

Rackheath Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 13th September 2024

It has been another super week in school with lots of great learning and teaching taking place. Next week all our clubs re-start so lots to look forward to!

Reception Class 2024-25

It has been great to see how well the new Reception class have gelled together and settled into the school, culminating in their first full day today. In the last few days, the children have met their Year 6 buddies. Watching the relationships develop between the two classes is always a highlight of the year and already you can see firm friendships being made. I have been hugely impressed with the way the Year 6 children have taken to the role, they do such a great job helping the Reception class settle into the school. Over the last few days, it has been lovely to see both classes eating lunch together too. Thanks also to the Reception Team for all their hard work in making the children's first two weeks so successful.



Baby news – Mr Edwards and his wife are expecting the birth of their second child in the next few days. Mr Edwards will be on paternity leave for the next two weeks. For the first 3 days next week I will be teaching the class along with Mrs Cavender. For the 7 days after that from Thursday 19th Mr Clarke will be taking the class. Mr Clarke taught the class in the summer term, when they were in Year 5 and I know he and they got on very well.

OFSTED – Our OFSTED report is now official and on the OFSTED website. You can find it here should you wish to read or share it. <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/120843>

Parent Cafes – Our first cafes of the year take place from Thursday 19th September. As usual they will run from 9am until 10am. The focus for these cafes is to give you the opportunity to take part in some exciting learning whilst seeing the children with their new teachers. Before the café parents can wait in the hall before being collected and taken to the classroom. The only exception being a Tuesday café when the hall is in use for ukulele. In this case Year 2 parents can wait in the entrance hall.

- Year 3 - Thursday 19th September
- Reception Phonics Café – Friday 20th September
- Year 4 - Monday 23rd September
- Year 2 - Tuesday 24th September
- Year 5 - Wednesday 25th September
- Year 1 - Thursday 26th September
- Year 6 – Friday 4th October (due to Mr Edwards paternity leave)

Diary Dates – Dates for the year can be found at the end of this newsletter. They will also be posted on the school website.

Parent Volunteers

We really value the support we get from parents who volunteer to spend time in the classrooms. We are always looking to add to our volunteers. If you would like to spend some time in school doing things like hearing children read or helping them learn their times tables, please do let me know at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk.



Clubs

After
School
Activities

We are looking forward to clubs starting again next week. As always, we want to ensure that the clubs run as smoothly and safely as possible. To help us with that, if on the day your child is not going to be at a club, please do let the office know so they can mark this on the register. This will mean that staff running the clubs know why someone down to attend the club isn't there.

If we have to postpone a club on the day, we will let you know. For children from Reception to Year 4 we know that normally parents then pick their children up at the end of the day. However, we do know that some parents may not be able to pick up at short notice so we will make provision for those children to stay in school until the clubs scheduled end.

This is slightly different for our Year 5 and 6 children who have permission to walk home. For Year 5 and 6 we will send out an additional consent via School Ping which will ask whether you are happy for us to send your child home at 3:15pm if a club is cancelled, or you would rather let us know on the day of the club depending on your circumstances (in that case we would keep your child in school until we had heard from you).

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

In one of my previous newsletter entries, I wrote about the importance of having fun, as it helps to lighten the emotional load of being an adult with 101 responsibilities and an even longer 'to-do' list.



I'm proud to report I've continued my quest to channel my inner child with a maiden voyage on a Beryl scooter during the summer holidays!! I managed a breath-taking 9mph while navigating speed humps, traffic, twigs, and gravel!!! I appreciate I'm not going to reach the headlines of the EDP anytime soon, but being able to share my adventures and photographic proof with my family, gave me a feel-good boost and a sense of child-like freedom.

If you're also prone to staying well within your comfort zone, I'd encourage you to channel your inner child before October rolls in. I'll be cheering you on from the side lines!

Best wishes

Claire Cookson Pupil & Family Support Practitioner (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk)

FORS NEWS



"FORS would like to inform you that our lovely Chair, Tonya Colk, has had to step down with immediate effect. She has done an outstanding job in her role as Chair over the last couple of years and the time she has given in the last 5 years being part of FORS. She has played a huge role in running FORS and will be very much missed. From myself, Treena, and the rest of FORS a massive thanks for all you have done and we wish you all the best."

