

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 21st January 2022

This week has seen our first, and hopefully last, major Covid outbreak. Across the week around 60 children, over a quarter of the school have been off for at least a day with the vast majority being linked to Covid. Fortunately, there has not been too much disruption to the day to day work in classes. Most importantly of all, as I understand at the moment, everyone who has been unwell is doing okay which is far and away the most important thing.

Thank you once again to the staff for their hard work and flexibility in a very difficult situation. The children who have been able to be in school have also been amazing and have adapted very quickly to the changes we have made to the timetable. Next week we will continue to minimise indoor contact between classes. Hopefully by the week beginning 31st January we will be able to get back to the normal routines we have had in place since September.

Horstead – It has been hugely disappointing that this outbreak has coincided with our planned Horstead Residential Trips for Year 3 and 4. Changing the residentials to day trips at such short notice was a horrible decision to take as the last thing we ever want to do is disappoint the children.

I do know that they still had a lovely time yesterday on their first day trip. As I write this they are back at Horstead for another fun activity day today. A report will follow in next week's letter.

Next Thursday and Friday Year 3 will be on their trip. I'm looking forward to spending those 2 days with them.

House points

Our house captains have been busy collecting our house points and at the moment the scores are

Ranworth - 1071

Oulton -1177

Hickling - 1070

Barton -1262

Well done to the Yellows of Oulton who had the most points this week and to the Blues of Barton who are in the lead overall.



Governor Elections – Last week the children brought home a letter about vacancies for parents on our school governing board. 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. Should 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.

SATS Briefing for Year 6 parents - After a break of two years the year 6 Standard Assessment Tests (SATS) have been re-introduced for this academic year. With SATS week running from Monday 9th May to Thursday 12th May. Mr Edwards and I will be holding a meeting for parents on Tuesday 8th February at 6pm via Zoom. Zoom details were sent in a Ping earlier in the week. The Meeting will cover:

- What SATs are all about - the timetable for the week
- Differences for this year compared to previous years
- How results are reported to parents
- How we prepare the children in school
- How you can help at home - what will happen after SATs

County Football Finals

Last Saturday the school football team played in the County Finals of the School's Cup as the representative of North Norfolk. We were one of three teams that had made it through so we knew we would have very hard games. Our first game was against Martham who were a very strong and determined side. In the first half Martham were the better side but some heroic defending and goalkeeping kept the score at 0-0. In the second half we played much better and the game was much more even so it was really tough to take when Martham scored with almost the last kick of the game to win 1-0.

The second game against Sprowston was also a tough one. The two teams were quite evenly matched but Sprowston's centre forward, who scored 3 against Martham did exactly the same when he played us. Meaning we lost 3-0.

Despite the result all the team can be proud of their performance and the fact they finished 3rd in the county. Well done to all the boys: Joe, Theo H, Luke, Lennon, Charlie, Joseph, Jack B, Xane and Harvey who played. Thanks to all the parents for your great support (and for the coffees) and thank you to Ms Holmes who came along to support and coach the team with me.



Reception

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It's been an interesting week here in Reception with numbers dropping to 15 on Wednesday. We hope everyone recovers quickly and feel much better soon. We have missed you all.

In Literacy this week we have been introduced to the 'ee' sound as in green, sleep, see, seen, been and three. On Thursday this week we wrote the sentence, I can see a bee and I am three. We tried very hard to remember to use a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop. At home you might like to write your own sentence using an 'ee' word.

In maths we have been using money, money, money. We have been learning to recognize each coin. We have had lots of fun practical activities to help us. We have been rubbing the coins, buying objects at the shop, matching the coin to the amount e.g. 1p and making different amounts using the coins and the numicon. Maybe you could set up your own shop at home and you could buy objects by counting out the different amounts.

In topic we have started to read the story Billy's Bucket. It is a fun story about how a little boy just wanted to have a bucket for his birthday because he wanted to use his imagination. The children thoroughly enjoyed making their bucket and filling it full of jelly and sea creatures!



Year 1

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This week, we have been comparing two coastal resorts, Cromer and Barbados! We made travel brochures to advertise each place and discussed how to travel to each area.

In Phonics, we learned the new sound 'are' (care and share) and compared it to the sound 'air' (that's not fair) that we already know. We continued the story 'Here We Are' in English and looked at endangered and extinct animals. We thought about how we could help to look after our world, and finished the week by making bird feeders.

In Maths, we have been adding by making 10 first, then adding the rest. We have used ten frames and Empty Number Lines to help us.

We looked at artwork by the artist Kandinsky. We mixed colours to try to make our own piece of art in this style.

Year 2

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Year 2 have had a busy week and worked incredibly hard. I am very grateful to the children for the way in which they have cared for each other and for me while Mrs Bird has been unwell. They have been particularly kind and helpful in the afternoons when I have been on my own with them, tidying up art equipment and generally being wonderful!

In maths we have worked hard to recognise and represent multiplication facts using arrays. The children have grasped this concept incredibly well and are ready to move on to division next week.

In English we have finished the book Here we Are. We have focused on using a variety of appropriate adjectives to describe both what people look like and the type of person that they are. We have also revised some of the spelling rules that we looked at in the Autumn Term and been introduced to working with a reading a partner.

The children have continued to enjoy their learning about continents. We have focused on Antarctica with a quick look at Africa too.

On Wednesday morning we had our second dance lesson and in the afternoon the children looked at the work of the impressionist artist Kandinsky before creating their own circle paintings enjoying mixing their own colours.

Please remember to have a go at the challenge on Sumdog and to keep up with reading.

Year 3

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Everyone connected to Year 3 has had a tough week with Miss Hornagold and so many children being off school. Wherever you have been you have all been amazing this week. We are looking forward to hopefully seeing you all return to school next week. It would be wonderful if everyone is well enough to go to Horstead next Thursday and Friday.

Year 4

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Wow- what a week! I'm writing this before we leave on Friday, so I expect there will be loads more I can add next week.

We had just the most amazing day at Horstead yesterday, the children were absolute rock stars all day. We chatted about our favourite parts of the day and most of us were in agreement that Jacob's ladder and archery were absolute highlights. So many children went higher up Jacob's Ladder than they expected to and really pushed themselves. I know they are all feeling so proud of themselves. They were such a lovely group to take out and they made us all at Rackheath so proud.

We are just all so grateful that we managed to make the tweaks we could so that we were able to have a snippet of our Horstead experience. The children are having the best time - we are really excited for another fun filled day. I think we'll all sleep well tonight!

Year 5

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We have had a depleted class this week and it just hasn't been the same without everyone with us – it has been a strange week.

In maths we have continued our work on angles. The children have investigated the angles inside triangles, quadrilaterals, straight lines and in a circle. We have also been trying to find out missing angles (which they were amazing at) A special mention goes to Lucca, Logan, Jess C and Lila for their amazing work! We finished the week with trying to draw shapes to accurate measurements and this caused us a few issues so we will continue it into next week.

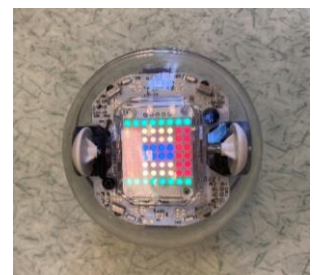
In Literacy, we have continued our work on the book 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' – the book is now getting very interesting! Our writing has focussed on diary writing with language that shows emotions.

For our topic work we have learnt about Africa and modern Egypt to get an understanding of where we will be studying for this topic. We then started to look at the importance of the River Nile to the Ancient Egyptians. In geography, we have looked at some of the main rivers around the British Isles – why not ask them if they could name any.



For Science we have started looking at light and discussing how it travels and how we see. We have been very lucky this week as Lucca (with the help of his mum who has some expertise in this area) brought in an image of his eye! The children were amazed (some were disgusted) at what the back of the eye looks like. This has certainly got the children engaged with this topic and this photo certainly does not do it justice!

This morning we were very lucky to be able to try our new school sferos which are programmable balls which move, light-up and make noises! The children had a great time – I can't believe how quickly they picked it up. We didn't just play... we practised our angles knowledge... honest!!



Year 6

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The Year 6's have yet again been superstars as they've remained focussed all week and have never given up when they've faced a variety of tricky tasks. In Maths lessons, we began learning how to multiply and divide one and two place decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. Later on in the week, we moved onto multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by integers.

In Literacy, we continued linking tasks to our class book 'Floodland'. Firstly, we wrote down the thoughts and emotions of the main character as she braved a journey to a new island. This information was then used to complete a diary entry listing the key encounters that Zoe faced on her first few days on the new island.

In afternoon lessons, we researched a variety of important events during the Ancient Egyptian era. These facts (including dates) were written on cards and the children had to put them in chronological order to create a timeline. Sticking to the topic of Ancient Egypt, the children researched popular foods and began to design a menu suitable for an Egyptian pharaoh! In addition to this, in an art lesson, we learnt how to draw self-portraits using accurate proportions of the face. These skills will then be used to create an Egyptian pharaoh piece of artwork towards the end of next week. Finally, the children have completed further Sphero challenges and I'm really impressed by the progress the children have made in coding sessions.

Well done to Reception who had
98%
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	Kory Murphy, Archie Taylor, Eliora Martell
Year 1	Oscar Bunn, Edie Nicholls, Alfie Fowler
Year 2	Joey Fairweather, Freya Key, Olivia Watts
Year 3	Connor Appleton, All the Children at Home, All the Children in School
Year 4	All of Year 4
Year 5	Lucca Hallam, Yuan Staley, Jessica Clarke
Year 6	Theo Hallam, Harvey Moore, Eleanor Royston

Have a lovely weekend.

Chris Ashman