

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 6th December 2024

Christmas Performances – With Christmas fast approaching I wanted to share the times for the performances to be held in the last week of term. Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts.

- Monday 16th December — Reception Dress Rehearsal - 10.00am; Year 1 & 2 Dress Rehearsal - 1.50pm
- Tuesday 17th December — Year 1 & 2 Performance - 10.00am; Reception Performance - 1.50pm
- Wednesday 18th December — Reception Performance - 10.00am; Year 1 & 2 Performance - 1.50pm



If you can't make either one of the performances on Tuesday or Wednesday, please do let us know. A smaller audience are welcome to join us for Monday's dress rehearsal. This should just be for those parents and family members who cannot make either of the main performances.

Photographing and Videoing Performances



Our Christmas Performances are always a special time in school. The children put on a fantastic show and understandably parents like to capture the moment, perhaps for a family member who can't be there. We recognise this and have allowed filming to take place at performances and at other times of the year such as class assemblies and sport's days, provided that no pictures go onto social media of anyone other than your own child.

There have been previous occasions where this has not been adhered to and videos and photographs have been posted on social media. As such it is important to state that the reason this is an issue is that not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example where a child's location needs to be protected. Thank you for your understanding.

REMINDER **To allow everyone to enjoy the performances we also remind parents that**:

- Everyone should stay sat quietly in their seats through the performance.
- During the performances we do use the back of the hall and the sides so these need to be kept clear.
- Younger children can attend but it is important that they sit quietly. If they get distressed, they can go outside to calm down.
- There isn't space for buggies given the size of the audience - buggies can be left outside.
- Sometimes the children do get stage fright. Staff will support them in the first instance and decide what to do next.

Key Stage 2 Carol Concert



Our special Key Stage 2 Carol Concert with the Salvation Army is at 6:30pm on Tuesday 17th December. This will be held outside on the school playground. As well as the carols and readings refreshments will be available too. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join our festive celebrations.

We would like the children to arrive no earlier than 6:10pm at which time refreshments will be available. Other members of the community are also invited to join us from 6:20pm in time for the start at 6:30pm. There will be no charge for the refreshments but we would ask for donations which will go to charity.

Should any of you be able to bring in some cakes, mince pies, biscuits or savoury snacks such as sausage rolls for the night that would be great. If you are able to please bring them in during the day of the concert.



Christmas Rudolph Run – On Monday 9th, weather permitting, we are taking part in the Rudolph Run, which is something we have done for the last few years. The Rudolph Run raises money for local charity Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and families. All the children will take part in the run. If you are able to, we ask for a voluntary donation of £1.

School Clubs – There will be no clubs during the week beginning the 16th December. After School Club and Breakfast Club will continue as usual until the end of term.

Lion's Santa Sleigh

On Monday 9th December we will have a special visitor with Father Christmas joining us at the end of the day on his sleigh. Children will have a chance to meet Father Christmas once school finishes. Any donations to the Lions Charity would be gratefully appreciated.





Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day – This will be on Thursday 19th December. Lunch will be booked via scopay as usual. A School Ping has been sent out about this.

CHRISTMAS DATES

There is lots happening this term in the run up to Christmas. Here are some key dates.

Monday 16th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – AM Year 1&2 Dress Rehearsal - PM
Tuesday 17th December	Year 1&2 Performance – AM Reception Performance - PM
Wednesday 18th December	Reception Performance – AM Year 1&2 Performance - PM
Tuesday 17th December	KS2 Carols with the Salvation Army - 6:30pm
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I haven't started my Christmas shopping yet, as I'm focusing on clearing a few tasks from my to-do list first. However, as the festive season approaches, I imagine some of the children at school will be writing to Father Christmas asking for a smartphone.

Before making this purchase, I'd encourage you to visit this website: smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/the-problem. It highlights some startling statistics, such as the average 12-year-old spending 29 hours a week on their smartphone - the equivalent of a part-time job! Research also shows that the younger a child is when they receive their first smartphone, the worse their mental health tends to be over time.

