

Rackheath Primary School

JANUARY Newsletter

Friday 14th January 2022

It has been a good start to the term. The children have come back well motivated and keen to learn as we start our Epic Elements topic this term.



Governor Elections

Today the children have brought home a letter about vacancies for parents on our school governing body. It would be great to have some new parents join our governors and take on this important and rewarding role. The deadline for nominations is Thursday 27th January. Should an election need to be held this would take place the week after. If you have any questions about the role or would like to learn more about what the role entails please do talk to either myself or Darren Murley, our chair of governors.

Horstead – Next week Year 4 are off to Horstead for their residential trip. The week after it will be the turn of the Year 3 class. I am really looking forward to attending with Year 3 as it is always a lovely experience for the children. At this time of year it can be cold so it is important to wrap up warm!

A huge thank you as always to all the staff who are giving up their time to attend!

County Football Finals



On Saturday the school football team are playing in the County Finals of the School's Cup as the representative of North Norfolk. The tournament is on Saturday morning at Aylsham Football Club. The team will be playing against other schools from the 4 other regions of the county. Good luck to all the boys taking part! A full report to follow next week.

Music News

Congratulations to our guitarists Joseph and Rhys who entered the Trinity Guildhall Classical Guitar exam last November – and both passed Grade 1 with a Merit! Well done on a brilliant achievement and keeping the flag flying for Rackheath Guitars! Mrs Brown is hugely proud of you both!





Reception

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We have all enjoyed our first full week back. Well done Reception.

In Literacy this week the children have been introduced to the ay sound (two letters but it makes one sound). They have been learning to read the words say, play, day, may, spray and play. We have even tried to write our first sentence this week. Wow! We were all so impressed with you all yesterday. When you are reading with your child please could you keep pointing out capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. The children have also been introduced to the capital letters A, B and C.

In maths we have been using the words estimate, order and sequence. We have had many different table top activities to enjoy. These have included what can you build with 5, 10, 20 or even 30 blocks? Can you fill a box with a specific amount? Put playdough candles on the cakes.

In topic this week we have been learning about oceans and seas. The children have made their own jellyfish, sharks, fish, coral reef and even a hand crab. They have made under the sea puzzles, boats out of Duplo and different math's and literacy based activities.

Year 1

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We have had a fantastic, hard-working start back to Year 1 after the Christmas Holidays. We have really enjoyed getting started on our new whole-school topic, Epic Elements. So far, we have looked at local beaches and fossils, and started to learn the names and locations of the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world. We loved singing this song to help us remember them! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6DSMZ8b3LE>

In Phonics, we have learnt the new sound 'aw' (yawn at dawn) and compared it to the sound 'or' (shut the door) that we already know. We have looked at the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. The book tells us all about the world around us – and the planets. We knew some amazing facts about them! We made our own solar systems out of Lego, and used 'What a Wonderful World' by Louis Armstrong to write our own song about the wonderful things around us.

In Maths, we have been adding by counting on. We started using Empty Number Lines to help us with this. We also looked at number bonds to 10 using Ten Frames.

Year 2

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It seems hard to believe that we have been back for seven full days now. Despite many of the children having fallen victim to a chicken pox outbreak during the Christmas holidays they have come back full of beans and ready for learning.

We have begun our new topic Epic Elements by reviewing our knowledge of the countries and capital cities of the UK (much of that knowledge had been forgotten but it's coming back!) before moving on to learning about the seven continents and five oceans. The children have absolutely loved the YouTube continents and oceans songs, enjoyed using the atlases and also listened carefully to Miss Harris's words of wisdom from Oak Academy. If you have an atlas at home please do get it out as I am sure your son or daughter will enjoy continuing their learning with you.

The book we are using in English is linked to our topic work – Here we Are, Notes for Living on Planet Earth. The children have enjoyed thinking about what makes our planet special and have written wonderful letters to aliens giving their advice about coming to earth for a visit. They have been most concerned that they don't land in the sea

as that is deep and wet, and that they know there are some animals which are dangerous and some things that they should not eat!

In maths we have started exploring making and recording equal groups of objects using both repeated addition and multiplication number sentences.

The children have also had their first dance and Mandarin lesson, mixed primary colours in art to create a colour wheel and begun their learning about the Jewish faith and their special Sabbath meal.

Year 3

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It has been a great week back for the children in year 3.

In literacy, we have been looking at fables, focusing on the Lion and the Mouse in Guided Reading. We have also been starting to plan our own ready for our writing next week.

