

# Rackheath Primary School

**TOUR OF  
BRITAIN**



## Newsletter

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015

We have all been back for 7 days now and it has been a great start to the new year. It has been lovely to see how quickly all children have settled back into school life. All the children have impressed me with their positive approach, keenness to learn and by their kind and thoughtful behaviour. A special mention must go to Year 6 for being great models at the start of the year and to our new Reception children who have amazed me by how quickly they have settled into school life and routine. It is lovely to see their smiley faces throughout the day!

As usual there has been lots of exciting things going on. Through the week we have been thinking about the Tour of Britain, each class has produced some super work linked to their stage. Today we held our very own Tour of Rackheath which proved to be a huge success. Thanks to Mrs Pulford for organising and to all the staff for embracing the idea with their usual enthusiasm. Also thank you to all of you for bringing in bikes and scooters today.

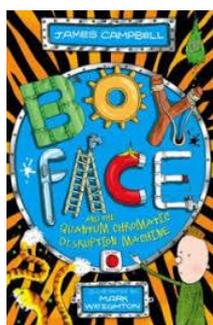
One of the ways the children have impressed me so far is in the way they have played on the **pirate ship** and **trim trail**. They have all taken their turn, thought about others and understood the reasons for a rota and stuck to it. Well done!



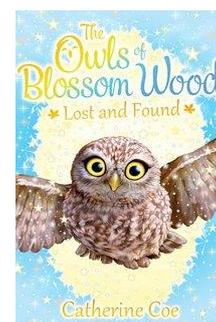
**Events Calendar** - We have put together a school calendar which has some of the key dates through the year. You should have received this today along with this letter.

## Parking

As our school grows safe parking is becoming more of a problem. I am becoming increasingly concerned about the safety of our children. We are still trying to alleviate the problem by putting in a gate leading from the church to the school but have run in to a few challenges which we need to work through before this can happen. Currently The Sole and Heel car park can be used. In the meantime please think about walking to school where possible or sharing lifts. I also appreciate the fact that the school is on a roundabout in a residential estate which does add to the difficulties faced. Please do consider the residents when you do park and ideally please park away from the school. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.



**Author visits** – Over the next 2 weeks we have 2 authors visiting the school. Next Tuesday James Campbell, author of the Boyface series of books, will be visiting school in the afternoon and working with all classes apart from Reception. The week after on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Catherine Coe, author of the Owls of Blossom Wood series will be with us during the day as will Owls from the Owl Sanctuary!



There will be opportunities for children to buy signed books if they wish at the end of both days. More details to follow.

**Midday Supervisors** – We now know that we are looking to appoint someone (or perhaps more than one person) to work Monday to Friday as one of our Midday Supervisory Team. Due to the interest already shown in the post anyone who would like to apply should collect an application from the office or ask for it to be emailed. Applications should be returned by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

## Stars In Your Eyes Celebration Board

This year we are really thinking about how we can all do our best and thinking about the importance of hard work, practice and perseverance. As part of this one of the display boards in the hall is going to become our "Stars in Your Eyes" Board. We know that a lot of you are involved in different clubs and groups outside of school and as such we are looking to celebrate achievements of children outside of the school day. Maddie Jenkins in Year 6 is going to be the first person on the board as she has just achieved her Level 8 Certificate in Gymnastics. Well done Maddie! We look forward to hearing about all your achievements and adding to the board soon.



**Literacy café dates** – Our first Literacy Café dates of the new year are listed below. These offer a great opportunity to enjoy working in class with your children. As a staff we have spoken about varying the focus of the cafes. From Spring we are starting Curiosity Cafes but you may find they start a bit earlier in some classes. All cafes start at 9.00am and finish at 10.00am and as last year you are welcome to join us for a drink beforehand in the DT room.

Year 4	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> September
Year 3	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 1	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 2	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 5	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> October
Year 6	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> October

Reception will be holding their own Learning Journey parent visit.

### Library News

It is great to see the library in use with groups of children coming to choose books regularly. Mrs Culling has kindly volunteered to help with the set-up of the library and act as a librarian. We are very thankful for her help, if anyone else would like to help out we would love to hear from you.



**School Uniform** – The children have all looked super smart at the start of the year. It is really helpful if the children could have trainers with them to change in to when using the field. Children should only wear trainers at break and lunch and should come to school in suitable black school shoes. Please also ensure children only wear small stud type earrings and that girls have their hair tied up as both are important from a safety point of view.

**Year 5 and 6 walking home alone** – We are happy to allow Year 5 and 6 children to walk home by themselves. If you wish to give permission for your child to do this please write a brief letter to Mr Cavender or Mr Edwards stating this.



**My challenge** - The votes are in and it turns out I need to learn 2 new skills. So over the course of the term I will be attempting to learn to juggle and to hula hoop, with the help of the children. Reports that I am going to be hula hooping and juggling simultaneously are an exaggeration!

**Clubs** - School clubs start next week there are still a few spaces in netball club (Year 3 to 6) Choir (year 2 to 6) and Football (Year 2 and 3). Children in football club do need to wear shin pads especially as some other children do wear football boots.

**Recycled Art Class** – Miss Holmes and Mrs Goddard will be holding their recycled arts and crafts club at lunchtimes this year. If anyone has any unwanted jeans, cord trousers, woolly jumpers, old books or placemats they could donate they would be very welcome.



**Parental Communication** – We have a new system to manage communication in the office. This allows us to email parents either collectively or in small groups. Over time this will allow us to send you more information electronically. As a result we will be sending fewer texts, using this more for any last minute changes. If you wish to receive information by email please make sure that your email addresses are included on the contact forms that were recently set out.

## School Council



**Macmillan Coffee Morning** – It's that time of year again where we can all join together to help raise money for a good cause over coffee and cake. Please come along and join us on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September from 8.45am – 9.30am in the hall. We will be holding a raffle for which tickets can be purchased on the morning. For those who can't make it you will have the opportunity to buy some tickets outside football alley on Tuesday and Thursday at 3pm

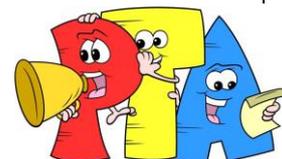
**Raffle Prizes needed!** – To make our coffee morning a success we need some raffle prizes for our grand raffle! If you have a business which would like to obtain some free advertising and gain a new customer please bring in any vouchers or prizes into the office by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Any boxes of chocolates, sweets, toys, 'smellies', bottles of bubbly, etc. would be gratefully received.



Many thanks  
Mrs Goddard and the School Council

## FORS (Friends of Rackheath Primary School)

Firstly we would like to thank all parents for their help and support over the last school year and are looking forward to welcoming any new parents that may be interested in helping out at fundraising events over the coming year. For more information on FORS please refer to the school website or ask at the school office. We will be holding an AGM over the next few weeks details of which will be sent out at a later date.



**Defibrillator Box Code** – The code for this, which is situated outside the main school gate, is 3456.



**100 Club Winners** – We will now be notifying our winners on the newsletter and will also put up a poster in the main reception area and publish on the website. This month's lucky numbers are: 1<sup>st</sup> (No 20) Helen Dove, 2<sup>nd</sup> (No 53) Helen Lancaster and 3<sup>rd</sup> (No 10) Leila Broadwater.

**Star / Angel / Diamond awards** – These will start again next week.

# Attendance Bear

Four classes shared attendance bear last week with Reception, Years 2, 3 and 6 all having 100% attendance.

This is a great start to the year. It is worth noting that from September the Government now classify attendance below 90% as persistent absence, previously this level was 85%.

Have a great weekend!

*Chris Ashman*