Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd May 2024

After a long wait the summer has arrived (to a degree) and it has been lovely to see everyone enjoying the sunny days outside, especially on Wednesday and Thursday. I ended last week at Horstead with Year 3, who had a lovely time! A huge thank you to Miss Holding, Mrs Tunmore, Mrs Howes and Mrs Spurling for giving up their time to come away with the children and for all the hard work they put in when they were there!

Year 3 Class Assembly – *Yesterday Year 3's class assembly was all about their trip to Horstead last week. The children spoke really clearly and well and it was an enjoyable first class assembly of the term.*

Next week it is Year 5's class assembly on Wednesday 8th May.



Book Looks

In the last 2 weeks of this half term families will have a chance to look at the children's books at the end of one afternoon. At the same time, one afternoon, Reception will be holding a "Come and Play" session. Dates to follow soon.

100% Attendance for the Spring Term



Well done to all the children listed below for being in every day in the Spring Term.

- Reception – George, Isla C, Pippa, Austin and Ruby
- Year 1 – Elliot, Eve, Cian, Zachery, Ivy, Jamie and Freddie
- Year 2 – Emily, Florence, Sienna, Oakley, Jackson, Mia and Elliot
- Year 3 – Jack, Eden, Oscar, Ella, Max, Edie, Jacob P, Stanley, Alicja, Vienna, Esme, Matilda, Jayden and Parker
- Year 4 – Olivia C, Joey, Harley, Amelia, Emil, Erin, Sophia and Emily
- Year 5 – Honey, Rachel, Freddie, Harlan, Ethan, Jake, Maxwell, Emily and Jacob
- Year 6 – Isabelle, Layla, Lexi, Tommee and Austin



Year 6 will be sitting their SATS in the week beginning 13th May. Each morning the school are putting on breakfasts for all the children to help them relax into the day before their tests. Mr Edwards and Ms Holmes, as well as other staff, have been hugely impressed with the application and attitude our Year 6 children have shown this year. They can all be very proud of their achievements. Our traditional post SATS treat will take place on Friday 17th May, when we will be off to the seaside!

Netball – The netball team played a game yesterday against Colby school. It was an excellent game, won by Colby, with some excellent play from both sides. Well done to the team; Lacey, Isabel, Holly, Trinity, Libby Rachel, Dolcie and Millie. Thank you to Mr Palmer and Mr Poole for running the club and organising the game.

Lunch and Break-times

It has been lovely to be able to get on the field more this week. Lots of the children have been playing football and the vast majority have been playing as we would like. As a reminder for the children, we have a football code of conduct, which is shared below.

Football code of conduct

Everyone playing football agrees to:



- Play fairly
- Let all class mates who want to play join in
- Encourage each other
- Play in a way that keeps everyone safe

We also understand that:

- Sliding tackles cause most issues so they aren't allowed. Other deliberate fouls such as pulling someone over are also not allowed
- Rough play like that mentioned above will mean that the person being rough will have to spend some time not playing football

Year 2 Multi-Skills – On Wednesday Year 2 took part in cluster multi-sports at Hoveton St Johns along with pupils from St Johns, Coltishall, Salhouse, Neatishead and Tunstead. The children came back full of enthusiasm, describing it as a great morning of fun. The staff were equally impressed with the class, praising their excellent behaviour and attitude.

Norwich Canoe Club

On Monday, we had a very exciting visit from Suzanne from Norwich Canoe Club. We had a whole-school assembly where Suzanne demonstrated a paddle machine and showed us videos of people kayaking and canoeing, both professionally and at the club. Years 4 to 6 then had a chance to try out the paddle machines, and enjoyed 'racing' against a friend. If your child is interested in attending the club, they must be over the age of 7. The older children should have brought a flyer home, but please visit their website for further information: norwichcanoeclub.co.uk.





