

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 9th December 2022

We ended last week with a super Christmas Movie Night and Festive Christmas Fayre. This week we have been working hard across the school as well as polishing the various Christmas performances ready for an audience.

Christmas Performances

The times for next week are as follows:

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



Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts. 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. 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.

Meal Swap Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December - A reminder that because of Christmas lunch on Thursday 15th lunch on Wednesday 14th is now chicken curry or chick pea and sweet potato curry. Orders for jacket potatoes and school packed lunches for this meal have been moved from Thursday to Wednesday too.



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.

Lion's Santa Sleigh – On Monday we will have a special visitor with Father Christmas joining us at the end of the day. Children will have a chance to meet Father Christmas from 3.00pm.



Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day – On Thursday it is our special Christmas Lunch and also Christmas jumper day. Children having the Christmas dinner must already have ordered it. Anyone not having the Christmas dinner must bring a home packed lunch. All the children will sit in the hall together and will all be given a drink and a cracker kindly provided by FORS!

Celebration Assembly Autumn Term

On Tuesday we held our first celebration assembly since Autumn 2019! It was lovely to be able to invite parents in to celebrate with the winners. All the winners received a special certificate with the reasons why they won the award attached as well as a special badge and pencil. Well done to them all:

- Reception Charlotte and Freddie
- Year 1 Rosie and Ben
- Year 2 Esme and Charlie
- Year 3 Sophie and Joey
- Year 4 Emily T and Jacob
- Year 5 Isabel C and Oscar
- Year 6 Natalia and Leo



School Clubs – Next week the only club running, other than After School Club, will be choir on Monday.

Cluster Cross Country

Last week we took part in the Cluster Cross Country held at Coltishall. On a bright but cold day all the children gave their best which is all you can ask. Across the four races we had lots of runners taking part. The team consisting of:

- Year 3 & 4 Girls – Lola, Nicky, Aria, Freya, Ayla, Dolcie, Emily O and Rosa
- Year 3 & 4 Boys – Hugo, Harley, Xander, Jack, Maxwell, Ben, Harlan, Freddie, Ellis, Ricki, Ethan and Kayden
- Year 5 & 6 Girls – Harlow, Isabel C, Lacey, Amber and Aura
- Year 5 & 6 Boys – Austin, Freddie, George H, Josh, Alex, Ollie B, Yuan and Cairo

The stand out performers were Harlan who came second and Maxwell who came third in Year 3 and 4 boys' race. Isabel C who came 4th and Aura who came 5th in the Year 5 and 6 girls' race and Ollie B who came 9th in the Year 5 and 6 boys' race.

Thanks To Mr Palmer, Mrs Howes and Mrs Milligan and the parents who attended to support the team.

Moving forward it would be great to see more children attend cross country club, cross country definitely being something you have to run regularly to improve!



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.

Norwich City CSF Football – Today the school team took part in the Norwich City Community Tournament at The Nest. A report to follow next week.



Christmas Rudolph Run

On Monday we held our 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. The children had lots of fun and we raised over £200. Thank you.



Message from the Governing Body

"As a relatively new Governing Body, we are mindful that you may not know who we are or much about what we do and we promise to make this more visible in New Year.

In the meantime, please be assured that we've spent a lot of time in school with our current focus on safeguarding and would like to thank all staff, parents and especially the children for their valuable discussion and insight when we have spoken to them.

It has been a huge pleasure to see how warm and welcoming the school is; how happy and engaged the children are in their learning and how much fun EVERYONE is having with the return of parent lunches, class cafés and FORS events.

A special mention must go to the commitment shown by so many children on the Reading Stars challenge. In assembly, we witnessed just how important this is to the children by the sound of their drum roll awaiting the hotly anticipated scores for the week! We do however recognise that this can't happen without valuable time and support at home, but it makes a huge difference. We are thrilled and grateful to have such a supportive parent / carer community, a teaching / staff team that regularly give up their own time and a super active FORS committee. Thank you.

