

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter



Friday 27th November 2020

It has been a busy week in school as we have been enjoying our Explorers Week. There has been lots of super learning linked to the different explorers each class studied.

Spring Term Planning

Over the next 2 weeks our staff meetings are going to be focussing on planning for the Spring Term. Our whole school topic is “To infinity and beyond,” which will include work on space, travel, the solar system, countries of the world, life cycles and technological changes. It promises to be a really exciting term packed full of great learning.



As usual if you have any ideas, connections through a job or a hobby or resources that would enhance the learning please do let us know.

Our Heroes



As part of our heroes school topic we have been celebrating the heroes of the last 9 months. The Year 5 class decided that they would write to some of the heroes we have in our community. They have just started to get responses from some of the people they've written to and it is clear that they were very appreciative to receive a letter of thanks. Tesco, as well as sending a letter have very kindly sent the children a £20 voucher to spend on class treats (see photograph) and I understand we may even have made the local news last night! It's great to know that the Year 5's act of kindness has been valued and passed on.



Free School Meals over Christmas

This Christmas break we now know that those families eligible for free school meals will receive Edenred Vouchers, like the ones provided over the Summer. The vouchers can be used in supermarkets. It may be that due to changes in a families circumstances new families may be eligible for free school meals. If you think you might be eligible please follow the link below:

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>



COMMUNITY SPORTS FOUNDATION

I was very pleased and grateful to be the recipient of an award from Norwich City's Community Sports Team that was announced this week. The awards were linked to 10 years of the Premier League Primary Stars and I was fortunate enough to be picked by the team at CSF to win

a facilitator award in recognition of the school's involvement in football tournaments and other initiatives to support football in the community for girls and boys. The award reflects the effort put in by many in the school to give the children lots of opportunities to take part in football events. Hopefully we will be able to get involved in a CSF tournament again soon!



Christmas 2020



Christmas Wreath and Table Decoration Making - As mentioned previously 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 14 th of December |
| Year 1 | Monday 14 th December |
| Year 2 | Tuesday 15 th December |
| Year 4 | Friday 4 th December |
| Year 6 | Friday 11 th December |



Reception Nativity - Rehearsals are in full swing for the Reception Nativity. This year the performance is being recorded and I'm happy to say that all families in Reception will get a copy of the recording. We are very grateful to Brian Gardner who has kindly offered to film the performance.

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.





Reception

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We have thoroughly enjoyed our Explorers week and we learnt all about Captain James Cook and how he discovered the islands of New Zealand. We looked at the different landscapes of New Zealand and how it varies from sunny and warm to snowy and icy in the mountains. We then looked at some of the animals that live there and found out that there are penguins in New Zealand, as well as in Antarctica! In particular we looked at the Little Blue Penguin species and read the book 'Blue Penguin' by Petr Horacek.

We wrote notes to the Blue Penguin to reassure him that he was a real penguin (as he was worried that he wasn't) and the children also produced some lovely artwork based on the story and using chalks as a medium to create some swirling snowstorms. We also started making some lovely pompom penguins too!

Overall it was a lovely week and we decided that we are very happy that Captain Cook found such an interesting country.

Year 1

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This week Year 1 have been very excited and enthusiastic about practising their Christmas songs and words! We also started making some paper snowflakes and paper chains ready to decorate for our performance.

In Literacy and Topic we have been finding out the Explorer Amelia Earhart and why she is a hero. We have learnt that you should never give up and you always should keep trying. We liked learning that her first yellow plane was called the Canary.

We have been problem solving by adding and subtracting in Maths this week, and practising reading and writing our 'teens' numbers. We have also been trying hard with our next Times Table Target and lots of us have achieved the next target – well done for all the practising at home Year 1!

Year 2

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Year 2 have had a busy week and all of the children have worked incredibly hard. Our topic work has been about Antarctic explorers. On Tuesday we thought about what it would be like to travel to the Arctic and what we would need to take with us. Most of the children were keen to take lots of warm clothes, chocolate, photos of their family, a sledge or skis and a pick axe to cut through the snow and ice.

