

Rackheath Primary School



ARMISTICE DAY
Let's We Forget

Newsletter

Friday 15th November 2024

It has been a lovely and very busy week in school with lots and lots of super learning and a lot of curriculum events taking place. On Monday we held a special assembly to mark Armistice Day and the football team took part in the Norwich City Football league. On Tuesday we had a visit from a touring theatre company, whilst on Wednesday it was Cluster Cross County. On Thursday it was Year 2s class assembly and our annual governor day. Today it is Children In Need day and Year 4 went to the cinema to watch a special showing of the Wild Robot, which is their current class book.

Parking Around School

This half term we are going to be having a big focus on safe parking around the school. The roads around the school in the estate do get very busy. I know lots of you are worried about the risk of accidents as am I.

We want to have a big focus on parking away from the school. I know it would reduce stress in the mornings for pedestrians, local residents and drivers and cut down on the risk of accidents.

We already have an agreement with the church for us to use their car park at pick up and drop off, which is hugely appreciated.

I have also spoken to Marcus Pearcey, the owner of the Sole and Heel Pub, who has very kindly agreed that from Monday 18th November parents can use the pub car park before and after school. With the understanding that no cars should be there after 3:30pm as that is when the pub can get busier especially on a Friday.

The 2 car parks combined can accommodate a lot of cars. Parking there will really help ease congestion. Also, I'm fairly sure that parking in one of the car parks is a lot more relaxing way to start and end the school day compared to weaving in and out of other cars on the narrow roads of the estate looking for somewhere to park.

It would be amazing if as many of you as possible could support this initiative to help keep all of our children safe. I very much hope that on Monday I will see more of the children enjoying a relaxed walk up the path by the church before entering the school at the back gate.



Parking Competition - In addition to this earlier in the week the children brought home details of a safe parking poster competition organised by the Eco-Committee. The winners will have their posters displayed outside the school. We are also looking to get the lines outside school repainted

Cluster Cross Country – On Wednesday we took part in the Cluster Cross Country event at Coltishall. In all, 31 children across Year 3 to 6 ran in one of the four races. The standard across the schools was very good and I was hugely impressed with the efforts and attitude of everyone who took part. Wherever the children finished in their race they can be proud of their efforts as they all ran through the pain barrier to achieve their best. We did have some standout performances:

Harlan came 2nd in the Year 5 and 6 boys' race, Ayla came 2nd in the Year 5 and 6 girls' race. Other top ten finishes came from Maxwell who was 5th, Mya who came 7th, Rachel and Archie who both came 8th and Leo and Emily who came 10th in their races.

Overall we came second in the school competition. Our team was:

- Year 3 – Leo, Henry, William, Archie, Luke, Jackson, Emily and Florence
- Year 4 – Jack, Stanley, Parker, Louis, Jacob, Ava, Edie and Esme
- Year 5 – Hugo, Jenson, Jack, William, Lola, Nicola, Ayla, Emily and Cara
- Year 6 – Harlan, Maxwell, Freddie, Ricki, Rachel and Mya

Thanks to Ms Holmes and Mr Palmer for coming along with the team and to the parents for their support.



Armistice Assembly



On Monday we marked Armistice Day with a special gathering of remembrance. The assembly was based on giving thanks and remembering people. Richard from the Salvation Army kindly came in to play the Last Post, which was a very poignant and lovely way to end our shared silence at 11am.

Governor Day – On Thursday 5 of our governing body team spent the day in school. The governors spent time in classrooms, meeting children, looking at work as well as watching the Year 2 Class Assembly and having lunch in the hall. A big thank you to Darren, Lisa, Alix, Samantha, Danny and the rest of the governor team. The school really appreciate the important work you do!

Year 6 Aylmerton Residential - I know the children and staff are very excited about our residential trip to Aylmerton next week! We know they are going to have a fantastic time.



The weather forecast looks very cold, so please ensure everything from the kit list has been packed - especially warm clothes! The children will need a **packed lunch for the first day** and they can also bring a maximum of £10 (for the gift shop) but this is optional. Also, if your child has an inhaler or will need medication, please bring this to the hall at 8:45am. Finally, the children should arrive to school in **non-school uniform** (at the usual time) and go straight into the hall. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Bag Making Club

Last half term a group of Year 5 and 6 children were busy working with Ms Holmes and Mrs Goddard making their own bags. The bags have been made using re-cycled materials. Well done all of you – the bags look great!



Anglo Saxon Artefacts Visit!

