

# Rackheath Primary School

## Newsletter

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024

It has been another super week in school with lots of great learning and teaching taking place. It has been lovely to see the new Reception class settle so well into full days. Their Year 6 buddies have done a great job in helping them, especially at lunchtime. It's always lovely to see the two groups seek each other out to play together at lunchtime.

This week we have also started up our clubs and it has been great to see lots of children enjoying taking part in these clubs. Thank you to all the staff who are taking clubs.

### Baby News

**Part 1** – It was Mrs Watson's last day today before starting her maternity leave on Monday. The staff held a celebratory baby shower during the week. As a school we all send our best wishes to Mrs Watson and her husband ahead of the big day. We look forward to meeting the new arrival soon!



**Part 2** – On Saturday morning Mr Edwards and his wife welcomed their new baby Millie to the world. All members of the family are doing well. We look forward to meeting Millie soon.

### Staffing News

**Part 1** – Mrs Petraglia is taking on the SENDCo role during Mrs Watson's maternity leave. She sent out a message earlier in the week on SchoolPing about her plans in the role, which included arrangements for parents to contact and meet her. We will very much miss Mrs Watson but we are lucky that in Mrs Petraglia we have an experienced SENDCo able to take on the role.

**Part 2** – I enjoyed teaching Year 6 for two days earlier in the week. Mr Clarke is now teaching the class and will do so until Mr Edwards' return, which we expect to be Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### Schools and Community Team Café

The Schools and Community Team is a new initiative in Norfolk, which offers support to schools and their families. They can support with everyday worries and offer advice to parents as well as signpost to other services. They have already worked on a project on transition to High School with a group of Year 6 and with individual children supporting them with their worries. On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October the team will be in school holding a coffee morning from 9am until 10am. This will offer the chance to meet the team in an informal way and see if they could help more with a problem. Please do drop in for a drink and to meet the team and see what they could offer.

### New Log Seats



As part of our plans to improve and develop our outside space we have added benches to the wild area and created a log circle for the children to sit under the trees. Lots of the children have already enjoyed sitting there and it has also been utilised by classes to share stories and as a base for outside work.

**Parent Cafes** – Our first cafes of the year started this week with Year 3 and Reception holding theirs. It was lovely to see lots of family members at both of the cafes and hear lots of positive feedback about them. The dates of next week's cafes are:

- Year 4 - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Year 2 - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 5 - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 1 - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 6 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October (due to Mr Edwards paternity leave)

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.

### Clubs

After  
School  
Activities

If your child isn't staying for a club, please do let us know. This is especially important in Year 5 and 6 as we won't let them leave unless we know they aren't meant to be staying. If your child decides to stop attending a club altogether, please let us know this as well as it will free up a space for another child.

**Cross Country Club** – This morning started in brilliant fashion with 21 children at cross country club before school. The most we've ever had! All the children ran well and did their best. A special mention to Leo in Year 3 who ran fantastically and very quickly!!

### Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

**Advice around sleep** - How often do you find yourself falling into bed after a hectic day, only to lie awake replaying difficult conversations, adding tasks to your to-do list, or trying to solve problems that keep swirling in your mind? A good night's sleep can make a world of difference in how we navigate our daily lives. When we're well-rested, challenges feel more manageable, and we're able to approach problems with greater creativity and clarity. Quality sleep also restores our energy, sharpens our decision-making (especially when it comes to making healthier choices) and helps maintain physical well-being.



If you're struggling to fall asleep, consider listening to a sleep story. These calming narratives can gently guide your mind away from stress and distractions, helping to slow down your thoughts and ease into a more restful state. By focusing on something soothing and neutral, you can quiet the mental chatter and create the perfect environment for a peaceful night's sleep. One of my favourite resources can be found here:

<https://www.nothingmuchhappens.com/stories>

If your child is struggling to sleep, there are lots of bedtime stories available for them too:

<https://www.youtube.com/@happymindsmeditation>

Best wishes

Claire Cookson Pupil & Family Support Practitioner ([ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk](mailto:ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk))

## 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](mailto:head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk).



## Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Karate Taster Day (sessions for each class)
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Year 1 and 2 Norwich Castle Trip
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October – FORS AGM and Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Steve Clifford, children's author visit
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October – School Photographs (Individual and Siblings including pre-school)



## Bombers

It has been an extremely busy week here at Bombers. The children have been doing lots of mark making, dancing and building with a variety of loose shape blocks and connecting bricks. They have also enjoyed playing imaginatively with our 'Vets' role-play. We have been focusing on PSED development with lots of turn taking activities, PSE stories, going over our routines and boundaries as well as looking at our emotion pictures. Talking about the importance of being kind to each other and looking after our books and toys. Some of the children have been super helpful with tidying up and helping to sweep the sand / soil.



Next week we will be focusing on our Physical development with lots of activities to promote gross and fine motor skills. A warm welcome again to some of our new little faces that have come to join us.



## Reception

Reception class have had another lovely, busy week. We have been enjoying singing and learning actions to Nursery Rhymes together. Lots of our activities have then linked to the stories from the rhymes. Favourites were magnet fishing, counting the fish into fishbowls and the 'Under the Sea' small world toys – it was great to see the children teaching each other new vocabulary such as 'hammerhead shark!'

