

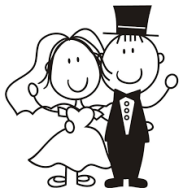
Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 27th September 2024

Baby News - It was only last Friday that we said good bye to Mrs Watson as she went on maternity leave. Now Mrs Watson and her husband have a baby girl called Rosie born on Wednesday 25th September. Huge congratulations to them all – we look forward to meeting Rosie soon.



Wedding News – Miss Shorten in Reception Class is getting married this weekend. Huge congratulations to her and her husband to be. When she returns to work Miss Shorten will be Mrs Leeming. This is also good news in school in terms of avoiding any confusion as there will only be one Miss Shorten rather than two in school.

Parent Cafés – Our parent cafes have taken place over the last 2 weeks. It has been lovely to see packed classrooms full of family members sharing in their children's learning.

Year 6 Café - As Mr Edwards has been away the Year 6 café hasn't taken place with the others. It will take place on Friday 4th October.

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 3rd 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.



FORS Macmillan Coffee Morning – On Friday 4th the FORS are holding a coffee morning in the school hall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. It would be great to see lots of you enjoying coffee and a cake and raising money at the same time.

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.



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Have you ever read *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy? One of my favourite parts is when the boy asks the horse, "What's the bravest thing you've ever said?" and the horse replies, "Help. Asking for help isn't giving up, it's refusing to give up."



So often, we try to "soldier on" when it would make so much more sense to ask for help and support. Help can come in many forms: physical help—an extra pair of hands for a DIY project; emotional help—a listening ear to share your worries or concerns; practical help—preparing a meal; or help with life admin—sorting out your finances.

The next time you feel like you're struggling, I encourage you to ask for help. You can also reach out to me for support by email at ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk, by phone at 01603 720098, or by exploring our school Padlet, which is full of useful resources:

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

Karate Taster

On Tuesday, the children were all very excited to have a visit from Norwich Karate Academy. Each class from Year 1 to Year 6 had a free taster session that they all thoroughly enjoyed! Your child should have brought home a leaflet with details about their clubs if they want to do more karate.



Christmas Cards

Like the last two years the FORS and the school have teamed up with Cauliflower Cards. They produce different Christmas products like cards, wrapping paper and mugs using the children's designs. Last year the finished products looked amazing! The children will complete their designs in school and then bring them home for you to decide if you wish to order anything. To get everything ready in time for Christmas there is quite a quick turnaround time.



- The children will bring their design and order form home by **Monday 14th October**. Orders need to be placed online using a code included on the order form before Monday 21st October.
- All completed forms with the design attached are then returned to school ready for collection. Designs and forms need to be returned by Monday 21st October at the very latest, to ensure that everything is ready in time for collection by the Cauliflower Cards team. Any orders in later may not be ready in time for Christmas.

RACKHEATH WILD AREA TROWEL AND ERROR GARDENING GROUP

Back to school and back to work for the Gardening Club! We have our new benches in... waiting for a home to be made! The boat is filled with soil and now has some bedding plants in too. One of the main jobs has been to collect the abundance of apples from our trees!! If you would like some, please pop into year 5 at the end of the day and ask!

HELP WANTED!! - We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help in gardening group on Tuesday afternoons, from 2.00 - 3.00pm! If you are in to gardening and could lend a hand, please speak to the office, Mrs Duckmanton or Mr C.



Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

- Monday 30th September – Year 1&2 Football at Colney Training Ground
- Tuesday 1st October – Year 1 and 2 Norwich Castle Trip
- Friday 4th October – FORS AGM and Macmillan Coffee Morning
- Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October – Steve Clifford, children's author visit
- Wednesday 9th October – School Photographs (Individual and Siblings including pre-school)

Dates for
the Diary:



Bombers

Hello to all our families. It has been a very busy time here in Bombers with lots of new faces joining us and children visiting to see what fun we have here. We have been focusing on lots of physical development skills. There has been much dancing, action rhymes, exercises and running. We have been developing fine motor skills with drawing, painting, bead frames, track finders, connecting puzzles and tools in the playdough. We will continue with this next week. There has been some lovely tidying and helping from a lot of the children and some good suggestions for movement games and rhymes.



A reminder for those children transferring to school next year the applications need to be in by the 15th January. Better to do this sooner rather than later.

Reception

Another busy week in Reception class! The children have really enjoyed starting their phonics / reading journey! They have been so enthusiastic and excited to take part in the sessions – we have been packing our huge (imaginary) backpacks with enormous paint brushes covered in glitter or camo paint ready to practise forming our letters in the air! We then love getting our mini ‘hand’ notepads out and forming the letters with our magic pencils. We practised speed reading of our four sounds (m / a / s / d). The children did so well today with their first ever ‘Word Time’ session in which they had to listen to the sounds in words and try and make the words using the magnetic letter sounds on their magnet boards – with the sounds we’ve learned so far, we have been able to make and read sad, mad and dam – we looked at a photograph of a dam holding the water back in a reservoir.

In maths, we have been learning all about each number from 0-4 this week. We sing counting songs together, try and find objects to show the number of the day and look at sayings / rhymes which help us to remember how to form the numbers when we write them. (We will send this home once all the single digits have been covered).

