

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 14th June 2024

Year 4 Teacher September 2024 - We have had a change in our staffing for next year in Year 4. Mr Spencer will no longer be joining us at the school. Instead, I am very pleased that Miss Farrow will be teaching the class next year. Some of you will know Miss Farrow as she previously worked in the school as our sports coach. Most recently she worked in Year 1 as a trainee teacher during the spring term of 2022. Miss Farrow will be in school on the 4th July, for our transition day where she will meet her new class.

Breakfast Club Staffing from September

Breakfast club is going from strength to strength. We have waiting lists on Mondays and Fridays. With this in mind we are looking to recruit another staff member to work on those days. If we can recruit this will allow us to add to our numbers of children. If you are interested, please email head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk or catch up with me for a chat.



Trim Trail - You may have noticed today that some of the trim trail has been taped off. This is because we had our annual inspection of our larger PE equipment yesterday. The person carrying out the check decided that certain parts of the trim trail need to be repaired and as such shouldn't be used. Until we have reviewed the recommendations and carried out actions linked to the report then I am afraid those parts of the trim trail will remain closed off.



Reception Class Assembly

On Thursday Reception put on a super assembly for their parents and the school. The children shared their learning this term in a fun and exciting way in front of a large audience of family members and the school. It is hard to believe that there are only 5 weeks left in their first year in school. The class have been a fantastic reception class and through the year they have made so much progress academically and socially! Well done to all the Reception children and the staff team!



New Parent Meeting - On Tuesday we hosted a very well attended information evening for new parents of Reception Class starting in September 2024. A big thank you to the FORS members who attended as well as the new parents and school staff. The stars of the show were our Year 6 children who acted as guides for the new parents and then shared their memories of the school. A huge well done to Libby, Izzy, Isabelle, Layla, Lexi, Tallulah, Fin and Jayden you were fantastic role models.

Reception and Year 2 Road Safety – On Tuesday Reception and Year 2 enjoyed road safety workshops. Year 2 went outside in small groups to learn about keeping safe as a pedestrian and Reception did some work in the classroom about safe in the car and as a pedestrian. Thanks to Mrs Crook, Mr Poole and Samantha Lines for going out with the groups alongside the trainer.



FORS Butterfly Competition

FORS would like to say a big thank you and well done to all the children that entered the Butterfly colouring competition. We and the judges were very impressed with all the beautiful designs, which are being proudly displayed in the school hall. The winners were announced in today's awards assembly.

Congratulations go to:

EYFS - Ruby S

KS1 - Finley S

KS2 - Theodore C

Overall winner was Finley S



All the winners were presented with a well-done gift.

Finley was also awarded his beautiful butterfly on a plaque to display at home. Work will soon commence on redesigning the butterfly garden and another plaque will be displayed there for all to see.



Kidz Fit Olympic and Paralympic Day – On Monday, we all enjoyed an exciting Olympic and Paralympic session with Carl from Kidz Fit! Every class got to exercise to music, hula hoop with huge hoops (some children used 5!), jump mats, play catching games and do co-ordination and strength challenges. We also recapped some key messages about how to stay healthy. We all had such a great time! You will see lots of photos of children taking part on the class pages.

Sports Week Information

Next week is sports week which I'm sure will be very exciting!

Monday 17th June – Fun Sports Day (9:15am - 11:45am) - All children from Reception to Year 6 will compete in teams in a fun sports event. Parents can stay at school from the start of the day and then follow their children round, cheer them on and join in too!

Tuesday 18th June – Reception Sports Day (10:30am - 11:30am) - Our youngest children will compete in a special sports day with the leavers from the Bombers. Those leavers in the Bombers on Tuesday will be brought over by the staff, while any other leavers not in on the Tuesday can come with their parents. Parents to arrive from 10.20am.

Wednesday 19th June - Key Stage 2 Sports Day (9:15am - 11:45am) - Year 3 to 6 will compete in a series of races in the morning. Parents to arrive from 9:00am.