Our afternoons have been full of Julia Donaldson stories – we've enjoyed The Gruffalo, A Squash and a Squeeze and What The Ladybird Heard. The children have been brilliant at joining in with the repetitive sayings and rhymes! And, of course, we have spent a huge amount of time learning and playing outdoors – the children had a blast searching for the Gruffalo in our 'Wild Area.' Some of the children had the excellent idea to draw a map of where the Gruffalo lived!

Well done, Reception class - another fantastic week.



## Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have been practising the sounds 'igh' (fly high) and 'ow' (blow the snow) in Phonics. We have been reading and writing words and sentences. In English, we have read Little Red Riding Hood. We made story maps to help us to retell the story, and wrote sentences about Little Red Riding Hood.



In Maths, we looked at counting one more and one less. We used ten frames, Numicon and number lines to help us. We practised counting forwards and backwards to find the next number and the number before.



We continued with our Kingdoms and Conquerors work by looking at King Charles III and designing our own crowns. We then found out about the Spanish Armada and made our own ships using lolly sticks and paper sails. We talked about the British Empire and made Union Jack flags.

## Year 2

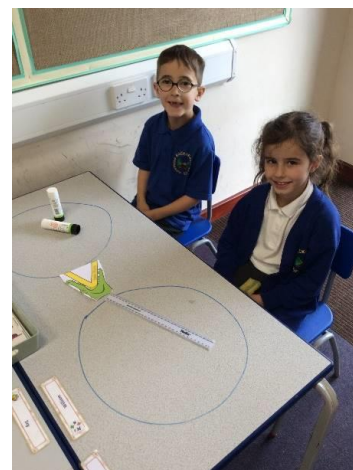
We have had a wonderful week in Year 2! The children have been full of enthusiasm, hard work and fantastic learning.

In Maths, we continued our exploration of place value, this week focusing on number lines and using the greater than / less than symbols to compare numbers.

In English, we carried on with our traditional tales' theme, diving deeper into The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children had a great time creating WANTED posters for the troll; writing command sentences, questions and superb character descriptions filled with descriptive adjectives!

In our topic lessons, we made great progress with our Kingdoms and Conquerors learning. The highlight was building our very own Spanish Armada fleet, which we had lots of fun testing the strength of this afternoon!

Just a quick reminder, our Parent Learning Café is on Tuesday, and we look forward to seeing you there!



## Year 3

It has been another super week in Year 3!

In English, we have continued to base our learning on our class book (The Great Kapok Tree). This week, we have spent time considering the impact of deforestation on the Amazon Rainforest. At the end of the week, the children each wrote their own balanced argument based on reasons for and against deforestation.

In Maths, we have continued work around place value and the children have been partitioning numbers to 1000. In addition to this, we have been finding 1, 10 and 10 more or less than a given 2 or 3-digit number.

In Topic, we have undertaken experiments based on the use of the north and south-pole of a magnet. Our discoveries led us to understand that the north and south (opposite) poles attract to one another while south and south or north and north repel. The children were fascinated by the fact that a compass is magnetic, so when settled a compass will always point North. They then had some fun using a compass to navigate North of the playground.



In Music, we continued learning the song 'Let Your Spirit Fly' by Joanna Mangona. They also had the opportunity of playing glockenspiels along with the tune.

In Computing, we began a new unit based on touch typing. During the lesson, the children learned the name of each finger before learning how to use the home, top and bottom row keys.

In PE, the children have continued to develop their tracking and catching skills.

I would like to say a big thank you for attending our café morning on Thursday. It was wonderful to get a chance to speak to you all.

## Year 4

This week in Year 4 the children have continued to show just how amazing, helpful, and resilient they are. We have worked through some difficult concepts in Maths and English and I have been incredibly impressed with everyone's attitudes towards challenges.

In English we have continued work on creating expanded noun phrases about the rainforest, expanding our knowledge by looking at punctuation and alliteration. The children have grown in confidence and have loved sharing their adjectives, nouns and prepositions on our working wall. We have also begun our spelling and guided reading this week looking at the prefix mis- and a text about the romans.

On Tuesday we began looking at our times tables by taking our first times tables test. All the children did fabulous and are eager to try again next week to beat their own score! Additionally, we have been exploring numbers to 10,000 by looking at more and less and number lines whilst using our place value knowledge.

We had lots of nerves before swimming, but the children all returned to school excited to tell me about what they had done. Finally, we continued being 'scientists' by exploring the strength of different magnets.

Just a reminder that we have our class café on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9.00am. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible!

## Year 5

We have had another super week in year 5!

In maths, we have continued our work on place value... with a focus on x and divide by 10, 100 and 1000.

In English, we are continuing our work on the midnight fox. We have finally seen the fox for the first time and have written newspaper reports about it! We practiced using reported and direct speech by getting quotes linked to the news report.

In Science, we have focussed on the properties of materials and have tried to classify them.

In topic, we have used Drama to show the beginning of the Anglo-Saxon time period. We had children pretending to be Romans, Picts, Weak Britons and the Angles, Saxons and the Jutes! Why not ask your child about it to see what they can remember!

We also started our 8 billion Ideas project where the children have to create a brand-new product that could change the world!

**Weak Defenceless Britons** – Nathan and Cara

**Roman Warriors** – Olivia and Amelia

**Raiding Picts and the Scots** – Aria and Nicola

**Jutes, Angles and Scots** – Children in the background!



Attendance Bear  
**Attendance Bear**

Well done to 2 who had  
**99%**  
attendance last week. Attendance  
Bear will spend next week with them.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

*Chris Ashman*