

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

School Council and Eco-Committee Elections – This week we have held elections for our new School Council and Eco Committee. Lots of children in all the classes put themselves forward and spoke really well to their classmates explaining why they thought they would be a good school council or eco-committee member. The class then voted for their choice and the winners were shared with the class later in the week.

The new school council group, which is made up of 2 children from each of the 7 classes is as follows:

- Reception – Emmy and William
- Year 1 – Lily and Luke and Henry (the boys tied in the vote so will share the job)
- Year 2 – Matilda and Jack
- Year 3 – Ayla and Xander
- Year 4 – Olivia and Isaac
- Year 5 – Tallulah and Austin
- Year 6 – Lila and Jack



The Eco-Committee is made up of 8 children; 2 per Key Stage Class as follows:



- Year 3 – Nicky and Amelie
- Year 4 – Honey and Connor
- Year 5 – Darla and George F
- Year 6 - Orlaith and Cairo

Well done to all the children who were voted in. They all received their badges in assembly today. Mrs Goddard and Mrs Milligan, who organise the two groups, will meet with the children soon.

Heads for the Day

On Tuesday it was time for the first “Head for the Day” of this year, when the House Captains take it in turns to help lead the school. First up were the Ranworth House Captains. Maisie and Ralph. They certainly set a high standard for the other house captains – they were both brilliant “Heads for the Day”! Their report is below:

“In the morning, we arrived at school by 8:25am and sat in on the Tuesday briefing meeting for staff. Then we went into Mr A’s office to discuss what we had planned for the day. First on the agenda was a “learning walk” to see who was listening and sitting nicely (also to see what everyone was learning). After that, we handed out stickers to the children that really stood out to us.

Then we answered an email from Mr C asking if we could do a maths survey for him. Soon after Mrs Pilbrow made us a delicious but sneaky hot chocolate with some biscuits that Ralph brought with him for the teachers. In addition to this, we wrote down different questions about buddies. Unexpectedly, it was already singing assembly time with Miss Hornagold and Mrs Grogutt. After that, we went outside to monitor break time, (we got ambushed by the Reception Class!).

Before long, Mr Ashman asked us to go around each class to get two people so that we could ask them a few questions about maths. As soon as we finished that, the next task was the Buddy Survey where we went around to ask year 6 and Reception questions about what they like about having a buddy. Don't worry we did have lunch break at 12:15pm.

It was almost home time and we were exhausted so we quickly put out the news sign boards, said our goodbyes and went home wanting to do it all again.

This was an amazing experience, one we will cherish forever."

By Maisie and Ralph



Staffing

Mrs Humphrey has worked in the school for an amazing 35 years. Mainly as a much-loved midday supervisor but initially as part of the team in the kitchen. Mrs Humphrey has decided to retire at half term. We know that many of you will know Mrs H and many of you may have been at the school as a pupil during the time she has worked here. We are in the process of planning a suitable farewell for a Rackheath legend!

MSA Vacancy – As a result of Mrs Humphrey leaving us we have a vacancy for an MSA. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join our staff team or find out more about the role please speak to either myself or Mr Cavender.

School Car Park

A reminder that the school car park should not be used by parents at the start and end of the day. With lots of young people walking, biking or scooting to and from school or Bombers at these times this is for safety reasons. There are a small number of parents who are allowed to park in the school car park for different reasons, which have been agreed with Mr Ashman beforehand.

Anyone using the car park at any time please drive in and out very, very slowly and carefully. There could be very young children crossing the path by the gates at any point during the school day up to the end of After School Club at 5:30pm. Just occasionally cars have been driven into the car park far too quickly to be safe.



Wonderdome Planetarium

The children have loved our work on space as part of the Here Comes the Sun curriculum. As mentioned last week we are very pleased that on Monday 6th February we will host a Wonderdome Planetarium, which should be lovely. During the day 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.

Monkey Bar Rules



The children have loved using the monkey bars. I think it's a really important part of children's development to learn to take and manage risk. At the same time, we do have rules for the children to follow to support their safe use. I thought it would be useful to share these with you. The rules in bold are the most important ones for parents to be aware of:

- When the field is out of use the class using the pirate ship can use the monkey bars
- During the school day the bars can only be used when an adult is supervising. Normally this will be at break and lunchtime
- If the bars are wet they will be slippery so can't be used
- **For now, you can't climb over the top of the curved bars**
- One person on the bars at a time
- You can only use them if you can reach
- **The monkey bars aren't to be used before school**
- **After school you can only go on the bars closely supervised by your parents**

SATS Briefing – As previously mentioned, next Tuesday evening 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 6pm.

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. The sign-up forms are now live on School Ping. 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. If you have any problems with signing up online then please speak to Mrs Roe or Mrs Pilbrow in the school office who will be able to help you.



Reception

In Reception this week we have had a visitor – Bob the Man on the Moon. He has sent us a special book all about his work on the moon and we have found out about the secret aliens who live there too! As part of this, we have been making astronaut helmets and creating our own alien handprint pictures and moon buggies.

In phonics and maths, we have also been learning the 'igh' sound and how to subtract numbers.

Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have been looking at constellations. We made our own constellation pictures using art straws and cotton wool. We also continued our RE work by making artefacts related to Shabbat using playdough.

On Tuesday, we had our School Council elections. We were very proud of all the children who stood up and said (or even read!) speeches. We wish good luck to our new Councillors!



In Maths, we have been practising our doubling skills. We were really confident with doubling numbers up to double 6 but needed a little more practice with double 7, 8 and 9. We really enjoyed playing the online game, Hit the Button, to practise this. We moved on to adding near doubles, e.g. 6+7.

