

Rackheath Primary School

Merry Christmas Newsletter

Tuesday 19th December 2017

The children at Rackheath are all Super Stars! It has been a really busy and exciting term. Over the last few weeks the children's thoughts have been turning to Christmas, some have been feeling tired, others have been shaking off bugs, coughs and colds and yet they remain enthusiastic, keen to learn, motivated and impeccably behaved. It is a real privilege to come to school and work with them every day.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the staff who I know are also feeling excited about Christmas as well as tired! They work really hard every day to make sure our school is a happy place where learning is fun and children make good progress. I hope you agree that the children at Rackheath enjoy lots of rich opportunities and memorable experiences during a term. This is only possible because all the staff work as a team and are so caring, positive, enthusiastic and hard working.



Christmas Performances

I was lucky enough to spend quite a bit of last week watching the Reception and Year 1 and 2 performances. All the performances were fantastic and very entertaining. All the children sang, danced and acted superbly – even the unscripted bits added to the entertainment! They all had a lovely time and I know the audience loved the performances too.



Ashfield Visit – On Friday 8th December Year 6 hosted a special Christmas party for some of the residents of Ashfield's Care Home. Our visitors had a lovely time talking to the Year 6 children, enjoying afternoon tea and listening to the school choir and guitar group. All the year 6 children were perfect hosts – they were kind, thoughtful, listened well and gave our visitors a lovely afternoon.



KS2 Christmas Carols

On Thursday we had our first outdoor carol service. The children sang beautifully and it was a lovely evening. Thanks to everyone who provided food and drink and to those who helped out on the night.

Music Concert – On Friday Rockheath got together with all of our classes learning the ukulele for a Christmas Concert to provide a perfect end to our festive week of performances. The audience were treated to some festive classics. It was lovely to see how much our children are enjoying learning to play an instrument. The progress they have made is phenomenal. I would like to pass on a big thank you to all those who performed and to Mrs Brown and Mr Hodson for being such super teachers.



Christmas Dinner - The children and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner on Friday cooked by our fantastic chefs from EATS Shane and Abbie. There was a festive atmosphere in the hall as the staff took it in turns to serve the children. All told 200 children and staff enjoyed a high quality lunch. We are very fortunate to have super cooks who regularly cook lovely meals from scratch for well over 100. Quite an achievement!

Attendance Assembly

Today we presented all the children who have managed to achieve 100% attendance with a certificate. Altogether there were 71 children. Well done to all the children who got their certificate.

Celebration names – A big well done to all the children who received their special certificate and badge in our Celebration Assembly today. You have all been brilliant role models this term.

Reception	Libby Buckingham	Freddie Pelan
Year 1	Jessica Clarke	Jaydn Turner-Morris
Year 2	Theo Hallam	Olivia Read
Year 3	Alex Dove	Ruby Cozens
Year 4	Lucy Eglan	Mia Jenkinson
Year 5	Will Ottaway	Abi Peel
Year 6	Sonny Hurn	Matthew Dove



Year 5 newspaper - Mr Edwards and Year 5 have been busy putting together the school newspaper over the last few weeks and it has been on sale today. The children have taken on the editorial and journalistic tasks and done a great job!

Horstead Trip – In January and February Year 3 and 4 are going to Horstead. Year 4 are going to Horstead on Wednesday 24th January with Miss Maibaum, Mrs Pilbrow, Mrs Crook, Mrs Diaper / Ms Bartlett and Mr Ashman. Year 3 are going on Wednesday 31st January with Miss Hannant, Mrs Milligan, Mrs Spurling and Mrs Rivett. There will be a meeting for parents early next year.



Cinderella – It wasn't quite the West End but Cinderella came to Rackheath this afternoon, as for the fourth time the staff put on a panto! This time the children were "treated" to acting, dancing and singing of the highest quality and the children had a super time! (Oh no they didn't! Oh yes they did! etc).

FORS NEWS

"I would like to personally thank you all for supporting all of our fundraising events so far, be it by your kind donations, helping out or even attending events and spending your money!

*In my first four months as chairperson it's been mad, crazy, stressful and fun but all worthwhile as we have raised a fantastic **£2400**. So far we have purchased some new wet play games for each class for Christmas and we are looking forward to meeting up with Mr Ashman in the new year to discuss what else we could buy for the children. Look out for fundraising events in the new year and don't forget our annual New Year's Eve party.*

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you in 2018."

Treena and the FORS Committee

New Year's Eve!! - Tickets can still be bought (right up until the night itself!) from either Michelle Roe (07799 258509) or Leisa Whayman (07780 796038). This is now our 15th year and we have many people who have been attending for several years now (if not all of them!). There is lots of fun to be had by young and old alike, so come and join us to see in the New Year.



On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing all the children again on Thursday 4th January 2018.

Have a lovely holiday!
Chris Ashman