Finally, as we approach Christmas, the Governing Body would like to wish all families a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas."

"**Guitar certificates** were presented to Logan and Polly yesterday who passed their Trinity Guildhall exams with **FLYING COLOURS!** We are all very proud of you and you've maintained Rackheath's 100% success rate!" Mrs Brown



Tuck Shop - Due to the Christmas performances and Christmas lunch there will be no Tuck Shop from Monday to Thursday so please send something in for your child to eat instead.

World Cup

As we head into the Quarter Finals the teams left in the competition are:

- **Bombers and non-class-based staff – Portugal, Croatia**
- **Reception – England, Netherlands**
- **Year 1 – Argentina**
- **Year 2 – Brazil**
- **Year 3 – France, Morocco**



Years 4, 5 and 6 have no teams left! Come on Reception - let's hope for an England win tomorrow!



FORS NEWS

Don't forget to return your raffle tickets to school by the end of the day on Monday. This will be drawn at the KS2 Carol Concert on Tuesday evening where you will also be able to buy refreshments from our stall!



Reception

We had a busy start to the week in Reception with our Rudolph Run in the morning (complete with antlers!), followed by a walk to the Post Office in the afternoon to deliver our letters to Santa. The children enjoyed all the action and we only had a few complaints of tired legs!

In phonics we have been learning ss, zz, ll and ff and the children have really impressed us with just how well their sounding out and blending has become. A huge thank you for all the work that parents do to support what we're doing here in school. It makes such a difference!

On Friday morning we also had our first practise of our Nativity in costumes. It was very exciting and we loved the opportunity to dress-up to see what we would all look like. We promise you it will be a dazzling performance next week!

Year 1

This week has seen our final Nativity rehearsals; we are so excited to perform it to you next week! Everyone has worked so hard to learn their part and it looks wonderful.

We loved the Rudolph Run on Monday – in the rain! We made antlers which we wore along with a squishy red nose. Thank you to everyone who was able to donate to such a worthy cause. We ran several laps of the playground along with Years 2 and 5, whilst singing Christmas songs.

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'are' (share and care) and compared it to the 'air' (that's not fair) sound we already know. We finished our Christmas story books and learnt more about why Christians give gifts at Christmas. We have also had fun working on a Christmas maths booklet this week.

We made pop-up Christmas cards which we think look amazing – we loved using the Christmas stamps and sequins! We made snowy finger-painting pictures too.



Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed another lovely Christmassy week. The children have rehearsed their Nativity Production most days and especially enjoyed trying on all of their costumes, and seeing Year 1 in their costumes on Wednesday. We have had a few interesting rehearsals when Mrs Pallant and I have had to stand in for various characters, but now have most of the main parts back at school. Hopefully, we'll have a full cast next week our performances.

We have had guided reading groups every day and shared many Christmas stories. The children have about written what they think might happen in a sequel of the Rapunzel story as well as writing about various Christmas pictures. Today we began a new story by Michael Morpurgo called Coming Home. The children wrote about the things that they smell, hear, see and feel in their homes.

On Tuesday, we had a real treat when Edie told us all about how her family celebrate Sinterklaas visiting them on the 5th December. She kindly shared some of the special ginger biscuits that he brings with the class.

The children have also enjoyed a Cosmic Yoga Christmas Special, thought about parts of the Christmas story and which characters they might be good or bad news for, and in maths they have added two 2-digit numbers.

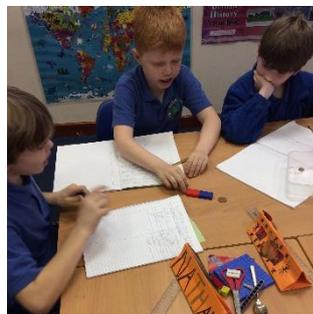
We look forward to welcoming you to our Nativity performances next week.

