

# Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

It has been another successful and exciting week in school. On Monday four of our Year 6 children triumphed in an inter school competition organised by Broadland Academy. Well done to Emily T, Ethan, Harrison and Maxwell on a well-deserved first place. Staff from the high school were very impressed with the team's mathematical ability. Thank you to Mrs Petts for taking the team.



On Monday, we had an exciting start to the week. Every class had a fantastic basketball taster session with Ross Wilson. It was great to hear so many positive reports from children and staff across the school. If your child would like to try basketball outside of school, here is the link to the clubs on offer:

<https://www.bbitc.co.uk/sessions>



## Attendance Update

As we head to the end of this half term it is good to note that our overall attendance figures are better than at this point last year. This is encouraging as it is really important to be in school on time every day unless unable to attend due to illness. It is one of our key priorities this year to support all the children to be in school as close to all of the time as possible. If a child has a cough or cold but feel well enough to be in school, they can attend and we can modify their day if appropriate. For example they could stay in over break time if that was felt to help. Further information about attendance is in Mrs Cookson's wellbeing update for this week.



## House Captain Elections

Today we held our house captain elections. The results will be revealed in Monday's assembly. 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.



## Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson



### Attendance and Wellbeing - Is my child too ill for school?

Sometimes it's tricky to decide if your child should stay home when they're feeling unwell or if it's okay to send them to school. The NHS has some great advice on what to do in different situations, which you can check out here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

For future reference, I've also added this link to the school Padlet under the "attendance" section: <https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing>

The most important thing to remember is that if your child comes to school feeling a bit sniffly and their condition worsens, we'll give you a call. We'll ask your permission to give them some pain relief if needed, and if they're really not coping, we'll contact you to come and pick them up.

In most cases, once they've had some time to settle in, see their friends, and get involved in lessons, they start to feel much better.

If your child is finding school mornings a struggle and you'd like more support, please feel free to email me at [ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk](mailto:ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk) or call me on 01603 720098.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner)

**Class Assemblies** – This week it was the turn of Year 3 to share their learning with their grown-ups. Well done Year 3, Miss Holding and the class team. It is Year 1s assembly on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and then the assemblies carry on after half term. All assemblies start at 2:45pm. Parents should arrive by 2:40pm.

- Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 1
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Reception
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6

### Parent Teacher Evenings

The first parent teacher evenings of the year are next week on Wednesday and Thursday. This is for all classes except Year 2, which will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. It is also a good time to speak to me about anything. There's no need to make an appointment just grab me as I'm walking round or drop in to my 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

Just a reminder about ordering from Cauliflower Cards. You need to place your order online using the code included on the order form by Monday. Please make sure you have returned your completed form, with the design attached, to school ready for collection on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.



## Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Cluster Football Tournament
- Weds 23<sup>rd</sup> & Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> October – Parent Teacher Evenings (Tues & Thurs Y2)
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Last day of the half term
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November – New half term starts



## Bombers

Hello from a typically busy Bombers. The children have been very happy this week and joining in with lots of singing, playing board games and exploring the outdoors with roller painting, feeding the farm animals in the mud kitchen and collecting lots of leaves that are adorning our outdoor area. These will make a good canvas for painting. Once again, we have welcomed some new little friends and they have settled in really well. We are ensuring that we sing our 'hello' song every day to welcome the children and staff and help with getting to know each other's names. We will continue to focus on communication and language next week and a reminder that we finish on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October for half term. We are back on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. We will be having a 'stay and play' week before Christmas. We will let you know which week when dates confirmed.

## Reception

It's been a lovely week in reception class – we really enjoyed our basketball session on Monday in which we learned some great new skills and vocabulary.

We have been focusing on the season of Autumn – we discussed what the signs of autumn might be outside and we looked at autumn animals. The children enjoyed learning sign language for these (Thanks, Mrs Leeming!) and they also thought about inventing their own signs – I wonder if they can remember them? (Fox, badger, hedgehog, deer, squirrel, owl).

The children learned lots and had great fun making and tasting bread just as Little Red Hen did in the story we enjoyed last week. They used some of the key vocabulary from the story in their own bread making – mix, knead, bake, etc. Well done, reception class!



In phonics, we have been learning these new sounds: **u, b, f, e**. A favourite activity was finding all the hidden (welly) "bbbbbb boots" in our outside area and then writing a chalk 'b' for every one they found. Our red words were: **a, said, and**. (Although we chatted about 'and' not being a true red word as we can actually sound it out! It's an important one though as it's such a common word in early reading books and everyday language).

In maths, we have again been focussing on number recognition, formation and recognising small amounts - the children can identify up to 3 (sometimes 5!) objects without counting! This is a really helpful skill when thinking about the composition of numbers and really understanding their value.

## Year 1

We started the week in Year 1 with a basketball taster session. We all loved it and we were really good at bouncing and dribbling the ball.

In Phonics, we have practised the sounds 'ou' (shout it out) and 'oy' (toy for a boy). In English, we continued to look at Michael Rosen's poetry. We read 'Lost' and 'Hungry' and looked closely at rhyming words.

In Maths, we have been ordering numbers. We looked at ordinal numbers such as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last. We raced cars to see what position they finished in! We also used number lines to order numbers and to explore counting forwards and backwards.

In our Kingdoms and Conquerors topic, we started to look at the 7 continents and 5 oceans. We loved learning songs to help us remember them.

We have also spent the week practising our class assembly. Please come and watch us next Tuesday!



## Year 2

We have had a fantastic week in Year 2! It began on Monday morning with a basketball taster session, where the children learnt how to do a crossover and played team games. It was lovely to see them encouraging and supporting one another.

