

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 10th February 2023

It's hard to believe we are now half way through another school year. The children have really enjoyed our "Here Comes The Sun," topic so far this term.



Today we said goodbye to Mrs Humphrey who has worked at the school for an amazing 35 years in different roles. In the time I have known her she has been the kind, hard-working and friendly leader of our MSA team. We held a special assembly this morning and we are planning a get together in school for after term. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

We also said **bye for now to Mrs Petraglia** who is preparing for the adventure of maternity leave. We wish her and all her family the best and look forward to hearing exciting news soon!

We also said goodbye to Kira in Year 5 and her family. Good luck – we will be thinking of you!



Bombers Staffing News

Sadly, Mrs Webb will be leaving the Bombers team from the middle of March. Mrs Webb has done a fantastic job as one of the managers in the Bombers and will have worked previously with lots of the children in the school. We wish her all the best in the future.

We have advertised for a Nursery Practitioner to start working in the Bombers from March until the end of the school year (and possibly beyond). If you or someone you know would be a great fit for the role please do look online at:

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/vfjobs/nursery-practitioner-40/?fromSearchPage=true>

or pop into the office to find out more.

WONDERDOME Planetarium

"On Monday, we were lucky enough to be able to travel into space and see our universe from a new angle! Each class had the opportunity to visit the mobile planetarium (the dome picture on the right) and be taken on a journey across the moon, through the solar system, and across the Milky Way! The images were projected onto the roof of the dome giving an amazing 3D effect



which made you feel like you were there. It was a fantastic activity and the children were all wowed by it! However, I did feel a little sea-sick! "

Mr C

Parent Teacher Evenings – It was lovely to welcome everyone into school to share the learning of the children this year on Wednesday and Thursday. It was great to hear lots of positive reports from parents about how their children are doing this year!



Year 6 Drama Visit to Broadland – The year 6 children really enjoyed their trip to Broadland to watch the high school's theatre performance of "Little Shop of Horrors." Apparently, there were quite a few familiar (ex-Rackheath) faces in the cast. It's always great to see how they are getting on!

Norwich City Girl's Football Tournament

On Wednesday the girl's football team took part in the Norwich City Premier League Stars Under 11 tournament at The Nest. With our Year 6 girls choosing culture over sport and heading for the theatre at Broadland it was left to the Year 5 girls to represent the school. They didn't let anyone down putting in four super group performances. In the first game the girls dominated from the start with Isabel having a fantastic game and Holly, Layla, Nola and Harlow working hard and tackling like terriers! We had quite a few chances before Isabel scored to give us a deserved win. In our first game Jasmine had played in goal, in the second she swapped with Lacey and the move paid off with Jasmine scoring a great goal to win the game whilst Lacey made some cat like saves!

The girls last two games were against tough opposition and unfortunately, we narrowly lost them both but that didn't spoil what had been a lovely day. If the girls keep playing and training regularly they should go on to do even better when they are in Year 6. Well done to all the girls and thanks to Mrs Huckle for accompanying the team as well as our band of super supporters.



Pre-Loved Book Sale – We are looking for donations for this from Monday 20th February to Wednesday 1st March. These can be left in the school reception area and our sale will be held on 2nd March after school!

Lunch after half term - When we come back to school it will be week 3 on the menu rota. This is because this week is week 1 and week 2 is half term week.



Special Educational Needs Parent Forum – On Monday 13th March we are planning to host a coffee morning for parents with a view to gather your thoughts on how we can best support children and families. More details will be sent out after half term.

Autism Awareness Week – Mrs Watson is organising our participation in Norfolk Autism Acceptance Week, which starts on Monday 27th March.



Bombers

It has been a super busy half term. We have had 'space' activities and the children made 'rockets' and textured 'moons' to celebrate 'space' week with school. We have also celebrated 'Chinese New Year' with relevant books, props, dressing up and making lanterns, Chinese stencil pictures and 'Rabbit' related activities. We had prawn crackers for snack, messy 'noodle' play which was very sticky and tactile and the children joined together to do a 'dragon' dance.

The children used our binoculars to look for birds in the garden to support 'bird watching' week and we are sending bird spotting sheets home for them to see what they can spot in their gardens or when out and about in half term. We can hopefully all have a look at the results after the break. We also made 'bird cakes' which we hung in our garden and the children 'collaged' their own bird pictures. We have been out for a walk a couple of times with a small group and looked at what we can see in the way of shapes, numbers and letters on road signs, pavements, houses and street names. We have moved our 'mud' kitchen and the children are thoroughly enjoying making their 'cakes', 'dinners' etc with a variety of soil / sand and utensils. We have welcomed some more families recently and the new little ones are settling in with us really well.

Hopefully we have speeded up our 'handover' and can accept families grouping up in the lobby if they want. Feedback does have to be brief in order to keep the queue moving but it is fine if you would like to discuss anything to arrive a few minutes before pick up time or be one of the last to drop off. A phone call or email can also be arranged with your keyperson if requested. Reminder that our times are 8.50am - 11.50am (morning) or 2.50pm (all day). Drop off at 12.00pm if only doing afternoon and collection by 3.00pm.



Reception

In Reception we have had a lovely week finishing up our space topic with a focus on the 'Smeds and the Smoos' book by Julia Donaldson. As the story had an alien love theme we combined our work with Valentine's Day and made cards and painted love hearts.

In maths we focused on 2D shapes and in phonics we learned the long 'oo' sound. The children thought it was absolutely hilarious when we then wrote the sentence 'I did a poo'!

It was Mrs Petraglia's last day before Maternity Leave on Friday and the children made her so many lovely pictures and cards and we all enjoyed a party together in the afternoon. A huge thank you to all the Reception parents as well, who surprised her with the most amazing gifts and well-wishes in the morning too! You are all wonderful.

Year 1

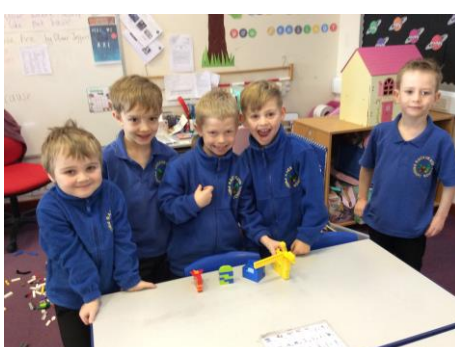
In Year 1 this week, we concluded the Space part of 'Here Comes the Sun' with a little quiz about all we have learnt. We then had the excitement of visiting the Wonderdome Planetarium! We loved going inside the giant inflatable tent and it was a great recap to all our learning this half term.

We then started the next part of our topic, finding out about weather, seasons and weather symbols. We made, rehearsed and recorded our own weather forecasts. They were so good when we watched them back! We also made wind socks and a rain-gauge to become weather watchers.

In Phonics, we looked at the new sound 'ew' (chew the stew) and compared it to 'oo' (poo at the zoo) and 'u-e' (huge brute) that we already know. In English, we started to look at the book 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers. We thought about all the things that make our planet special and drew pictures whilst listening to 'What a Wonderful World'. We wrote our own poems about our Wonderful World and made Lego models of the Solar System.

In Maths, we have been counting to 50 and beyond in different ways. We looked at tens and ones in bigger numbers, and practised counting in 10s. We are getting much more confident with place value and counting with bigger numbers now.

On Safer Internet Day, we recapped our visit to Broadland High School to see 'The two Johns' and reminded ourselves to always tell an adult if something makes us feel uncomfortable online.



Year 2

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the school year already! We have had a busy week in Year 2 with lots of excitement! On Monday, we spent half an hour travelling in space in the Planetarium, which the children absolutely loved! The week has ended with the excitement of the Valentines disco to look forward to.

In maths the children have named and described the properties of 2D shapes. They have written their own adventure story about toys in English, completed sound buttons activities, sentence writing and dictations. Today we finished our dance retelling the story of Jack and the Beanstalk to music.

In topic work the children have revised their understanding of the seasons and learnt more about the changes in daylight hours, whilst in art they created beautiful space pictures based on a picture by Kandinsky.

It was a pleasure to meet most of you this week and to share your child's learning and progress. Thank you for giving up your time. Have a great week.

Year 3

What an enjoyable last week of half term we have had in year 3. On Monday, we gave our light investigation another go and am pleased to report that it was far more successful this time round! We learnt that as you move an object further away from the light source, the smaller the shadow becomes, as there is less light being blocked! We have also been doing lots of work on the spheros, iPads and laptops this week. The children have really impressed me with their ability to type, edit and add pictures to their work. They have worked really hard, typing up their space themed poems and editing the size, font and colours to make them look very professional. We have also been continuing with our statistics work in maths, studying bar charts, tables and Venn diagrams, which the children have enjoyed and finished this afternoon off with some valentine themed times table worksheets. Have a wonderful half term! Miss H 😊

Year 4

We started our week off this week by visiting the Planetarium which we all absolutely loved. We were blown away by our space knowledge, particularly Isaac's who was an absolute pro!

However, I think we would all agree that the highlight of our week this week has been our 'Sphero Olympics!' Sphero are little balls we can navigate around using the iPads. Once we had managed to master the basics we were then set the challenge to navigate across the classroom without bumping into anything. It was definitely harder than it looked. Congratulations to the winning teams; Emily T and Honey and Harlan and Ethan!

In English, we have continued our persuasive writing by planning and creating persuasive letters to send to local garden centres to ask for resources for our new and expanding wild area. We were very excited to visit the wild area although totally distracted by the 5 truly giant worms that joined us too. The class have shown real progress in their ability to write at greater length and use a variety of vocabulary choices for impact, I'm so impressed by them! We've also looked at tricky possessive apostrophes in more detail- well done everyone.

I hope you all have a great half term!

Year 5

It has been a week of mixed emotions in year 5 this week. We have all been looking forward to half term but at the same time have been sad as it means that we will be losing a member of our class. There have been lots of tears! We wish Kira and her family all the best as they move back home to be with family and friends.

In maths, we have started to look at angles and how to measure them. We have been using protractors and rulers to do this and let me tell you... it has been a challenge!! But the children have persevered and more of them are starting to get the hang of it now. Fun fact of the week – all angles inside triangles, no matter how big or small, will always add up to 180° .

In literacy, we have started our next piece of suspense writing based on a film clip called Alma from the literacy shed. The children have been completely engrossed in this clip and have loved all of the questions that come from it. We will start practising our writing skills by turning this clip into a story and we will then write the second part to it!

In topic, we have been writing postcards from space after learning what life is like for astronauts. We then used computers to create the front of the postcard based on ones we may find at the beach from the UK. Fun fact – in space, an astronaut's wee is turned into oxygen and more drinking water!



We have finished the week with a little party for Kira to say goodbye... we played games and had a good dance!

Year 6

It's hard to believe that we have completed another half term already! It's been a busy week in Year 6 and the children should be very proud of themselves. Although the class have completed tests, they haven't complained and have all persevered!

On Monday morning, we had a visitor who set up the 'Wonderdome' planetarium. All of Year 6 got to go inside and watch an exciting 3D presentation linked to Space. It was a fantastic experience and the children learnt a variety of new interesting facts.



On Wednesday, we travelled to Broadland High School to watch 'Little Shop of Horrors' performed by children from Year 7 all the way up to Year 11.

They, along with other Year 6 classes in our cluster, also got to take part in a Q&A to find out about drama, dance and music in high school.

The winners of our Science moon pod challenge were also revealed. Well done to everyone for some fantastic D.T work, but a special well done goes to the winning group of... Orlaith, Polly and Ollie B.

In computing lessons, we had a quiz and questionnaire focussing on Internet



Safety Day, as well as using the Spheros again to create their own algorithms. As a reward for all of their hard work this half term, we had a cinema afternoon in class – with popcorn of course! Have a lovely half term everyone.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **18 out of 24** and
Year 6 who had **32 out of 32**

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

Well done to Year 2 who had the best attendance again last week. Attendance Bear will spend the week after half term 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	Cian, Yanna, Aminah
Year 1	Luke, Ben, Archie
Year 2	Charlie, Louis, Vienna
Year 3	Millie, Cara, Erin
Year 4	Rachel, Isaac, All of Year 4
Year 5	Libby, Kira, Josh
Year 6	All of Year 6, Elsie, Honey

Best wishes, have a great half term and see you all on Monday 20th February.

Chris Ashman