

Rackheath Primary School



Newsletter

Friday 18th March 2016

I don't want to speak too soon but it seems that this week Spring has finally sprung! It has hardly rained, we have seen blue skies on more than one occasion, the daffodils are in full bloom and to the children's delight we can use the field at break and lunch!

This week has been another busy one. As you will see below the children have enjoyed taking part in some fantastic science activities this week. As usual everyone connected to the school has fully embraced the week and as a consequence the children have enjoyed some great learning experiences. A special thank you goes to Mrs Pulford who organised the week, which is no small feat.

Next week the Carnival comes to Year 5 as the class take part in their special Brazilian Themed Day. On Thursday we have our Celebration Assembly and Talent Show to round off the term on Thursday afternoon. Again, special thanks go to the School Council and Mrs Goddard for organising the event and supervising practice sessions.

SCIENCE Week 2016 at Rackheath Primary School!

Wow! what an exciting science week we have had! Not only have all the classes been doing some very hands-on experiments and investigations with their class teachers, we also worked with a geneticist, Dr Mandy Hartley, from The Little Story Telling Company.

The week began with a whole school assembly led by Dr Hartley and it showed us that science can be a career for everybody; from those who love P.E. to those who love Literacy – not just people who love science. We found out that careers in DNA are very diverse because once you know how to extract DNA, it's the same technique for humans and animals. Moreover, Dr Hartley showed us that a career in science can take you on some very exciting expeditions all over the world.

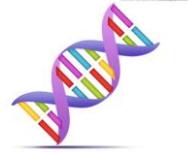
We then went back to our classes and, throughout the week, enjoyed lots of fun experiments and research, such as, (to name but a few!):

- **Designing, constructing and testing a variety of string telephones in Reception Class.**
- **Experimenting with light to create silhouettes in Year 1.**
- **Finding out about the primatologist, Jane Goodhall, in Year 2.**



- Exploring water resistance through art in Year 3.
- Experimenting with acid and alkali potion making in Year 4.
- Investigating exploding rockets in Year 5.
- Designing, constructing and testing space pods in Year 6.

We were also all lucky enough to have Dr Hartley join us in our classrooms for workshops for two of the days. Years R, 1, 2, and 3 made DNA helices from sweets! Years 4 and 6 extracted DNA from kiwi fruit and Y5 become forensic scientists and solved a crime!



Dr Hartley viewed the children and our school very favourably, emailing Mr Ashman, she said:



"Your staff and pupils have been a joy to work with. As I think I mentioned to you there is a real sense of calm when you walk into the class rooms. I have been really impressed with the answers the children have given me this week. Especially when they were thinking about what things would be in the instructions to make a human! The children who carried out the DNA extraction worked very professionally and behaved like real scientists - which I shared with them and they seemed very pleased."

Here are some of the comments from the children about the week:



- *"I felt like a real scientist – we wore the correct clothes and used the special equipment!"*
- *"I want to be a scientist now! I want to do DNA and work with people and animals."*
- *"I loved making the potions – the bubbles were big and went everywhere!"*
- *"I saw the paint and shaving foam go swirly. They mixed and made a new colour."*
- *"Even when the test went wrong, we kept trying other things to make it work. Eventually it did!"*
- *"I LOVE science! It's the best because you get to use cool stuff and find out new things."*



It was an almost impossible task to judge the Best Science Costume competition. The children looked fantastic so a very big thank you to all the families who had to get creative and crafty along with their children.

In the end, we awarded certificates of commendation for a number of children across the school and finally decided on two winners from the upper and lower school, well done to:

Reception	Olivia Read, Theo Hallam, Kody Addison
Y1	Hattie Smith
2	Brooke Halsey, Bethany Dampier, Charlie Atkinson
3	Louie Bond, Lola Wickham
4	Niamh Harris
5	Georgie Greenfield, Annabel Horan, Ruby Culling, Stanley Bond.
6	Gemma Smith
Staff winners were: Mrs 'The Car' Penson and Mr 'Hulk' Cavender – Well done!	



Overall Prize Winners:
Lower School: Hattie Smith
Upper School: Stanley Bond



Congratulations!!

Orchestra

It has been great to see how our music provision has developed over the year, which is why the latest music innovation is so exciting. After Easter Mrs Brown, our guitar teacher, is starting a school orchestra for all children from Year 3 and up who can play at least 4 notes on an instrument.



Norfolk Book Centre Visit – On Tuesday we were visited by Norfolk Children's Book Centre. They led some lovely activities linked to books, with the children, and held a book fair at the end of the day.



Football Report v Holt Cup Quarter Final

The school football team continued on their merry way with another excellent win; this time winning 6-1 against Holt Primary School. A super team performance was topped off with goals from Alfie Mann (4), Dylan Parnell and Finley Betts.

Sport Update - By the time you read this we will know how well our mixed team have got on in Champion's Day run by Norwich City CSF. However, they did today the boys and girls have already done extremely well to get through to Champion's Day as one of the strongest 12 schools in the County. On Tuesday the football team play in another cup quarter final against Millfield.



In a busy few weeks for sport we also have the school netball team playing in the Cluster Netball Cup on Wednesday. After half term Year 4 are taking part in a Tag Rugby competition on Wednesday April 13th, the girl's football team are playing in the Spring

Cup on Thursday April 14th and the Year 5 football team are playing in their re-arranged tournament at Stalham on Thursday 21st April.

Thank you for joining in to raise money for this very worthy cause. We will let you know what we raised next week.



School Library is open tomorrow from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Come and join us. There will also be tea, coffee, squash and cake to enjoy!

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Easter Hunt - On Wednesday 23rd there will be an Easter Hunt after school in the playground. Cost is 50p and the children will receive an Easter chocolate on completion. Siblings are welcome to join in.



House Captain's Award



Ranworth Holly Addison **Hickling** Lennon Baker

Oulton Bethany Dampier **Barton** Lily Key



Lunchtime MSA Award – This week's award goes to Joe Turner and Isabella Crowther.



Well done to Year 5 who had 98% attendance and were visited by Attendance Bear!

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

	STAR	ANGEL	DIAMOND
Reception	Joseph Tandy	Theo Hallam	Holly Addison
Year 1	Ben Crook	Evie Cleminson	Hattie Smith
Year 2	Mia Jenkinson	Lucy Eglan	Jake Green
Year 3	Rebecca Burrows	Jamie Tye	Bethan Lancaster
Year 4	Harry Brown	Maddie Woodcock	Mia Westley
Year 5	Cian McAulay	Marcus Gardner	Leon Cramer-McConnell
Year 6	Joshua Perrins	Freddie Smith	Lottie Allison

Chris Ashman