

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Aurora over Rackheath last night

Friday 11th October 2024

It has been another busy and exciting week in school. We started the week with a 2-day visit from the author Steve Clifford. The children all really enjoyed the workshops that Steve put on. I hope that those who bought his books are enjoying them too. On Wednesday we had the first class assembly of the year from Year 5 and we also had the school photographer in.

Class Assemblies

Year 5 kicked off our class assemblies this week with a lovely assembly all about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. Next week it is Year 3's assembly on Wednesday 16th October. All assemblies start at 2:45pm. Parents should arrive by 2:40pm.

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



House Captain Elections

Every year two Year 6 children from each house become House Captains. The House Captains are decided in an election and the winners are decided by the other members of their house from Reception to Year 5. This year the elections are on Friday 18th October. It will be a tricky task as there are lots of Year 6 children who would make great house captains!

Parent Teacher Evenings – The first parent teacher evenings of the year are on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th October. This is for all classes except Year 2, which will be on Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24th because Miss Shorten is attending her graduation on the Wednesday. These are held in school so you will also get the chance to look at books. The evening with the later appointments is Thursday. We use SchoolPing to book appointments and the link went live on Wednesday. If you haven't booked an appointment yet then you can do so on SchoolPing. Any issues with this contact the school office.





Visits for New Reception Children

We are organising visits over the next few weeks for parents interested in their child joining the school as part of the September 2025 Reception class. If you are interested in a look around or know someone who might please contact the school office on 01603 720098.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas Card designs should be with you at home now. You now need to place your order online using the code included on the order form before Monday 21st October. Once you have done this you need to return the completed form, with the design attached, to school ready for collection by Monday 21st October to ensure that everything is ready in time for collection by the Cauliflower Cards team. Any orders received after this will need to be posted yourself and may not be ready in time for Christmas.

CAULIFLOWER CARDS



Cross Country Club and Cluster Event – We had 19 pupils at cross country this morning. We had lots of year 3's and 4's there but fewer children from Years 5 and 6. Cluster Cross country is on Wednesday November 13th this year so it would be great to see more Year 5 and 6 children especially over the next few weeks.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

This week, I've started asking the children for their ideas and suggestions about how to take good care of their wellbeing. Therefore, the credit for my newsletter entry this week goes to one of our year six pupils.



"Be patient with people. If you're having an argument, it's easy to say something that can hurt them. It's better to step away and focus on your own mental health. Have a bath, relax in your bed, do something you enjoy doing that doesn't take much energy. You could talk to your family or play with some Lego too".

I think this is sound advice to put into action, regardless of how old you are. We all need to take a breather before our words and actions make a situation worse.

For more wellbeing hints, tips, and resources, please click on this link:

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

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

Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

- Monday 14th October – Basketball Taster Day
- Friday 18th October – House Captain Elections
- Wednesday 23rd October – Cluster Football Tournament
- Weds 23rd & Thurs 24th October – Parent Teacher Evenings (Tues & Thurs Y2)
- Thursday 24th October – Last day of the half term
- Monday 4th November – New half term starts





It was a wet one this week!!! The wellies were really needed!

The Wild Area is starting to become home to all sorts of animals now...we had a visit from a friendly Hedgehog today! I can't believe how amazed the children were to get up close to it!

A big thank you to Mrs Lines who has offered to come in and lend a hand!



Bombers

Hello to all. It has been another mixture of sunshine and showers. The children have enjoyed some energetic outdoor play and using the water / rollers to paint the fences, together with hide and seek games, lots of construction and feeding dinosaurs in the mud kitchen. We have been talking about fruit and vegetables linked to 'Harvest' and



the children did some vegetable printing, fruit and vegetable stencils and potato hammering. We have also had fruit/veg games, puzzles and reference books. We have had lots of singing and storytelling to link in with our current focus of communication and language. We will continue this next week. We only had one piece of fruit donated for our 'Harvest' box so will see whether we get any more next week for our box to take to Ashfields. Just a single apple, orange, pear etc, would be greatly appreciated. The children can decorate a box next week and then I hope we can deliver a little something to the home from our preschool.



Reception

Reception class has had quite an autumnal feel this week as we've explored autumn themes and enjoyed the classic tale of The Little Red Hen. We have learned the story off by heart using repetitive story language and actions – the children were amazing at remembering all that they learned with Miss Brannan at the beginning of the week and then teaching it to me on Thursday – I was so impressed! Our favourite activities this week have been nature hunts outside to help us learn about numbers 0-10 and 'conker rolling painting' – messy and very fun! It was interesting to see what colours the autumn shades made when mixed!



In phonics, we have learned g, o, c and k. The children were brilliant at thinking about c and k – how funny that they make the same sound! We came up with a strategy to remember them – we call 'c' the curly caterpillar sound and 'k' the kicking kangaroo sound. This will hopefully make more sense when your child practises forming the letters in the red Home-School phonics book as the formation sayings are in there.

