

Rackheath Primary School

Newsletter

Friday 24th February 2023

The children have settled quickly back into school routines after the half term. There has been lots of super learning and teaching taking place. The good weather at the start of the week allowed Reception class to go on a village walk on Monday and the children to use the field at lunchtime for the first time in quite a while. Always a lovely thing to see!

Year 1 and 2 RE Trip

On Thursday Year 1 and 2 visited Norwich Cathedral and the Norwich Synagogue as part of their RE curriculum. The children learnt a lot and were impeccably behaved in both places of worship. Well done all of you in Year 1 and 2. Thank you to the staff and parents who accompanied the children on the trip.



Parking / Driving Around the School

We have had some reports of cars being driven too quickly in the estate around the school and of people parking without due care and consideration. Please be careful when you park around the school. There are lots of young children walking to and from school and everyone needs to put their safety first.

FORS School Disco - We finished the half term with a school disco. Everyone had a good time and I was very impressed with the dancing and the behaviour of everyone! Thank you to the FORS and especially Chantelle and Nick Tyrell for organising and DJing.



Bombers Staffing News

There is still time to apply for the role of 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.



Retro Alley Pop Up – On Wednesday 1st March Retro Alley will be here after school with their uniform pop up shop.

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. A letter with more information went out on SchoolPing on Thursday.

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



World Book Day

On Thursday 2nd March, it is World Book Day and to celebrate in school we are asking children to bring in their favourite book! This can be any type of book, from their favourite picture book, non-fiction book or a classic novel. In class, children will spend some time sharing their books, discussing and reading them with each other.

The children will also be receiving a World Book Day £1 token, which can be swapped for one of the special World Book Day books found in most booksellers and supermarkets.



FORS News

New trustee member - A big welcome to Kylie Kavanagh-Read who has joined the FORS as our newest trustee member. We look forward to you being part of the team.

If you would like to join the FORS please speak to Tonya or Sophie or email on:

friendsofrackheathschool@hotmail.com

Valentine Disco- A huge thank you to all the children who attended the Valentines disco, they were all so well behaved and looked like they had a great time too. The event raised a fantastic £396.30. Thank you for supporting the event.

Upcoming events - FORS have been super busy planning lots of events for 2023. The events for this term will be:

- **Thursday 2nd March** - Preloved book sale (don't forget to drop any books you no longer need in the box in the school office)
- **Tuesday 14th March** - Mothering Sunday pop up shop (letters were sent home this week, spare letters are with the FORS red post box in main reception area).
- **Friday 31st March** - Easter cake sale (please contact a member of FORS if you are able to donate to this event).



Reception

In Reception we have really enjoyed exploring our village – we started the week with a walk around Rackheath looking for important buildings in our community. We loved looking at Google Earth to explore satellite pictures of our area – it was tricky at first to understand what we were looking at but we soon learnt to look for familiar features. Next, we designed junk model buildings and features, such as traffic lights, to create our very own 3D map! Some of us even used all our new large construction equipment outside to create a physical map – features included a house, complete with shower and kitchen, roads, roundabouts and a park.

In maths we have been exploring routines, basic time and ordering events – we loved playing ‘What’s the time, Mr. Wolf!’

We are looking forward to lots of singing next week!

Year 1

We have had a great start back after Half Term in Year 1. We all came in refreshed and ready to learn! The highlight of our week was the trip to the Cathedral and the Synagogue in Norwich.

In Phonics, we have learnt the new sound ‘ire’ (fire, fire!) and have written sentences using ‘ire’ words. In English, we continued with ‘Here We Are’ by drawing pictures of a human body showing inside and outside. We drew pictures of ourselves doing things we love to show how different we all are. We looked at different animals in our world and what we can do to protect them.

In Maths, we have been partitioning (breaking down) numbers into tens and ones, e.g. $47 = 4 \text{ tens and } 7 \text{ ones}$. We have used Dienes and Numicon to help us. We have also been ordering numbers to 50 and beyond.

In Science, we continued our work on weather by looking at more extreme types. We then made a tornado in a jar, and a snowstorm in a bag! We had great fun. We had a quiz about the weather to end this part of our Topic work.

On Thursday we enjoyed a trip to the Synagogue to learn more about Shabbat (the Jewish day of rest) and in the afternoon we explored the cathedral and learned about Christian worship. Some of us got the opportunity to dress up in a kippah and prayer shawl in the synagogue and volunteers were able to try on robes worn by bishops and priests in the cathedral. We are proud of all the children, they were brilliant ambassadors for our school.



Year 2

Unfortunately, I was unwell at the beginning of the week and so have only spent today in Year 2.

However, the children obviously thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Synagogue and Cathedral and were able to tell me many things that they had seen and learnt. It seems that tasting the bread that is eaten at Shabbat, and meeting Budge the cat in the Cathedral were probably the highlights, although lots of children talked about the Torah scroll and the stained-glass windows.

This afternoon the children presented their UK weather forecasts that they had worked on in pairs earlier in the week. These were excellent.

In maths the children have been learning to recognise and make halves and quarters.

Could you please ensure that you hear your son or daughter read at least three times each week and write in the contact book. This week we only had 16 reading stars.



Year 3

What a brilliant first week back we have had in Year 3. Firstly, I just want to say WOW at all the incredible times table work the children have clearly been doing over the half term! On Monday, Mrs Burrows was amazed at how many passed their next times table targets, so well done to everyone who kept this up in the half term ☺. In English, we have started looking at fractured fairy tales and have begun planning our version of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Ask your child about their versions of the fairy tale and see if they can explain how theirs is different from the original.

We have also started our new Science topic work for this half term – Rocks and Fossils! The children have been really enthusiastic about the work so far and, I hate to say it, are even more knowledgeable about fossils and dinosaurs than me! This should be a super exciting unit of work. Have a lovely weekend all, Miss H ☺

Year 4

It was so lovely to welcome the class back after half term. They seemed so refreshed!

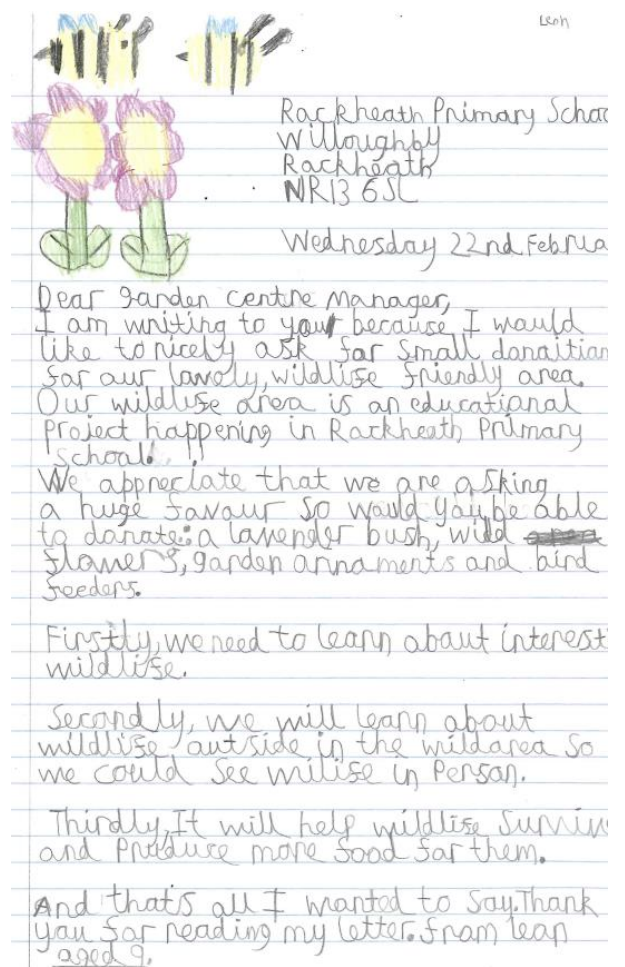
We have had a great week in class. In Maths, we have started our next unit, fractions! The children have been looking at mixed number fractions and we have been building fractions with cubes. Today, with Mr Ashman, the class also explored improper fractions. They are already making so much progress and we are feeling very proud!

