

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 9th January

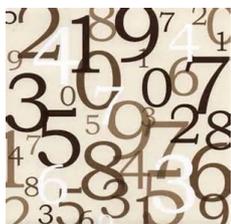
I hope you all had lovely break over Christmas and New Year. The children certainly seem to have had a lovely break from what they have been telling me. It has been so impressive to see the children slot straight back into school life over the first week.

Reading initiative – Over the next two terms we are really focusing on creating an outstanding reading environment across the school. Mrs Grogutt has already put together a more detailed letter but in short our plans include:



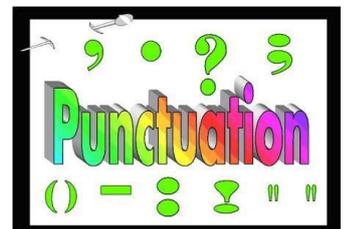
- Improving our class reading areas through investment in furniture and a competition across the school to create a themed reading area.
- Developing the library by investing in new books and furniture
- Creating an outside reading trolley to go out at break and lunch

We would also really appreciate your support in two ways. Firstly, if any of you would be able to give up an hour or two a week to be school librarians that would be fantastic and secondly, by sponsoring a book in the library. More information about this will follow soon.



Times Table and Punctuation Certificates

Two fundamental skills to achieve success at school are good time table knowledge and ability to punctuate well. To promote these key skills we have developed a series of certificates that run through the school from Reception to Year 6. Mr Cavender and Mrs Grogutt have sent out more detailed information about this and launched the certificates on Thursday in assembly.



Road Safety and Cycling

Over the course of the next two terms our children will be taking part in different road safety and cycling activities.

In January the Year 4 and 5 children are learning about the importance of seatbelts and the Year 6 children are doing a workshop about safe independent travel in preparation for high school.

Later in the year Year 1 and 2 will be taking part in 'safety near the road' workshops in March. In April Year 4 will be taking part in cycling training on the playground, while in June Year 6 will have the opportunity to complete on-road cycling training. All sessions will be carried out by qualified instructors supported by school staff. More



information is available in the information leaflets produced by Norfolk County Council which also include a consent slip. These will be sent home in due course.



Horstead Residential – Year 4 will be visiting first From Wednesday 28th to Friday 30th January accompanied by Miss Maibaum, Mrs Diaper, Mrs Pilbrow and Mr Ashman. Year 3 go the week after from Wednesday 4th February until Friday 6th with Mrs Grogutt, Mrs Howes, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Goddard.

There is a meeting for parents and children about the residential on Thursday January 15th starting at 2.30pm. The meeting will be led by Josie from the Horstead Centre which will give you all the information you need and the opportunity to ask questions.

Literacy Café Dates for this Term – These will take place as follows:

Tuesday 20th January	Year 4
Wednesday 21st January	Year 1
Thursday 22nd January	Reception
Friday 23rd January	Year 5
Tuesday 27th January	Year 3
Wednesday 28th January	Year 2
Friday 30th January	Year 6

SATS Briefing for Year 6 – Year 6 parents should have received a letter during the week about the SATS briefing taking place on Monday 26th January. During the meeting Mr Edwards and I will explain: What the SATS are? How the children are tested? And how you can help at home? We will also talk about how the week works and the post SATS treats planned. We will deliver the same presentation twice, once at 2.00pm and again at 6.00pm. The session should really benefit you and your child and we very much hope you will all be able to attend.

Squash Club

There are still places left for children in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 who would like to try squash on a Wednesday after school. The cost is £18 for 6 sessions. Spare copies of the original letter, which goes into more detail about the club are available from the office. My apologies to those hoping to start squash last Wednesday, especially as the letter did not make it clear enough that the club would not run unless numbers were high enough. Unfortunately as it is a club run by outside staff that costs money it won't run if there aren't enough children to meet their expectations.



Start Active Taster Sessions

Taster sessions start next week on Monday. The sessions run from 8.00am until 8.40am every day. Any children who are keen should arrive at school at 8.00. If there is enough interest these sessions will carry on from Monday 19th January. Currently numbers do not suggest this will be the case. Again spare copies of the original letter, which goes into more detail, are available from the office.



School Clubs – Football, netball, multi-sports and choir after school clubs will run as last term and start again next week. Cross Country also starts next Friday morning. Film Club this term is for Key Stage 1 and starts on Tuesday 13th January after school – sign up at the office. There will also be a Recycled Art Club on Tuesday lunchtimes and a Knitting Club on a Wednesday lunchtime both for Year 6 only.



Clubs led by Outside Providers

As a school we think it is very important to give our children lots of extra-curricular opportunities. As such we have worked with Slanted Dance and Premier Sports for quite a while and have developed links with Young Filmmakers Club. Currently we are trying to build a link with Broadland Squash Club.

We think this a very valuable part of the children's experience. However, we do rely on their administration of registers and dates and sometimes we find ourselves chasing the same information you are looking for. In addition as these groups are all commercial organisations they will not run clubs unless they are financially viable for them. I appreciate this can be disappointing but it is the risk we take as we aim to provide a wide range of exciting opportunities before and after school.

FORS NEWS

100 Club - We still have around 15 spaces in our 100 club so make sure you enter by Wednesday to be in with a chance of winning. Extra forms are available from the office.

New Year's Eve - Thank you to everyone who joined us for this. A great time was had by all and we raised another £98 for school funds!

We will be making decisions on how best to spend the money we raised recently and will be looking for input from both parents and children.

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

	STAR	ANGEL	DIAMOND
Reception	Charlotte Ritchie	Sebastian Jenkins	Alex Dove
Year 1	Mia Jenkinson	Jake Green	Connie Snowden
Year 2	Alfie Hughes	Olivia Ardagh-Ptolemy	Rory Watts
Year 3	Luke Royston	Matthew Dove	Dylan Cullum
Year 4	Aston Culling	Ruby Culling	Macy Wickham
Year 5	Ethan Mann	Gemma Smith	Lottie Allison
Year 6	Freya Grime	Lydia Rivett	Tili Cutting

Chris Ashman