Our afternoons have been equally jam-packed with lots of stories and collaborative play – the favourite this week was exploring all the fancy-dress costumes as we enjoyed the Nick Sharratt book *You Choose*.

Huge congratulations to our wonderful TA, Mrs Leeming, who will be officially married upon her return to work soon. We were very lucky to enjoy a little wedding themed party with her on Wednesday afternoon. We are missing her lots but wish her and her lovely new husband all the very best for a wonderful day! We can’t wait to see the photos in class.



Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have continued reading Little Red Riding Hood. We thought of advice for anyone walking in the woods, ordered pictures from the story and wrote a letter, as a class, from the wolf apologising to Little Red Riding Hood.

In Phonics, we practised the sounds 'ir' (whirl and twirl) and 'air' (that's not fair). We read and wrote words and sentences with those sounds in.

In Maths, we compared numbers to see if they were the same (equal) or more or less. We introduced the symbols greater than $>$, less than $<$ and equal to $=$. We remember which way round they go by thinking of them as crocodile mouths that always eat the biggest number.

We continued our Kingdoms and Conquerors topic by looking at castles ahead of our trip next week. We labelled key features and Ruby and Jesy made their own model of Norwich Castle.

We loved our karate taster session on Tuesday!

Thank you to everyone who came to our parent café event. We loved seeing the marvellous creations you built with your children following the story "What We'll Build". Lots of fun.



Year 2



We have had a busy and exciting week in Year 2. On Tuesday, we had our Parent Learning Café. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. We were truly impressed at the creativity on display, with some amazing bridges built during the session!

In English, the children have been busy retelling the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. They have done an excellent job crafting sentences and using a variety of engaging sentence openers to bring their retellings to life.

In Maths, we have now finished our learning about place value and we will be moving on to learning about addition and subtraction next week! This week, we focused on counting in 2s, 5s, 10s and 3s. The children's confidence with these number patterns has grown significantly over the week!

We also had an exciting karate session one afternoon, where the children learnt some cool moves and techniques.

In topic, we explored castles from all over the world. The children learnt some new vocabulary to label the key parts of a castle. They are eagerly looking forward to our trip to Norwich Castle next week to spot these features in real life!



Year 3

Well done to everyone in Year 3 for another wonderful week full of learning.

In English, we have finished reading our Power of Reading text, *The Great Kapok Tree*. The children have been developing their thoughts about a potential subsequent scene. We used a conscience alley approach to consider dilemmas linked to the text. During this activity, one child took the role of the protagonist and walked between the other children and shared their advice both for and against the subject of deforestation. In addition to this, the children have also begun developing their use of inverted commas to indicate speech between characters.

In Maths, we have completed our place value unit of work. To conclude this unit, the children have been comparing (using $<$, $>$ and $=$) and ordering numbers to 1000. I have been particularly impressed with their use of mathematical vocabulary and full sentence answers / justifications this week.

In Topic, we have moved on from magnets and forces and have begun learning about human geography. This week our learning has focused on types of settlements, differences in land use and the importance of trade. Next week we will begin linking these to the Roman era.

In Computing, we have continued our unit based on touch typing. This week, the children were required to use multiple letters across different rows on the keyboard.

In Art, we have begun studying the late artist Henri Rousseau who was a French post-impressionist painter. Over the next few weeks, we will explore the use of colour, patterns and shapes ready to create our own rainforest / jungle inspired artwork.



Year 4

It has been a busy week in Year 4. We had a lovely start to the week welcoming in many of our wonderful families for the times table café. Followed by an exciting Tuesday where we had a ukulele and karate lesson both of which the children enjoyed.

In the afternoons this week we started by being scientists - exploring compasses, looking at how magnetic forces enable them to show north. We have also become artists planning, practicing and creating rainforest paintings inspired by Henri Rousseau. We linked our paintings to rainforest descriptions we wrote in English. Finally, we began our geography work by looking at different settlements we will continue this next week.

In maths we have continued to explore place value by looking at comparing numbers. Our books are full of examples of comparing numbers such as exploring which number is greater / less and even ordering multiple numbers using this knowledge.

In English we have begun looking at the for and against arguments of deforestation, many of the class are firmly against deforestation but are able to identify some of the benefits (even if they don't agree!).

Year 5

What a week! It started with our Science Experiment called 'Hot Stuff Challenge' where the children were tasked with trying to keep my coffee as hot as possible for as long as possible. This was to investigate the insulating properties of different materials! William, Lilah and Millie won...their cup was wrapped in foil and also had a lid.

Another highlight of the week was the class making our Petie Burkis Specials... a bread filled with spicy sausage, spam, pickles and cheese! This year, each child got to make their own individual bread ball as the wonderful Mrs Duckmanton proved all of the bread at home and brought it in for the class. I think it is fair to say that the majority of the class absolutely loved it!



Finally, it was our café this week. Parents came in and were tested on their maths skills...but also had the opportunity to make some Anglo-Saxon Brooches using foil and string! It was hard to tell who had more fun!



Attendance Bear

Well done to 5 who had **98%** attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them.

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman