Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

This year has gone by in a bit of a blur! It is hard to believe that this is the last letter of the calendar year. One of the highlights of the year has to be our Outstanding OFSTED judgement in July. This week it was clear again that one of the mainstays of the school is the strength of the team. When families and the school work together for the good of all our children great things happen and this week we enjoyed magical performances from Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Over the term the children from Reception to Year 6 have once again been amazing! It has been a really busy and exciting terms work culminating in a fantastic last few weeks of Christmas events. I am fortunate to come to school and work with them every day. Well done to all of you and special congratulations to the Reception Class on a fantastic first term in school.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the staff. They are a fantastic team who work hard every day to make sure our school is a happy place where learning is fun and children make good progress. The staff team has actually changed quite a bit this year with Miss Hornagold and Mrs Milligan leaving this time last year and Mrs Grogutt retiring in the summer. In addition Mrs Watson started her maternity leave in September. Happily, all the new staff that have joined the school this year have been fantastic additions to our team. Watching them work in the classrooms and the way they interact with and support the children every day is a real privilege.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the support you give the school and its events. There is always lots of enthusiasm to attend cafes, assemblies and performances. A lot of you are also active in the FORS, the school governors and in other ways. The voluntary effort you all put in makes a real difference. Thank you!





GOODBYE

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Miss Magee today. Miss Magee has been with us for 17 years, teaching Year 1, 3 and 5 in the time I have known her. She has inspired lots of children and contributed hugely to the school both in and out of the classroom and we will all miss her. As a passionate art subject leader she has been able to share her love of art with the school. This was one of the themes of the assembly we held today to thank her and say goodbye! We wish her all the best for the future and in her new role at Broadland Academy!

Thank you also to Mrs Peasey who finishes today after working in Reception this term. Thank you for all your hard work.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Creating Your Own Christmas Traditions - The festive season can be a magical time, especially when you're celebrating with young children. It's also the perfect opportunity to start your own family traditions - moments that will create lasting memories and make the holidays uniquely yours. Traditions don't have to be big or elaborate. Sometimes the simplest things, like a special story read every Christmas Eve, baking cookies together, or a "Christmas lights walk" wherever you live, become the most treasured.

You could take inspiration from what brings your family joy. Maybe it's making something to decorate your home, having a movie night with matching pyjamas, or even starting a "kindness calendar" to spread a little cheer to others.

The bonus of choosing your own traditions is that they reflect what matters most to your family and create a sense of togetherness that your children will carry with them for years to come.

What traditions would you and your family like to start or continue?

Best wishes to you all - see you next year!

Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720098).

You can find more resources at: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing

Celebration Assembly Autumn Term – On Thursday we held our first celebration assembly of the year! All the winners received a special certificate with the reasons why they won the award attached as well as a special badge and pencil. Well done to them all.

• Reception	Elijah Lewis	Larna Mills
• Year 1	Delilah Gibbs	Rocco Stevens
• Year 2	Ella Brink	William Newton-Stiven
• Year 3	Hunter Pagan	Florence Colk
• Year 4	Vienna Seymour	Jack Addison-Bush
• Year 5	Emil Keshavarz	Cara Rayner
• Year 6	Ben Ketland	Dolcie Mackey



Christmas Performances - I was lucky enough to spend quite a bit of this week watching the Reception and Year 1 & 2 nativity performances. The children sang, danced and acted superbly and their story telling really captured the spirit of Christmas. In short, they were brilliant!! They all had a lovely time and I know the audience very much enjoyed the performances too.





KS2 Christmas Carols



It was a magical evening on Tuesday when the school were joined by the Salvation Army for a lovely evening of Christmas Carols. It was amazing to have so many members of the community join us in our celebrations. Highlights included the ukulele group, the drumming backing for "Little Drummer Boy" and a singing battle between the odd and even sides during "The 12 Days of Christmas!" There are lots of people to thank including the Salvation Army for providing a fantastic musical backing, the FORS for providing drinks and snacks and all of you who helped raise an amazing £259 for the Salvation Army charity. The money all going to support vulnerable families over Christmas.