Year 5 and 6 were incredibly lucky to be treated with a visit by Rob Hitchcock who is part of a group who travel around the country educating people on the lives on Anglo Saxons by getting into role and modelling their way of life, from the clothing he wears to the items he carries. He brought along several boxes of resources ranging from replica weapons (such as the Seax modelled by Amelie) and a knight's sword (modelled by Olivia), shields, tools, coins, even clothing made from the correct materials. We were able to hold all of the items and Rob gave us detailed explanations about how they were made. Some of these items he even made himself! We are so grateful that he was able to give up his time and share his fantastic knowledge with us ...we learnt so much! Thank you, Rob.



Pantomime Visit - On Tuesday the children thoroughly enjoyed the Cinderella pantomime performance from M&M Productions. Everyone had a lovely time despite some very dubious staff dancing as part of the performance!



Children in Need – Today we enjoyed a non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. The children had lots of fun taking part in races at lunchtime too. Thanks to you all we raised an amazing £258.80 for this worthy cause!

Class Assemblies – On Thursday Year 2 shared their learning so far this year with their families. The children demonstrated great performance skills as they shared their work and sang some of the songs they have been learning to support their curriculum learning. Great job Year 2 and a big well done to Miss Shorten for putting together her first ever class assembly and for making such a super start working in our school alongside Mrs Crook. That just leaves 2 more class assemblies:

- Tuesday 19th November – Reception
- Thursday 28th November – Year 6

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

TED Talks are a fantastic resource to spark new ideas and share knowledge. There's a vast collection of short, thought-provoking presentations covering topics like science, education, art, technology, and wellbeing.



I've discovered a curated list of talks about parenting: [TED Talks](#). I've also popped this resource on the school Padlet: <https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing> (you'll find it in the 'Support with parenting' section. If you have time available, I'd recommend watching Brene Brown's talk: The Power of Vulnerability (<https://tinyurl.com/bdd825an>). It's received nearly 67 million views!

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720 098)

School Football League

On Monday 11th November, we attended the Year 5/6 football league at the Nest. The event consisted of four groups of four teams, in which we were competing in the Championship Group.

In the first game, we started strongly but struggled to find the opening goal due to some outstanding goalkeeping from the opposing team. As the game progressed, we earned a free kick on the edge of the box, which Maxwell expertly converted into the bottom left corner. This was quickly followed by another fantastic finish from Ellis, leading us to a 2-0 victory in the first game.

The second game continued with our team dominating possession, creating numerous chances but failing to score. However, we eventually broke through by converting two penalties, with both Maxwell and Ellis finding the back of the net again and winning 2-0.

Leading into the final game of the group, it was finely poised with us and our opponent's level on points. But a draw would see us win the league group as a result of having a better goal difference. The game started off very tense with both teams seeking the all-important first goal. This ultimately fell to our



opponents after they latched onto a loose ball after Sidney had made a very good double save. This led us to chasing the game with all of the boys working very hard to get back into the game. Late on still chasing our hard work finally paid off, as Harrison latched onto a great though ball. which led to their goalkeeper pulling him over in the box. Harrison stepped up a calmly dispatched it passed the goalkeeper with seconds left in the game, which would see us win the group. Also meaning we would be playing in the premier division in the new year.

A massive well done and congratulations to Freddie, Harlan, Ellis, Maxwell, Harrison, Sebastian, Kian and Sidney on attending and winning the league.



School Elections – The votes are in!



School Council and Eco Committee elections took place this week. The successful candidates were announced in assembly this afternoon and are as follows:

School Council

Reception	Azlan and Gracie-Lou
Year 1	Ava and Riley
Year 2	Ivy and Lucas
Year 3	Henry and Florence
Year 4	Hunter and Isla
Year 5	Freya and Hugo
Year 6	Seb and Mia

Eco Council

Year 3	Myla and Landon
Year 4	Esme and Jack
Year 5	Sid and Ayla
Year 6	Maisie and Maxwell



DIARY DATES

- Mon 18th – Fri 22nd November Year 6 to Aylmerton
- Saturday 23rd November Football County Finals

CHRISTMAS DATES

There is lots happening this term in the run up to Christmas. No doubt more dates will be added to the list below as the term progresses.

Friday 29 th November	FORS Christmas Fair
Monday 16 th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – AM Year 1&2 Dress Rehearsal – PM
Tuesday 17 th December	Year 1&2 Performance – AM Reception Performance – PM
Wednesday 18 th December	Reception Performance – AM Year 1&2 Performance – PM
Tuesday 17 th December	KS2 Carols with the Salvation Army - 6:30pm
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day





Bombers

Hello from a sleepy pyjama day at Bombers. Thank you for the donations. The children have been busy today colouring Peppa Pig pictures, completing Peppa Pig puzzles and listening to Peppa pig stories for 'Children in Need'. They have also been busy climbing, balancing, and playing lots of 'baby' role-play. On Monday the children made some 'poppies' and worked together on two group 'poppies'. We also stopped at 11.00am, listened to the radio and watched the 2-minute timer to respect the 2-minute silence for Remembrance Day. We were all so proud as the children were amazing. Next week we are focusing on developing fine motor skills with a range of sensory/tactile resources and mark making.

Reception

We have celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week in Reception class. We have really enjoyed singing the songs and doing lots of related activities and games knowing that children all around the world might be doing similar things. This year the focus rhymes have been Twinkle, Twinkle, Incy Wincy Spider, The Big Ship Sails, Old Macdonald and Five Currant Buns!

Our sounds this week are: **th, z, ch and qu**. The children are getting good at spotting when two letters work together as 'special friends' to make one sound, such as 'ch' (chop, chip, etc). Our red words are: **you, your**.

In maths, we have enjoyed learning about 2D shapes. We have looked at circles, squares, triangles, pentagons and squares. We have learned facts about the shapes – see if the children can tell you, using the language 'sides' and 'corners'. We have been on 2d shape hunts, drawn 2d shape pictures, sorted 2d shapes in to groups, used the pinboards to make 2d shapes with elastic bands and made 2d shapes out of playdough. Phew, we have been busy!

We are looking forward to seeing you at our class assembly next Tuesday, 18th November, at 2.45pm (you can arrive at 2:40pm).

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have continued our Science work looking at everyday materials. We sorted objects into whether they were made from wood, metal or plastic.

We loved the Cinderella pantomime on Tuesday – it was loud and exciting and really good fun!

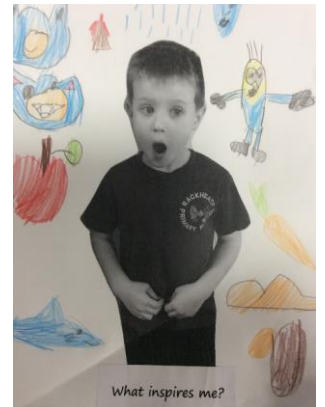
In Maths this week, we continued with our work on subtraction. We used toys to help us to 'take away' and splatted playdo as well! We continued to practise counting in 2s and have started to count in 10s as well.



In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'a-e' (make a cake) and compared it to the sound 'ay' (may I play) that we already know.

We call the 'a-e' sound 'a, split e' when we write it. In English, we continued reading Beegu and wrote sentences describing her. We tried to use the word 'and' to join sentences. We made a story map to help us to retell the story next week.

In Art this week we continued our research about British artist Chris Ofili, finding out what inspired some of his famous pieces of artwork and the processes he used in creating his amazing work. We thought about what inspires us and illustrated this around photographs of ourselves to make unique portraits.



Year 2

We have had such a busy and exciting week in Year 2!

In English, we started learning about explanation texts. We discovered that these texts explain how things work or why something happens. The children identified and labelled the key features of an explanation text, practiced using commas in lists, and worked on including subordinating conjunctions such as because, if, and when in their sentences. Today, we began sorting information under subheadings to prepare for writing our own explanation texts next week on 'How do Santa's reindeer survive in the North Pole?'

In Maths, we finished our work on addition and subtraction by comparing number sentences and solving some missing number problems. The children have worked so hard on this topic, and we're excited to begin our new Maths topic next week!

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a fantastic pantomime that the children absolutely loved. Then, on Thursday afternoon, we held our class assembly. I was so impressed with all the children – they spoke clearly and confidently and gave a wonderful performance with some fabulous singing. Thank you so much to everyone who came to watch!

Year 3

It has been another super week in Year 3.

In Maths, we have been solving worded questions linked to our addition and subtraction unit. During the latter part of the week, we began a new unit of work based on multiplication and division. So far, our learning has been predominantly based on multiplication and the use of arrays.

In English, we have moved onto learning about fables. This week, we have looked at the similarities between a number of fables including 'The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse', 'The Tortoise and the Hare' and 'The Lion and the Mouse'.

In Topic, we have continued learning about the Romans. This week's focus has been on discovering how the Roman Empire began. The children used atlases to find Rome, Italy. In addition to this, they identified five main reasons to why the Roman army was so successful. Furthermore, the children designed their own Roman shields.

Finally, we all enjoyed the pantomime on Tuesday afternoon!

I'd just like to mention that Year 3 and 4 will be holding a **Roman Day on Monday 2nd December** with a special visitor who will be teaching us even more about the Romans. Please note, we would love for each child to dress up as a Roman for the day!

Year 4

Year 4 have had another busy week! We started Monday morning with a workshop all about recycling, the children loved sharing their ideas and working on the computers to answer questions! On Tuesday we were treated to a pantomime performance of Cinderella, the hall was full of excitement and laughter.

