

# Rackheath Primary School

## Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> September 2013

We are now fully into the swing of a new year. It has been great to see all the children settle so well into their new classes. Our Reception Children have been amazing – taking everything in their stride as if they have been with us for years!

**Mrs Paul** - It seems strange that Mrs Paul is no longer at Rackheath. I know she really appreciated your kind words and generous gifts at the end of last term. She wanted to thank you herself:

*"The Rackheath School Community gave me what I can only describe as a 'Spectacular' last day in school! Your generosity not only means that I can indulge myself in trips to garden centres and theatres but most importantly you will be supporting children in other places to learn. I will keep you informed ASAP how the money is to be used. What wonderful messages I received from you, thank you! My very best wishes to you all!"*

**Rackheath Website** – Over the summer our website has been developed in a way which has made it easier to update the site. The about us, children and parent's sections have been re-written. The school diary can be accessed by clicking on the school calendar on the home page. There are also photos from Passport Day and Sports Day which can be found by clicking on the children tab and then our photos. We will create new photo albums throughout the year.

We are also planning to have class pages where photos and class news will be uploaded specific to that class. I would like to say a big thank you to Governors Ben Orme and Emma Watts for all their work on the website.



**School Lunches** – Like all schools in the country free school meals for Reception, Year 1 and 2 came in on Thursday. It has been lovely to see so many children enjoying a healthy, hot school dinner. We have had over 100 children having a hot dinner every day. The EATS staff have done a great job catering for so many children as have the MSA team who have been extra busy getting the dining room ready and helping the children during their meal. Once the new year and routines are in place we will have another Parent's Lunch Month during which parents can come in to try a school dinner with their children.

**Parent Meetings** – It has been great to see so many of you attending parent's meetings this week. We hope they have been informative. We really value the strong partnership between home and school and appreciate the difference that makes to the children's attainment and progress.

**Clubs** – Clubs run by school staff start on Monday. There are lots of clubs and a great many of our children are involved. It is great that we have such a vibrant extra-curricular provision. Thanks are due to all staff who give up their time to run clubs! We are always on the look out for new clubs and should any of you have some ideas or could possibly run or help with a club that would be fantastic.

**Literacy cafes** – Our first literacy café dates for the year are listed below. They all run from 9.00am until 10.00am and we invite you to have a cup of tea or coffee beforehand in the DT room.

<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 4</b>
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 2</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Reception</b>
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 5</b>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Year 1</b>



### **Schools Football Fantasy League is Back!!**

Do you think you have what it takes to be a top football manager and beat Mr Edwards, last year's winner? Can you pick a team that will score more points than your friends or teacher's team? If so you should register a team on the School Fantasy League website ([www.schoolsfl.com](http://www.schoolsfl.com)) this is a free resource which is really fun to use. Once you are on the site it should not take too long to register, name and pick your team. Then you can join the Rackheath Primary School League using the pin number 5955220. It is open to everyone in the community so children, parents, governors and staff can all pick a team.

The basic idea is that every manager has £110 million to spend to pick a team of 11 players. You can pick up to 3 players from one club. Through the season you can make substitutions and throughout the season managers can win certificates and other prizes depending on how well you are doing. It is good for developing literacy and numeracy skills too. Teams need to be registered by Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> to start scoring points in the first week. Last year we had 40 teams it would be great if we could have even more this year.

**School Uniform** – The children have come back to school looking very smart in their uniform. At the moment the field is dry but it is still a good idea to have trainers and to change out of school shoes especially if they are playing football. We appreciate that school shoes can break or become too small, please let us know with a quick note if your child doesn't have school shoes for a few days.



**PE Kit** - It is really helpful if children can bring their PE kit into school on Monday, keep it in all through the week and then take it home on Friday. As the weather gets colder children who are outside for PE should bring a tracksuit.

**Ear-rings** - In the interests of safety any ear-rings that the children wear should be small stud like ear-rings rather than hoops. Children should not wear ear-rings on a PE day if they can't take them out themselves. Where children can't take out ear-rings staff will make a judgement through their risk assessment of an activity whether a young person should participate or not in some or all of the session. Staff will not tape over ear-rings. Broadland High School have stated that if children are to swim they have to take their ear-rings out, this is a county guideline.

### **School Council and Eco Committee**

**Elections** - School Council elections will take place on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. The School Council meets every two weeks with me. We organise events to raise money for our chosen charity, organise the annual talent show and hold a Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning. Be the voice for your class and discuss and try to resolve any issues which arise in school and are brought to the School Council's attention. If you like to help, have good ideas and want the best for your school and everybody in it then we need you!!

Eco Committee meets every two weeks to discuss issues to do with our environment, our school surroundings and how we can reduce our carbon footprint in our school and community.

If you would like to put yourself up for election you will need to have a short speech prepared ready to read in your class. Your speech may tell me what sort of person you are e.g. organised, helpful, keen, any qualities you will bring and why you want to join. Good luck and I look forward to seeing you on our committees.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning** – School Council would like to invite all parents, carers, friends and family to their Annual Coffee Morning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 8.45am to 10.00am.

Come along for coffee, cake, biscuits and a chat to help us raise money for this worthy charity which seems to affect us all in one way or another.

We will be holding our Grand Raffle as well for which donations are required. There is a box in reception if anyone would like to donate a prize.

Mrs Goddard



**Drinks During School Time** - It is great to see lots of children with water bottles in school. Lots of studies show that drinks of water help concentration and learning. It is school policy that children should only drink water during the school day except at lunchtimes. At lunchtimes children with a packed lunch can drink a carton of juice or similar. Glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

**Parent Readers** –Last year some parents volunteered to come in to school to help in the classroom perhaps by hearing readers. Thank you to all those who volunteered. If you did, and are still able to help out, or would like to start please could you let Mrs Roe or Mrs Pilbrow in the office know.



**Kingwood Residential** – Mrs Grogutt will be leading a meeting for parents about the residential on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm. At the meeting we will give you more information about the staffing arrangements, daily activities and the site. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions.

**Horstead Residential – A letter will be sent home soon about the Year 3 and 4 residential at Horstead with information including the cost of the trip.**



**Year 5 and 6 walking home by themselves** - Some of our older children have been walking home by themselves. We are happy for this to continue. However, if you would like your child to walk home by themselves please could you let the office know in writing that this is the case. As we head into autumn and the days shorten it is important that both home and school talk to children about heading straight home and being safe as it gets dark. Thanks for your support.

**Before School** – On a similar theme we would ask that children in year 5 and 6 who walk in to school by themselves do not arrive until 8.40am as they are not supervised until then. Children coming in with adults can arrive at school from 8.30am onwards.



**Finally.....**Both as a school team and as an individual it is lovely to hear so many positive comments about the work we do. Equally I am aware that there are times when things do not go as well as we would like or a decision is made that you may not fully agree with. We do always try to make decisions based on what is best for the children whilst taking account of government guidelines and legislation. As always I am more than happy to meet and talk through any concerns you may have and explain the context in which a decision is taken.

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

	<b>STAR</b>	<b>ANGEL</b>	<b>DIAMOND</b>
Year 1	Charlie Atkinson	Chloe St Hill	Lewis Mann
Year 2	Caedn Huckle	Lily Stone	Rory Watts
Year 3	Jamie Barrett	Mackenzie Ettridge	Luke Royston
Year 4	Kieron Trorey	Hannah Peel	Aston Culling
Year 5	Ryan Daynes	Ethan Cullum	Madeleine Jenkins
Year 6	Aaleyah Ramm	Carter Daniels	Lucy Cowey

Have a lovely weekend

*Chris Ashman*