Christmas Dinner

The children and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner on Thursday cooked by our fantastic chefs from EATS, Shane and Abi. There was a lovely festive atmosphere in the hall as the staff took it in turns to serve the children. All told over 200 children and staff enjoyed a lovely lunch.



Clubs after half term – Clubs will re-start in the first full week of the term on Monday 13th January. Football club on Tuesday and Thursday will continue as will Cross Country on Friday mornings. Mr Palmer's clubs will stay the same too. Ms Holmes will be running a Soft Toy making club for the first half term for Y5 & Y6, a sign-up for this will go out in the first week back.

Spring Term – As previously mentioned, we have already been planning for the Spring Term 2025! Our whole school topic is entitled, "To Infinity and Beyond". Some of the key dates are below:

- Monday 13th January – Planetarium Wonderdome in school
- Wednesday 15th January – The children will be invited to come back to school once it is dark for "stargazing," themed work.
- Week of the 31st March – Rackheath Museum week where Family members will be invited in to the school for each class to present their "To Infinity and Beyond," learning.



Spring Term Curriculum - To Infinity and Beyond – It is always great to involve parents, families and friends in our learning. This term we would love to hear from anyone with an interest in space and astronomy or other aspects of science. Please get in touch with me at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk if you have an idea or a useful contact.

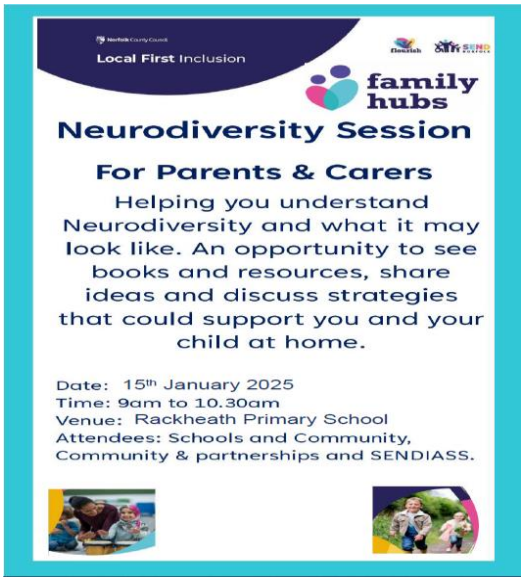


SATS Briefing - Monday 27th January

Mr Edwards and I will be holding a briefing for parents of our Year 6 children about the SATS tests the children will sit in May. We very much hope that all Year 6 parents will be able to attend the briefing, which will be in the hall at 6.00pm.

Parent Café – 15th January 2025

We are very pleased to share that on Wednesday 15th January we will be hosting a neurodiversity session for families at the school. This will be hosted by the Schools and Communities Team who will be joined by other professional partners and SENDIASS (follow the link to learn more - https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/)



We are very lucky to have these teams join us and I would strongly recommend attending if you would like find out more about local support services or ask questions of the professionals attending. The focus is on neurodiversity but the team will also be able to offer support for areas like mental health, sleep, diet or around managing behaviour at home.

With this in mind if you have any worries linked to your child it would be worth dropping in for a chat. They will be with us from 9:00am - 10:30am. There is no obligation to stay the whole time - you might just want to pop in for 5 minutes to see what is there.

It would great to see lots of you there.



Bombers

The children have had a fun time this week playing a variety of Christmas games, singing songs and playing pass the teddy and musical statues. We have had party food for snack and had the Christmas tablecloths and Christmas hats. There has been lots of Festive dressing up and some lovely Christmas stories.





We wish all our families a very happy Christmas and want to say a warm thank you for all the wonderful gifts, cards and kind words. It was also nice to see some parents returning early for Stay and Play. If ever you would like to come in for a brief play, please ask. You are always welcome.

We are back on Tuesday 7th January and a reminder please that we need funding forms back ASAP. Many thanks. MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Reception

We have really enjoyed our final, festive week in Reception class! Though tired, the children have been wonderful – they have enjoyed telling us about their elves and favourite Christmas traditions from home.

We have all decorated gingerbread men, some of us have made collage Christmas trees, some have crafted their own crackers (non-explosive! ☺) and all the children have loved playing Christmas games and singing festive songs!

