Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 10th May 2024

It has been a busy four days in school this week. Thursday and Friday have seen us interviewing for Mrs Grogutt's replacement. We interviewed over two days because we were lucky enough to have over 60 applications. As I write this, we haven't appointed yet but once we do, I will let you know.

Year 5 Class Assembly – Wednesday's Year 5 class assembly was all their Ancient Egyptian Learning. The children put on a super display which included a quiz for parents (well done parents on your excellent answers!) and the mummification of Pharaoh Freddie! The next class assembly is Year 1's, which is on Thursday 23rd May.



Our annual parent survey sent out by the school's governors should have come home with your child today. We very much hope that as many of you as possible can complete the form and return it. It is really useful to hear your views on the school. The deadline to return the forms is Friday 7th June. They can be placed in the blue box which will be in school reception.

School Jumpers

As we head into the warmer months, please do make sure names are in jumpers, fleeces and cardigans. The children often take their jumpers off when they go outside and leave them on the field. Having a name in the jumper makes it much easier to return them to their owner and means that they don't get lost!



Book Looks

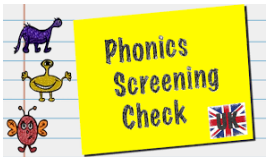
In the last 2 weeks of this half term families will have a chance to look at the children's books at the end of one afternoon. At the same time, one afternoon, Reception will be holding a "Come and Play" session. Dates for these are as follows:

Tuesday 14th May – Year 5
Wednesday 15th May – Year 1
Thursday 16th May – Year 3
Monday 20th May – Year 4
Tuesday 21st May – Reception
Wednesday 22nd May – Year 2



Year 4 Football Canary 5's Re-arranged Date – The tournament that was meant to take place at the Nest last Friday has been re-arranged for Friday 5th July. The children attending will be the same and the letter will go out after half term.

Phonics Screening – Year 1 staff are holding a quick briefing about the phonics screening check ahead of the Phonics Screening check week which starts on Monday 10th June. This is after their book look on Wednesday 15th May.





Year 6 will be sitting their SATS next week. Beforehand 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 on what will hopefully be a sunny day!

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Credit for my newsletter entry this week goes to Catherine M. Wallace (and Dr Chatterjee for posting it on his Instagram!).

"Listen earnestly to anything your children want to tell you, no matter what. If you don't listen eagerly to the little stuff when they are little, they won't tell you the big stuff when they are big, because to them all of it has always been big stuff".

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk).

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

World Mile Challenge

On Tuesday, the whole school took part in the World Mile Challenge for Kids Athletics Day. The Kids Athletic programme uses the power of athletics to inspire children and young people, wherever they are, to be more active, develop their skills and confidence, and to connect with sport. The theme for the 2024 Kids' Athletics Day was the World Mile Challenge in honour of the 70th anniversary of Roger Bannister breaking the four-minute mile. We all ran, skipped and walked our way round 8 laps of the field. Children all around the world were running a mile on the same day!









Bombers



Hi everyone. So lovely to have the sunshine this week. The children have loved being outside and we have a great new platform to play on for small world, construction or as a stage for shows courtesy of our caretaker Gary. We also were very lucky to have a visit from one of our children's nannies with her tortoises. The children loved seeing them and feeding them and learning all about them. We have explored the letter 'Pp' with penguin, pirate ship activity and Peppa Pig. There has been some lovely co–operative play and imaginative play with friendships forming and children gaining more confidence to express thoughts and experiences. We continue to have a few new little starters and they are settling well. Next week we are exploring the letter 'Gg' and will focus on one handed tools within craft and 'literacy'.

Reception

We have new members in Reception class – tiny, baby caterpillars! We have enjoyed The Hungry Caterpillar story this week and have made butterfly lifecycles from pasta shapes. We are super proud of the way the children have picked up on the vocabulary and can explain the lifecycle using their models and referring to the story. We are really looking forward to watching our caterpillar babies grow and are excited for the next stage – the cocoon / chrysalis! The children have also been busy ensuring their potatoes and carrots are watered. Some of the children were excited to observe the first shoots in the potato grow bags.

In phonics, we have revisited the 'igh' (night) and 'ow' (snow) sounds. We can tell lots of the children are practising their red words too which is great ready for Year 1. In maths, we have loved revisiting 3D shapes. It's been great exploring in this glorious weather finding cuboids on the playground pirate ship and cylinders on the trim trail!