Wednesday 19th June – Key Stage 1 Sports Day (1:30pm - 3:00pm) - Year 1 and 2 will compete in a series of races in the afternoon. Parents can arrive from 1:15pm.

Information on Sports Day Kit:

- On the days the children are taking part in sports days they should come into school in their PE kit with their school house colour t-shirt and can wear it all day.
- This means that on Monday all the children will wear their PE kit to school for fun sports. Reception will wear PE kit on Tuesday and all the children from Year 1 to 6 will need to wear their PE kit on Wednesday.
- Please ensure children bring plenty to drink and have sun cream and a hat.

- Should the British weather intervene in any way we will let you know the reserve date as soon as possible. Thursday 20th and Friday 21st are the scheduled reserve dates.

Other information for parents

- You can take photographs but please do not post any to social media unless the photo is just of your child as not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example, where a child's location needs to be protected.
- Spectators will have seats set out for them on the opposite side of the track to the children. Parents and other spectators should stay sat on the other side of the track to the children.
- Parents needing shade can bring umbrellas and use them or set up a pop-up gazebo as long as you aren't obstructing the view of others.

Sports Week and the Weather - We will be looking closely at the forecast and the skies through the week. The BBC weather forecast for next week does not look good. It is very similar to this week with rain expected at some point every day. Wednesday 19th, which is KS1 and KS2 sports day, looks the worst day of all with rain and also thunder storms forecast.

I very much hope the forecast improves and we don't have to make difficult decisions around the events. I always want to give as much chance as possible for the events to take place especially as I know parents potentially have taken time off work to attend but I need to balance this against safety of the children and the experience of everyone involved if it rains or if it is slippery.

Ideally, we will be greeted with bright sunshine on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. If not my second preference would be that it is pouring down and clearly not a day for a sports day. Given that I expect it will be one of those days where it might rain or it might not or we might be ok to run sports day or we might not!

In any event please do keep an eye on School Ping. We do have Thursday and Friday as designated reserve days. If we need to use those days, we will prioritise the different sports days for EYFS, KS1 and KS2 over Fun Sports.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I'm continuing the theme of making the most of nature's wellbeing powers for my newsletter entry this week. It's another bit of scientific trivia!

According to research, getting your hands dirty in the garden triggers the release of serotonin in the brain due to a bacteria in the soil called mycobacterium vaccae – (I had to Google that bit!). Serotonin is a happy chemical; a natural anti-depressant and it also strengthens the immune system.

Dopamine (the brain chemical responsible for pleasure, motivation and satisfaction) is also released into the reward centre of the brain when we harvest produce from our garden. The theory is this response has evolved over nearly 200,000 years from when we were living in caves as hunter gatherers.

I'm not sure filling up my shopping trolley full of food will have the same effect. However, when the weather improves, I'm going to get out in my garden and put the theory to the test. Perhaps as a family you could try this too.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk).

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

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



Euro 2024

Each class have 3 countries to follow in the Euros which start today:

- Bombers – Netherlands, Serbia and Hungary
- Reception – Germany, Poland and Romania
- Year 1 – France, Turkey and Albania
- Year 2 – Italy, Ukraine and Scotland
- Year 3 – England, Denmark and Austria
- Year 4 – Spain, Croatia and Slovenia
- Year 5 – Portugal, Switzerland and Georgia
- Year 6 – Belgium, Czech Republic and Slovakia



Bombers

Hi to all. The children have had a happy time indoors and out despite the awful weather.

They have been practising their balancing skills with our textured beam, making their special cards, exploring mark making in shaving foam and playing catch and count, a number / counting game in small groups. They have also played sleeping bunnies and The Beans action game to develop their gross motor skills and creative expression. Next week we will be hopefully enjoying the little sports event on Tuesday morning for the school leavers, continue to focus on small group games and our letter of the week will be 'Bb'. Let's hope for a drier week.

