

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 2nd December 2022

It has been a very exciting week in school. We have had nativity and carol rehearsals, letters posted to Santa and sports events taking place. The week has ended with the Christmas Film Night and the Festive Fair both organised by the Friends of Rackheath. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team of volunteers organising events and fundraising. A huge thank you to Tonya, Sophie and the team.

They also helped to organise the delivery of the fantastic fifteen-foot tall tree in the hall. A huge thank you to Hilltops Café who donated the money for the tree and Mousehold Garden Centre who delivered it. Thank you to all the staff, especially Mr Grubb, who helped put the tree and the lights up!

Christmas Rudolph Run



On Monday we are taking part in the Rudolph Run, which is something we have done for the last few years. The Rudolph Run raises money for Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and families. All the children will take part in the run. If you are able to we ask for a voluntary donation of £1.

Celebration Assembly Autumn Term – On Tuesday 6th we are holding our first celebration assembly since this time three years ago! Each class team have chosen two children that have had an especially brilliant term for their celebration award.



Photographing and Videoing Christmas Performances

We are coming up to our Christmas Performances, which are always a special time in school. The children put on a fantastic show and understandably, parents like to capture the moment, perhaps for a family member who can't be there. We recognise this and have allowed filming to take place at performances and at other times of the year such as class assemblies and sport's days, provided that no pictures go onto social media of anyone other than your own child.

There have been previous occasions where this has not been adhered to and videos and photographs have been posted on social media. As such it is important to state that the reason this is an issue is that not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example, where a child's location needs to be protected. Thank you for your understanding.

Parent Lunch Week – The return of parent lunch weeks has been a huge success. It has been lovely to see the interaction on the dining room tables between the children and the adults on the tables. The quality of the food is regularly commented on too. A big thank you to our school cooks Shane and Abi.

Surprise Christmas Concert

The children enjoyed a festive surprise over lunch this Wednesday when the Rackheath band serenaded them (and some lucky parents) over lunch. The band played a set full of festive Christmas favourites!



Cluster Cross Country

This morning we took part in the Cluster Cross Country at Coltishall. A full report to follow next week!



Christmas Lunch – Any last orders for Christmas lunch must be in by the end of the day today. You can book by completing the form on SchoolPing or, if you are unable to do this, by calling the office.

Football v Salhouse



Last Friday the boy's team played a home game against Salhouse. The boys all put in super performances. At times the passing and team work were lovely to watch. Our finishing was excellent throughout with Ollie scoring 3, Lucca 2 and Alex and Ben one each. Jack was heavily involved in a lot of our good play whilst, Logan made some great saves and Leo and Cairo at the back defended well. The game finished 7-0 with the boys deciding that Ollie was the deserved player of the match. Next Friday the team are off to the Nest at Norwich City to take part in their community cup!

School Clubs – Next week will be the last week of school clubs before we break up. The only exception being choir, which will take place as will After School Club. We will share a list of clubs for the Spring Term before we break up.

Guitar exams – Congratulations to Polly and Logan from Year 6 on passing your guitar grading last week. Both of you did really well with Polly getting a distinction and Logan a merit in their initial grade exam. It was also great to hear that ex-pupils Ben, Alex and Joseph are still playing and all passed their grade 2 or 3 exams with Merits. Great job! A huge thank you to Mrs Brown too for her fantastic music teaching.



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



September 2023 School Day Change

As previously mentioned, 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.



Spring Term 'Here Comes the Sun'

Although December is a very busy time we are already planning for the Spring Term 2023! Our whole school topic is entitled, "Here Comes The Sun." Some of the key dates are below:

- **Wednesday 11th January** - Star Gazing Night The children will be invited to come back to school once it is dark for some special space themed activities.
- **Week of the 30th January** - Here Comes the Sun - Creative Week. Each class will be focussing on music, art, DT and other creative subjects
- **Week of the 27th March** - Rackheath Museum week - Family members will be invited in to the school for each class to present their "Here Comes the Sun," learning.

