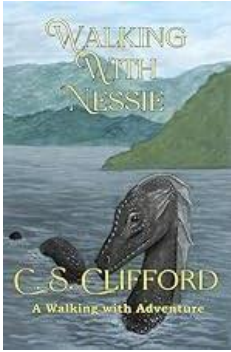


Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 4th October 2024



Author Visit – Next week we are excited to welcome the children's author Steve Clifford to the school. Steve is with us for two days which is a great opportunity for the children to learn how an author gets ideas for their writing. Steve will be working with Year 4, 5 and 6 on Monday and with the rest of the school on Tuesday. At the end of each day there will be the opportunity for the children and families to meet Steve and buy his books. An order form has already been sent home. If you would like to pick one up there are spares in the office.

Norwich Castle – On Tuesday Years 1 and 2 enjoyed a lovely day out at Norwich Castle. The children learnt a lot and were very interested in the castle and its museum.

Class Assemblies

Our class show and tell assemblies start next week with Year 5's class assembly, which is on Wednesday 9th. All assemblies start at 2:45pm. Parents should arrive by 2:40pm.

- Wednesday 9th October – Year 5
- 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



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 so keep an eye out for messages. We will let you know when the appointment form goes live!

Cafes – It has been another week of cafes in school! We had the Schools and Communities Team Café on Thursday followed by the Year 6 class café and the FORS organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported these events.

Year 1 & 2 Football Tournament

On Monday, September 30th, we were invited to participate in a tournament at Colney. This involved fielding two teams, with each team competing in various games together. With the year 1 team playing the first half, and the year 2 team playing the second.

All of the children were amazing, showing great teamwork, representing the school well, and ultimately playing some very good football. Finally, a massive well done to Jace, Max, Harrison and Joshua from year 1 and Freddie, Elliot, Jamie and Zachary from year 2 for attending.



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.

Cross Country Club – Another new record this morning. We had 23 children starting their day with a run - it was great to see!

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.

Upcoming Dates for your Diaries

- Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October – Steve Clifford, children's author visit
- Tuesday 8th October – Reception & Year 6 Height & Weight Checks
- Wednesday 9th October – School Photographs (Individual and Siblings including pre-school)
- Monday 14th October – Basketball Taster Day
- Wednesday 23rd October – Cluster Football Tournament



Bombers

Hi to all our families from a very busy Bombers. The children have enjoyed many physical activities this week. Musical bumps and statues, action songs, hammering, tools in the dough, bead frames and connecting puzzles. There have been some lovely paintings, collage and sticker pictures.



Next week we are having the farm small world with soil and Harvest activities in the craft area. Our focus is communication and language with lots of songs, stories and turn taking games. We were thinking it would be nice to take a fruit basket to Ashfields for Harvest so if anyone would like to donate a piece of fruit next week it would be appreciated. There will be a box in the lobby.



Reception

This week we have been continuing our topic 'All about Me' – the children have loved talking about their families, homes and busy lives. They have thought about and discussed what babies can/ can't do and how they have changed now that they're school age. We have looked at faces and thought about facial features and other body parts and what we might use them for ... the children have certainly put their arms and legs to great use since they've been here – outside, the tree, hammock and wild area ladder have all been hugely popular choices! In phonics, we have learnt the sounds t, i, n and p. We have been really busy practising forming these letters by writing large versions on our playground in chalk or searching for the different sounds in the rice tray! In maths, we have looked at the numbers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Maybe this weekend, they could keep an eye out for sounds and numbers on road signs, etc. They may not know the larger numbers yet, e.g. 40 mph or 26 miles, but to recognise the single digits would be great! Similarly, they could spot digits on number plates/ front doors. Prompted by a child's question when reading one of our stories, we looked at the word 'absorb' – we tested some materials to see if they were absorbent or not, made predictions and then explored ourselves in the water tray outside!

Have a lovely weekend all – we are looking forward to enjoying a popular folk tale with the class next week.



Year 1

Year 1 have had such an exciting week! We absolutely loved our trip to Norwich Castle Museum. Everyone was so engaged and enthusiastic and really enjoyed designing their own magical creature. We also had time to explore the rest of the museum.

In Phonics, we have practised the sounds 'oo' (poo at the zoo) and 'oo' (look at a book). In English, we read some information about catapults together and labelled some medieval weapons. Austin made his own catapult in playing time! We wrote recounts of our trip using the photos from the day to help us.

In Maths, we continued with our work on greater than (>), less than (<) and equal to (=). We practised using number lines and number cards to order numbers.



Year 2

We have had a wonderful week of learning and adventure!

On Tuesday, we went on a fantastic trip to Norwich Castle. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the castle and they were fascinated by the various Roman and Ancient Egyptian artefacts. One of the highlights was the magical creature's workshop, where they invented their own hybrid creatures – like the creative 'dogapillar' (a mix of a dog and a caterpillar)! During our visit, we spotted a knight's suit of armour. This inspired our Topic lesson on Thursday where we learnt about the life of a knight and labelled the different parts of a knight's suit of armour.



In English, we began working on writing a recount of our trip to Norwich Castle. The children have been focusing on writing in the first person and using co-ordinating (and, but, or) and time (first, next, after that) conjunctions to enhance their writing.

In Maths, we kicked off our addition and subtraction unit. The children have made a fantastic start, demonstrating a strong understanding of bonds to 10 and 100, as well as practicing writing addition and subtraction fact families and finding 1 more and 1 less from numbers up to 100.

Year 3

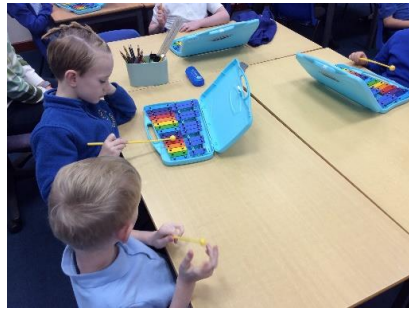
We have had another brilliant, busy week, full of learning in Year 3!

In English, we have been looking at how to write a setting description. To begin the week, we focused our learning on our five senses linked to the rainforest. We then moved on to learning skills including expanded noun phrases and figurative language such as personification and similes. We will continue to develop these skills next week ready to write some wonderful setting descriptions about the Amazon Rainforest.

In Maths, we began our next unit, addition and subtraction. This week we have learned about using our number bond knowledge to add and subtract ones, tens and hundreds. So far, the children have been very successful with this new learning.

In Topic, we learned about the importance of trade for the Roman Empire and the significant factors of settlements in Roman Britain. We learnt that Roman Britain towns had different names to our cities today - with cities such as London known as Londinium and Colchester known as Camulodunum. In addition to this, we identified that Roman settlements were located near to the sea for the purpose of transporting goods (trade).

In Music, we continued work around the song 'Let Your Spirit Fly'. This week we practised singing the song alongside playing the glockenspiel in time with the tune. We are getting very good at playing the glockenspiels now - take a look at the class in action!



In Art, we continued looking at artwork created by the French post-impressionist, Henri Rousseau. This week we explored and analysed his oil paintings in greater depth, ready to plan and produce our own paintings in the coming weeks.

Year 4

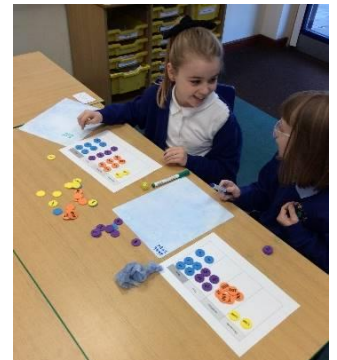
We have had another wonderful week in Year 4! We have continued to work on the expectations of being in Year 4 and we are showing just how grown up we can be by earning enough class points for a reward.

In English we have continued our work into deforestation looking at the for and against in more detail. Despite their own individual beliefs everyone has been able to explain both viewpoints. After carefully planning and sharing of ideas, they loved expressing their knowledge during a debate with a partner. We finished the week by creating posters to persuade others of our viewpoint linked to the topic.



In Maths we completed our unit on place value by looking at rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. On Friday we began our addition and subtraction unit by completing lots of number sentences using counters to support our work.

In topic the children have enjoyed linking our geography to the Roman Empire. We have learnt all about trade and begun to explore how, what, and why questions linked to the Romans and their trade!



Year 5

In maths this week we have moved on to looking at formal addition – using the method that I modelled during our recent parent café morning! I am really impressed with how quickly the children have grasped this new method...it shows that the work in year 4 helped to secure their understanding.

In English, we have just found out that the Midnight Fox has a cub...but Uncle Fred wants to go hunting for it! Our work has focussed on letter writing as we are trying to convince Uncle Fred not to kill the fox and its cub.

In Science, we have continued our work on the properties of materials by trying to keep an ice cube frozen. To do this, the children conducted an experiment by picking three materials to wrap the ice cubes in. In the pictures below, you can see ice cubes wrapped in in Clingfilm, clay and a leaf! We found out that aluminium foil was the best insulator!

In history, our focus has been on the journey from Europe to England...we used poetry to try and get a sense of how that may have felt for the families involved during Anglo Saxon times. We have also been preparing for our assembly next Wednesday at 2.30pm. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.



Year 6

It's great to be back from my paternity leave and the children have continued to work hard in all lessons this week.

Firstly, it was brilliant to see so many parents and family members today for our Year 6 Welcome Café. This began by discussing the key events throughout Year 6, information linked to Aylmerton and designing some Halloween crafts in preparation for some spooky story writing later this half term. **If you were unable to attend today, the Aylmerton kit list letter has been sent home.** Further information will hopefully be sent out via Ping by the end of next week.

In Maths, we have looked at rounding decimal numbers as well as answering a variety of questions linked to positive and negative numbers.

For Literacy, the children completed a series of grammar activities and finished their non-chronological reports based on the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We also began writing an informal letter to a friend to explain what life is like in Afghanistan – to tie in with our class book 'Boy Overboard'.

During Science lessons, we learnt about the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases, and explained the properties of each. In Topic, we learnt more about the life of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings before researching Viking Longships.



Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception and Year 6
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:
Year 1 who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 3 who had **31 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 | Azlan, Mia, Aria |
| Year 1 | Isla B, Enid, George |
| Year 2 | Ada, Charlotte, Jamie |
| Year 3 | Leo, Harriet, Emily |
| Year 4 | Teddy, Jayden, Charlie |
| Year 5 | Amelie, |
| Year 6 | Harrison, Mya, Freddie |

Have a lovely weekend!

Best Wishes

Chris Ashman