Next week, we will be exploring more healthy foods but our story will take us much further afield.









Year 1

This week in Year 1, we practised the sounds 'ea' (cup of tea), 'ai' (snail in the rain) and 'are' (care and share). Your child should have brought the second QR Code to practise at home in their Reading Record this week.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed taking part in the World Mile Challenge for Kids Athletics Day. We all ran, walked and skipped our way round the field 8 times!

In English, we continued with The Bee Who Spoke by making posters to persuade people to look after our bees. We chose our three favourites to put up in the window. In Maths, we moved on to dividing by grouping. We did this

practically using small toys. We also looked at how the arrays we used last week can help us to divide as well as multiply.

In Science, we drew round some children in our class and labelled all the body parts we could on them. We then drew our own person in our books and labelled them. We looked at the 5 senses and which body parts we use for which sense.

Year 2

It's been quite an unusual week for Year 2 this week! Firstly, a four-day week, secondly, some fabulous warm, sunny weather, and last of all being taught six maths lessons by some superb teachers all of whom have been interviewed for the post to be filled when I take early retirement. Miss Knight has also been unable to be with us this week so it's been a very different one!

The children have been absolutely fabulous, and were such incredibly good listeners, displaying superb learning behaviour and enthusiasm in the maths lessons which were delivered to them on Thursday and Friday. They should be congratulated on being superb role models for our wonderful school.

On Tuesday we had our first lesson on measuring, in which the children were all able to measure accurately using a ruler. In maths this week, most of the children have also completed an arithmetic assessment paper.

In English the children have planned their own story based on The Paper Bag Princess, in which Princess Elizabeth gives the dragon three different challenges and the ending is different from that in the original book. They wrote the first part of their story on Wednesday.

The children have also had a PE lesson, an ICT lesson, learnt about the importance of hygiene, teeth cleaning and sleep in science as well as listening to the story of Anansi the Spider and creating Kente cloth patterns in art.

Year 3

It's been another busy week in Year 3.

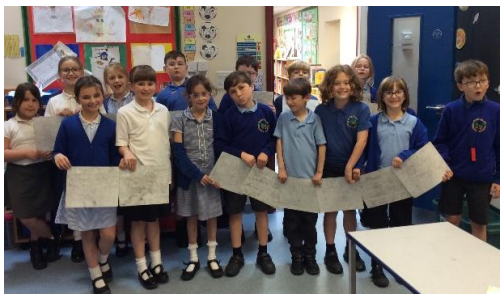
In English, we finished our book, 'Leo and the Gorgon's Curse'. It was a brilliant story! We were constantly left on cliff hangers throughout the week which led us to some extremely imaginative predictions. We ended the week by developing our own instructions on 'How to deal with mythical creatures (without causing harm)'. I can't wait to read them – After all, you never know when you may be faced a mythical creature! In addition to this, we spend time with the Year 2 children to show them our leaflets about Horstead. Our aim was to inform them of the residential, ready for their visit next year.

In Maths, we completed our unit on 'time'. The children have tackled a variety of problem-solving questions related to time. Including finding the duration and finding the start or end time of an activity. Next week, we will be moving onto calculations involving money.

In topic, we have begun to study the twelve Olympian Gods and Goddesses. The children found it particularly amusing that the twelve Gods and Goddesses lived and undertook their meetings at the top of Mount Olympus. Alongside this the children learnt about The Battle of Marathon and discovered that, despite only having a small number of hoplite soldiers, the Athenians still claimed victory over the Persian Army. We had lots of fun playing 'Ready, Set, Battle' which involved two teams. Both teams were required to collect hoplite soldiers to build phalanx.

Here they are, ready for battle (with their shields aka whiteboards).





In PE, the children have continued to develop their gymnastic skills. This week they have practised their balances whilst also incorporating a variety of jumps to produce a routine.

Year 4

What a gloriously sunny end to a great week in Year 4.

This week we have been continuing our journey with the Greeks; learning about how they won the Battle of Marathon against the Persians; and today in art, we have successfully completed our first stage of making Greek vases.