Class Photographs – Reception and Year 6 had their class photographs taken this week. We look forward to sharing them soon.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson – Social Media

I'm hopeful that now it's May, the weather is going to start to improve and we can all start to enjoy the benefits of the warmer weather. I find it so much easier to get my shoes on and take my dogs for a walk when I don't have to brace myself against the wind and the rain. If you follow this link: https://rb.gy/8peiyb you'll be able to listen to a podcast about the wellbeing benefits of sleep and spending time in nature. I'm planning on listening to it while I pavement pound with my dogs, as I find listening to a podcast helps me to stay out and about for longer, rather than retreating home prematurely. Movement, sleep and spending time in nature, in my opinion, are essential building blocks to feeling good. What could you do today or tomorrow to nurture one or more of these for you or one of the younger members of your family?

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (email me at: ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk).

For more information about our school wellbeing service please follow this link:
https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing



Bombers

What an up and down week for the children with their outdoor play! Brilliant sunshine and warm or back to cloud and miserable rain. However, they love getting outside whatever the weather.

The children have enjoyed some new river stones to complement our stepping-stones so they can practice lots of balancing and jumping. Also imagining the floor is lava so they must not fall in.

There has been some lovely sensory play with dough and crazy soap or shaving foam. Some also explored how they could draw and form letter shapes in the foam. We have focused on ring games, number, and action rhymes this week and today some carried on taking turns to be teacher and delivering 10 green bottles for their friends to take part in. Happy long weekend to everyone.

Reception

This week in reception class, we have enjoyed a picture book called 'Oliver's Vegetables' in which a young boy stays with his grandparents and, to begin with, only wants to eat chips. However, his grandpa is a keen gardener and makes a bargain with him – he can have chips if he can find the potatoes in the big veg patch! The catch is, if Oliver finds something else, he has to eat it! Oliver ends up eating, and loving, a big variety of veg and our children tried some too in class. We were very impressed that most of the children touched, smelt and tasted almost all the vegetables. They then wrote about their likes or dislikes or described the vegetables. Well done, everyone!

Though we planted our potatoes last week, our green fingered Mrs Coull helped the children to plant carrot seeds too this week so we'll also be tending to those.

In phonics, we have been revisiting the 'ay' (play) and 'ee' (been) sounds. The children are really working hard to sound these out and use them to write short sentences. In maths, we've enjoyed another picture book called 'Jasper's Beanstalk' which has helped us to learn about measuring and words like 'taller' and 'shorter'. We noticed that both our stories this week followed the days of the week as the story progressed!

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming some extremely teeny visitors into our classroom.







Year 1

This week in Year 1, we have continued our 'Healthy Me' Science work by looking at why exercise and good hygiene are important for humans. We enjoyed making up our own exercise routines! We also began our RSHE work this week, and looked at naming body parts, including external genitalia using Scientific terms.

In Phonics, we learnt 3 new sounds! We looked at 'ie' (terrible tie), 'au' (Paul the astronaut) and 'e-e' (go Pete and Steve). In English, we continued to read 'The Bee Who Spoke'. We thought about what we would pack for a special journey, became illustrators and drew pictures of how we visualised the story and wrote facts about bees. We also looked at the prefix 'un-'.

In Maths, we looked at equal and unequal groups, then moved onto arrays. We made arrays with counters and looked at how many counters were in each row and column. We then used our counting in 2s, 10s and 5s skills to count how many altogether. We recorded our number sentences pictorially and with numbers, e.g. 2+2+2+2=8.

On Monday, we really enjoyed the assembly by Suzanne from Norwich Canoe Club – we liked asking her to go faster and faster on the paddle machine.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a fabulous week. In English they have enjoyed hearing the rest of the story of The Paper Bag Princess. Yesterday the children each had a section of the story to rehearse in pairs. At the end of the lesson each pair performed. Some added actions and most read with fabulous expression.

In maths they have finished the unit on fractions. They have learnt that two quarters is the same as one half, and also learnt to recognise and find three quarters.

The children continued to explore the story of Moses in RE and created their own 5-minute exercise routines in science.