Year 3

It has been a super busy week in year 3 and it certainly feels like Christmas is here! On Monday, the children had lots of fun taking part in the Rudolph Run, wearing their antlers and red noses. They had a final practise of the Christmas carols ready for next Tuesday evening and designed some 'modern-art' inspired Christmas trees during art.

In English, we finished writing our play scripts for 'The Ant and the Grasshopper'. The children really impressed me with their independent writing and use of stage directions. In maths, we have been looking at fractions and gaining a greater understanding of numerators and denominators. We found this a little tricky initially but have become much more confident as the week has gone on. In Science, we have been enjoying our magnets topic. The children have had lots of fun finding out which materials are magnetic and non-magnetic, as well as looking at which poles attract and which repel.

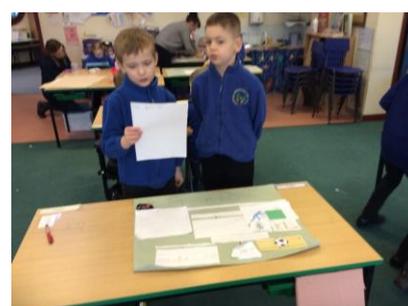
See you all next week, when the Christmas countdown can really begin! Miss Hornagold ©



Year 4

I feel like we have packed so much in again this week! A lot of our week has been spent completing our end of term assessments which has revealed some great progress - the class have done themselves proud.

Well done! The absolute highlight of this week, was the children working on and completing their topic presentations to the Year 5s. The children have worked as great team members and their final presentations were amazing. Well done Year 4!



Year 5

Only one more week left now!!! Not that we're counting down.

In maths this week we have been completing our end of term assessments... boooooo! But I must say – the children haven't complained at all - real superstars. We also ended the week by looking at how to add and subtract fractions. E.g. $1/5 + 4/5$.

In English we have been finishing off our Explanation writing about how bunnies jump – we will be using this writing to make a non-fiction page based on the book by Alan Snow.

In topic, we have been completing our learning by preparing for our presentations of learning. This is where we present our work to the Y4 children to tell them what we have learnt about. Below is a list of the topics that the children decided to explain:

Anglo Saxon clothing	Division	Multiplication	8 Billion Ideas	King Alfred the Great
Anglo Saxon weapons	Anglo Saxon Gods	Properties of materials	Pop Art	



Year 6

As we enter into the last week of this term, I would like to say how incredibly proud the Year 6 team are of the children. This week may not have been the most enjoyable as we had tests to do, but the children remained positive and tried their best – which is all we can ask for! In addition to this, we had a variety of morning puzzles and challenges as well as a KS2 Presentation Day. This is where the children in Year 6 got into smaller groups and chose an area to become experts in! Many of these areas linked to what they have learnt this term in lessons such as History, Science, Geography and Art. Everyone put so much effort into their presentations and spoke enthusiastically about their topic as well as being able to demonstrate their amazing subject knowledge!

On Monday, we had our Rudolph Run around the playground and the Year 6s enjoyed it even more as they got to pair up with their buddies in Reception! This was to raise money for Nelson's Journey. Today, our class were paired with Year 3 and it was lovely to see how engaged they were with each presentation.

In Science lessons, we predicted which materials were going to be soluble or insoluble. These materials were then tested and the children had to explain why their predictions were either correct or incorrect. In art lessons, we discussed 'negative space' and produced a winter scene using masking tape and watercolours. The end results were amazing!



Well done to Year 3 who had
98%
Attendance last week. Attendance
Bear will spend next week with them.

Attendance Bear
Attendance Bear

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **17 out of 24** and
Year 6 who had **29 out of 32**

of their children read to their family at
least 3 times at home this 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	Alex, Lucas, Elliott
Year 1	Kory, Henry, Mia
Year 2	Edie, Hunter, Tylor
Year 3	Xander, Amelia, Bonnie
Year 4	Leon, Isaac, All of Year 4
Year 5	Tallulah, Finn, Oscar
Year 6	All of Year 6, Katy, Sasha