Reception

The children have amazed us this week because we have had to change routines around lots due to visitors, sports day practises and assembly rehearsals. They have been wonderful at managing these changes and adapting to different timetables – what champions!

We really enjoyed Monday's Kidz Fit Olympic and Paralympic sessions! So much fun being so busy and active and really focusing on mind/ body skills such as hand-eye coordination... plus the all-important teamwork!

On Tuesday, we had a visit from the road safety team who helped us learn about keeping ourselves safe when out and about with our families and crossing the road. The children listened well and asked lots of great questions.



The class all absolutely loved our sports day practises – we went and watched how Year 1 did the running races then had a go ourselves. They all cheered one another on and supported everyone brilliantly! In the afternoons, Miss Shorten set up lots of skills activities in our EYFS playground so we could try those out too – all the children were super enthusiastic!

In phonics we have been revisiting the 'ou' and 'oy' sounds ('shout' and 'toy').

We are extremely proud of the reception children for their wonderful class assembly. If you could make it, thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed it! The children were, as always, absolute superstars! WELL DONE, EVERYONE!



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we continued our English work on Clem and Crab. We finished writing our crab reports, used adjectives to describe beach treasures, and wrote expanded noun phrases about what to see at an aquarium.

In Maths, we looked at place value within 100. We practised counting in tens and ones, ordered numbers to 100, and used 100 squares to spot patterns and play games. We are doing so well with our times tables targets in Year 1 – well done, and keep practising at home.

We completed the Phonics Screening this week and all the children tried so hard to read the real and alien words. We were very impressed! Thank you for all your support and practise at home. We have been practising real and alien words at school this week.



We had an amazing session with Carl from Kidz Fit on Monday. We did lots of exercise to music, tested our co-ordination and agility, and did hula-hooping with giant hoops. It was so much fun, and helped us to recap our work on Healthy Me.

We continued our work on people who help us by looking at some important nurses from History. We learnt about Florence Nightingale, also known as The Lady with the Lamp, and the changes she made to nursing. We then learnt about Mary Seacole and compared her to Florence Nightingale.

In Art we learned about the Japanese artist nick named “The Polka dot Princess” – Yayoi Kusama. The children made a shared collage inspired by her work and went dotty! They experimented with using different items to create dotty patterns for fun.



Year 2

It's been another busy week with lots of fun and hard work too.

In English the children have finished their unit of work looking at Michael Rosen's poems. Yesterday we focused on writing sentences with interesting, appropriate adjectives and adverbs using illustrations from the Jelly Boots, Smelly Boots book as a stimulus. Today we watched the beginning of a short animation as the focus for some independent story writing.

In maths the children have finished a unit of work on time. Today we revised our multiplication and division skills.

Some of the children retook the Phonics Screening Test. All of those who did so have made great progress this year. Thank you to those of you who have helped your child to secure their knowledge of sounds.

The children have enjoyed practising sports day races and have begun their history unit on famous nurses by learning about Mary Seacole.

We were disappointed to only achieve 13 readings stars again this week but celebrated our four top readers who have read at least 3 times (often 6 or 7 times) a week in Star, Angel, Diamond assembly.

Year 3

It has been a wonderful week in Year 3! Our week began with a brilliant visit from Kidz Fit who taught us about how to keep ourselves fit and healthy. We joined Year 4 for the session and participated in lots of fun fitness activities linked to hand-eye coordination and strengthening our muscles. During our session, we learnt lots about our muscles and bones, discovering that the gluteus maximus is the largest muscle in the human body.



In English, we have continued learning about different forms of poetry. This week we've studied kenning poems, discovering that they are similar to a riddle where you have to guess what the text is referring to. We enjoyed guessing the topic of many existing kenning poems before constructing some of our own. To end the week, the children chose their favourite poem (one they'd written over the past two weeks) to perform to the class.