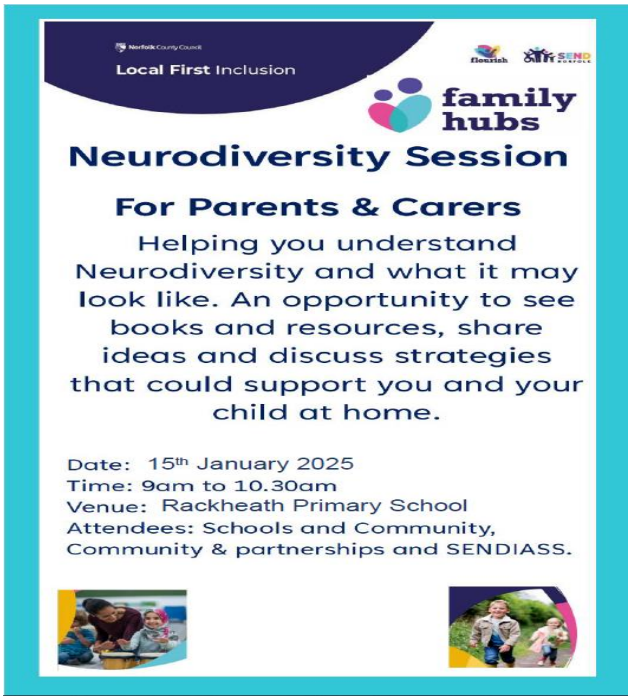
If you've already made the purchase, there are key ways to help increase your child's safety and reduce the negative effects of smartphones. For more information please take a look at the school Padlet: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing

As for my own young adult daughters, they'll be unwrapping socks, a tangerine and a lump of coal - classic Christmas essentials that never go out of style!!

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

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.

FORS News



We want to say a massive thank you to all the children, parents and carers who supported our Christmas Fayre this year. It was a super crazy hour and a half but also full of smiles, laughter and joy and it was an absolute pleasure to be a part of. We'd like to thank all the staff who helped on the day, a special thanks to Mrs Goddard and Ms Holmes for their cake baking skills. Also a big thank you to all the FORS trustee members for all their hard work behind-the-scenes and on the day to enable us to put this event together.

Lastly a massive thank you to our sponsors:

- Mark and Kerri Huckle at M&M flooring specialist Ltd for sponsoring our Christmas tree.
- Norfolk Homes for sponsoring our Santa Grotto.
- Sandra and Richard Edwards at Abbey Pets for sponsoring our cake stall ingredients.
- Mark Hutchinson at MH Decorations for sponsoring our sweets tombola.
- A very kind local resident who wants to stay anonymous, they donated £100 for our raffle's top cash prize.

With all this support our final total raised was an impressive £1470.48



Thank you all again for your continuous support, I on behalf of the FORS trustees would like to wish all families, friends and carers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Look out for more of our events coming up in the new year.

Treena & Karyn



Bombers

Hello from a very Festive Bombers. We have had a fun week of looking at numbers, shapes and size. In addition, the children have been excited to see the Christmas trees and decorations.

There has been a variety of number games, shape dominoes, shape / number puzzles and flout with shapes and mirror numbers to explore. Lots of counting and comparing of sizes.

We have been singing number rhymes and ring games and Christmas related songs too.

We have welcomed a new student. Her name is Mai and she will be with us every Tuesday and Friday until July. She is already proving a big hit with the children.

Next week we are focusing on Christmas related games and activities and as you can imagine there is lots of glitter being used as part of craft activities. We are very sparkly at the moment!

We will be having a stay and play week from next Thursday 12th to Thursday 19th December. Any parent wishing to come back around half an hour prior to collection are welcome, just let a staff member know.

Reception and Year 1

News reports from Reception and Year 1 will return next week!

Year 2

What a busy and exciting week we've had in Year 2. On Monday, we were surprised to find an elf in our classroom! He brought advent calendars to help us countdown to Christmas and has been visiting us each day since. From mischievous antics to today's attempt at bringing a snowman back from the North Pole (which sadly melted!), he's kept us all entertained.

This week, we began our Nativity rehearsals in the hall alongside Year 1. The children have been absolutely fantastic, remembering their lines and putting so much energy into the performance. They can't wait to share it with you soon!

In Maths, we wrapped up our learning about shapes by sorting 3D shapes into groups and exploring vertical lines of symmetry. The children also completed two Maths tests this week, they really impressed me and they've certainly earned a restful weekend.

In RE, we learned about the Christian story of the first Christmas. Today, we had a special treat as one of our children shared a lovely German tradition they have at home. We really enjoyed tasting traditional cookies given for St. Nikolaus Day.







Year 3

Yet again, we have had a super busy, brilliant week in Year 3.

To begin the week, we had the most amazing Roman Day. The children were amazing! They had so much fun training to be a Roman soldier. They loved analysing the real Roman coins and exploring a variety of Roman equipment including weapons and armour. In addition to this, the children have completed their Roman unit of work by evaluating and describing the lasting impact of the Romans in Britain and developing a double page spread to share their knowledge developed across the half term.







In Maths, we have recapped addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Alongside this, the children have been busy completing end of term assessments linked to the learning they have studied so far during this academic

year. On reflection of the assessments, next week we will focus our learning on division to further secure our knowledge.

