

# Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024

It has been a productive first week back in school. The children have come back full of enthusiasm to learn. I have very much enjoyed spending time in all the classes this week watching super learning and teaching. It has also been good to see so many children involved with clubs. The two football clubs I have taken this week have been great fun. Although, I can't believe how quickly it is getting dark!

We have also had an exciting Anglo-Saxon Day in Year 5 and 6. Mr Cavender does love a dress up day! Thanks again to Shane and Abi for cooking a fantastic Anglo-Saxon stew for the children.



## Staffing Update

After Christmas there will be a change in the Year 1 staffing team. Unfortunately, we are losing Miss Magee, who is starting a new job in January. I am pleased to say that Mrs Cavender will be taking over Miss Magee's role and will be working as the job share with Mrs Pallant for the rest of the school year. As you will know Mrs Cavender works in the school already and will spend time getting to know the class this term before taking on the teaching role in January.

**Year 6 Aylmerton Residential** – Year 6 are gearing up for their week at Aylmerton starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. A huge thank you to Mr Edwards, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Roe, Mrs Culling and Mr Cavender, who are taking time away from their families to take the class to Aylmerton. It is really appreciated!



## Pantomime Visit

On Tuesday we have a visit from M&M Productions (Oh yes, we do!). Their theatre group will be performing Cinderella for the whole school on Tuesday afternoon.

**Governor Day** – On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> it is our annual governor day when the school governors come in to spend a day in the school. They spend time in the classrooms, see the children at work and chat to the children to get their views at different points of the day.

## Remembrance Day Poppies

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal in the school. Everything, except for paper poppies and the adult badges had been bought by Thursday lunchtime. If you would like a pin badge you can still get one from the office.



**Children in Need** – Next Friday is our non-school uniform fundraiser for Children in Need. We will also have our usual races at lunchtime which cost 20p to enter.

**Class Assemblies** – On Wednesday Year 4 shared their learning so far this year with their families. The children scripted the assembly all by themselves and then with the help of Miss Farrow and Mrs Goddard put all their ideas together in just 2 days! Well done Year 4 and the class team. Our assemblies carry on over the next 3 weeks. All assemblies start at 2:45pm. Parents should arrive by 2:40pm.

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Reception
- **DATE CHANGE** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6

Please note the Year 6 assembly has moved back a day from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

### Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

This week, I've magpied my newsletter entry from an email I received from Dr Chatterjee!



Do you have a pile of books you're keen to read but never seem to find the time? A survey by the charity The Reading Agency found only half of UK adults pick up a book regularly for pleasure these days. And an Oxford English professor recently complained that his students lack the attention spans they need to keep up with the required reading.

It's easy to blame our busy lives, yet we somehow find the time to scroll on our phones or binge streaming services. And of course these technologies are designed to be compulsive! So if you long for the days when a good page-turner would keep you as hooked as social media, you might find this article interesting:

<https://shorturl.at/qV6pe>

It has some useful tips on how to get back into a reading habit – and why it's good for your brain if you do.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson ([ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk](mailto:ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk) or 01603 720098)



### Elections are upon us!

School Council and Eco Committee elections will be taking place in class next week. If your child would like to apply for either School Council or the Eco Committee there will be an opportunity next week, in class, for them to tell their class mates why they would be a perfect candidate for one, or both, of the positions. Therefore it would be brilliant if they could have a think about (and jot down) some of the reasons why they would like to be on the School Council or Eco Committee ready to present the class.



Any questions please speak to either Mrs Goddard (School Council leader) or Mrs Cavender (Eco Committee leader).

### DIARY DATES

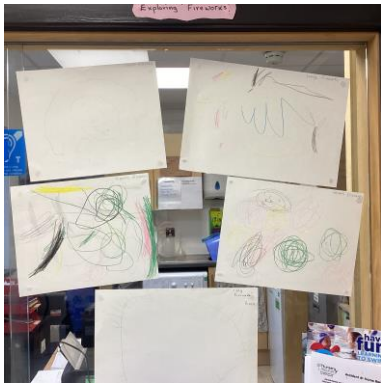
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November Armistice Assembly at 10:45am
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November Norwich City Football League Tournament – Year 6
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November Visiting Pantomime Performance of Cinderella
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November Cluster Cross Country at Coltishall
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November Governor Day
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November Children in Need – Non-school uniform fundraiser
- Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Year 6 to Aylmerton





## Bombers

Hello from all at 'Bombers'. This week the children have been talking about fireworks and looking at colours, patterns and sounds. Comments from the children included, "boo, boo, boom, bang and they go pop". They have had great fun drawing and making firework pictures in craft. They have explored mixing colours and thinking about staying safe and looking after our pets on firework night. We have also focused on lots of turn taking activities, learning to wait their turn and share resources with their friends. Many of the children now automatically fetch the sand timers we use to help with the visual clues for waiting a turn.