Don't forget to practise the sounds with your child 3 x week and note each time in the yellow reading record as we had 22/32 children who did that last week but only 15 this week. It really does make a huge difference when they practice at home too. Many thanks.



Earlier in the week, we had a great time with Steve Clifford, the author. The children enjoyed their snack whilst he told us his version of The Ugly Duckling story. Once we'd eaten, we joined in with lots of actions and sounds and some of the children asked Steve questions or told him things they liked about the story. It was great to hear a story from a different adult and the children made Steve feel very welcome.

Next week, we are going to be like Little Red Hen and make something scrumptious to eat!

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we really enjoyed the visit from author, Steve Clifford. We were set a writing challenge and had a writing workshop with him. I think we have some budding authors in Year 1!



In Phonics, we practised the sounds 'or' (shut the door) and 'ar' (start the car). We read and wrote words and sentences using these sounds. In English, we started looking at poetry. We talked about poems being like songs without music. We looked at Michael Rosen's work, including reciting We're Going on a Bear Hunt with actions.

In Maths, we have been adding. We reminded ourselves of the symbols + and = and used these to record our calculations. We used part-whole models to demonstrate how the two parts add up to one whole. We used cubes, counters and Numicon to help us.

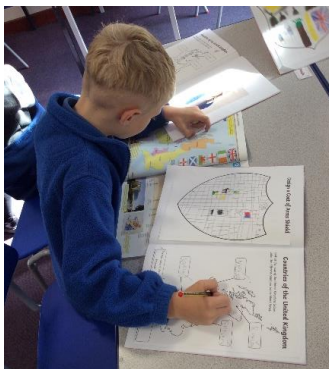
We moved on to the geography unit of our Kingdoms and Conquerors topic. We looked at where the UK is and which four countries make up the UK. We then looked at key facts about England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Year 2

What a fantastic week we have had in Year 2!

This week's highlight was a special visit from author Steve Clifford on Tuesday. He sparked the children's imaginations as they created their own unique countryside's, featuring sideways-growing trees, clouds resting on the ground and trees as squishy as marshmallows!

In English, the children focused on adding the -ed suffix to verbs to form the past tense, while also exploring some exceptions like 'go' becoming 'went'. They put this knowledge into practice by writing their final recounts of our trip to Norwich Castle, showcasing their best handwriting and using 1st person as well as coordinating and time conjunctions.



In Maths, we have been working on different methods of addition. The children practiced using number lines, tens frames, and their number bonds knowledge. They also learnt how to find 10 more and 10 less from any number, boosting their confidence with two-digit numbers.

In Topic, we began our Geography unit by exploring the four countries of the UK and their capital cities. The children enjoyed identifying each country's flag, labelling each country on a map, and using atlases to locate and label the capital cities.

Finally, these are some images of the weaving pots from last week and the beginning of the new style of weaving for this week!

Year 6

The Year 6s have worked hard this week and have completed so many tasks! On Monday, we were lucky enough to take part in an assembly and workshop led by author Steve Clifford. In addition to the Year 6s having the opportunity to ask him a range of questions as well as finding out about his books, they participated in a creative writing challenge.

In Maths, the children concluded their topic of positive and negative numbers. Today, we focused on short cuts and 'tricks' to help tackle a variety of arithmetic questions.

As part of Black History Month, the Year 6s discussed the lives of several heroic and inspirational people – including Martin Luther King Jr. They then designed a poster linked to his famous 'I Have a Dream' speech.

In Science, the children used scientific vocabulary to draw label and explain why specific materials are chosen for different everyday objects. They also learnt about reversible and irreversible changes.

In Topic, the children learnt about Anglo-Saxon runes and wrote their own secret messages using them! Finally, the Year 6s were very lucky to receive their free dictionaries from Wroxham Bure Valley Rotary Club. **I have yet to receive any further updates from Aylmerton. As soon as I receive new information, I will let you all know.**

Next Friday (18th October) the Year 6s will have the opportunity to put themselves forward to be House Captains. The only requirement is for them to read their speech (if they wish to put themselves forward) to the other children in their house/team.



Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had **97%** attendance last week. Attendance Bear will share next week with them.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 3 who had **26 out of 31**

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

Star, Angel and Diamond Certificate Winners – Well done to the following children who got their certificates in assembly today.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Larna, Hugo, Ethan
Year 1	Eden, Tyler, Amelia-Rose
Year 2	Freddie, Ivy, Elliott
Year 3	Hunter, Henry, Elliot
Year 4	Jack, Isla, Ali
Year 5	Harley, Amelie, Nathan
Year 6	Leon, Harlan, Mia

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman