out!! All of the paths are now cleared and a variety of flowers and plants have been planted. We have some new benches on order to open the area up to learning with classes. Mrs Coull has also been opening it up at lunchtimes and offering the children an opportunity to come in and help or just have a wander around... this week around 30 children got involved! Also, this week, the children had a visit from a curious little creature too!



Bombers

We have had a lovely week of threading, lacing and lots of cutting practice. The children have been looking at the letter 'Oo' with oranges, octopus, and playing with alphabet floor puzzles, ABC books and keyboard activities. We have explored varying sizes with the zoo animals and climbing and jumping with the small go/go bridges and river stones. There has been lots of water play outdoors and mark making with the big chalks. On return from the half term break, we will be focusing on balancing, target games, and Father's Day craft activities. Happy half term to all.



Reception

How is it half term already?! We've squeezed so much in to this half term. Our topic has been 'Healthy Me!' and this week we wrote instructions to explain how to make the fruit kebabs that we made and enjoyed eating last week. The children had to think about the bossy instruction words they'd need like wash, cut and put. We made our own Cook Books for our writing to go in.

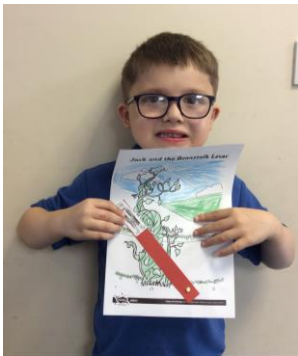
The caterpillar cocoons have been moved to their larger net homes ready for when they emerge! We are hoping they can wait until after the break but have a camera team on standby! Fingers crossed.

In phonics, we've revised the 'or' (short) and 'ar' (start) sounds. In maths, we've been thinking about number bonds to ten, such as $7 + 3$ and $5 + 5$. We hope you all have a super half term break and look forward to seeing you very soon ... our last term in reception. Wow!

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we were so excited to show you everything we have been learning in our Healthy Me topic this term. The children did so well performing in their Class Assembly - thank you to those of you who were able to come and watch.

In Phonics, we recapped the sounds 'ear' (hear with your ear), 'ow' (brown cow), 'ur' (nurse with a purse), and 'ire' (fire fire). The last QR code to practise at home should have come home with your child in their reading record this week.



In Maths, we continued our fractions work by looking at quarters. We folded shapes into half then half again to find quarters. We made paper pizzas with toppings shared between each quarter, and solved problems finding halves and quarters of amounts.

We started some Design and Technology work this week, using sliders and levers. We made moving pictures to go with two fairy tales, 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

The children had great fun at Friday's Fun Day (or Ashman Day!). Year 1 LOVED the bouncy castles, disco dancing and eating ice-cream. The sun shone for our picnic and it was a lovely end to the term.

Have a great Half Term – keep reading and keep practising sound pots and real and alien words!



Year 2

Our last week of this Half Term ended with our fabulous Ashman Fun Day. The children have had such a lovely day, enjoying a special assembly with a Mr and Mrs style competition between Mr Ashman and Mr Cavender which ended in Mr Ashman having a plate of cream in his face! This morning the children had a fabulous time dancing on the playground, then had a delicious picnic lunch followed by ice-cream and a half hour session on the inflatables.

During the week the children have also worked hard. In English they have begun a poetry unit with Miss Knight. They have enjoyed reading, discussing and illustrating poems and will learn some off by heart to perform to you in their class assembly.

In maths the children focused on reading and writing half past on clocks correctly. Most of them also completed a reasoning maths paper.



On Wednesday afternoon the children enjoyed sharing their books with the parents and grandparents who were able to come in.

We only had 12 reading stars today. Please do start hearing your child read again regularly if this habit has slipped. Being a fluent reader will help so much with accessing the curriculum once they move into Year 3.

Have a lovely Half Term holiday – hopefully the weather will be kind.

Year 3

And just like that, we've completed the first half of summer term!

To begin our week, we had the most wonderful Ancient Greece Day. After discovering that the Ancient Greeks loved to wear statement jewellery and accessories, we spent the morning creating wreath headbands. Then, following our discussions about Ancient Greek life for children, we designed and created our own pull along toys. We found out that during the Ancient Greek period children would play with basic toys including yoyos and pull along toys. We also discovered that a lot of their games involved body parts or bones of dead animals. We're glad times have changed... Who'd want to use a pig's bladder as a football? (Yuck!) After making their pull along toys, the children were given time to test and make improvements to them. Finally, the children got an opportunity to taste some Greek cuisine. The Greek yoghurt and feta were a hit, but the olives weren't. In addition to this, I can't forget to mention how amazing the children looked in their fantastic costumes!