In English, the children have explored a range of play scripts and identified their features. They have also planned their own play script based on a familiar fable (The Lion and the Mouse) which they will write up next week.

In French, the children have continued building on their knowledge of how to say and write a number of typical classroom objects from 'un stylo' (pen) to 'un livre' (reading book).

Finally, the children have also been busy preparing their presentations of learning posters, which they will present to the Year 5 children next week.

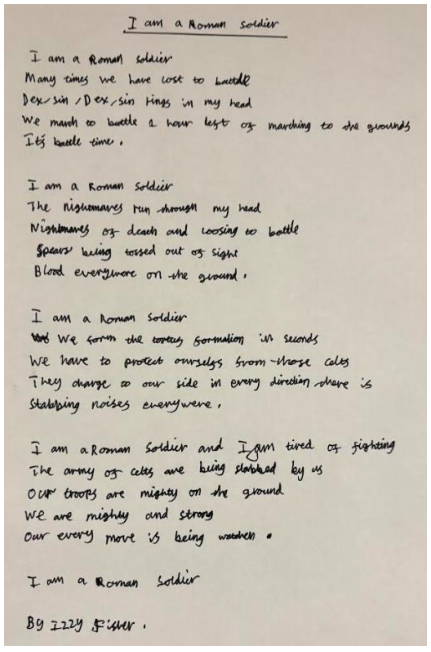
Year 4

Year 4 have been incredibly busy this week. We started the week by welcoming to school a Roman Soldier. Throughout the day they passed through different phases of Roman Soldier training until they were disciplined enough to hold some weapons used by the roman army! A highlight of the day was when the children were given the opportunity to practice their aim by throwing darts at Titus's armour. Overall the children were fantastic and at times slightly terrifying as they got into role.

In maths we have continued working on multiplication and division. Everyone has worked very hard and shown they can use timetables facts to answer questions even if they are not confident with the timetables. Since starting this unit I have been blown away with how many children are excited to be tested on their timetables and succeeding!

As we come near the end of our Roman topic the children have been creating double page spreads. They have enjoyed sharing all their knowledge and are demonstrating all the learning they have done by taking great pride in their pages. Last week we combined our English and history knowledge to write a poem about being a Roman Soldier, I was blown away with the quality and thought the children put into these poems. They should all be very proud.

We finished the week watching Nativity as the children have worked hard this term and earnt 100 class points! Well done to everyone in year 4 for a fabulous week.



I am a Roman soldier

I am a Roman soldier
Many times we have lost to battle
Dex-sin / Dex-sin rings in my head
We march to battle a hour left of marching to the grounds
It's battle time.

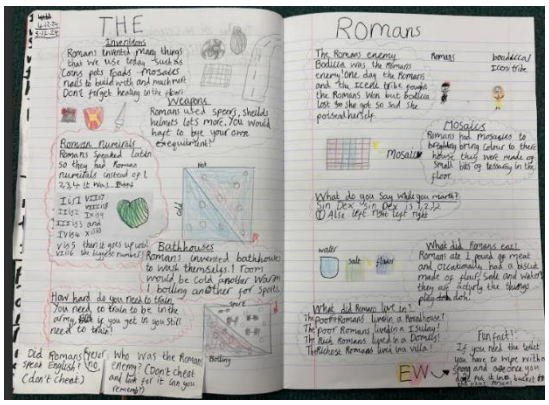
I am a Roman soldier
The nightmares run through my head
Nightmares of death and loosing to battle
Spears being tossed out of sight
Blood everywere on the ground.

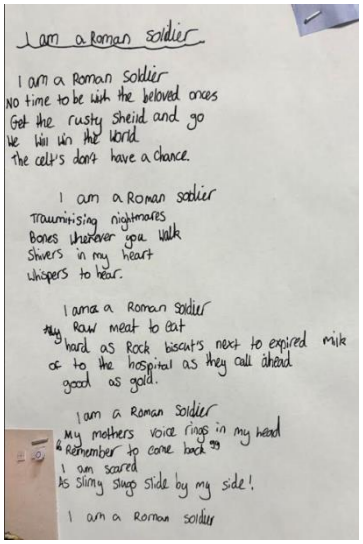
I am a Roman soldier
We form the testy formation in seconds
We have to protect ourselys from those cales
They charge to our side in every direction there is
Stabbing noises everywere.

I am a Roman soldier and I am tired of fighting
The army of cales are being stabbed by us
Our troops are mighty on the ground
We are mighty and strong
Our every move is being watched.