On Wednesday morning they all had a fabulous time taking part in the multi-skills festival at Hoveton St John School.

I hope you all enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend.





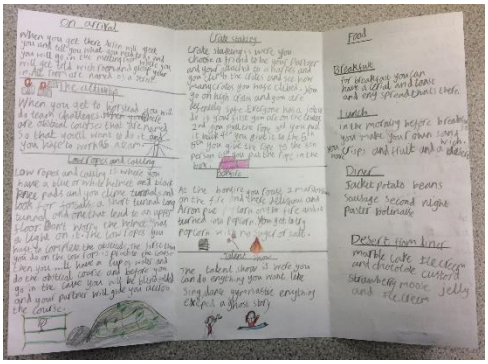


Year 3

Wowza - well done Year 3 for a super couple of weeks!

In English, we have been busy planning and creating leaflets all about The Horstead Centre. We thought that making leaflets would be a great opportunity to reflect on our residential whilst also a purposeful task for preparing our audience (the Year 2 class) for their visit next year. We began the week by exploring the key features of leaflets. Following this, we developed notes relating our experience before organising them onto a leaflet. The children have taken great care with this task; they looking very professional.





In Maths, we have continued to learn about time. The learning for most of this week has been focused on differentiating between periods of time (including am/ pm, days, months and years). However, we finished the week with using start and end times to find durations. For example, 'Joe's swimming lesson starts at 09:05am and finishes at 10:10am. What is the duration of the swimming lesson?' At first, we found this quite challenging, but with further practise the class are feeling much more confident. We will continue to work on this next week.

In French, Mrs Petraglia and the children have spent time recapping their understanding of greeting others. I can't wait to find out more about their progress over the coming weeks.

In PE, the class are currently completing a unit on gymnastics. This week they have practiced point and patch balances. I know Year 3 has many very talented female gymnasts however when I popped in to visit, I noticed many flexible children, both boys and girls.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to mention how proud I am of all the children. They have absolutely worked their socks off this week to prepare and present the most wonderful class assembly. They definitely deserve the extra day off this bank holiday Monday! 😊

Year 4

It was lovely to see the sun this week – and get my sandals on!

In maths, we have been looking at decimal numbers and putting them in order. We have also been focussing our timetables as we have the National Assessments coming up soon. Any extra practise at home would be useful for this!

In English, we have started our poetry unit looking at the work of Matt Goodfellow. Our focus has been on rhyme and rhythm within these. We also enjoyed performing several.

RSHE has been a focus in the afternoons this week. We have learnt about how we change from a foetus, to a child and then into puberty. In our topic work, the Ancient Greeks, we have been focusing on Alexander the Great.

Year 5

This week in maths we have continued our work on shapes, this time by learning about 3d shapes and their properties. We also practised drawing 3d cubes…which was fun!

In English, we have come to the end of our Mystery writing unit by using what we have learnt to write our own stories which we have now typed up! Ove the next week, the children will be bringing a copy home for them to share with you.

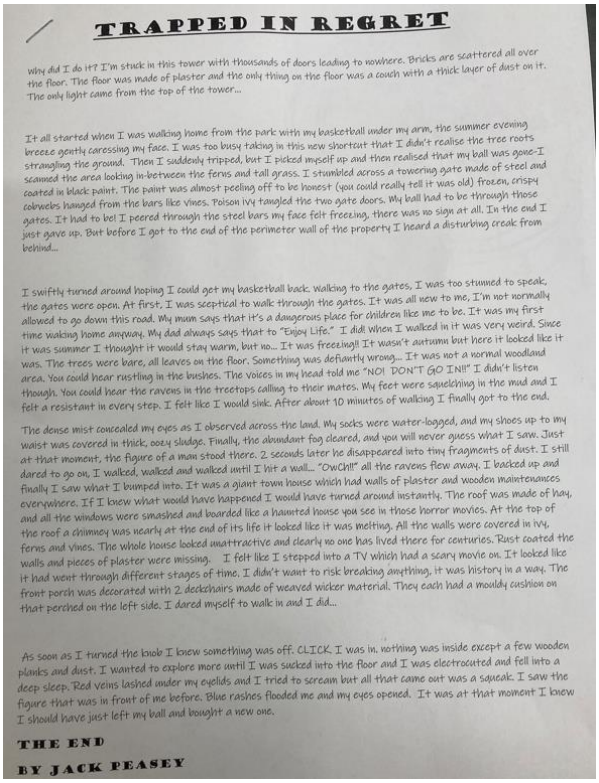
In science, we continued to look at the role of the heart in our bodies, along with what we find in our blood. We found that blood contains red blood cells, white blood cells, plasma and platelets. Why not ask you child to see if they can remember what their roles are.

We have also started our RSHE work linked to the body and puberty. This week, we looked at emotions and the role they play in our lives. We discussed comfortable and uncomfortable emotions and then started to discuss methods to help us feel balanced.

The highlight of the week was our computing lesson! We used the spheros to try and accurately make our way around a pre-set track. We had to make small changes to ensure that the bots stayed on the masking tape. As you can see from the pics, some of the class really got into this!







TRAPPED IN REGRET

Why did I do it? I'm stuck in this tower with thousands of doors leading to nowhere. Bricks are scattered all over the floor. The floor was made of plaster and the only thing on the floor was a couch with a thick layer of dust on it. The only light came from the top of the tower...

It all started when I was walking home from the park with my basketball under my arm, the summer evening breeze gently caressing my face. I was too busy taking in this new shortcut that I didn't realise the tree roots strangling the ground. Then I suddenly tripped, but I picked myself up and then realised that my ball was gone. I scanned the area looking in-between the ferns and tall grass. I stumbled across a towering gate made of steel and coated in black paint. The paint was almost peeling off to be honest (you could really tell it was old) frozen, crispy cobwebs hanged from the bars like vines. Poison ivy tangled the two gate doors. My ball had to be through those gates. It had to be! I peered through the steel bars my face felt freezing, there was no sign at all. In the end I just gave up. But before I got to the end of the perimeter wall of the property I heard a disturbing creak from behind...

I swiftly turned around hoping I could get my basketball back. Walking to the gates, I was too stunned to speak, the gates were open. At first, I was sceptical to walk through the gates. It was all new to me, I'm not normally allowed to go down this road. My mum says that it's a dangerous place for children like me to be. It was my first time walking home anyway. My dad always says that to "Enjoy Life." I did! When I walked in it was very weird. Since it was summer I thought it would stay warm, but no... It was freezing!! It wasn't autumn but here it looked like it was. The trees were bare, all leaves on the floor. Something was defiantly wrong... It was not a normal woodland area. You could hear rustling in the bushes. The voices in my head told me "NO! DON'T GO IN!!" I didn't listen though. You could hear the ravens in the treetops calling to their mates. My feet were squelching in the mud and I felt a resistant in every step. I felt like I would sink. After about 10 minutes of walking I finally got to the end.

The dense mist concealed my eyes as I observed across the land. My socks were water-logged, and my shoes up to my waist was covered in thick, oozy sludge. Finally, the abundant fog cleared, and you will never guess what I saw. Just at that moment, the figure of a man stood there. 2 seconds later he disappeared into tiny fragments of dust. I still dared to go on, I walked, walked and walked until I hit a wall... "OWCH!!" all the ravens flew away. I backed up and finally I saw what I bumped into. It was a giant town house which had walls of plaster and wooden maintenances everywhere. If I knew what would have happened I would have turned around instantly. The roof was made of hay, and all the windows were smashed and boarded like a haunted house you see in those horror movies. At the top of the roof a chimney was nearly at the end of its life it looked like it was melting. All the walls were covered in ivy, ferns and vines. The whole house looked unattractive and clearly no one has lived there for centuries. Rust coated the walls and pieces of plaster were missing. I felt like I stepped into a TV which had a scary movie on. It looked like it had went through different stages of time. I didn't want to risk breaking anything, it was history in a way. The front porch was decorated with 2 deckchairs made of weaved wicker material. They each had a mouldy cushion on that perched on the left side. I dared myself to walk in and I did...

