

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th January 2023

The start of term has seen some fantastic improvements to the school grounds, which will add to the curriculum and enhance the enjoyment the children have in school. Last week the wild area was developed and this week we have had two sets of monkey bars installed. The majority of the cost of the bars have been met by the kind donations of two building firms. The main drive behind getting the bars came from the school council and especially through the hard work and determination of one of its members, Alice Tandy in Year 6, who wrote to the building companies and helped raise funds. Great job Alice!

Wild Area Update

As you may have seen over the last week there have been some developments to our school wild area – progress may be slow but it is getting there! So far, the pathways have been placed using bark and have been edged with cut logs – all materials have been sourced from tree felling projects around the Norfolk area. The next stage is to plant the bushes along the fence line and then, when the warmer weather is on the horizon, planting can begin! A massive thank you to John and Richard (in the photo) who have worked incredibly hard to find the materials, organise delivery and then do all of the backbreaking work!!



Year 4 Fashion Show

Next Tuesday the Paris Catwalk comes to Rackheath as our Year 4's take part in a fashion show showcasing their own designs. This is the culmination of a project #WeWillRecycle, which the school is jointly taking part in with Broadland High school. They have been making cool new clothes out of old clothes to avoid sending them to landfill.

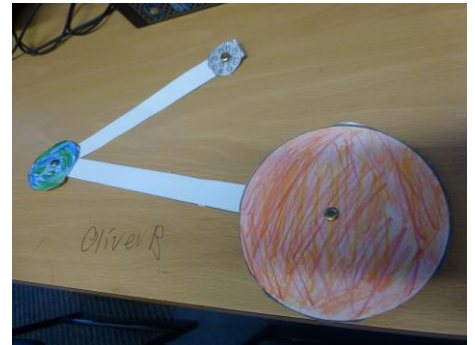
The items that the children have made are amazing so the show will celebrate their hard work. This will take place from just after 2:30pm on Tuesday 17th. Parents from Year 4 are welcome to join us and should arrive by 2:30pm.

Star Gazing Night



Wednesday's star gazing night was a great success. Lots of the children were able to come back to school in the early evening to learn about the stars above. The children enjoyed learning about the different constellations in lots of creative ways. We were very much hoping for clear skies, which wasn't looking very likely at 4:45pm when the children arrived at school in light drizzle! Fortunately, a small miracle took place as the clouds cleared and the stars were

clear to see. The children from Reception up to Year 6 all had turns outside using the **Night Sky App** which identifies what they could see in the sky. It was brilliant to hear them all excitedly identify Mars, Jupiter and different constellations. A huge thank you to all the staff who once again stayed late or came back to school to give the children a great experience.



Staffing



Mrs Petraglia will soon be starting her maternity leave, which is planned to start after half term. Mrs Pulford will be joining the reception team and teaching the class on a Thursday and Friday. At the same time, Mrs Cavender, who has taught across the school as our regular supply teacher, will be taking on Mrs Pulford's role - taking intervention groups two mornings a week and teaching Year

4 on a Thursday and Friday afternoon. We are very fortunate to have two great teachers stepping into these roles. Mrs Petraglia has also been busy working with Miss Hornagold, who is taking on the important role of English lead whilst Mrs Petraglia is on maternity leave.

Rackheath Primary "Your School Lottery" - As part of FORS fundraising the school takes part in the "Your School Lottery"

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/rackheath-primary-school>

If you are able to take part the lottery gives you a chance to win cash prizes and support the school at the same time.

New Tuck Shop Rota from Week of the 16th January – This term the rota for tuck shop has been slightly changed. As Ukulele lessons have moved from Tuesday to Wednesday we have swapped those days in the tuck rota too.

- Monday Year 3 and 5
- Tuesday Year 4 and 6
- Wednesday All of KS2 (as a class has tuck at a different time)
- Thursday Year 3 and 5
- Friday Year 4 and 6



Swimming - Unfortunately, due to staffing absence at Broadland, there will be no swimming for Year 3 on the 19th January. Hopefully swimming will start on the 26th January.

SATS Briefing – On Tuesday 31st January Mr Edwards and I will be holding a briefing for parents of our Year 6 children about the SATS tests the children will sit in May. We very much hope that all Year 6 parents will be able to attend the briefing, which will be in the hall at 6.00pm.



Reception

We have had such a great and very busy week, continuing to explore our Space topic. We have received postcards from Zogzee (an alien) who has been visiting the 8 planets in our Solar System. He has given us lots of information about each planet. We have been writing about the planets and looking at Space facts in non-fiction books. We also had a super stargazing evening, where we used an iPad app to see the star constellations and planets in the sky – we were all very excited about this!

We also had our first PE lesson this week, we were all fantastic at getting ourselves undressed and dressed in to our PE kits and enjoyed learning about all the different jumps we could do!

In Maths we have been looking at money, recognising all of the coins and playing shop keepers. Our sound this week has been 'ay' as in 'say and play' and we have started to learn our capital letter, A, B and C!

Year 1

What an excellent start back after the Christmas break for Year 1. Everyone has come back settled and ready to learn! Since our return, we have introduced our new whole-school topic, 'Here Comes the Sun'. Please look at your child's Knowledge Organiser with them to talk with them about what we are learning in school. We started by looking at Tim Peake and what it is like to be an astronaut, including on the International Space Station. We then moved on to learning about Gravity with Science experiments this week to explore it. We tried jumping up in the air and staying there but no-one could do it!

We are looking at the book 'Man on the Moon (A Day in the Life of Bob)' in English. We loved seeing the aliens hiding from Bob on every page! We have done lots of work around his daily life cleaning the moon and even made our own aliens by painting, drawing, junk modelling or using Play-Do. We used our aliens to write descriptive sentences and plan a story about them.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value for numbers to 20 and beyond, identifying how many tens and how many ones. We have been ordering numbers to 20 and more, using number lines to help us. We have been finding one more and one less by counting forwards and backwards. In Phonics, we have been learning the new sounds, 'ur' (nurse with a purse) and 'er' (a better letter) and comparing them to the sound 'ir' (whirl and twirl) that we already know.

The children that were able to come back for our Stargazing Evening had a wonderful time. We looked at the stars, read 'How to Catch a Star' and chose from a selection of practical activities to make constellations.

Year 2

Year 2 have settled back well into learning this week. It has been a busy one with lots of fantastic learning every day, including an extra hour on Wednesday during which most of the class came back for the star gazing evening. They enjoyed various constellation art activities as well as spotting stars and at least one planet.

Other topic work this week has included learning about the planets (the children love the Hopscotch Planet and Dwarf Planet songs) and about gravity, or rather the lack of it in space! We have also begun a new topic in RE learning about the Jewish Day of rest (Shabbat). This week we have revisited the creation story, which is in both the Bible and the Torah. The children have listened to the story and asked questions about it.

The children have read and talked about the qualities and skills needed to be an astronaut and written applications to Astronaut Training School! We have explored the next two pages of our new book and written thought bubbles to describe what the toys were thinking when they saw the night sky for the first time.

In maths the children have been working on 2-digit subtraction, whilst small groups have also been undertaking some maths assessment booklets with myself and Mrs Crook.

Year 3

What a fantastic first full week back we have had in Year 3! Every day this week, the children have come into class settled, ready to learn and super enthusiastic about our new topics!

In English, we have started to read 'The Comet' by Joe Todd-Stanton. The children have really enjoyed the story so far and have been doing some brilliant writing linked to it. They have written diary entries as Nyla; descriptive paragraphs about their own homes and what makes them special, as well as a play script as part of a scene from the book. In maths, we have been looking at measurement, specifically m, cms and mms and have been finding equivalent lengths. Test your child to see if they can remember these key facts: $1\text{m} = ___\text{cm}$ and $1\text{cm} = ___\text{mm}$?

In the afternoons, we have started our 'Light' unit in Science. We have been looking at light sources; how we see objects and day and night. Of course, we also had our brilliant star gazing evening on Wednesday, where we learnt about star constellations and were very excited to be able to go outside and find some in the sky using an app called 'Night Sky'. It was a special evening and something that I am sure the children will remember. Miss H 😊



Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing first week back! We have jumped straight into a new English unit, where we are learning about persuasive writing. Throughout the week, we have been exploring features of persuasive texts such as alliteration and expanded noun phrases. We finished the week off by exploring deforestation before we begin to debate deforestation next week.

In Maths, we have been studying the grid method for multiplication, which is one of my favourite parts of maths! Next week, we will be looking at division using mental methods and partitioning.

We also had a lovely evening at our star gazing event. We looked at star constellations and then went on a hunt outside. Luckily, the cloud parted at just the right time and we were able to identify lots of planets and different stars.

Don't forget to join us on Tuesday for our fashion show- we cannot wait to show you what we've completed!

Year 5

It has been a great start to 2023 – the children have shown no sign of being tired since coming back to school!

In maths, we have been looking at how to use the formal method when multiplying 3-digit numbers with 2-digit numbers. It was a rocky start, but by the end we got there!

In English, we have started the term with poetry linked to space. We have focussed on using similes, personification and metaphors to describe the night sky with a comet in it. Here is Alex's poem:

LIGHT IN THE DARK

*I look up at the never-ending night sky,
It's worth spending a minute to watch the sky on a clear night,
A black canvas flicked with white dots,
And there, a comet like a brilliant blue gas flame gorging on black,
A silver arrow frozen in time,
An interstellar bullet shot from another galaxy,
The comet running from its tail, playing tag in outer space,
It watches down on me.*



In topic, we have been focussing on some of the key facts around Earth such as how we get night, day and the seasons. We also created a model to help us remember key facts about Earth's journey around the sun.

Year 6

Since returning after the Christmas break, all of the Year 6s have worked their socks off! We've had a very interesting and busy few days and the class are really enjoying our Space unit of work linked to our new whole-school topic of 'Here Comes the Sun'. Since the first day back this term, we have learnt the order of the planets, key facts about them, how the Earth and Moon orbit the Sun, and learnt why we have day and night. It was amazing that we were also able to have a Star Gazing evening on Wednesday. This involved watching a mind-blowing video clip that compares the size of Earth to other stars and planets, learning about key constellations, and creating our own constellation viewers. Towards the end of the session, we went outside to use a star gazing app on iPads to locate constellations in the night sky. For me, the best part was seeing the children's reactions when they could actually see Mars! In English lessons, we recapped the main features of a non-chronological report. The children then researched areas that link to Space – some of which were Planets, The Sun, NASA, astronauts, constellations etc. These facts were then used in the children's own non-chronological reports. In Maths lessons, we learnt about reflections and lines of symmetry before tackling problems linked to algebra! Well done Year 6 on an amazing start to the spring term.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **22 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **28 out of 32**

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

Well done to Reception who had
96%
attendance before half term.
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.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Jamie, Klarka, Henry
Year 1	Florence, William, Emily
Year 2	Sidney, Jack, Mila
Year 3	William, Poppy, Sidney
Year 4	Jacob, Ellie-Mae, Ibbie
Year 5	Cody, Austin, Jayden, Layla, Alex
Year 6	Ollie B, Lacey H, Logan

Best wishes, have a lovely weekend