World Cup

With the group games almost finished the following countries are left in:

- ***Bombers and non-class-based staff – Portugal, Croatia, Japan, Cameroon***
- ***Reception – England, Netherlands***
- ***Year 1 – Argentina, South Korea, Ghana***
- ***Year 2 – Brazil, Australia***
- ***Year 3 – France, USA, Morocco***
- ***Year 4 – Serbia, Uruguay***
- ***Year 5 – Spain, Senegal, Poland***
- ***Year 6 – Switzerland***



Let's hope for an England win on Sunday!



FORS NEWS

After a few years away, some fun events returned this week. We started off with Movie night. Not one but two, and what a night it was!

Thank you to everyone who attended and everyone who helped at the events.

Following both movies, we were able to raise an amazing **£691.80...!** We also had a successful 50/50 raffle that ran for the evening. The winning ticket with a winning total of £52, was drawn by Matt who supplied us with endless amounts of popcorn... and he selected Maxwell (c/o his mum) as our winner... who was very pleased with the winnings. The raffle raised FORS £52.

We are currently enjoying the Christmas Fayre and Santa Grotto, so an update will be shared next week.

A date to remember, FORS will be supplying refreshments at the Key Stage 2 performance on Tuesday 13th, where our Christmas raffle will also be drawn. Don't forget to get your tickets.



Bombers

Hi all. We have been enjoying lots of fun activities here in 'Bombers'. The children have been using their imagination with exploring an assortment of cardboard boxes. We've had 'robots', 'animals', 'cars', 'houses' and 'masks'. They have also been building lots of vertical and horizontal structures with large foam blocks and enjoying the Zoo animals with puppets. We made a few flags and did a group 'football' collage for the England match and hopefully it brought some good luck.

We are all festive now and enjoying a variety of 'Xmas' activities and songs. A Xmas holiday sheet will come home for us to look at after the Festive break and we are also sending home a list of songs so the children can sing them at home too if they want. We are also going to have the last week before Xmas as a 'stay and play' week for any parents that would like to join us for the last 15 minutes before the end of one of their child's sessions.

Reception

Christmas has well and truly arrived in Reception this week. The children were very excited to come into school on Tuesday morning to see that the elves had transformed the classroom into a winter wonderland of lights and

decorations. The children have been busy themselves as they have written letters to Father Christmas, made Christmas decorations for the tree in the hall and practised our nativity.

In maths we have been looking at the difference between heavy and light by weighing objects.

Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been rehearsing with Year 2 for this year's Nativity. We have been practising singing (and a few of us speaking!) clearly and loudly. Most importantly, we have been having fun! We sent home emails with costume requests this week so please let us know if you didn't receive one or have any problems with your child's clothing.

We have been learning the new sound 'aw' (yawn at dawn) and we compared it to the 'or' (shut the door) sound we already know. We have continued to write the traditional Christmas Story this week – there was some very impressive writing.

In Maths, we finished our work on 2D and 3D shapes and did some shape pattern problem solving.

We were so excited about Christmas arriving in our classroom and around the rest of the school. We wrote letters to Santa (great writing again!) and loved walking to post them at the Post Office! We made cheeky elf decorations for the HUGE tree in the hall snowflakes to decorate classroom.



and
our

Year 2

Christmas has arrived in Year 2 this week! Our tree, lights, tinsel and Grinch are up, the Nativity set is out and we have started opening our Advent calendars. The children have also created beautiful decorations for the huge tree in the hall and started making snowflakes and paperchains for the classrooms.

We have also spent lots of time rehearsing our performance of The Little Angel. The children have been absolutely fabulous so thank you very much for all your help with learning lines.

Today, your son or daughter should have brought home a slip of paper giving details of what we would like you to provide towards their costumes. We would be really grateful if you are able to send these items into school as soon as possible, but do let us know if you have any problems.

The children enjoyed sharing the work in their English, Topic and Maths books with children in Year 1 and then looking at the work that the Year 1s have been doing.

We have also finished the story of Rapunzel, learnt a little about Advent, continued with our work on subtraction and had guided reading every day.

On Monday morning the children will have their last spelling test of this term.