On Wednesday and Thursday we learnt about Ernest Shackleton who, at the age of 6 dug a hole in his garden aiming to get as far as possible, having already decided he was going to be an explorer. At 16 he joined the Navy and later led a group of willing, brave volunteers on an expedition across Antarctica. When their ship got stuck in the ice Shackleton kept his 27 men fed, entertained and safe for the next two years!

In maths we have secured our understanding of adding and subtracting multiples of 10 from any 2 digit number. The children have also enjoyed playing 2x table bingo! We have been practicing all of our sounds ready for the phonics screening test and had another fantastic cricket session with Kevin, as well as lots of Christmas singing.

Well done Year 2.

Year 3

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We have had a fantastic week in year 3 learning about the Viking explorer, Leif Ericson. On Monday, we did some work on continents and learning about the journey that Leif Ericson and his family took from Scandinavia to North America. Later on in the week, we made some Viking brooches and learnt all about Viking long ships during guided reading. In English, we have started writing our adventure stories and in maths we have been doing lots of work around division.

I have also been extremely proud of year 3 this week for how much effort they have been putting into learning their times table and as a result have handed out lots of times table certificates. Well done year 3!



Year 4

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We have had another super week in Year 4 and the children have loved learning about Neil Armstrong as part of our explorers week. We started the week by thinking about what an explorer does and if we knew any explorers already. The children were really knowledgeable and even taught me a few explorers I'd not heard of before!

We have spent our week creating news reports to present all of our facts about Neil Armstrong. I was so impressed by Year 4's attitude and determination to put together such wonderful week. It was very close but Maisie and Deanna were very deserving winners of our class vote. Well done!

Next week we will be beginning our work in multiplication in maths and be looking at planning our own suspense stories. Don't forget, it's our wreath making day next Friday and children need to bring in their bundles of evergreen trimmings on Thursday please. We have also been gifted 1 more cricket session, so children will need their cricket kits on Wednesday please.

Year 5

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I feel like I say this every week but it has been an excellent week in Year 5! In maths we have started looking at fractions, which can be a very tricky topic, but the class have been amazing! We have used bars to show different fractions and then fractions of amounts. Our main focus for the week has been linked to Jessica Watson – an Australia who circumnavigated the globe at just 16! All week we have read about her journey and we have looked at the geography around it (oceans she sailed, countries she passed). The highlight though has to be our DT/Science work linked to designing a boat using foil, paper straws, tape and glue. We then tested them in the Reception water table and judged them on how boat-like they were, how well our little Jess figure could get in and out, how well they floated and how well they withstood waves I created. We all got wet but it was great fun! Matilda was the winner, by a million miles, as she scored 40 out of 40. To top the week off, we have had some responses regarding our letters to the community and they have brought a smile to our faces!



Year 6

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This week seems to have flown by, but at the same time, it is hard to believe how much work the Year 6 children have managed to complete! In Maths, we have continued our fractions topic and the children have been able to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. In Literacy, we have studied a picture in detail and then planned a mystery story to link to it. Although the story won't be finished until early next week, I have spotted some amazing vocabulary choices, advanced use of punctuation, and sentences being shortened deliberately to add suspense! In some of the afternoon lessons, we have focussed on the life of the incredible explorer, Sacagawea - as part of Explorers Week. The children were definitely inspired by her story and in addition to some in-depth research, the children produced some artwork and even made origami boats which look amazing! Well done Year 6.

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 4 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 | Amber-Lily Snowden | Eden Allard | Max Lindsay |
| Year 1 | William Chandler | Amelia Hill | Emily Smith |
| Year 2 | Ibbie Cartwright | Maisie Finch | Jacob Viner |
| Year 3 | Lacey Bull | Trinity Beck | George Hogarth |
| Year 4 | Katy Webb | Amber Houston | Ralph Moll |
| Year 5 | Lennon Baker | Matilda Purton | Joe Barrett |
| Year 6 | Adam Houston | Olivia Bush | Josh Hill |

Chris Ashman