

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 20th January 2023

The first few weeks of the spring term tend to be quite quiet in comparison to the non-stop activity in the last few weeks before Christmas. It's good to have that balance as it has allowed the children and staff to really focus on the learning, attainment and progress of the children. The children have already produced excellent work across the school.

Cold Weather



It has been a week of icy and cold conditions. A big thank you to Mr Grubb for making sure the paths and car park are safe and free from ice. If the weather does get worse and we get snow at all this year please check your SchoolPing messages. We have had some super snowy days in school over the last few years and like to spend a lot of the time outside so the children need to dress appropriately!

School Ping will also be the main way we would let you know if the school had to be closed due to bad weather.

Year 4 Fashion Show

The catwalk came to Rackheath on Tuesday as the children of Year 4 modelled their own designs based on upcycling old and unwanted clothes. This was an important part of the project so the children could learn about the environmental impact of fast fashion and think of creative ways to reuse old clothes.



All the children did a great job making their clothes with the help of Mrs Goddard and Ms Holmes. The children also modelled the clothes themselves. Doing this with lots of style and humour. Quite a few of the children were nervous about taking part and this made their participation even more impressive. A big well done to all the children and staff involved including those from Broadland High who invited us to take part in their project. Thanks as always for the support of the Year 4 families!



Parent Teacher Evening

This term's parents' evenings will be on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February. They will take place face-to-face in school. We will let you know when the sign-up forms will be sent out on SchoolPing. As well as appointments with class teachers you can also make an appointment with Mr Ashman if you have something you would like to discuss with him.

Possible industrial action – A School Ping with information on the subject of possible strike action in school was sent out today.



Planetarium - WonderDome

To excite the children even further about our 'Here Comes the Sun' topic linked to space, we are pleased to announce that we have a mobile planetarium coming to visit on Monday 6th February. Each class will have an opportunity to 'take a trip through space to see the stars' in an inflatable dome where the night sky will be projected onto the roof! This is an opportunity that will be funded by the school.

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.



Reception

In Reception this week we have been particularly focusing on listening skills and making sure that we are good learners on the carpet. We will continue to build on this for the remainder of the half term with lots of praise and rewards for children who listen well.

In phonics we have been learning the sound 'ee' and the children are beginning to work towards more independent writing of simple words and sentences. In maths we have also focused on adding two numbers together and even using a number line to help us count on.

Aliens Love Underpants has been our focus text this week and the children have particularly loved opportunities to get creative and messy and make their own alien drink recipe!

Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have been learning the new sound 'ow' (brown cow) and comparing it to the 'ou' (shout it out) sound we already know. In Maths, we have been adding by counting on, using ten frames, number lines and part-whole models. We have been using number bonds to 10 and 20 to help us.

In English, we have continued with our story 'Man on the Moon (a day in the life of Bob)'. We wrote postcards as if we had been on holiday to the moon, made labels and new items for Bob's souvenir stand and made posters to persuade people to visit the moon!

We have continued with Science this week and have looked at rockets and how they take off and fly. We made our own paper flying rockets using a straw to blow the rocket into the air. We also watched a balloon rocket fly along a piece of string!

We started to learn about the Jewish story of creation and Shabbat in RE this week. We also continued with our Art topic on portraits.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic week. They have enjoyed learning more about space. On Monday, they learnt about space exploration and space buggies with Mr Ashman, and on Wednesday, they designed their own planet.

In maths, the children looked at equal and unequal groups before going on to learn how to record equal groups as both repeated addition and multiplication. In English, we have read more of our new story that the children are finding very exciting. The focus of our work has been on using interesting adjective to describe character. On Wednesday, I taught the children how to edit and improve their own work using a green or blue pen. They loved doing this and made a good job of it.

Yesterday we started a dance unit in PE. We have also had guided reading every day and have practised spelling soft c words and writing sentences using them.

We won the Reading Bear competition again this week. Thank you to everyone who continues to hear his or her child read regularly.

Year 3

What a super week we have had in year 3! In maths, the children have been learning how to calculate perimeter. They have been using their rulers to carefully measure the sides of the shape before adding them all up and in today's lesson, we even had a go at finding the missing lengths! In English, we finished our book 'The Comet'. The children did some wonderful reading with fluency and expression yesterday and finished today by writing their own book reviews; why not ask your child what their favourite part of the story was?

In the afternoon, we have been studying reflective materials and designing our own reflective Rackheath book bags. We have also been investigating mirrors in Science, learning greetings in Mandarin and drawing our own version of Vincent van Gogh's 'Starry Night' in Art. Unfortunately, there will be no swimming again next week.

Year 4

Gosh, what a busy week! I am sure you will all agree that the Year 4 fashion show was a huge success on Tuesday afternoon. The children have completed a big project and I know they were really pleased with their designs. We were so impressed by the teamwork and confidence of the class, they worked together so well. A huge thank you to Mrs Goddard and Miss Holmes for making it happen.

Back in class, the children have been completing some exciting work in English. We have been considering the story of Ran-tan, based on an orangutan that takes over a child's home. The children have been exploring deforestation in detail and considering reasons why people may support deforestation or be against it. We completed our week by having a debate and the children were amazing!

In Maths, we have been looking at division, we have just two more objectives to work on before we have finished this unit. Dividing with remainders and worded problems!

Well done Year 4 for another amazing week!



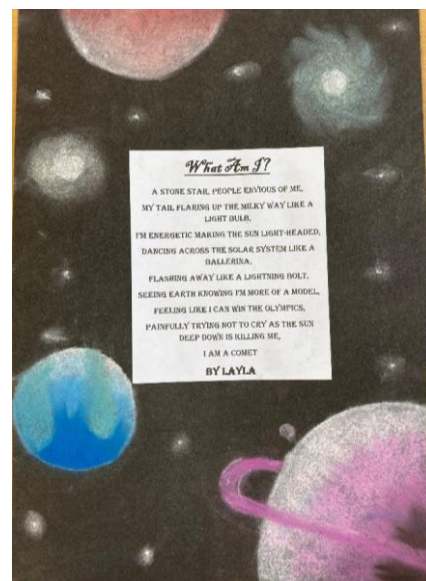
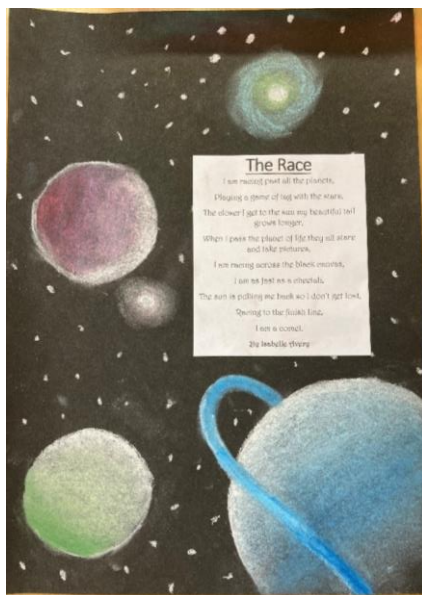
Year 5

It has been a cold, but fantastic week in year 5 - with some great learning taking place!

In Literacy, we continued our poetry work linked to metaphors and similes by writing poems as if we are a comet, racing through space. Once again, we had some deep and imaginative poems from the children. We then used chalk to create a background to back our work. I think you can agree from the pictures below that it looks amazing!

In maths, we have continued our work on linking Fractions, decimals and Percentages. The key learning from this week has been around visualising how and why $1/5 = 20\%$ and $1/3 = 33.3\%$. I am sorry if they have come home and have tried to trick you with facts!

In topic, our Space work has centred around the planets in our Solar System and facts about them. We were then treated to some excellent presentations from Holly and Freddie about Space – they were rather impressive!



Year 6

Year 6 have had another brilliant week in school and it's always great to have lots of staff members comment on their impressive work. Below is a picture of our detailed (and extremely imaginative) non-chronological reports linked to Space from last week! In Maths lessons, we have focused on percentages as well as how fractions, decimals and percentages can be equivalent to one another. There were lots of #OFTB questions in recent lessons, but the children persevered and rose to every challenge!

In Literacy, we had a grammar investigation linked to adverbs that do not end in -ly and then had to correctly put them into creative sentences. On Tuesday, we recapped our understanding of similes, metaphors and personification and used this knowledge to plan a Space inspired poem. These were completed on laptops before being placed on top of the children's comet artwork. The end results of the artwork were another highlight of the week, as the children used their creative skills by using water colours, chalks, poster paints and

sugar paper - for the background and foreground. In Science lessons, we continued with our understanding of night and day and then researched important Space events before putting them into chronological order.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **23 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **24 out of 28**

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

Well done to Year 4 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.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Eve, Zachary, Arthur
Year 1	Willow, Rosie, Leighrye
Year 2	Tylor, Isla, Esme
Year 3	Sophia, Aria, Darcy
Year 4	Connor, Emily T, Harlan
Year 5	Isabelle A, Harlow, Darla
Year 6	Ellie, Jess C, Oliver D

Have a lovely weekend

Chris Ashman