Year 3

Things have certainly started to look festive in year 3 this week! We have had lots of fun making our Christmas tree decorations and rehearsing songs for the KS2 Christmas carol concert. For most of the week in maths, the children have been working hard to complete



their maths assessments, bringing together all the work we have been doing over the last term. We then finished the week with a one-off Purple Mash maths lesson, which the children enjoyed.



In English, we have been looking at play scripts. We started the week by reading and acting some out (which the children did a brilliant job at!) and have finished the week by writing a scene from 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf' in the style of a play script. We are really enjoying our fables unit this half term and are looking forward to next week when we will plan and write our own play scripts to the well-known fable, 'The Ant and the Grasshopper'.

Finally, thank you to all the children and grown-ups for their hard work with their timetable Christmas decorations-the room is looking wonderful because of them!

Year 4

This week has flown by again in Year 4. We have slowly started to introduce Christmas in the classroom and I know we are all excited!

On Tuesday, we spent the day designing our Christmas tree decorations which hopefully you will have caught a glimpse of at the Christmas fair today. The children loved our crafty morning.

Throughout the week, we have been writing our own versions of 'Escape from Pompeii', which we have almost finished. Next week, we will be finishing the last part of the story and sharing our work with each other!

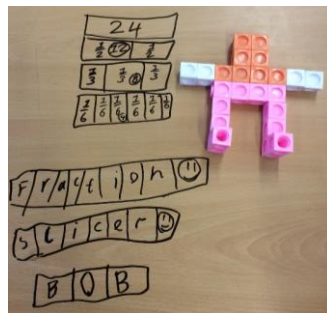
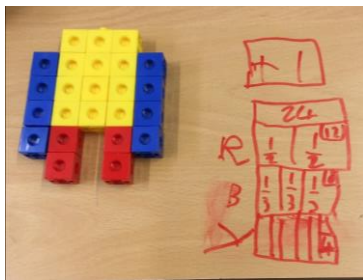
A huge well done to our cross-country runners today - Mr Ashman was very impressed by your sportsmanship! The remainder of the class stayed in school and we completed some Maths problem solving and wrote letters to Santa.

Next week, we will be looking at friction and creating presentations to share with Year 5. Don't forget it is the Rudolph run on Monday - please remember your trainers and a pair of spare socks!

Year 5

I can't believe we now only have two weeks of school left!! Crazy

This week in maths we have continued our work on fractions. I set the class a challenge of trying to make a monster using cubes but they had to use certain fractions to complete it! Here are a few of the final results:



In English, we have been writing our explanation texts based on how rabbits would binky if they were a robot. We had to use semi-colons, brackets and dashes in our writing to make it complex.

In our topic work, we looked at separation. We tried to separate water and salt, flour and sweets, rice and paperclips as well as sand and water. We used sieves, magnets, filter paper and evaporation to do this.

Year 6

It's hard to believe that there's only two weeks left of this term – where has the time gone? The Year 6s have completed a range of puzzles and challenges this week and have continued to be resilient as well as being able to retain a lot of key information from previous lessons.

In Maths activities, we solved two-step division problems before moving on to reasoning questions linked to multiplication. In English lessons, the children have thought of their own brand of confectionery and produced a

persuasive text to ensure as many people buy their product as possible! It was fantastic to see how detailed their descriptions were and they even chose a couple of celebrities to endorse their items.

We also completed a Science experiment, where the children learnt about thermal insulators. In groups, the children chose a material to cover a cup to try to keep the heat in. We then put hot water inside them to see which cup could hold heat for the longest! Although everyone did a brilliant job, a special well done has to go to Sasha and Polly for winning. The hot water only dropped by 18 degrees in their cup. Year 6 then learnt about reversible and irreversible changes. Finally, the class created Christmas decorations to go on the tree in the hall. It was lovely putting Christmas music on and seeing the children be creative!

**Well done to Year 1 who had
98%
Attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend next week with them.**

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Star Angel Diamond – With it being such a busy end to the week there were no awards this week

Best wishes, have a lovely weekend.

Chris Ashman