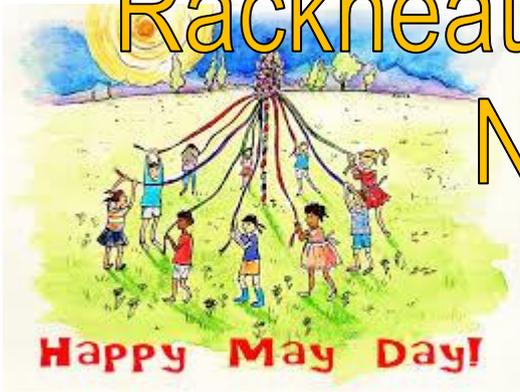


Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 30th April 2021

I have been so impressed with all the children over the last few weeks and indeed throughout the last year. They have managed all the changes we've had to bring in and despite missing out on so much that normally takes place in a school year they have remained kind, thoughtful, positive, polite, hard-working and a pleasure to be around. We are starting to look at ways we can ease the restrictions we have to have in place (you will find our first steps below) so that we can do more of the things that everyone has missed over the last year. I very much hope that we can because the children very much deserve to experience all the opportunities that we can give them.

Changes to School Routines



The first phase of easing restrictions in school will come in from Tuesday 4th May. Initial changes will just be in the classrooms where we plan for our Key Stage 2 children to have the opportunity of moving around more in terms of who they sit next to at different points in the day. Staff will also have the option to move tables out of rows and into groups. This will bring the older classes in line with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

From Tuesday Reception and Year 1 will start to eat dinner from plates rather than in their boxes and then in a few weeks they will start queueing for their lunch at the counter.

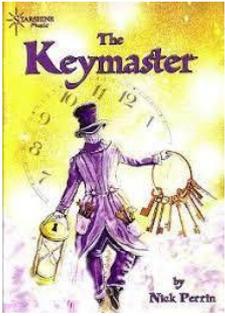
We are also looking to find ways to bring the whole school together in person, rather than virtually, which would be really lovely. We plan to start with a whole school assembly on the field. We just need to pick a good day of weather!

Sports Events Coming Up

Mrs Pallant has booked up a couple of exciting sports events which will take place in June. Each class will have a chance to take part in an Archery day and also enjoy some tennis coaching from Tennis Edge. Additionally, Kevin will be back in June with Chance to Shine Cricket which I know the children love doing.

With Euro 2020 (or is it Euro 2021) taking place in June and July we will be following the tournament closely. In a few weeks we will hold our own draw to see which countries each class will pick out to follow through the tournament.



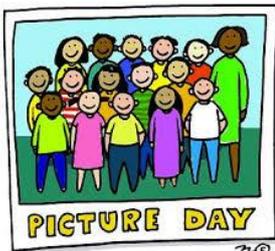


Year 6 Leavers Play - This week Year 6 have started looking at the script for this year's leaver's play. It will be lovely to be able to put on a play again this year. The performances are pencilled in to take place in the week starting 12th July. We very much hope that we will be able to invite parents in to watch but if we aren't able to we will record the performance instead. This will just be one of the exciting events we will hold for leavers. More details will follow once we have a clearer understanding of what is possible.

Trips to Horstead and Aylmerton – Year 4 will be going to Horstead on Thursday and Friday next week which is really exciting. After this Year 6 will be heading off to Aylmerton and then Year 3 to Horstead before half term. It's a shame we can't stay overnight but it remains a wonderful chance for the children to enjoy a fun packed day of activities. They certainly deserve it! I will also be going to Horstead with Year 4 along with Miss Hughes, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Howes and Mrs Crook. I can't wait!

Parent Survey 2021

Thanks to everyone who has already returned a parent survey. This year's survey is all about our response to the Coronavirus Pandemic covering the time period from March 2020 to March 2021. There is still plenty of time to complete a questionnaire and return to the box outside the school office by Friday 7th May. Thank you.



Class Photos – On Wednesday our school photographer Wendy will be coming in to take the traditional Class Photos for Reception and Year 6. As Year 1 missed out on this last year she has kindly agreed to take one for them too. Could all children come to school on this day in their full uniform!

Optional Parent - Staff Catch Up

This week we had our optional catch up meetings between parents and teachers. As I understand there were no technical issues and the meetings went well and proved useful.





Reception

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We can't believe another week has gone by in Reception class. In math's this week we have been learning all about measure. The children have been measuring using non-standard units as well as standard units. Perhaps you would like to ask your child to recall some language related to length e.g. measure, cm, distance, near, far, long, short, longer and shorter or you could use a ruler at home to measure objects together.

In Literacy this week we have been learning the 'ee' sound e.g. green, three, been, see, sleep and seen. These are our green words. Maybe you would like to encourage your child to have a try at reading or writing these.

In topic this week we have been learning all about the lifecycle of a chicken. The children have been creatively working to draw and make their own paper plate chicken, they've used playdough to create their chicken, a potato masher to paint their chicken and even used pasta to decorate it to encourage them to use their fine motor skills.

Year 1

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

Year 1 have had a busy week with plant experiments. We worked in groups to make cress heads! In each group, we gave one cress head water and sunlight, one water but no sunlight, one sunlight but no water and one no water or sunlight. We have made predictions about what will happen to each plant and will find out whether our predictions are correct next week. One of our beans in the bags on the window has started sprouting which has been very exciting. We also made 'seed bombs' with compost, water, flour and seeds.



In Literacy, we carried on with our Jack and the Beanstalk guided writing, finishing with a retelling of the story independently. We tried to include all the things we have practised in the last few weeks. We re-capped the sounds 'ou' (shout it out) and 'oi' (spoil the boy) this week.

In Maths, we have been dividing by grouping and sharing, using lots of toys and cubes to help us. We are getting really confident with counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and recalling doubles which is helping us with our dividing. Reminder: Year 1 Class photo next **Wednesday, 5th May**. Please wear school uniform that day.

Year 2

hgrogutt8nrs@nsix.org.uk

In maths we have been practising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables using YouTube songs, Hit the Button and colouring sheets. We have also been consolidating our learning of addition and subtraction particularly looking at fact families and part whole models like this where the children have had to work out different ways of making a number such as 23. In this example one number must be bigger than the other so maybe 6 and 17 in the bottom sections.

23	

In English we started the week with finding suitable adjectives to describe nouns such as bug, frog, daisy and cat. On Tuesday we thought of rhyming words for each noun and then used these to write a poem in rhyming couplets. The children were very proud of their finished poems, which are indeed wonderful.

In science the children have learnt about deciduous and evergreen trees and have made a collage flower. They have also enjoyed PE outside and worked hard at their reading. Thank you to everyone who has been hearing their child read 3 or more times a week.

Year 3

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This week seems to have flown by in year 3, probably due to how busy we have been! The class have been AMAZING at comparing and ordering fractions in maths, so much so that we have moved onto adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator. We have been using bar models to help us add and subtract and it seems to have just clicked! Next week, we will be moving onto time in maths, so if you want to get a head start, start practising telling the time at home this weekend.

In English, the children have loved retelling and performing traditional tales and have been brilliant at performing them to class. We started to plan our alternative stories to The Three Billy Goats Gruff today and will begin to write this next week. Our afternoons have been a mixture of lessons, with Mrs Song teaching us the numbers 1-10 in Mandarin on Tuesday, having a special music lesson with The Norfolk Music Hub on Wednesday and PE with Mrs Pulford on Thursday.



Year 4

hhughes65rd@nsix.org.uk

It's been another wonderful week in Year 4. The children have been working incredibly hard on some really outstanding extended pieces of writing. I know they were very proud of their diary entries and it was such a pleasure to be completing some fiction work with them. Next week, in English we will be completing some debates about the Iron Man and reading the next part of the story.

Of course, our focus for next week will obviously be our two days at Horstead on Thursday and Friday! I must admit, as a staff team we are even more excited that we normally are! Children will need to bring a full change of clothes, including socks, underwear and shoes just in case they get wet! Hot lunches will be provided but if children could bring their own snack and water bottle it would be really helpful!

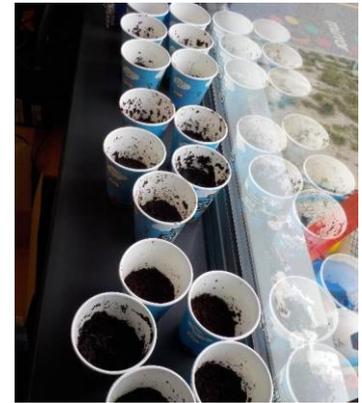
If you have any questions about anything to do with Horstead please don't hesitate to get in touch. Have a lovely long weekend, I'm hoping Mr Sun will come out to play!

Year 5

deputy@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

We have felt the highs and lows of the character from our book this week – Bradley Chalkers from 'There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom'. The more of the book we read, the more we feel for him; at one-point Joseph even shouted out in disbelief as something unexpected and annoying happened! In maths, we have continued the fractions work and we have finally started good progress with lots of the class being able to see how to turn % into decimals and fractions – Connor was a particular star!

During our topic work, we have researched countries in the middle-east and have begun to research Iraq. Lots of us were surprised to find out that the country wasn't just desert and also had an area touching the sea! We have also done a little gardening too! We've planted radishes, peas, beans, beetroot, and salad leaves – we can't wait to hopefully get to try some (fingers crossed!).



Year 6

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In Maths lessons, the children have been recapping their knowledge of angles. They then moved on to estimating, measuring and drawing angles accurately. Towards the end of the week, we looked at key vocabulary and worded problems linked to circles. The children were able to solve a range of questions linked to the radius, diameter and circumference. I was also amazed by their persuasive guided writing this week. The children were given a task to research key features of Jordan, in Asia, including – the climate, food, history of the area, and landmarks. They then had to put this information into a piece of writing to persuade people to visit Jordan. The descriptive language was amazing and I thoroughly enjoyed reading through them. In art lessons, after looking at various skylines from different cities, the children painted a silhouette of the skyline of Jordan and designed their own background. One of our geography lessons involved plotting various countries from around the world onto a map and discovering the air miles from England. The children were very excited on Wednesday afternoon as Ms Holmes and I revealed that our production this year will be The Key Master! Next week the children will decide which part(s) they would like to audition for. Well done Year 6 for all of your excellent work.

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception Class
who had
100%
Attendance last week!

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Ava Genery, Matilda Sweatman and Amber-Lily Snowden
Year 1	Freya Key, Lilah-Mae Handforth and Ayla Morgan
Year 2	Rachel Bryan, Mia Richards and Maisie Finch
Year 3	Tommee Watts, George Finch and Finlay Murley
Year 4	Natalia Lukaszewicz, Maisie Hunt and Oliver Durrant
Year 5	Ellie Trabelsi, Olivia Read and Connor Youngs
Year 6	Issey Carpenter, Jacob Curle and Alex Dove

Have a lovely long weekend and let's hope the weather is kind!

Chris Ashman