Thank you to everyone who came and supported our summer fayre back in July. What an amazing day it was, with such a great turnout (despite the unpredictable British summer weather going against us at points!!). There was a steady flow of people throughout the day visiting the variety of stalls and activities. This year we also decided to do our own catering which was a huge success. Thank you so much to everyone who worked so hard to make this run so smoothly. We were absolutely blown away by the entries that we received for our first ever Rackheath Bake Off. A big well done again to our two deserving winners. Thank you so much to all of the local businesses who donated prizes for our raffle and to everyone who supported us by buying raffle tickets. In total our summer fayre this year raised an outstanding £2939!

All money raised goes back into the school to help to enrich your child's school experience and wouldn't be possible without your support.

Keep your eyes peeled for more FORS news in the coming weeks and don't forget to join us for our first event of the new school year; a Macmillan coffee morning on Friday 4th October, at 9.00am, in the school hall.

A few words from Tonya herself ...

"It is with a heavy heart that due to personal circumstances I am having to stand down as chair with immediate effect. Being part of such a wonderful committee for so many years has been an amazing opportunity. We have been able to offer the children, both past and present, so many lovely items along with so many happy memories.

I have been lucky enough to have had some wonderful people on the committee over the past few years and am lucky enough to be leaving knowing some of these people will be friends forever.

A massive thank you to the staff at school. The support and time the staff have given to me as chair has made my role so much easier. To the children who love feeding back their likes and dislikes after an event, or to share ideas of future events. This I will miss the most, seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter is why FORS does what it does."

A word from the school ...

"On behalf of the school I would also like to add my message of thanks to Tonya. She has been an amazing chair of the FORS and has organised some special events, which the children have loved. A huge thank you Tonya!

I know the FORS are already planning how they will re-organise and I know they would welcome new parents to the group."



Bombers

Welcome back following the lovely summer break. The children have settled back really well and we are slowly welcoming many new faces too over the next few weeks. We have been focusing on activities to promote PSED development, with settling, turn taking and seeing how children are feeling. The theme for this term is 'all about me', which we will cover with a wide variety of activities. We have been busy this week playing many board / lotto games, dancing and creating lots of lovely pictures at the paint easel.

We would like to say a big thank you for all the many cards, gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. We hope all our leavers are settling well into their new adventures at 'big' school.

Could we please remind families to ensure all of their children's items are named, e.g., lunch box, drink bottle, all clothing and that we discourage toys from home but the children are permitted to bring one favourite soft toy or snugly if needed.

We would also like to ask if there are any willing volunteers to help play and read stories with the children for a morning or afternoon or even an hour. With these little ones there can never be too many pairs of eyes and you would be most welcome. 'Every little help's as they say.

Reception

Welcome to all our wonderful Reception children and families! We have loved getting to know you all. The children are settling really well. We have been so very impressed with lots of the interactions and playing – we have already seen and heard wonderful sharing and turn taking and fantastic examples of kindness.

We have been learning about our class golden rules – these are "kind, listen, tidy, share, respect." We read stories all about what it is to be kind and also books about sharing, turn taking and making new friends. We will learn more about the other rules as the term progresses.

Today, we met our Year 6 buddies for the first time. The year 6s were as excited as us and were absolutely brilliant at being calm, kind and supportive towards our little ones. We are so proud of Reception class too as meeting a much bigger child could be daunting but we didn't have any children who were not really pleased to spend time with their buddy. The buddies even took the reception children to lunch and sat and ate with them!

Our first afternoon has been a lovely and busy one – we read *The Gruffalo* then explored lots of *Gruffalo* activities such as drip painting leaves on 'The Gruffalo Tree!'

We are looking forward to seeing you all again next week. We will be enjoying lots more Julia Donaldson stories and singing Nursery Rhymes together.



Year 1

What a fantastic start to Year 1! Everyone has returned after the Summer Holidays ready to learn and excited about new challenges. They have adapted quickly to the routines and expectations of Year 1.

We enjoyed learning about famous people as part of our Kingdoms and Conquerors topic. We looked at Paralympian swimmer Ellie Challis, and made our own swimming pictures. We then learnt about Olympic tennis player Andy Murray and played some tennis games. We found out about Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria and drew portraits and compared the two queens.

In Phonics, we practised the sounds 'ay' (may I play) and 'ee' (what can you see). In English, we looked at the book, 'Our Class is a Family'. We linked this to our whole school work on Zones of Regulation, to help us to understand our emotions and our behaviours better. We made Proud Clouds of things we are proud of.

In Maths, we practised counting and ordering numbers to 20. We have reminded ourselves how to write the numbers correctly. We used ten frames and toys, dominoes and cubes to help us.

We have started our Guided Reading sessions and every child should now have a reading book, Bookbag book and library book to share with you at home.

Please make sure your child has a coat in school every day. The English weather is very changeable and we do go out in all weathers. Please also help your child to practise putting on their coat and zipping it up independently. It takes a long time to help 30 children!



Year 2

What a fantastic start to Year 2! The children have already shown themselves to be enthusiastic, eager learners, and they are adapting well to the new expectations of Year 2. It's great to see our classroom routines beginning to become embedded each day.

In English, we have started exploring traditional tales, beginning with 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. Much of our focus has been on nouns and verbs, and today we had a fantastic lesson where the children had the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge they have gained about nouns and verbs this week.

In Math's, we have been working on place value, using tens and ones to explore two-digit numbers and learning about partitioning. Although many children found it challenging at first, their confidence has grown significantly over the week which has been fantastic to see!

In our Topic work, we kicked off our Kingdoms and Conquerors theme by looking at King Charles III. The children had so many insightful questions, which led to an engaging whole class discussion. We even created our own crowns, fit for a King!

Your children should all now have their reading record and a new reading book.

Year 3

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year; I am very excited to support your child(ren) as they begin their KS2 journey.

In English, we have spent time discussing, identifying and using all three types of verbs. In addition to this, we have begun our new book titled 'The Great Kapok Tree' and the children have used adjectives to develop descriptive phrases linked to the Amazon Rainforest.

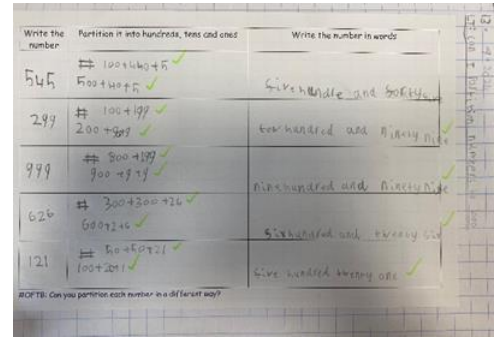
In Maths, the children have continued to develop their knowledge of place value to 1000. This week, we have used pictorial base-10 representations, 100-square grids and number lines to support our learning. Alongside this, we have enjoyed playing some warm-up activities including times table tennis and have practised counting up from 0 to 100 and back down again.

Take a look at an example of partitioning numbers to 1000!

In Topic, we have begun our first science unit based on forces and magnets. Our lessons have focused on the understanding of friction and the use of force. On Tuesday we undertook an experiment whereby we investigated how friction affects a toy car as it moves over different surfaces. Later in the week, we explored magnetic force by testing a variety of objects and categorising them as magnetic or non-magnetic.

In Music, we practised identifying the pulse of an instrumental, alongside completing rhythm and pitch copyback activities before practising and performing 'Let Your Spirt Fly' by Joanna Mangona.

A reminder that our 'Welcome to Year 3' parent café is on Thursday 19th September (9am – 10am). I look forward to seeing you there!



Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing first week back! It has been a real honour to get to know a few new faces and see how much everyone has grown since I last taught them in year 1! They are such a lovely bunch, and I am really excited for the year ahead.

As we have settled into our new routine the children have started to explore forces and magnets in science. We completed our first experiment to find out what was magnetic in our classroom. There was great excitement and interest when they discovered the metal plates hidden beneath the plaster around the corners of the wall, which their magnets stuck to.

In English the children have enjoyed listening and singing to a song with helpful reminders about what we need to form expanded noun phrases. They have spent time writing and analysing lots of expanded noun phrases linked to the rainforest ahead of starting our new story next week.

In Maths we have been exploring place value up to 10,000 by playing a few games and showing off our maths knowledge in our books. We have also enjoyed PE with Mr Palmer, in addition to swimming next week the children will have a one-off PE lesson on Monday.

Year 5

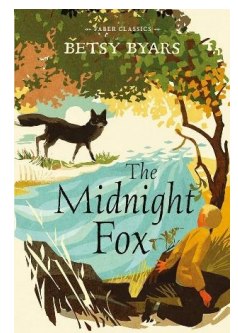
What an amazing start to the year I have had with the new year 5's! They have really impressed me with their working attitude, behaviour in class and with how focussed they have been!

