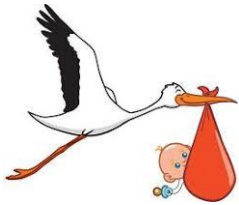


Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2020

Baby News!!



We are all very excited to share the wonderful news that Mrs Petraglia is pregnant. She will be going on maternity leave at some point in the Spring Term. We are in the process of recruiting a teacher to take on the maternity role. So far we have had lots of interest and I am confident we will be able to appoint a really good teacher to temporarily step into Mrs Petraglia's shoes. When we have more news we will let you know.



Christmas 2020



We know that this Christmas will not be like ones that have gone before. However, we are determined to make Christmas a special time as always.

One of the highlights of the year are the nativity plays so it is great that Reception are still going to be performing a nativity. This will be recorded and shared with parents. Other classes will also be sharing different Christmas activities and performances with you.

The Friends of the school are supporting our Christmas plans very generously. With their help the school will look festive and each class will be taking part in a special Christmas themed craft activity.

Wednesday 16th December will be a special day as it will be our Christmas jumper day as well as our Christmas lunch day. Then in the afternoon we will all be watching and taking part in a virtual Christmas performance arranged by Miss Hornagold.



Christmas Wreath and Table Decoration Making - We would like to say a huge thank you to FORS who have donated the equipment we need to make Christmas table decorations in Reception, Year 1 and 2, and full foliage Christmas wreaths in Years 4 and 6. Years 3 and 5 will also be completing some lovely Christmas craft activities too.

Class teachers will be sending individual letters to their classes with more information so look out for these.

For now, here are the dates each class will be doing their activities.

Reception	The week of the 14th of December
Year 1	Monday 14th December
Year 2	Tuesday 15th December
Year 4	Friday 4th December
Year 6	Friday 11th December

Explorers week (Week beginning 23rd November)

Next week each class will begin to think about Heroes who have explored the planet. Each class has chosen an explorer and all of the work they do for this week will be linked to this person. We will be researching why they are famous, where they explored and how they explored. We will focus on the Geographical and Historical elements to this.

Class	Explorer
Reception	James Cook
Year 1	Emelia Earhart
Year 2	Ernest Shackleton
Year 3	Leif Ericson
Year 4	Neil Armstrong
Year 5	Jessica Watson
Year 6	Sacagawea



Christmas Cards

We are now moving towards that time of year when we are thinking about Christmas. Some children have been asking if they will still be able to bring cards in. We have thought that the best way to do this will be to have a two week window where cards can be posted into year group post boxes. They will then be quarantined and will then be organised by staff. Post boxes will be out from Thursday 3rd December until Friday 11th December. They will then be sent home at some point during the last week of term.

After School Club – As previously mentioned, the club has started very successfully and is able to carry on through lockdown. Just a reminder that when picking up from the side entrance to the hall parents can knock on the door to gain the attention of staff but must not come into the hall itself.



There are still spaces on all 5 days if anyone needs a long term place or just needs to use the club occasionally. We would need to know no later than 2pm if anyone needed a space for that evening so staff had time to prepare and set up the hall space accordingly.

Free School Meals and Hardship Information - You will probably have seen that following Marcus Rashford's campaign the government has recently pledged to continue Free School Meal Provision to cover the Christmas holiday. We are waiting to hear the full details of how this will work. It maybe that a change in your family circumstances could make you eligible for Free School Meals. The link to follow is <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>



Just One Norfolk - We're Still Here Campaign Information - We're still here to support young people and families. Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership is reminding families not to struggle alone. Contact the Just One Norfolk support and advice line on 0300 300 0123 or log on to www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk for a range of support including emotional wellbeing, practical and mental health support and more.



Charity Fundraising

Thank you to everyone for your support over the last couple of weeks. With your help we managed to raise these amazing amounts:

Poppy Appeal - Total raised 305.20

Children In Need - Total raised £244.10.



As I'm sure many of you are aware, our school has a Governing Body which supports Mr Ashman and staff to ensure our school is the best it can be, for all the children. The Board is made up of volunteers including parents, staff and members of the wider community. We are a dedicated team of volunteers who take our role seriously and despite the very different skills, experience and personality's involved, we are all supportive of each other and take time out to make sure being a Governor is an enjoyable experience.

We meet up every half term, although at the moment all meetings are taking place over Zoom, which is great as we get to explore Mr Ashman's kitchen and Mr Edward's dog makes a very welcome appearance from time to time.

Under the current circumstances we have had to adapt as a Board and find alternative ways to carry out our commitment but we want to reassure you all, that we are still working hard to be as effective as we possibly can.

As Governors we will be making a regular appearance in the newsletter and each time one of the Governors will introduce themselves and tell you a little bit about who they are. So, this is me:

"I'm, Anne Tandy, Chair of Governors. I have two children at the school Joseph in year 5 and Alice in year 4 (where has that time gone!). I have been a member of the Governing Body since 2016. I spent my first year getting to grips with the role and the 'jargon' (I'm still not sure I know all the acronyms!) and in July 2018 I was voted in as Chair. Away from school I work as the Parish Clerk and in my spare time (the little I have) I enjoy tap dancing and walking our very excitable cockapoo, Bertie. Being a school Governor is a very rewarding experience and it's great to be part of such a fantastic school.



It would seem a good opportunity now to thank Mr Ashman and all the staff on the brilliant work that they do to ensure our children are happy and content at school. And during this very difficult time, I'm sure you will agree that EVERYONE, is doing a fantastic job. Well done!"