In English, we started our new book, 'How to Find Gold'. The children began the week by predicting the story based on the cover. By Thursday, they were busy creating their own plans in their house teams, to find hidden gold around the school. In the afternoon, we had an exciting search that led us to golden chocolate coins hidden in the DT room!

In Maths, we have been focusing on subtraction, using tens frames and number lines. The children even practiced drawing their own number lines to help with their subtractions, a skill they will continue to use. We finished the week by revisiting 10 more and 10 less, before challenging ourselves to find 20, 30, 40, and even 50 more or less than a given number. Throughout the week, the class also tackled word problems with great enthusiasm.

In Topic, we continued with Geography by learning about the seven continents and five oceans. The children enjoyed singing the continents song they learnt in Year 1, along with a new song about the oceans. We labelled the continents and oceans on a map, and then explored Europe closely. The children had lots of fun finding countries in Europe starting with all the letters of the alphabet and discovering famous landmarks like the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower.

The children enjoyed some well-deserved Golden Time this afternoon. They were so proud of their impressive cube circle they built, which stretched all the way around the classroom!



### Year 3

We have had a wonderful week in Year 3!

In English, we began our new unit of writing, instructional writing. This week we have looked at the features of instructional writing and have discussed the need for coherent sequencing, linking this to our knowledge of story structure within familiar traditional tales (Goldilocks and The Three Bears and The Gingerbread Man). In addition to this, we have also looked at the use of imperative verbs and time connectives in a step-by-step method. Next week we will move onto writing our own set of instructions and will look at editing and improving them before typing them up using Word.

In Maths, we continued our learning on addition and subtraction. This week, the children have used concrete resources (base-10), pictorial representations and abstract methods (column method) to solve adding 1s across a ten and 10s across a hundred.

In Art, the children have sketched and used watercolours to develop the first draft of their Henri Rousseau inspired rainforest background. Take a look at these wonderful creations!



On Thursday, the children participated in a wonderful football lesson with Mr Poole.

Finally, I'd like to mention a huge well done to all of the children for delivering a wonderful class assembly on Wednesday. They really worked their socks off during rehearsals this week; because of this, I think they certainly deserve a restful weekend.

### Year 4

It has been another wonderful week in Year 4! In topic we have learnt about the different styles of Roman homes and how they were decorated. We have spent most of topic lessons aspiring to be wealthy Romans by creating our own mosaic designs. The children carefully planned their designs using a 10 by 10 grid. They demonstrated just how thoughtful they are by supporting each other to create a final design that they were each happy with within the restrictions of the grid.

This week in maths we have covered lots of areas including addition, subtraction and continued to look at our times tables. We used the laptops and computers to have ago at the Year 4 times table check. They were all resilient learners continuing to practice even though 6 seconds can be quite fast!

In English this week we have continued to look at our story The Wild Robot. The children started the week writing a poem about what Roz can identify with her senses. We then spent the rest of the week working in our Robot Logs (where we write as if we were Roz at various stages of the story), as part of this the class acted out a small section of the story in which Roz observes an opossum acting dead to avoid being eaten by a Badger! There were many fabulous opossums please see the picture of Ella following the text to help her portray an opossum.



## Year 5

Not long until the end of the half term now!

In maths, we have continued our work on adding and subtracting with money... with a particular focus on change! To help with this, any work that you can do at home with physical money would be really beneficial for them.

In English, we have finally come to the end of the Midnight Fox... The children have all written newspaper articles about the rescuing of the cub and then we completed a book review. I am pleased to say that almost all of the class gave the book 5 stars out of 5!



We were very lucky to be part of a webinar run by Norfolk Constabulary this week aimed at awareness of and highlighting the impact of Hate Crime. The children were brilliant with answering the questions and even had some of their own to ask.

Our weekly quiz winners were: Lola and Sophia

Finally, this week we looked at soluble materials by conducting an experiment with things such as gravy granules, sand, sugar and rice to see if they would dissolve.

## Year 6

I cannot believe that next week is the final one of this half term! Where has the time gone? The children have been brilliant this week and I am really proud of their behaviour, listening and perseverance.

In Maths we looked at reasoning problems linked to addition and subtraction. Part of this focused on when to calculate mentally and when it's best to use formal methods such as column addition or subtraction.

In Literacy, after completing our refugee poems, we learnt about co-ordinating conjunctions and the active and passive voice. Next week, we will produce some mystery stories focusing on short sentences to add suspense.

During Science lessons, the class learnt some key words: solute, solvent and solution. They then predicted which substances would dissolve in warm water before we tested them out. It was great to hear so many scientific explanations as to why they thought the substance would or wouldn't dissolve. We then discovered how a saltwater solution can be separated due to evaporation.

In art, we produced a water colour painting linked to a one-point perspective. The end results were absolutely amazing! It was brilliant to hear so many compliments about the Year 6s who put themselves forward to be House Captains. The speeches were excellent and the results will be revealed next week. Finally, a big well done to Emily T, Ethan, Maxwell and Harrison who won the Year 6 cluster Maths challenge at Broadland High!



# Attendance Bear

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

# Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with: Reception who had **21 out of 30** and Year 5 who had **30 out of 32** 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.

<b>STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS</b>	
Reception	Louis, Isabelle, Teddy HJ
Year 1	Jace, Jaylen, Luna
Year 2	Lucas, Summer, Klarka
Year 3	Oakley, Kory, Lily, All of Year 3
Year 4	Jacob P, Arlo, Vienna
Year 5	William, Ayla, Sophie
Year 6	Jack, Olivia, Ellis

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes  
*Chris Ashman*