In English, we started looking at the Julia Donaldson book, The Smeds and the Smoos. We have written character descriptions comparing the two main characters and made a missing poster for them. We wrote diary entries and made wedding invitations. We even designed our own planets!

In Phonics, we learnt the new sound 'ai' (snail in the rain) and compared it to 'ay' (may I play) and 'a-e' (make a cake).

Year 2

Year 2 have had lots of fun in the afternoons this week learning about rockets with Maddie Moate and then designing, making and improving their own model rockets. We hope they will have lots of fun and adventures with these at home. In addition to learning about rockets, they learnt about Moon Buggies with Mr Ashman on Monday and have been reading and writing in response to the story "Toys in Space" by Mini Grey.

Maths learning has been mainly focused on securing times table knowledge, especially the 5x table. Your child can practice times tables using the challenge on Sumdog and Hit the Button.

On Tuesday afternoon, the children worked hard learning more greetings in Mandarin and also began to write Chinese characters. They were incredibly good at this.

Today we had a dance lesson on the theme of Jack and the Beanstalk. We also had a circle time in which we thought about what good manners are and how we show good manners at home and school.

The class have been using a new toilet chart that has worked really well ensuring that important learning time is not lost. As a reward for this they had a little extra choosing time this afternoon.



Year 3

The children have been working incredibly hard in class this week. In English, they have been writing their own versions of 'The Comet'. They each decided on a change that would occur in their characters life and what magical object they would see in the sky to help them feel better. The children worked hard on their stories and they all sound lovely! In Maths, we have been recapping some addition and subtraction problems using the column method. Despite having not done this for a couple of weeks, the children quickly picked it up again and some even had a go at finding missing number problems!

In Science, we have been learning about opaque, translucent and transparent objects and how shadows are formed. Unfortunately, we didn't have much luck with the sunshine this week but hopefully we will be able to get outside next week and do some more shadow investigations. Happy weekend everyone!



Year 4

Year 4 have had another amazing week - we have packed so much in! We have finally finished our maths unit on multiplication and division and I'm impressed to see so much amazing progress from the children. We are moving onto area and perimeter next week – one of my favourite areas of maths so I am super excited!

In English, we have been using the internet this week to search for images we could copy and paste and for research. The children have showed excellent internet safety skills and I have been so impressed by their teamwork too! Next week, we will be finishing our 'Save the Rainforest' persuasive posters.

We have also spent lots of time enjoying our class-reading book, 'The Creakers' by Tom Fletcher. I know the class are utterly hooked - so am I! We cannot wait to see what happens next week.

Year 5

We have had a brilliant week in year 5 – even if we have been a little loud!

In maths, we started with looking at the January sales (my favourite!) and we tried to find 25% of an item and the take that off and find out the new price. The children were excellent at finding the 25% but then kept forgetting that they needed to remove this from the original price! We have now moved onto multiplying fractions (e.g. $\frac{1}{3} \times 4$ which is $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3}$).

In English, we have moved onto our suspense / mystery writing unit, which the children are very excited about. We started by listening to a film clip and trying to pick up on everything that we can hear to build the tension. The children at this point were very scared!! We then watched it without the volume and the children noted what they can see. Finally, we put it all together. We will now be using this clip to write a piece of suspense writing. By the way – the scary clip we watched was from Monsters Inc!

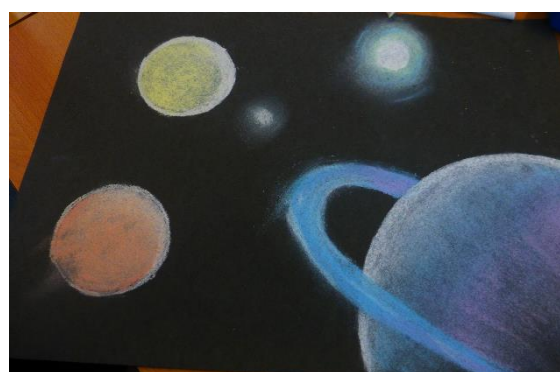
In our afternoon sessions we have been looking at some of the more recent significant space dates such as the Lunar landings and the first female in space. This was all going swimmingly for me until I then asked them to put them in chronological order! WOW – that caused me a headache. But we got there in the end!

Year 6

This week has been very busy and the children have been able to understand a variety of new topics. In Maths, we have moved onto multiplying decimal numbers by integers after completing word problems linked to percentages. They learnt a new Maths word (product) as well as choosing their own favourite methods to multiply two-place decimal numbers.

In Literacy lessons, our new unit of work is balanced arguments. We identified the features of them before discussing how some reports can be bias and what this means. They then learnt a variety of vocabulary linked to this area before writing their own. The question we focused on was – 'Should mobile phones be allowed in schools?'

In Science lessons, we learnt about the phases of the moon and the name given to each one. Later on, in the week, the children produced a fantastic piece of space artwork using chalks on sugar paper – whilst demonstrating excellent blending skills! I would also like to say a massive well done to everyone who put themselves forward to be a School or Eco-councillor; all of the speeches were fantastic. The four elected Year 6s were: Lila, Jack, Orlaith and Cairo. Lastly, it was great that Ralph and Maisie both had an enjoyable time being Headteachers for the day on Tuesday.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **31 out of 31**

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

Well done to Year 2 who had
97%

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 | Kipp, Ada, Niamh |
| Year 1 | Landon, Emma, Evie |
| Year 2 | Jacob G, Isobel, Willow |
| Year 3 | Jack, Madison, Iris |
| Year 4 | Maxwell, Ellis, Rosa |
| Year 5 | Nola, George H, Lexi |
| Year 6 | Sasha, Noah, Ben |

Best wishes, have a lovely weekend.

Chris Ashman