Reception

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This week, we continued with our phonic sounds and we have nearly learnt all of our initial sounds, as well as the first few digraphs (two letters making one sound)! The children have done so well to pick this up so quickly and we are now working hard to begin to sound out words for reading and writing.

In maths we learned all about 3D shapes and looked at real 3D shapes, such as the fact that a glue stick is a cylinder and a football is a sphere. It has been especially fun spotting different 3D shapes all around the school. We hope they will find some at home too!

We have also gone into the hall this week to start practising our Nativity play, so that we learn when to say our lines and come onto the stage for our various parts. It has been very fun to watch the play come together and we have no doubt that the final recorded version will be a lovely family keepsake for years to come.

Year 1

ping7rre@nsix.org.uk and jpallant2qre@nsix.org.uk

This week, we have continued with our work on War Heroes and looked at Florence Nightingale. We thought about the changes and improvements she made to nursing. To accompany this theme, we are enjoying reading Grandpa's Great Escape as our class book. We also found out about the Hindu festival of Diwali this week and made our own Rangoli patterns.

In Literacy, we have been retelling and writing parts of The Gingerbread Man story independently (and brilliantly!) We have been learning the split digraph 'a-e' in Phonics; we call it 'split e' when we are writing! In maths we have been naming 2D and 3D shapes – can you find any 'real life' 3D shapes at home?

Finally, the most exciting thing about this week is...we have started to learn some Christmas songs!

Year 2

hgrogutt8nrs@nsix.org.uk

Year 2 have had a fantastic week with lots of learning and fun too. We started reading the story Grandpa's Great Escape which the children are absolutely loving. Today's episode based at Scotland Yard was particularly hilarious! The children enjoyed studying and sketching spitfire and Hurricane plans in art.

We have also begun learning about the Arctic and Antarctic using the book The Emperor's Egg. The children sketched Arctic scenes on Wednesday and enjoying experimenting with the watercolour paints to create various tones of blue and grey.

In maths they have enjoyed learning number bonds to 100 through various practical activities.

The highlight of the week has probably been our Christmas singing!

Year 3

hhornagold6jr9@nsix.org.uk

We have been working incredibly hard this week in year 3, doing lots of writing and practising our spellings and handwriting. In maths, we have been learning how to use the grid method to help us solve 1-digit multiplied by 2-digit sums and towards the end of week, we had a go at some tricky worded and missing number problems, that really got our math brain's in gear! We finally finished Arthur and the Golden Rope in English and wrote some wonderful free verse poems based on Arthur's adventure. We went



outside to gather some inspiration and to find some incredibly rare items that Arthur would have to find to complete his quest.

Next week, we will testing and presenting times table certificates to all of the children that have learnt their times tables, so make sure you are practising this weekend! We are also going to be learning how to use our times table knowledge to divide on a number line and beginning to plan our own adventure stories! It's going to be super busy but great week! 😊



Year 4

hhughes65rd@nsix.org.uk

Year 4 have had another amazing week. We have produced some really wonderful instructions on how to cook for or summon a unicorn. Last week, I told the class I think they had completed their best piece of writing ever and I think they have already improved on it!

We have also really enjoyed our maths work, where we have been problem solving with lengths. Whilst in science, we made complete and incomplete circuits and learnt how to draw the electrical symbols. Don't forget about your homework task to learn the symbols for the different parts of electrical circuits, our pop quiz will be on Wednesday!

Next week, we have explorers week and we will be studying Neil Armstrong and also doing some space art. We have PE on Monday and our last session of cricket on Wednesday.

Well done Year 4, big congratulations to those of you who have earned their pen license or a times table certificate!

Year 5

deputy@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

It has been a brilliant week for us in year 5 and we've worked incredibly hard. Our writing of how a rabbit performs a 'binky' is now complete and we will be writing that up in neat to send home early next week. We have all cracked how to divide using the chunking method and we are starting to see improvements with our times table knowledge. In the afternoons we have started to look at what parts of our bodies hold super powers; so far we have looked at the heart and its ability to continuously beat and the blood, with its super power to be able to kill viruses and heal cuts. We have also been looking through our 'discussion box' and giving other children in the class advice on how to deal with issues or answer questions that have been anomalously been asked.

Year 6

sedwards2nrw@nsix.org.uk

The children in Year 6 have worked their socks off this week and have produced lots of super work. In Maths, we have continued our fractions topic, where they have been able to convert from mixed number to improper fractions and even place fractions on a number line. In Literacy, the children have completed their first newspaper report and have planned a second one - which are being typed on laptops. In afternoon lessons, we have started to learn about the importance of the heart, the various features of it and the role of blood vessels. This afternoon was very exciting because lots of children read out their brilliant House Captain speeches! Ms Holmes and I were extremely impressed by the standard of them and we know they would all do a super job. They were filmed using an iPad so other classes can view them and vote next week. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.



Well done to Year 5 for
100%
Attendance last week!

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

	STAR	ANGEL	DIAMOND
Reception	Vienna Seymour	Jack Addison-Bush	Oscar Downing
Year 1	Sidney Tyrell	Jack Nobbs	Erin Moore
Year 2	Ben Ketland	Millie-Halls Nee	Maxwell Sweatman
Year 3	Olive Champion	Tomme Watt	Josh Webb
Year 4	Oliver Durrant	Ellie Broadwater	Jayden Turner-Morris
Year 5	Ava Woodcock	Dylan Symons-D'Souza	Mr Ashman
Year 6	Rian Ainge-Sakr	Reuben Bush	Jacob Lancaster

Thank you to everyone in the community for your continued support.

Chris Ashman