I am a Roman Soldier

By Izzy Fisher.





I am a Roman soldier

I am a Roman Soldier
No time to be with the beloved ones
Get the rusty sheild and go
We will win the World
The cell's dont have a chance.

I am a Roman soldier
Traumitising nightmares
Bones shatever you walk
Shivers in my heart
Whispers to hear.

I ama a Roman Soldier
My Raw meat to eat
hard as Rock biscuits next to expired milk
of to the hospital as they call ahead
good as gold.

I am a Roman Soldier
My mothers voice rings in my head
Remember to come back
I am scared
As Sling Slugs Slide by my side!

I am a Roman soldier

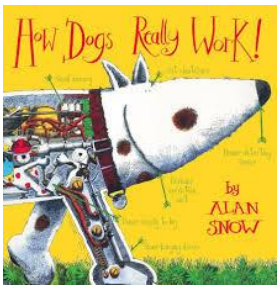
Year 5

This week in maths, we have started our work on fractions. Our focus has been on mixed number and improper fractions and equivalent fractions. To do this we have been using a bar to represent our work.

E.g.: 3 ½ is the same as 7/2 and looks like this:



In English, we have started our Explanation writing based on the books 'How my Dog really works' and 'How my Cat really works' by Alan Snow! We will be using these to create our own texts called How my Rabbit Really Works!



We are coming to the end of our topic work on the Anglo Saxons now and have been looking at the Bayeux Tapestry and thinking about this as a piece of historical evidence. The children were tasked with trying to gather clues from it about what happened in 1066 at the Battle of Hastings. We then recreated a section of the tapestry – these are now all on display in the Y5 & Y6 area.

Well done to William and Anya who were the quiz champions last week and Cara and Nicola who were our winners this week!





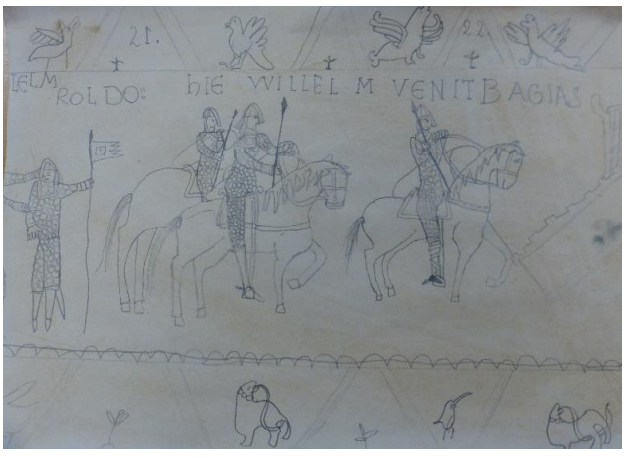
Year 6

What a brilliant week it has been in Year 6! I have to start off by saying a huge well done to the class for their fantastic assembly last Thursday. All of the children spoke clearly and confidently about what they are looking forward to later in the year, their Aylmerton adventures and what we got up to during our Anglo-Saxon Day.

The children had a set of tests to complete during some of the mornings and it was great to see how much progress they have made already since September. Their attitudes and perseverance were fantastic too! In Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of FDP (fractions, decimals and percentages) and moved on to finding percentages of numbers. Once the children were able to find 10% of numbers, we then found trickier percentages such as 1%, 35%, 85% and 99% to only name a few! In English, we learnt how to use reported and direct speech which linked to our newspaper report writing unit of work.

In History (and art) the children learnt about the importance of the Bayeux Tapestry before drawing their own chosen section of it. The results look fantastic! Some of the afternoons have also linked to rehearsing our Carol Concert for the end of term and preparing for our Presentation of Learning Day. This is where the Year 6s will get to present an area of learning (from this term) to the Year 3 children as well as their buddies!

In Science we had another 'Thinking Challenge.' This one focused on air resistance and whether or not items would fall at different rates if air was removed. We got to watch a fascinating clip afterwards where Brian Cox tested whether a bowling ball and feather would fall at the same speed inside a vacuum. Even though we completed the Christmas decorations last week, I thought I'd put a photograph in this week's newsletter for you all to see!





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had
98%
attendance again last week.
Attendance Bear will spend another week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **18 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **27 out of 31**

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

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Raife, Keira, Ellis
Year 1	Jaylen, Jacob, Riley, Freya
Year 2	Ivy, Elliott, Niamh
Year 3	Sonny, Ben, All of Year 3
Year 4	Edie, Oscar, Stanley
Year 5	Emily, Nicki, Ayla, Lilah-Mae
Year 6	Dolcie, All of Year 6, Isaac

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes
Chris Ashman