In English, we have been writing our non-chronological reports about Leo and Lyra. They're looking good and I cannot wait to read all of them. So many children have worked their socks off this week, writing some fabulous paragraphs. Well done everyone!

In Maths, we have continued learning about money. This week we learnt about finding and giving change. We also revisited our understanding of addition and subtraction using the column method. Next half term will begin learning about angles and shapes.

In RSE, the children have developed their knowledge of gender stereotypes and their right to say no to unwanted touch. The children have really enjoyed our RSE lessons and have lots of knowledge related to the topic. It was great to have open discussions about why gender stereotypes are not accurate. For example, we cannot presume every girl likes the colour pink.

Year 4

What a super week we've had in year 4! It started with our very fun Greek Day where the children all showed off their costumes, made their own Greek head wreaths, tried a variety of Greek food and designed their own Greek pull-along toy!

The week has ended with today's super exciting 'Ashman Day' with an outdoor disco, bouncy castle playtime and a perfect picnic-lunch on the playground. What a fantastic week to be in year 4.



In maths we have continued learning about money; focusing on how to estimate amounts and also how to answer word problems linked to money.

In English we have been focusing on grammar skills needed to write our 'warning' stories, which we will be starting after half term.

In RSHE this week we were identifying all the things we have in common with each as well as celebrating our differences. Here we are weaving a web of similarities:



We hope you have a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you back at school!

Year 5

What a way to end the half term – beautiful sunshine, bouncy castles and a disco!

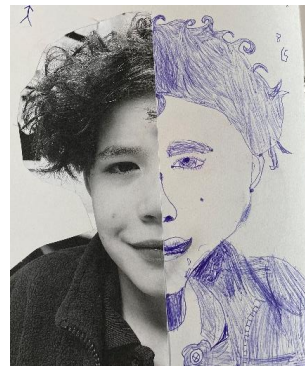
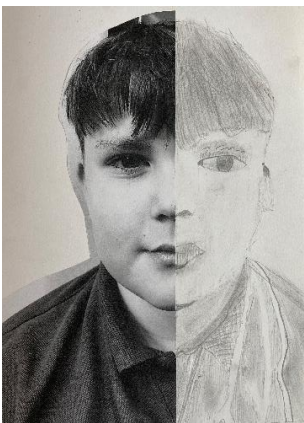
In maths this week we have been looking at negative numbers – trying to find the difference between them in particular. To do this we have look at summer and winter temperatures from around the world.

In English, we have continued our persuasive writing unity linked to creating a holiday brochure about Brazil. Our main task has been to research everything there is to do in Brazil and then planning how we will set out our work.

In Science, we have learnt about the parts of a heart by painting our clay models.



In art, we have focussed on self-portraits and shading. We took half a photo of ourselves and then continued them on. We had some amazing results!

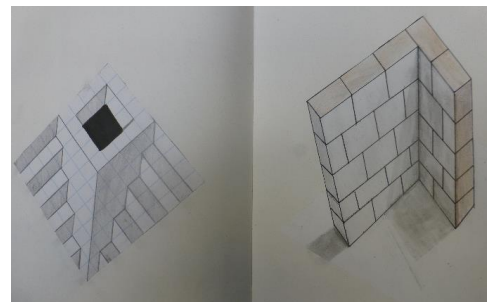


Year 6

I cannot believe we are at the end of another half term! This one seems to have flown by – likely due to the many activities taking place in Year 6. As mentioned in last week's paragraph, the children were all superstars during their SATs tests and then behaved incredibly well at the Post SATs trip to Great Yarmouth.

This week, in Literacy, the children finished their creative narratives and then wrote a formal letter. The purpose of this was to ask local businesses to kindly donate a prize for the Rackheath Summer Fayre.

In Maths, we began a Lunar Theme Park project. This is where the children had to travel into the future and design a theme park to be built on the moon. So far, they've been given a budget to select which rides they would like as well as the number of shops, cafés and vending machines. In recent lessons, they have calculated ticket prices and worked out their income based on visitor numbers before calculating the cost of running their rides, shops cafes and even the wages of mechanics!



In Science, we learnt about the functions of the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, brain and stomach. After this, we learnt about the role of our blood and why red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma are so important. The children also had lots of fun in our art lessons where the focus has been on optical illusions. The end results were absolutely amazing! Also, a big well done needs to go to Harlow and George H who were excellent Heads of the Day on Tuesday. Finally, the children had a brilliant time for 'Ashman Day' today, where they got to witness a hilarious assembly, participate in a disco and go on a variety of bouncy castles.



Year 6 had
100%
last week. Attendance Bear will spend
next week back with them!!

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

I hope you all have a lovely half term and we will see you all on Monday 3rd June.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman