Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th April 2024



It has been lovely to see all the children back in school; they have all settled well into the new term of learning. The school has quickly swung back into busy life. As usual lots is going on and it has been great to see children enjoying their learning and break times as well as other clubs and music tuition.



Year 4 have started the term with a residential trip to Horstead. From conversations with the Year 4 staff at Horstead the children have all had a super time and represented the school exceptionally well. Well done to Year 4 and a big thank you to Mrs Cavender, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Rivett and Mrs Crook for giving up their time voluntarily to give the children such a positive and valuable experience.

Next week it is Year 3's turn to go to Horstead and I am looking forward to going with them!

Class Assemblies



In the summer term we have class assemblies to a full audience of the school and parents. These all start at 2:40. Parents should arrive for 2:35

· Thursday 2nd May– Year 3

· Wednesday 8th May – Year 5

· Thursday 23rd May – Year 1

· Thursday 6th June – Year 2

· Thursday 13th June – Reception

Year 4 Class assembly has had to be moved from Wednesday 24th April. Once we have a new date we will let you know.



The week beginning the 17th June is sports week. Parents are invited to attend the events which, weather dependant, will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



· Monday am – Fun Sports

· Tuesday am – EYFS- Reception and Nursery

· Wednesday am – KS2

· Wednesday pm – KS1

· Thursday - Reserve day

· Friday – Passport Day

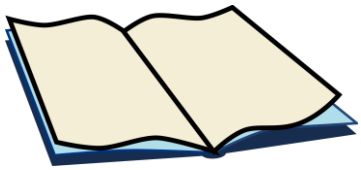


The last term in school for our Year 6 is always a special one. Some of the key dates for them

- **Week 13th May – SATS Week**
- **Friday 17th May – Post SATS treat**
- **Friday July 5th Camp out**
- **Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July – 6.00 End of term performances**
- **Thursday 18th July – Leavers Assembly Awards**
- **Friday 19th July - Leaver's Assembly for parents**

Parent Event Book Look 2.45pm-3:15pm

Each class will invite parents in to look at children's books between Monday 13th May and Friday 24th May. Dates to be sent out soon.





In the second half of the summer term we hold our transition events for the new school year. Some of the key dates are:

· Tuesday 11th June – 6pm Open evening for new parents Reception class September 2023

· Thursday 4th July – Moving up morning into September 2024 classes

· Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July - Broadland Transition days for Year 6 into Year 7

On Wednesday, GolfiKids came into school to teach a session with Reception and Years 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. We learnt how to hold a club correctly, how to swing and chip the ball, and how to tap and putt the ball. It was great fun!





Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I hope you all had a good half term holiday. It can be hard getting ourselves back to full speed after having a couple of weeks out the routine of school life. Our beds can feel far warmer and comfier on the first day back to school and it can be challenging to get ourselves and our children out of bed!

My Monday morning before school didn't have a smooth start - I mistook body cream for hair conditioner, stood in something grim my dog had honked up during the night and someone had eaten the last banana so I had to opt for toast instead. These certainly weren't big issues, however, I could feel myself getting niggled with how my morning wasn't the smooth start I had planned for. Thankfully, while searching for a change of socks, I remembered an Instagram reel by emilieleyes that I had recently seen where she encourages you to look for things that *are* going your way and to say those words to yourself. So when I found my car keys where they should be, I said to myself, "Things are going my way". I said it again when the train gates were open, when my laptop started up glitch-free, when I received a text from my daughter....the list goes on! When we look for the good stuff, we tune into it more, and we often discover it in places where we'd previously ignored it, or solely focused on the negative instead. I'd encourage our school community to give it a whirl. I've got five minutes before break duty - just enough time to make myself a coffee ("Things are going my way!"). Best wishes, Claire Cookson (for more details about our school wellbeing service, please click on this link: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing)



Reception

We have had a great first week back in reception class! It has been lovely to hear about what all the children got up to over the Easter holiday.

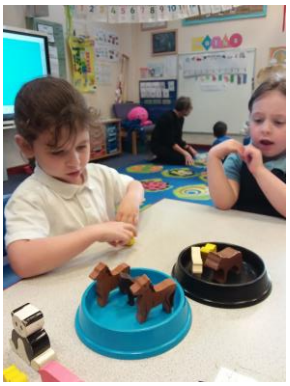
We have started our new 'Healthy Me!' topic and lots of the children have shown a very good level of knowledge and vocabulary so far when we have discussed where food comes from, different food groups and healthy and unhealthy choices. The children have really enjoyed role playing in our new Healthy Café set up – we've had some lovely fresh smoothies prepared for us and even some chocolate muffins which had hidden veg in them! Yum!

We really enjoyed our Golf taster day! It was tricky to get the hang of controlling the club but we listened carefully to the coach and tried hard!

In phonics we've been learning 'ou' – 'shout it out!' In maths, we have been busy pretending to have picnics and halving the foods, ensuring both groups got equal amounts.

Next week, we are looking at a well-known traditional tale linked to our healthy eating topic. Have a great weekend, all!



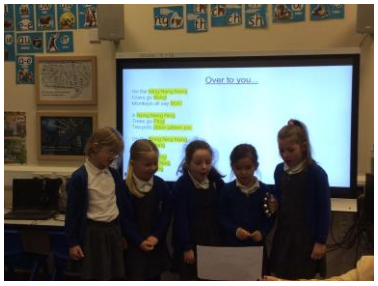






Year 1

We have had a great start back to Year 1 and everyone has come back full of energy and ready to learn! This week, we have recapped the sounds a-e (make a cake) and i-e (nice smile). We have practised reading and sorting alien words in preparation for our Phonics Screening next half term. The children have also enjoyed doing this during their playing time.



In English, we recapped what poetry is. We looked at On the Ning Nang Nong by Spike Milligan and performed it to each other, including actions and instruments! We then looked at Ready Steady Mo, a poetry book about Mo Farah. We practised performing it with actions and then re-wrote some of the words to make new poems. We continue to practise the meanings of the terms 'sentence', 'verb', 'noun/subject' and 'adjective'.



In Maths, we have been learning about capacity and volume. We poured water between containers to order them from biggest to smallest capacity, ordered cups with different volumes of water, and used sand and cubes to measure volume as well. Then we solved some problems using these skills.



Our new whole-school topic, Healthy Me, started this week. Please look the Knowledge Organisers with your children to talk about what they are learning. We started with Science, and looked at the basic needs of animals (including humans) – air, water, food, shelter and sleep. We had big discussions when sorting what are things we want (like sweets) and need to stay alive (like air).

On Wednesday, we had a great time with Golfikids where the children really enjoyed learning how to hold the golf club correctly, swing and chip the ball!

Year 2

This week we have welcomed Miss Knight back who is completing her last term of her teaching practice with us. She will be teaching many of the lessons during Mondays to Thursdays beginning next week. Both her planning and teaching will be closely monitored and guided by myself.

The children have settled straight back into work after the Easter holidays. This week we have focused on writing interesting sentences using adjectives and adverbs. We have based some of our writing around a Fairy Tales story box containing 20 pieces which the children have loved.

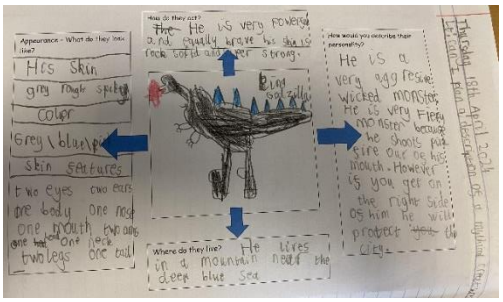
In maths the children have moved onto addition involving exchanging (e.g. 37 + 45) and subtraction with regrouping. For both of these we have used a pictorial method to show the tens and ones. Many of the children have achieved great success with these more challenging calculations.

In science we have considered what the essential needs of both humans and animals is for survival and also what are wants or desires might be. The children have a Golfilkids session as well as a PE lesson with Mr Palmer, and enjoyed using the spheros again with Mr Edwards.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant first week back at school; I hope they are ready for a fun packed summer term!

In English, we have begun a new book titled 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse'. To begin the week, we made predictions and inferences based on its title and illustrations on the front cover. So far, we have discovered that Leo (our main character) desires to become a Greek hero however his parents do not allow him to attend hero training because he has to adhere to the 'Brownstone code'. The children have really enjoyed the story so far and have written some amazing diary entries linked to Leo's perspective. They have also developed a range of wonderful mythical creatures – take a look at this one!



In Maths, we have been learning to tell the time. On Monday, we recapped o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to, before moving on to minutes past the hour and minutes to the hour (for example, 10 past 7 or 20 to 8).



We have also begun our new history topic, Ancient Greece! So far, we have discussed the use of timelines and have taken a closer look at events that occurred during the four time periods of Ancient Greece (Minoan & Mycenaean Ages, Dark Ages, Archaic Period, Classical Period and Hellenistic Period). In addition to this, we have also discussed the difference between primary and secondary sources of information with focus to their accuracy and reliability.



In RE, the children researched the origin and meanings behind their name in response to learning that the word 'Allah' has the same meaning as 'God', but in Arabic.

Finally, in RSE, we discussed high and low self-esteem. We discussed the importance of identifying our positive actions or achievements – whether that

be helping at home, working really hard to achieve our timetable target or practising and getting better at a particular sport etc.

Year 4
With Year 4 being away, full information about Horstead will be in the weeks to come.

Year 5
First week back – and the children have been brilliant!

In maths, we have moved on to finding angles but the first challenge was ensuring children knew all of their shapes! We have learnt that there is no such thing as 'just a triangle'! There are actually four! This blew the children's minds!

In English, we have continued our Mystery/suspense writing based on the short film called Alma. Our main focus has been on using speech and being able to describe a scene, as well as changing tense. The class have LOVED this and I have been blown away by how much writing they have produced!

In Science, we have moved onto looking at our bodies. This week, we have been learning about the main organs in our body and what their roles are. In geography, as we didn't get enough time last term, we are continuing our coasts topic by looking at the features of Great Yarmouth. Finally, in history, we became historians by trying to learn about the past from what we found in an Egyptian tomb.

Year 6
It's been a fantastic first week back after the Easter break and all of the children have continued to show a positive attitude for learning. In Maths lessons, we learnt about ratio and proportion as well as understanding how to scale ratios up or down. We then began converting units of measurements which will be our main Maths topic for next week. In Literacy, the children have finished their narrative texts and have completed two grammar challenges linked to fronted adverbials and prepositional phrases. Yesterday, they looked at an image of a shipwreck to inspire creative pieces of writing, which included dialogue and suspense. In Geography lessons, the children learnt about meanders and V-shape valleys and then began our new topic of 'Healthy Me'. As a Science lesson, the children understood the circulatory system and learnt about key features of the heart. On Wednesday, we had a golf workshop and were fortunate to have ours outside due to the rain stopping! The children were taught how to correctly use an iron to chip the golf ball from a tee and then afterwards we had putting practice too. Next week, we will have our final set of tests to complete before SATs week. The children will be taking these either in the hall or other rooms around the school to help prepare them as much as possible. As mentioned lots to the children, there is absolutely nothing to worry about and all they can do is try their best!





Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **15 out of 27** and
Year 6 who had **25 out of 32**
of their children read to their family at least 3 times at home this week!

Year 5 had
96%
Attendance W/C 25th March.
Attendance Bear will spend next week back 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	Ava, Joshua, Riley
Year 1	Lucas, Chester, Ada
Year 2	Florence, Elliot, Sonny
Year 3	Jack, Arlo, Charlie
Year 4	All of Year 4 were amazing at Horstead!
Year 5	Kayden, Ellie Mae, Kian, Emily T
Year 6	Layla, Mia, Jayden

Have a lovely weekend, best wishes!

Chris Ashman