We particularly enjoyed our first ever Christmas lunch with music and crackers! The teachers and staff from other year groups served the children. It was a really lovely atmosphere and all the children tucked in.

All the children loved our class Christmas party this afternoon – we enjoyed dancing in the disco lights to Christmas pop songs (the children knew lots of the words!), games like musical statues and everyone tucked into a biscuit or two.

We wish all our families a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to hearing about the children's festive celebrations when they return in the New Year!







Year 1

Well it has been a wonderful week in year 1! We are so proud of the children and their fantastic Nativity performance. Thank you for joining us and making it special. This week we have been busy with Christmas crafting, lots of singing and dancing and getting in the spirit of things between performances. We also had a Christmas quiz, watched a Christmas film and enjoyed all our Christmas festivities.



A huge thank you from the year 1 team for our wonderful gifts and a thank you from me for my beautiful tree picture which I will treasure. I would like to thank all of the year 1 parents for their support this year and for the lovely messages wishing me good luck in my new job. It has been a pleasure to teach your children and I shall look forward to visiting in future to find out how they are doing. I will miss Rackheath and everyone here, what a special place it is. Merry Christmas everyone! Miss Magee x

Year 2

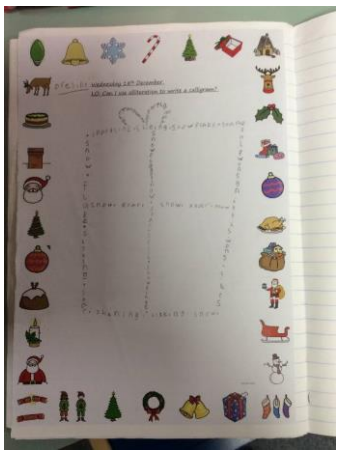
What an incredible end to a very busy term! Our final week has been jam-packed with festive fun, creativity and learning. In English, we explored alliteration and brought words to life when we created some fantastic calligrams illustrating Santa's sleigh, gingerbread houses and presents. In Maths, we spotted 2D shapes hidden in Santa's sleigh and sorted presents into a variety of 3D shapes.

The biggest highlights of the week were our 3 Christmas performances! The children were truly amazing – they sang their hearts out, performed with confidence and brought so much cheer to everyone watching. We couldn't be prouder of them.

We also wrote letters to Father Christmas, sharing our Christmas wishes. We made wildlife friendly reindeer food using seeds, oats and cranberries – perfect for leaving out with our letters on Christmas Eve! Another highlight was creating our very own 2025 calendars, filled with colourful designs. The children worked so hard on these.

A huge thank you from both myself and Mrs Crook for your incredibly kind Christmas wishes, cards and gifts. We wish you all a wonderful, magical Christmas and a Happy New Year!



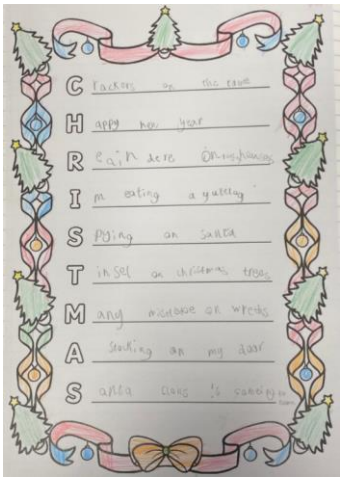


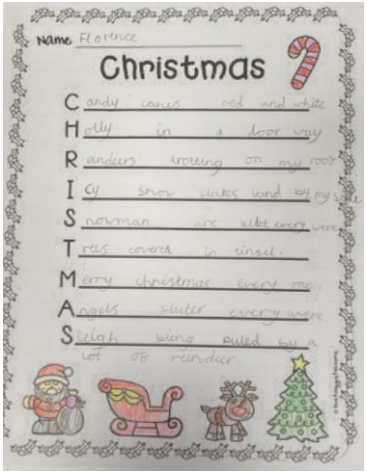

Year 3

Wow - just like that we've completed the final term of 2024!