Next Monday we will be talking about Remembrance Day, making Poppy pictures and we are hoping that most will join us in the 2-minute silence (fingers crossed). We will be having a Pyjama Day too on Friday for Children In Need. Our focus areas of development next week are Physical Development with lots of mark making opportunities and Knowledge / Understanding of the world. Looking at celebrations and our families.

## Reception

We have really enjoyed welcoming the children back to reception class this week! They have settled very well – we had a few tired faces this morning but every single child has had a great time with lots of enthusiasm, hard work and play.

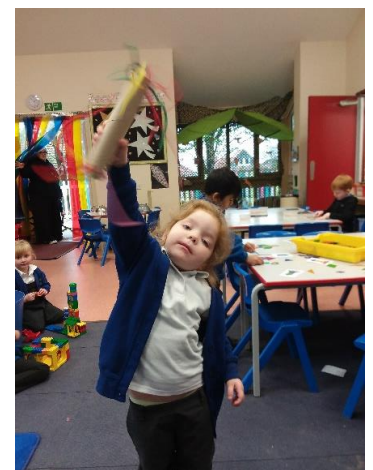
Our focus has been fireworks and fire safety. We have explored lots of creative skills with firework pictures, using a variety of different media, and we all worked very hard to use our phonic knowledge to write firework poems in which we described how fireworks move, look and sound.

It was great to spend a little more time with our Year 6 buddies on Thursday afternoon – they came to our class and played with us, listened to what we had been learning and helped us to explore in our outside area.

We really enjoyed music again today – we sang a song called "I'm a Firefighter!" and all enjoyed playing an un-tuned percussion instrument along with the rhythm – we counted 4 beats in each bar. We used tambourines, hand bells, triangles and shakers. We did a super job!

In phonics we have learned the red words: be, she, do. Our new sounds are: j, v, y and w. In maths we have explored the concept of 1, 2 or sometimes 3 **more**.

Next week, we are looking forward to participating in World Nursery Rhyme Week!



## Year 1

We have had a great first week back after half term in Year 1. On Monday morning, we arrived to find something strange in our outside area - we later discovered it was a spaceship that had crashed! We started reading the book Beegu about an alien who crash landed on Earth. We wondered whether it was the same spaceship that crashed outside Year 1. We acted out how Beegu might be feeling and wrote speech bubbles for her thoughts.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'oi' (spoil the boy) and compared it to 'oy' (toy for a boy).

In Maths, we continued with our work on subtraction that we started before half term. This week, we used number lines to help us 'hop' backwards. We solved problems using subtraction and recapped the terms 'subtraction', 'minus' and 'take away'.

We started the Science unit on materials in our Kingdoms and Conquerors topic. We looked at what materials different objects are made from. We then thought about why different materials are used because of their properties.



## Year 2

What a fantastic start to the new half term! The children have quickly settled back into their routines and have worked incredibly hard all week.

In Maths, we revisited adding two two-digit numbers. Then we progressed to adding two two-digit numbers with an exchange – learning to swap 10 ones for one ten when we have 10 or more ones. Later in the week, we practiced subtracting two two-digit numbers, and by the end of the week we tackled subtractions where we had to exchange a ten for ten ones. Although challenging at first, the children have shown resilience and are growing in confidence with these skills.

In English, we finished our book 'How to Find Gold'. The children wrote notes to Anna and Crocodile, sharing their ideas about what they should do with the gold they found. Some suggested donating it to charity to help animals and hospitals, others recommended sharing with family, a few thought they should keep it all to themselves, and one child even thought Anna and Crocodile should spend it all on ketchup!

In Topic, we explored Bonfire Night and why it is celebrated. The children wrote sentences and drew pictures about their family Bonfire Night traditions. We also discussed ways to stay safe while celebrating.

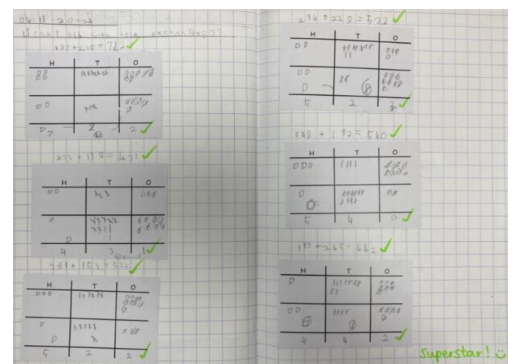
We have also been busy preparing for our class assembly next Thursday and we can't wait to show you everything we have been learning in Year 2!