In Maths, we have learnt about lines of symmetry, parallel lines, perpendicular lines and properties of 2D shapes. The children were introduced to new shapes including nonagons and decagons. The children enjoyed watching the polygon song which can be accessed via <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z13rUMrRLF8>

In Art, the children have begun creating their Ancient Greek vases. So far, the children have used newspaper and mod rock to form their vases; next week we will move on to painting them.

In Human Geography, we have learnt about the importance of water for survival. We also used a map of Norfolk to analyse how the North Norfolk Coast and Norfolk Broads help the local community by attracting tourists; aiding the local economy.

In RE, Mrs Grogutt came to visit and teach us about Eid-al-Fitr. This week, Eid-al-Fitr would have been celebrated by many Muslims worldwide to mark the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.



Year 4



We have completed our Warning stories in English this week, with the aim of making them into a class book next week. The children have been learning to use rhetorical questions, fronted adverbials and subordinating conjunctions within their writing! Any writing that your child would like to do at home is greatly encouraged and I'd love for them to share it with me.

In maths we have continued learning about time, focusing primarily on reading an analogue clock. This has proven tricky for many of the class so feel free to ask your children to read the time from an analogue clock at home as often as you can.

In topic the children have been learning what it was like to be a child in Ancient Greece!

At the start of the week, we were treated to a Kidz Olympic session which taught us all about the fitness, agility and stamina of athletes who compete in the Olympics. It was a fantastic session enjoyed by all!

Year 5

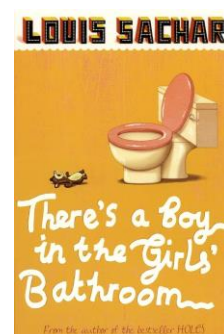
It's been a cold week in year 5 – but we have made it through!

It was a great start to the work with our KidzFit workshop where we learnt about the Olympics and also how to keep our bodies and minds healthy. A big thank you to Mrs Pallant for organising.

In maths, we have continued our work on decimals by practising how to add and subtract them. We also looked at how to work out change, both mentally and with a written method.

In English we have moved on to our new unit of work, which is a book study based on the book *There's a boy in the Girl's Bathroom*. We are only a few chapters in and already the class are hooked!

In topic, we have been comparing the UK to Brazil, by looking at images of major cities. We have also incorporated some music by trying to recreate the sounds of the Brazilian Rainforest. In Science, we have continued our non-fiction booklets on the organs of the body. Finally, for our RSHE, we have continued our work around puberty by looking at the changes that girls may go through.



Year 6

Our second week of this half term has been busy with some leavers and transition events taking place in addition to lessons.

In Maths, the children had a calculator challenge, moved on to solving a Maths problem linked to money and then learnt about our new topic of probability. In Literacy, the children planned (and then began writing) a guide to Rackheath Primary School. The purpose of this is to share key information and routines of the school to next year's Reception class.



On Tuesday, the children were also given their roles for 'The Key Master' – which is our end of year production. As well as being excited about discovering their part(s) in the play, the children have had a couple of rehearsals already. With Sports Day coming up, the class have been practising an entrance dance as well. I won't give too much away as you will hopefully get to see it on Wednesday!

On Tuesday and Friday, we had visitors from Thorpe High and Broadland High to discuss some of the routines for next year as well as asking any questions.

In addition to having our first RSHE lesson (on Wednesday) and having swimming for P.E. yesterday, Mr Gardner kindly came in to begin the filming for our Leavers DVD!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:
Reception who had **19 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **32 out of 32**

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

Year 5 had
98%
attendance before half term.
Attendance Bear will spend next week
back 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	All of Reception Class
Year 1	Kipp, Cian, All of Year 1
Year 2	Finley, Oakley, Elsie, Emily
Year 3	Hunter, Ella, Tyler
Year 4	Lola, Lilah-Mae, Harley
Year 5	Harrison, Connor, Rosa
Year 6	Olive, Trinity, Finn