In maths we have been focussing on \times and \div by 3 and 4. We have played lots of games to help us with this but any extra practise that you can do at home would be amazing. Start by counting up in 3's, then move onto chanting the 3's. When they have this, try asking questions out of order to see if they have remembered them. There are also lots of online games you could try for the 3 and 4 times tables. <https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

In topic, we have started our EPIC ELEMENTS topic by looking at volcanoes and labelling the different features. We also started looking at the movement of the tectonic plates; to make this fun we used digestive biscuits and jam!



Year 4

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Well done Year 4 for completing your first week of 2022. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have!

We have been really enjoying our topic work where we have created models of the structure of the Earth and we have also looked at how tectonic plates move using biscuits and jam.

We have also been really enjoying our poetry unit, where we are looking at rhyme and rhythm to help us write effective poems.

Next week, is the most exciting week of the year - Horstead! Please keep an eye out on school ping for information and last minute reminders that we will send next week.

On Monday, Mrs Pulford will be teaching so please wear your PE kits.

Year 5

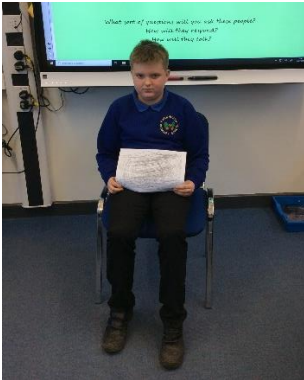
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Welcome back. I am pleased to say that all of the children have come back full of beans and ready to learn after a well-deserved break!

In maths, we started by looking at place value – in particular the value of each digit in a number. Amber and Jess L were reading numbers in the trillions and then telling us the value of each digit! We have now moved onto measuring angles using a protractor.

In English we have started our new unit based on the book called ‘There’s a boy in the girls’ bathroom’ and the children are loving it! Why not ask your children what they know about the book so far. On Thursday, we used drama (hot seating) to try and show the feelings and thoughts of the main characters in the book. In the photographs you can see Archie as Bradley, Polly as Carla and Amber as Jeff! They had to act and talk as if they were these characters...they were brilliant!

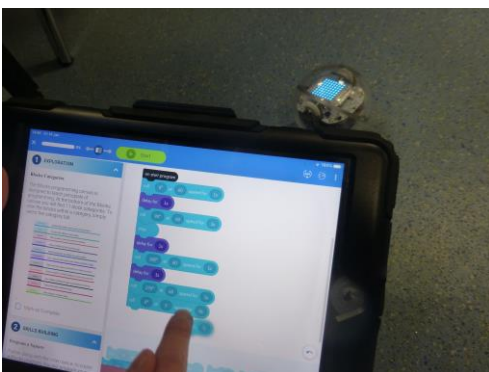
We have also started our topic of Epic Elements by looking at the Ancient Egyptians in history and Light for science. We will be having another themed day this term where we will be asking the children to dress up and it will be based on the Ancient Egyptians. More details will follow.



Year 6

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Since returning to school after the Christmas break, Ms Holmes and I have been amazed at the children’s determination and work rate. Despite the cold weather (and classrooms), the children have continued to try their best and have already completed a variety of tricky challenges. In Maths lessons, we completed a series of work linked to ‘Geometry’, where we learnt about coordinates and the four quadrants as well as how to translate shapes on grids and reflect shapes/patterns in a mirror line. A lot of our Literacy writing this week has linked to our class book – ‘Floodland’ by Marcus Sedgwick. This has included making predictions about what the book may be about and how it will end, as well as retrieve important pieces of information about the main characters. Later on in the week, the children completed a grammar challenge linked to expanded noun phrases. In afternoon lessons, the children began their Ancient Egypt topic and wrote down what they already knew about Egypt and what they would like to find out later this term. In addition to this, they researched key aspects including its location, population, size, currency, traditions, and human and physical features. I was also impressed with their improved understanding of Coding, where the children were set various challenges to use block coding to make their Sphero robots create patterns. Well done on an amazing first week back, Year 6!



Well done to Year 5 who had
96%
attendance last week

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Henry Smith, Evie Pegg, Leo Smith
Year 1	Max Lindsay, Isobel Fisher, Willow Hunt, Ali Rudd
Year 2	Niall Odedra, Amelie Richards, Sidney Tyrrell
Year 3	All of Year 3, Hallie Smith, Maisie Finch
Year 4	Freddie Pelan, Layla King-Knott, The Table Role Models
Year 5	Jaydn Turner-Morris, Oliver Barber, Maisie Hunt
Year 6	All of Year 6, Isabella Crowther, Luke Burrows

Have a lovely weekend.

Chris Ashman