In English, we spent the first few days of the week finishing our persuasive writing unit. The children have been writing letters to local garden centres asking for donations for our new wild area. We were very impressed by the quality of the work. I know Leon was feeling very proud of his so I had to include it for you all to see!

We finished the week off in English looking at our new book, 'How the stars came to be' and the children have produced some amazing art work today exploring their predictions of the text.

Parent Help Request! - We would love to welcome a parent helper in to class to support us with testing our times tables certificates. If you would be able to support us please let us know!

Our new homework grids will be sent home on Monday.



Year 5

What a brilliant week we've had in year 5 – it seems to have flown by!

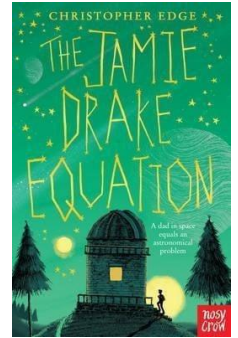
In maths, we have carried on our Angle work by investigating the angles of triangles and quadrilaterals. We discovered that all triangle angles add up to 180 degrees and all quadrilateral angles add up to 360 degrees. We then used this to find missing angles. A big well done to Nola who wowed us all by completing all of the #OFTB tasks on her own.

In English, we have been turning the Alma clip into a story by writing our Prologue, Paragraph one, paragraph two and Paragraph three. We have had some fantastic pieces of writing including a whole range of amazing punctuation and vocabulary.



In topic, we finished our postcards from space by using technology to create the front of the postcards. Here is Tallulah's example:

Finally, we finished our class book Mr Stink and have started to watch the film so that we can appraise both of them and see which is better... books or films! Our new class book will be The Jamie Drake Equation written by Christopher Edge.



Year 6

It has been a lovely first week back and the children should all be very proud of the work they have produced. In Maths lessons, we completed our topic of 'averages' – which focused on reasoning challenges linked to the mean, median, mode and range. We then moved on to interpreting and understanding pie charts, as well as being able to scale amounts up or down.

In Literacy lessons, we chose a planet to explore and then wrote a postcard back home to a friend or family member as though we had travelled there. Key information linked to how far the planet is from Earth, the distinguishing features, how long it would take to get there and the temperature range. It was great to see a range of advanced vocabulary choices and detailed descriptions.

We then finished the week with a grammar challenge linked to noun phrases. In Science lessons, we completed a variety of 'Space fact cards' before answering questions linked to the planets in our Solar System.

Our Art lessons on Wednesday and Thursday were very enjoyable – although rather messy! After learning about abstract artists (and designers) Jackson Pollock and Peter Thorpe, the Year 6s designed their own Space artwork inspired by them. Allowing the children to produce 'splat painting' for the background certainly took a bit of a risk! Impressively, it was mainly only the tables, chairs and a small section of wall that needed to be cleaned. Most importantly though, the children had so much fun and the end results were amazing! To finish off the artwork, the children cut their own space objects out of sugar paper and used this as the foreground.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Reception who had **18 out of 25** and
Year 6 who had **27 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 before half term with **97%**. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them.



Star, Angel and Diamond Certificate Winners – Well done to the following children who got their certificates in assembly today.

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Ivy, Chester, Alex
Year 1	Lily, Harley, Finley
Year 2	Whole Class, Matilda, Oscar
Year 3	Ave, Jenson, Sophie
Year 4	Kian, Mitzy, Leon
Year 5	Mia, Cody, Nola, Jasmine
Year 6	Lila, Ellie, Logan

Best wishes, have a great weekend.

Chris Ashman