## Year 3

It has been a busy first week back at school.

In Maths, we have continued learning around adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers with 2 exchanges. This is not an easy concept to understand, however the children have worked super hard and have been very successful. Take a look at this wonderful example:

In English, we have focused on grammatical skills. At the beginning of the week, we focused on the correct use of nouns, proper nouns and corresponding pronouns. In addition to this, the children have learnt about vowel and consonant letters alongside building their knowledge of when to use 'a' and 'an' before a word. Finally, to end the week, we learnt about the use of apostrophes for possession and to show contractions.



In Topic, we have been learning about the Romans. This week the children designed and created their own mosaic using foam squares as tesserae. Furthermore, children also learnt about Roman leisure activities including Roman bathhouses. In this week's Zones of Regulation, we looked at how our expected and unexpected behaviours can impact the emotions and behaviour of those around us.

## Year 4

Welcome back after half term Year 4! You have come back ready and determined to learn - we have had another great week together.

This week has been very busy. The children spent the first few days recapping learning from last half term as they worked towards their class assembly. As a class they decided which elements of our learning they would like to tell you about. Despite a few nerves everyone stood up to say their lines with confidence!

In maths we finished off looking at addition and subtraction. Initially we had to refresh our brains on how to approach numbers with exchanging but once we started everyone grew in confidence again. Later in the week we started looking at area, we began with a quick refresh of 2D shapes before moving on to using squares to work out the area.

We have continued looking at the Wild Robot and have been speeding through the chapters so that we know the story ahead of our cinema trip next week! The children are all very excited for this. We are asking for payments to be completed as soon as possible, unfortunately if not enough payments are received, we may have to cancel the trip.

Homework sheets will be sent home next week. In the meantime please continue to practice reading at home.

## Year 5

What a fantastic start to the new half term... Anglo Saxon day!

I wish I could put all of the pictures on here as we had such an amazing day. The children all looked brilliant and the food from the Kitchen was phenomenal! As part of the day, the children were given positions in society – so we had Kings, Queens, Thanes, Knights, Monks, Peasants, Slaves and Freeman. This helped us to better understand Anglo Saxon Society. We made clay coins, cardboard shields and even door signs using Anglo Saxon runes! As you can see from the photographs, we had a lot of fun.

In English, we are writing balanced arguments about chocolate and our focus this week has been on modal verbs and subordinate clauses.

In maths, our work has been on multiplication using partitioning for quick maths. So,  $34 \times 5$  we have worked out  $30 \times 5$  (150) and  $4 \times 5$  (20) and added these together to get 170.

The majority of our topic work has been finalising our 8 billion idea projects by preparing PowerPoints, scripts and even jingles. We will use these on Monday as the children will be presenting them to two members of the Lions who will vote on their favourite idea to be sent to the national final!



## Year 6

It's been a fantastic first week back and this is largely down to the effort that the children have been putting into lessons as well as our Anglo-Saxon and Viking day on Wednesday! During this, we divided our classroom into the five main kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon Britain: Northumbria, Mercia, Wessex, Kent and East Anglia. The children then chose their title / rank from a hat. These ranged from a King / War Chief to a Serf. We made shields – which were then painted, followed by coins from clay. There was also enough time to write a secret message (using Anglo-Saxon runes) dedicated to their kingdom. These had to include their kingdom's symbol – which was decided by the King of each table group. Our feast at lunchtime included chicken stew accompanied by fresh bread and it was delicious; most children went back for seconds!

In Maths this week, we completed word problems linked to multiplication and recapped how to use short division. This led to them being teachers and having to correctly identify which questions had been answered correctly or incorrectly.



In Literacy, we found out key information about a character from our class book *Boy Overboard* before starting a new unit of work, which is report writing. This included the children identifying key features of a newspaper. The class had two French lessons and these focused on numbers and colours. As well as continuing to design their own Anglo-Saxon settlement in History, we also sketched Anglo-Saxon jewellery and this will be painted next week.



Attendance Bear  
Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had **99%** 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 **21 out of 28** and Year 3 who had **25 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	Allie, Isla, Owen
Year 1	Harry, Ava, Max
Year 2	Henry, Alexa, Ella
Year 3	Ivy, Sienna, Willow
Year 4	All of Year 6, Theodore, Charlie
Year 5	Sid, Iris, Xander
Year 6	Kayden, Millie, Isabelle

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes  
*Chris Ashman*