In Maths, we have recapped addition and multiplication and the children have completed some Christmas themed activities linked to these areas of learning. Alongside this, they also spent a lesson using the iPads to practise rapidly recalling their target times tables.

In English, the children have been very busy planning and writing their own non-chronological reports linked to Roman life. During the latter part of the week, they learnt about acrostic poems before writing their own linked to Christmas! Take a look at these examples…





In RE, we finished our 'Enquiry 1' unit of work, exploring commitments related to different religions. We also recapped the Christmas story before creating our own story sequences.

Today, we enjoyed a Christmas fun filled day! In addition to this, the children have thoroughly enjoyed watching the truly wonderful Reception and KS1 nativity performances this week. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a happy; healthy New Year – I look forward to hearing about all the gifts you receive from Father Christmas!

Year 4

I cannot believe we are at the end of our first term! Your children have come into year 4 with confidence and determination. They have risen to every challenge we have placed before them. A great example of this is their performance to 'on a starry night' at the carol concert, their moves were completely choreographed and organised between themselves!

This week has been full of festive fun with learning mixed between, it would not surprise me if they have all been very tired. In English we finished off our story Escape from Pompeii, the children have been shocked by the story and have made some great connections between the story and some of their own historical knowledge.

We have enjoyed watching both the Reception and KS1 nativities, eating Christmas lunch and singing Christmas songs. On Tuesday we shared all our learning with Year 6, the children worked in small groups to create posters, quizzes and presentations. They were fantastic and loved to give the year 6's plenty of house points!

Finally from the adults in year 4 thank you all very much for the lovely cards, gifts and well wishes we have received from you. It goes without saying this is not expected but much appreciated! We wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope you all have a lovely couple of weeks.



Year 5

What a week!

We have been completing lots of Festive art and cards…which you will no doubt have seen! We have taken part in a Christmas quiz…won by Cara, Emily and Ayla with a score of 49! Although Mr Palmer actually won… with a score of 61 out of 75! Finally, we had our end of term disco full of dancing and games.

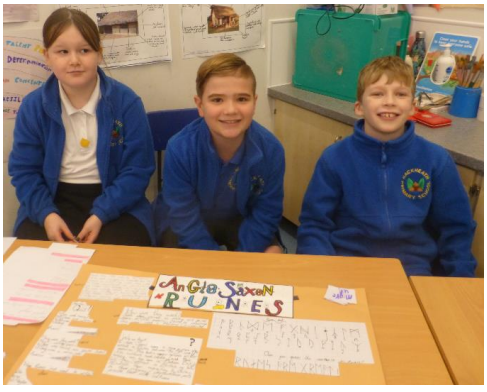
Mrs Cavender, Mrs Duckmanton and I want to say a massive thank you for all of our gifts and cards… we feel truly spoilt!

Merry Christmas to you all!

Year 6

What a fantastic term it has been! We are so proud of the children's work rates and achievements since September. Because of this, they have made excellent progress as well as being super role-models to the younger children at Rackheath Primary.

During Maths lessons, we solved problems linked to adding and subtracting fractions before moving onto reasoning questions linked to this topic. In Literacy, the children continued their persuasive texts and learnt how modal verbs can be used to help sell their new confectionary inventions!



Earlier on in the week, we were fortunate enough to see both KS1 and Reception's Nativity Plays. The Year 6s seemed very proud of their buddies, who all did an amazing job! I would like to say a massive well done to those who attended the KS2 Carol Concert on Tuesday night. Each year it seems to get better and better and it really put everyone into the Christmas spirit!

The class did an amazing job during their Presentation of Learning Day where they confidently shared their knowledge to both Reception and Year 4. On Thursday, we had our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – where the class also got to watch a film and conclude our quiz.

In French lessons, we learnt the months of the year as well as recapping the days of the week. In a Topic lesson, the children researched and explained the importance of Alfred the Great. Finally, the class enjoyed watching rockets being launched from the playground as part of Connor's, Jake's and Harlan's homework projects. From all of the Year 6 team, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and say a huge thank you for the cards and gifts we received! They were very much appreciated.



Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had 97% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend the first week back with them!

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you and all the children again on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Have a lovely holiday!

Best Wishes
Chris Ashman