In maths, we have been looking at place value. Our focus has been on reading and writing numbers up to 1,000,000 (although we were actually reading numbers up to the quadrillions). We have also been rounding numbers.

In English, we have started our unit or work based on The Midnight Fox by Betsy Byers. The highlight of our work has been the drama based on the moment that the main character (Tom)

was left on the farm... you can see some of these below.

In Science, we have started to look at Solids, liquids and gasses and their properties. We have also organised objects into these categories. We started our topic work by learning about the countries of Europe and where our families come from. We also started our 8-Billion Ideas Project, where we will be trying to create a world changing invention/idea!



Year 6

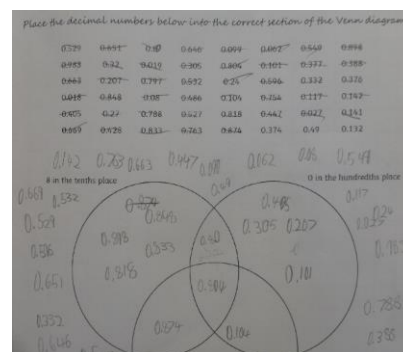
What an amazing week-and-a-half it has been! The children have worked incredibly hard and the staff in Year 6 have been proud of everyone's positive attitudes to learning.

In Maths lessons, our main focus has been linked to place value. This began by understanding and writing numbers up to 10,000,000. After this, the class looked at a range of decimal numbers going into the hundredths and learnt how to write the value of each digit. Towards the end of this week, we ordered whole numbers.

In Literacy, the children have enjoyed listening to our class book 'Boy Overboard' by Morris Gleitzman. So far, we have made predictions linked to what the story will be about, summarised the first few chapters, and written down key character descriptions. All of this information has been used to plan an informal letter about what life has been like living in Afghanistan (where the book is set).

In Topic, the children have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. In addition to completing map work linked to Europe, they have put together a timeline of key events and have learnt where the Anglo-Saxons travelled from (and to). In art, the children produced watercolour paintings of Viking Longships and the end results were amazing!

Finally, as well as seeing their buddies, we also had a lesson on Tuesday linked to the Zones of Regulation – which is based on how to regulate (and discuss) our feelings and emotions.



Attendance Bear

Well done to 4 who had
98%
attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend next week with them.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes *Chris Ashman*

DIARY DATES – 2024 to 2025

Kingdoms & Conquerors

Autumn 1 – Wednesday 4th September until Thursday 24th October

Autumn 2 – Monday 4th November until Friday 20th December

To Infinity & Beyond

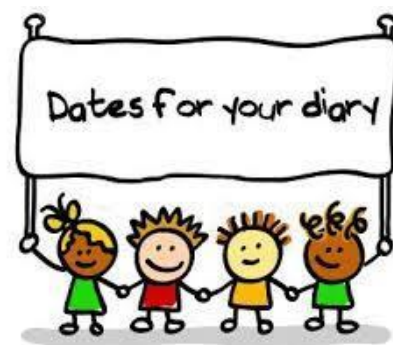
Spring 1 – Tuesday 7th January until Friday 14th February

Spring 2 – Monday 24th February until Friday 4th April

Wonderful World

Summer 1 – Wednesday 23rd April until Friday 23rd May

Summer 2 – Monday 2nd June until Tuesday 22nd July



Class Show and Tell Assemblies

These take place in the hall, parents to arrive for 2:45pm start:

Year 5	Wednesday 9 th October
Year 3	Wednesday 16 th October
Year 1	Tuesday 22 nd October
Year 4	Wednesday 6 th November
Year 2	Thursday 14 th November
Reception	Tuesday 19 th November
Year 6	Wednesday 27 th November

There will be another class assembly in the summer term

Christmas

Fri 29 th November	Christmas Fayre
Mon 16 th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – AM Year 1&2 Dress rehearsal - PM
Tues 17 th December	Year 1&2 Performance – AM Reception Performance – PM
Weds 18 th December	Reception Performance – AM Year 1&2 Performance – PM
To be confirmed	KS2 Performance with the Salvation Army – Evening
Thurs 19 th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Year 6 Events

Week 12 th May	SATS Week
Friday 16 th May	Post SATS treat
Friday 4 th July	Camp out
Tues 15 th /Weds 16 th	End of term performances – 6.00pm
Tues 22 nd July	Leaver's Assembly for parents

Parent's Evening

Autumn Term	Weds 23 rd / Thurs 24 th October
Spring Term	Tues 11 th / Weds 12 th February