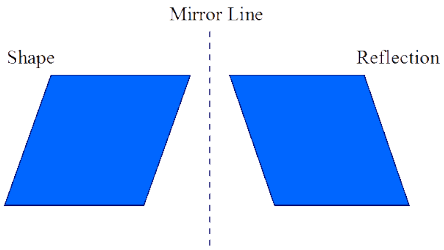
In Maths we have been exploring decimals as fractions and discovering the links between them. In English we have continued our Poetry unit, looking at several more of Matt Goodfellow's poems; we thoroughly enjoyed using our imagination to create poems about animals based on 'If Cats had Flavoured Fur'. Today we used our own personal experiences to write a poem using the same structure as 'Ride' by Matt Goodfellow, which were fantastic!

Year 5

It has been a short wee for me in year 5 as I have spent two days in interviews for the new y2 position, with many of our class running tours of the school. I want to start by saying a massive thank you to those year 5 children who offered to help – every sing candidate said that you were amazing!

We also had our class assembly this week, so much of the first few days were spent getting ready for that and again the children were amazing! Loud and clear!

In maths we have been looking at reflection, and how to draw shapes if they have been reflected.



In English we have moved on to our new unit of work, writing to describe and persuade. To do this we have been looking at holiday brochures (which have made me want to go abroad) and the language that they use to describe a holiday! We will then be using this to make a travel guide to Brazil, linked to our topic work!

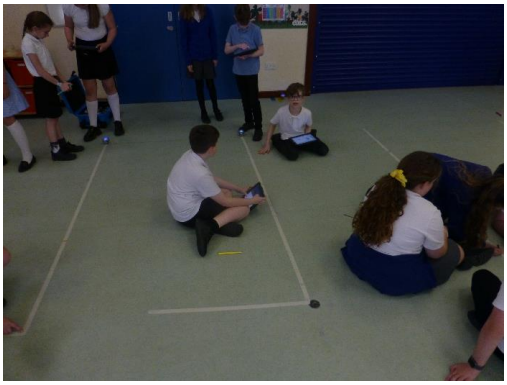
Year 6

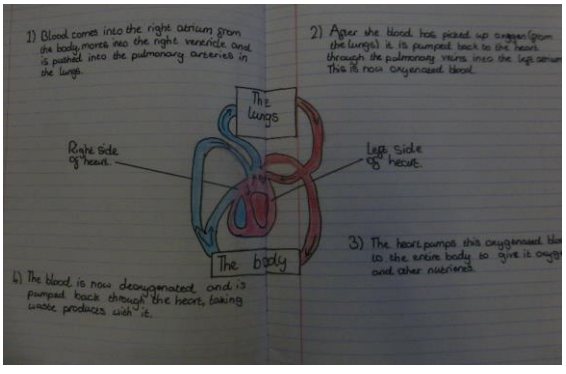
As mentioned in the recent Ping message, the Year 6s have so many exciting events to look forward to in the upcoming weeks. As well as having the SATs breakfasts on Monday to Thursday next week, we also have our Post SATs trip to Great Yarmouth on Friday. **Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8:15am and 8:20am for the SATs breakfasts.** With regards to the tests next week, all the children can do is try their best. They have made amazing progress since September and we are very proud of them!

In Maths lessons this week, the children completed a series of questions linked to BODMAS before recapping how to scale quantities up or down. We also answered a variety of questions to help prepare them for the arithmetic paper.

In Literacy lessons, we continued our focus on key comprehension skills and it was great to see how the children could quickly tackle a range of question types. They also recapped how to use advanced punctuation within a range of sentences and learnt about modal verbs.

In Science, we continued with our learning of the circulatory system, where the children produced a sketch and accompanied this with labels. They also built a scale model of the body with a range of internal organs. As well as having an R.E lesson with Mrs Grogutt, which led to some fantastic whole-class discussions, we completed a further coding challenge using the Spheros. Have a lovely weekend everyone!





Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Reception who had **16 out of 30** and Year 6 who had **27 out of 32**

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

Year 4 had
94%
last week. 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	Mabel, George, Ruby
Year 1	Summer, Phoebe, Henry
Year 2	Landon, Harriet, All of Year 2
Year 3	Jacob G, Max, Ali
Year 4	Ayla, Emil, Nathan
Year 5	Isabelle, Jake, Kayden
Year 6	All of Year 6, Lexi, Max

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman