

# Rackheath Primary School

## Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**September 2023 School Day Change** – The school day currently runs from 8:45am until 3.00pm which means we are open for 36.25 hours a week. The government have said that by September 2023 all primary schools must be open for 37.5 hours a week. For us this means an increase of 15 minutes a day. Governors have agreed that from September 2023 school will end 15 minutes later each day. Therefore, the school day will run from 8:45am until 3:15pm from September 2023.

We are aware that this will have implications for parents so wanted to give you as much notice as possible of the change. Once we have decided how we will make use of the extra 15 minutes each day we will share with you. In the meantime, please do let me know if you have any questions or queries about the change.

### After School Club News

Due to Movie Night and the Christmas Fayre next week, After School Club will move from the hall to Year 1 on Thursday and Friday. Could you therefore please collect your child from main school reception on those days. If your child would like to attend the Christmas Fayre you can bring money for them into the school office and staff will escort them round.

On the last day of term, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December, after school club will be finishing at 4.30pm. We will also send out a school ping with this information on.



**Christmas is coming....** Our Christmas countdown really gathers pace next week. The decorations are starting to go up. We have the FORS Non-uniform Day and Christmas Movie Night on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and then the Christmas Fair on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

**Christmas Post Boxes** – Rackheath Christmas Post will be up and running from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Each class will have a special Christmas Post Box outside the classroom for the children to put their cards in to be delivered.



### Christmas and the Cost of Living

We are aware that Christmas is a busy time and there are lots of pressures on household budgets, especially this year. My feeling is that we should continue to look to hold lots of fun events in school for the children. In the same way I wouldn't ever want anyone to feel excluded from an event because of financial pressure and I am happy to discuss ways we can support individual children and families. When we collect money for events like non-uniform days or the planned Rudolph Run the money is always collected in a very light touch way to minimise any potential embarrassment, and any donation is always voluntary.

## Christmas Performances

With Christmas fast approaching I wanted to share the times for the performances held in the last week of term. Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts.

Monday 12th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – 10.00am Year 1 & 2 dress rehearsal - 1.50pm
Tuesday 13th December	Year 1 & 2 performance 10.00am Reception Performance 1.50pm
Wednesday 14th December	Reception performance 10.00am Year 1 & 2 Performance 1.50pm



If you can't make either one of the performances on Tuesday or Wednesday please do let us know. A smaller audience are welcome to join us for Monday's dress rehearsal. This should just be for those parents and family members who can't make either of the main performances.



### Key Stage 2 Carol Concert

Our special Key Stage 2 Carol Concert with the Salvation Army is at 7.00pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December. This will be held outside on the school playground. As well as the carols and readings refreshments will be available too. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join our festive celebrations.

We would like the children to arrive from 6:30pm at which time refreshments will be available in the hall. Other members of the community are also invited to join us from 6:50pm in time for the start at 7.00pm. There will be no charge for the refreshments but we would ask for donations which will go to charity.

Should any of you be able to bring in some cakes, mince pies, biscuits or savoury snacks such as sausage rolls for the night that would be great. If you are able to please bring them in during the day of the concert. Additionally, should any of you have some spare glass jars we would love to have them so we can use them to hold tea lights at the concert.

### World Cup

The hall was packed with noisy and excited England fans on Monday, as England got off to a great start with a 6-2 win over Iran.

Obviously, it has been a mixed start for the teams each class drew:

- **Bombers and non-class staff – Portugal, Croatia, Japan, Cameroon**
- **Reception – England, Netherlands, Tunisia, Costa Rica**
- **Year 1 – Argentina, South Korea, Ecuador, Ghana**
- **Year 2 – Brazil, Mexico, Wales, Australia**
- **Year 3 – France, USA, Morocco, Saudi Arabia**
- **Year 4 – Belgium, Serbia, Uruguay, Canada**
- **Year 5 – Spain, Senegal, Poland, Iran**
- **Year 6 – Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Qatar**





**Fundraising** - We found out this week that we raised an amazing £246.37 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We also raised £227 for Children In Need.



**Cross Country at Coltishall** – The Cluster Cross Country for children in Year 3 to 6 is next Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. On Monday there will be a run at lunchtime to help pick the team. Children should bring their PE kit to school to take part. Children who regularly attend cross country club are already chosen.

#### **Girls Football v Salhouse**

Last Friday the girls played their first game of the season away at Salhouse. For 6 of the squad this was their first ever game of competitive football and it was great to see how much they and the rest of the team enjoyed it. Despite losing 3-1 there were lots of encouraging performances and the girls clearly improved as the game went on and they got more used to playing a competitive game. Our goal was a lovely move started by Harlow who passed to Holly who played it forward to Isabel to finish expertly. Polly, Orlaith, Jessica and Deanna were the Year 6 girls involved, whilst Layla, Harlow, Holly, Jasmine, Lacey and Player of the Match Isabel are all in Year 5.

Today the boy's team are playing Salhouse at home.

**Guitar Exams** - Tomorrow some children from the school are sitting their guitar grades in school. Good luck to them all.



## **FORS NEWS**

**Bags2school** – A successful Bags2school collection was completed last week and we were able to raise £104.00 from the bags, well done and thank you to everyone.

**Christmas Family Movie night** – Purchasing of tickets for Stick Man and Nativity has now closed due to reaching our capacity numbers. Thank you everyone who has purchased a ticket we look forward to seeing lots of you Thursday.

**Non-Uniform Day** – This will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December with money raised supporting the Chocolate Tombola at the Christmas Fayre. £1 donation requested.

**Santa's Grotto at Christmas Fayre** – Pre-booking for this has now closed due to reaching number capacity.

**Christmas Raffle** – We have had lots of these returned, thank you! Extra tickets are still available from the school office or Tonya Colk



## Reception

Our Nativity practise is now in full swing and the children have really enjoyed learning the songs and acting out their parts in the hall. In class we have been going through the story of The First Christmas in a sensory way by touching straw and even smelling some rabbit poo (for authenticity of the stable!). The children have especially liked it when they spot the character they are performing as in the Nativity play.

We have also continued to learn our new sounds in phonics (qu, x, ng and nk) and have begun learning how to add two numbers together in maths.

## Year 1

This week, we have been practising our Nativity songs A LOT! We have practised with Year 2 who we will be performing with. We are all really pleased with the part we have been given in the play. Some children are going to say a few words and we are starting to learn those. Next week, we will start to rehearse in the hall!

In Science this week, we looked at what materials objects are made from and why. For example, water bottles are made out of plastic because plastic is waterproof.

In Phonics, we learnt the sound 'u-e' (huge brute) and compared it to the sound 'oo' (poo at the zoo) that we already know. We talked about how we and other people celebrate Christmas and read The Christmas Story. We ordered pictures from the story, acted it out, and have started to write our own Christmas Story books.

In Maths, we looked at 2D and 3D shape. We described them, sorted them in different ways and named the shapes and their faces. We will continue with this next week.

## Year 2

This week started with the excitement of England's first match in the World Cup which, the children who wished to were able to watch in the hall. The children also enjoyed a World Cup themed morning with Mr Ashman.

In English the children have explored more of the Rapunzel story and also written lovely letters to Father Christmas telling him what they think Y2 would like for Christmas.

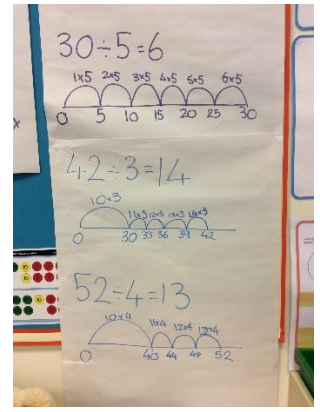
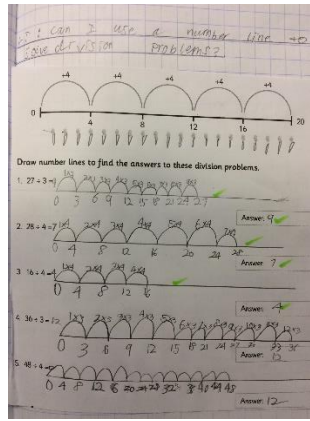
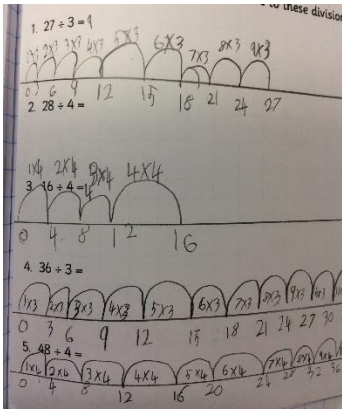
In maths they have continued their addition and subtraction work, doing both mentally and also on a number line.

On Wednesday the children enjoyed a practical lesson exploring the properties of different materials, testing them to see if they can be stretched, twisted, bent or squashed. They have also had guided reading every day and we have begun rehearsing for our Nativity performance. If your child has a spoken part can you please help them to learn this at home, preferably in a lovely, loud voice and with appropriate expression!

## Year 3

I cannot believe how quickly the weeks are going this term! We have had another wonderful week in year 3, in English the children have been finishing off their fables and writing them up in neat ready to go on our 'Aesop's Fables' display, which Mrs Milligan has been putting up outside of the classroom. In maths, we have been having a go at some missing number problems (which the children were very good at!) and have moved onto using number lines to help solve division problems. Take a look at the pictures below to see some of our great work...

We have also moved onto our Science unit this term-forces and magnets. This week, we have started to explore pushes and pulls. We will continue with this some more in the coming weeks and will be doing some fun investigations. Today, we had our first practise for the Christmas Carol concert, which was very exciting and had us all in the Christmassy mood! I am looking forward to another busy week in year 3, have a lovely weekend all.



## Year 4

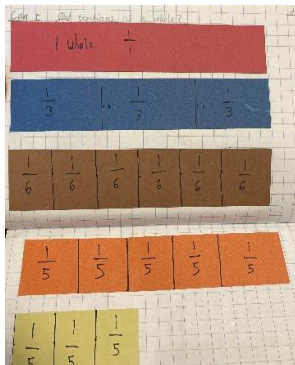
Year 4 have absolutely smashed their learning this week! In Maths, we started our week by looking at factors and making factor bugs which we loved. Then we have been looking at our 6 times table and a huge amount of us have earned new certificates this week. I am so proud of their effort. Don't forget to keep practicing your tables at home. Your Sumdog challenge has been set to support your progress 😊

In English, we have planned our own version of an 'Escape from Pompeii' where we have created our own characters. We had a great lesson where we explored an animated version of the day Mount Vesuvius erupted. Today, we have started our own versions describing how beautiful Pompeii was before the eruption. We are looking forward to writing the next part of our story!

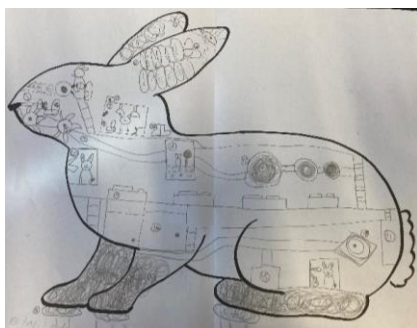
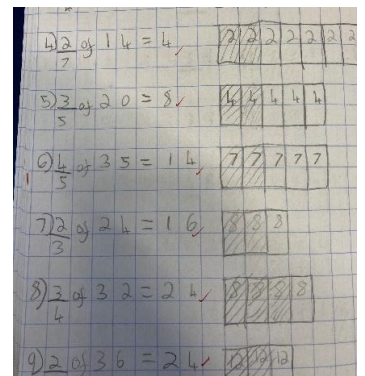
Have a lovely weekend everyone.

## Year 5

We have had a fantastic week in year 5 – I can't believe how hard the children have all worked!



In maths, we have started our work on fractions. We started by just comparing fractions and seeing what a fraction actually means. We did this by using bars. Then, we moved onto finding fractions of amounts... again by using a bar to help us visualise it. As you can see from Holly's work, we take the whole amount, divide it by the bottom number (which is the denominator) and then we times it by the top number (which is the numerator). I have been incredibly impressed with how quickly the class have grasped this concept!



In Literacy, we have carried on our work based on turning a rabbit into a robot and explaining how it does a strange jump called a binky. This is an example of a rabbit drawing from Trinity.

In the afternoons, we have been looking at soluble and insoluble – materials that will dissolve or not. We tested: rice, gravy, salt, sugar, sand, flour, and coffee granules. We had to make sure that we stirred them all the same amount of times and that the water was the same temperature to keep it a fair test!

## Year 6

Firstly, it's amazing to be back after having a horrible sickness bug last week. As always, I've been really proud of the resilience and determination of the Year 6 children – who have worked very hard in all lessons. During Maths activities, we have solved a variety of division questions, involving dividing by a two-digit number – 5,635 divided by 23 etc. They also became teachers on Thursday, as the children were given completed division question and answers – but they had to solve whether or not they were correct as well as explain why! In between these topics,

we have had a big arithmetic focus where the children have not only learnt a range of new skills, but also learnt lots of short-cuts and tricks to complete questions mentally.

In Literacy lessons, we learnt a variety of new vocabulary such as – contorted, disfigured, decayed and pungent to name a few! These words were then used correctly in context to describe an eerie-looking forest. The children also learnt about figurative language. Feel free to ask them what any of these mean: similes, metaphors and personification. Finally, we ended the week with a grammar focus linked to questions, statements and commands, and then the active and passive voice.

In Science lessons, the children were taught about properties of materials and they used this knowledge to begin an experiment. As my cups of tea always get cold quickly, the children used a variety of materials to attach to a cup to find the best thermal insulator. As well as this, the children continued their learning of the Anglo-Saxons and made a realistic (and improved version) of their original clay coins. The end results were absolutely amazing!



## Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **19 out of 22** and  
Year 6 who had **29 out of 32**

of their children read to their family at least 3 times at home this week!

Well done to Year 3 who had  
**97%**  
Attendance last week. Attendance  
Bear will spend next week with them.

## Attendance Bear

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

<b>STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS</b>	
Reception	Arthur, Elliott, Ella
Year 1	Jackson, Eliora, Leo
Year 2	Alfie, Oscar, Eden
Year 3	Emily, Freya, Emil
Year 4	Olivia, Kian, Jake
Year 5	Lexi, Max, George F
Year 6	Aureja, Isabel, Jack

Best wishes, have a lovely weekend.