As soon as I turned the knob I knew something was off. CLICK. I was in, nothing was inside except a few wooden planks and dust. I wanted to explore more until I was sucked into the floor and I was electrocuted and fell into a deep sleep. Red veins lashed under my eyelids and I tried to scream but all that came out was a squeak. I saw the figure that was in front of me before. Blue rashes flooded me and my eyes opened. It was at that moment I knew I should have just left my ball and bought a new one.

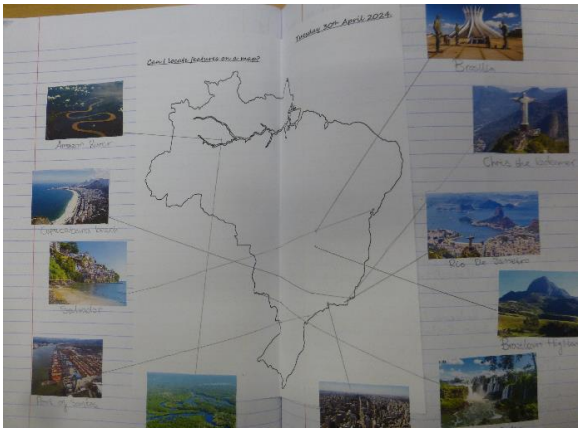
THE END

BY JACK PEASEY

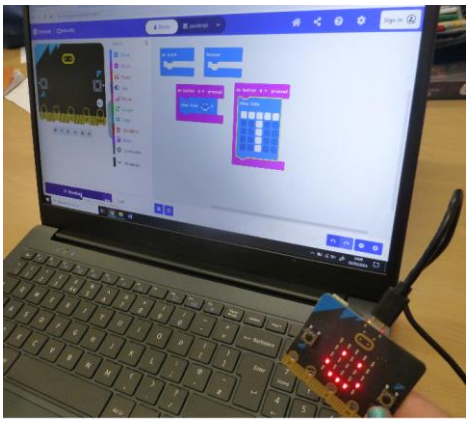
Year 6

It's been another busy week in Year 6 where the children have remained focused throughout every task!

In Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of Roman Numerals and learnt about the radius, diameter and circumference of a circle. In addition to this, the children completed a series of arithmetic challenges.



In Literacy a big focus of ours has linked to comprehension and we have looked in depth at a text linked to music and answered a series of questions to see how well the children can infer information as well as make predictions. Our grammar challenges have focused on identifying and writing noun phrases, whilst learning about the different types of determiners.



In Geography lessons, the children continued to locate the countries of South America, before researching each one to discover their famous landmarks, population, currency, spoken languages and land size. We then learnt about the human and physical features of Brazil and plotted them accurately onto a map. Our final lesson within this subject was for the children to discover the importance of the Christ the Redeemer statue.

Yesterday, we had our first Computing lesson using Micro: Bits – which are pocket sized computers. The class seemed to enjoy programming them to display messages, play music and display patterns using the LED lights.

Please ensure you have read the SchoolPing message (that was sent yesterday) as this explains the arrival times for the SATs breakfasts.



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **18 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **29 out of 32**

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

Year 3 had
96%
last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week back 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	Harrison, Jacob, Delilah
Year 1	Arthur, Eve, Freddie
Year 2	Lily, Oakley, William
Year 3	All of Year 3, Esme, Theodore
Year 4	Jack, Sophia, Cara
Year 5	Ethan, Isabelle, Mia
Year 6	Josh, Jess, Libby

Have a lovely long weekend. See you on Tuesday.

Best wishes.

Chris Ashman