In maths we have finished our topic looking at area, this has been a short unit, but the children can now confidently find the area of different shapes and compare them. As a class we have enjoyed creating shapes using halves and were quick to spot that two $\frac{1}{2}$'s makes a whole!

We also held our School council and Eco committee elections this week. Almost half the class decided to give a speech. They were all fantastic and gave some very persuasive arguments. After counting the votes it was very close however our new school council members our Hunter and Isla and Eco committee is now Jack and Esme.

Year 4 have had a fantastic end to the week with our cinema trip. The children behaved impeccably, really showing how fantastic they are! Overall they have created some lovely writing based around the wild robot and it was lovely to hear them discuss the differences between the book and film throughout the day.





Year 5

It has been a great week for us in year 5 with lots of highlights!

It started with a session on how to be environmentally friendly, with a guest speaker talking us through some online activities to get us thinking about what we recycle and reuse.

This was followed by the final part of our 8-Billion Ideas project. Each group presented their product and idea to myself, Mrs Duckmanton and Paul Wallace (a member of the local Lions) and then we had the incredibly difficult task of picking our winners. Below is a table of each group and their idea:

Team	Product Idea	
Bonnie, Millie, Olivia	A tablet that can only be used if you charge it through movement	
Olivia, Aria	A honey sweet box that turns into a beehive when the sweets are finished	Best Jingle
Hugo, Sid, Jack	A foam bullet gun that is safe and won't damage eyes	
Joey, Xander	A litter picking sea sub that travels the oceans	
Nathan	An eco-friendly power source that uses water	Best Model
Erin, Freya, Amelie, Sophia	An app that allows you to keep active by finding items in the local area to keep children entertained	Overall Winner
Will, Emil	A seed station that that will automatically water your plants	
Cara, Nicola, Emily	A device for cars that reuses the dangerous gases and turns it into power for the vehicle	
Harley, Jenson, Micky	A head device that translates what you hear and what you say into any language	
Sophie, Amelia, Madi	An automatic pooper scooper for dog owners	
Lola, Anya	A machine that turns beach / ocean plastic into jewellery	
Lilah, Ayla, Poppy, Iris	An automatic rubbish collector	

In maths, we have been looking at multiplying two-digit numbers by three-digit numbers, such as 357×38 , by using partitioning! I am very impressed with how quickly the children have grasped this!



In English, we have continued our work on balanced arguments about chocolate – the children have been using subordinate clauses, modal verbs and conjunctions to form their arguments.



In topic, we had the fantastic visit from Rob Hitchcock (see separate report) and we have researched famous Anglo-Saxon people and learnt about how they changed our country. We have also completed our Anglo-Saxon coins by painting them. To finish the week, the children have been completing their weaving project with Mrs Cavender.

Year 6

It's been another busy week in Year 6! Firstly, I wanted to say a massive thank you to Ethan's Dad for coming in to school on Wednesday to share his knowledge of the Anglo-Saxons. As well as the children being able to hold a range of artefacts, it was very interesting to hear so many facts too!

In Maths lessons this week, we solved two-step division problems before learning how to divide decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. We also had a Children in Need algebra task today.

In Literacy, the children identified the features of a newspaper report and began planning their own. This was linked to how Humpty Dumpty was actually pushed off his wall! The class enjoyed describing the crime scene and deciding which witnesses were involved. As a grammar challenge, the children learnt how semi-colons can be used between two main clauses.

During a Scientific 'Thinking Challenge', we discussed and reasoned whether or not a coat should be put onto a snowman to prevent it from melting. It was great to hear so many creative thoughts! Earlier in the week, we were treated to a pantomime performance of Cinderella – which took place in the hall. During Thursday afternoon, lots of children put themselves forward to be either an eco-councillor or a school councillor. They should all be very proud of themselves for being able to read their speech in front of the class. Yesterday, we got to code Spheros and each week new challenges will be set for the children to try and complete! Even though the cross-country runners will be mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, I would like to say a massive well done for their excellent performances and behaviour during the event. Lastly, it was excellent to see the Year 6s having fun during the Children in Need races at lunchtime.

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had
98%
attendance again last week.
Attendance Bear will spend another
week with them!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:
Year 1 who had **23 out of 30** and
Year 5 who had **28 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.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Ashfia, Gracie-Lou, Freja
Year 1	Aubrey, Caspar, Liam
Year 2	All of Year 4, Jasmine, Zachary
Year 3	Joshua, Emily, Jackson
Year 4	George, Matilda, Vienna
Year 5	Amelie, Jenson, Millie
Year 6	Sebastian, Ben, Ellie

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman