Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 10th January 2025

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school this week. It has been great to see the enjoyment they have shown being back with their friends and to see them all settle back into school so quickly.

Rackheath Primary Website

A reminder that you can find all our newsletters (click the newsletters tab) on our website https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk. This is always useful for checking information.

The knowledge organisers for this terms whole school topic can also be found on the website. Click on the School Info tab and select curriculum from the drop-down menu.

Star Gazing!



On Wednesday 15th January we are holding our Special Star Gazing Activity, when the children are invited to come back to school once it is dark for some special space themed activities.

- The children should be brought into school for 4:25pm ready for 4:30pm start.
- Reception class should enter the school via their usual gate.
- The rest of the school should enter through the gates by the hall. For safety reasons the back gate near the church will not be opened.
- All children, including those in Year 5 and 6, should be taken to their classrooms to be met by their teachers.
- Children should be picked up at 5:30pm from their classroom doors.
- Children attending After School Club on that day can attend too. Please complete the slip so we will know to collect them from After School Club to take them to their classroom.
- Children can wear non-school uniform. They should be wrapped up warm as they may spend at least some of the time outside.

This information went out in a SchoolPing on Tuesday. If you haven't done so already, please complete the form included in the SchoolPing to say if your child is attending by Monday 13th January.

Norfolk SENDIASS Information, Advice and Support Service

Parent Café - 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 be great to see lots of you there.

County Football Finals



On Wednesday the school took part in the Norfolk Schools County Finals. Three other schools; Falcon, St Williams Way and Toftwood qualified alongside us. The format of the tournament was for all teams to play 14-minute games against each other. Quickly it was very clear that all 4 schools were very evenly matched. Throughout the 6 games only 5 games were scored, with 4 of them being in games we took part in. Our first 2 games could have gone either way but in the end, we lost them both 1-0. In the last game we scored early and went on to win 2-0. Meaning we finished third. All the team performed very well and, on another day, we could have been county champions. Well done to all the team; Ethan, Ellis, Freddie, Harlan, Harrison, Maxwell, Sebastian and Sid. Our 2 goals were scored by Harrison and Harlan. Thank you to our super supporters!

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.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Happy New Year! - I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed welcoming in the New Year. I always find the start of a new year to be a great time to make positive changes and introduce habits that make life a little easier and more enjoyable.

For 2025, I've decided to choose a theme for the year. The process of selecting it was a bit unconventional (and yes, a little 'woo-woo'). I wrote down ten things I'd like to focus on or work towards, then, over nine nights following the Winter Solstice, I picked one at random each evening and burned it. By the tenth night, the final piece of paper remained - and that became my theme for the year ahead.

My theme for 2025 is *"De-clutter"* - I'm already making progress, having tackled two drawers in my coffee table, reorganised a kitchen and bathroom cupboard, and given my room at school a fresh new look. But I'm not stopping there! I'm also focusing on decluttering my mind—no more mental shopping lists or unfinished to-do's bouncing around in my head. I'm writing things down, crossing off life admin tasks, and maintaining my streak of daily meditation (49 days and counting!).

It feels good to start the year with a sense of clarity, both physically and mentally. If you were to choose a theme for your year ahead, what would it be?

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



SATS Briefing – On 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 6pm.

Dates for the Diary



Week of 13th January	Spring Term Clubs start
Monday 13th January	Planetarium – Wonderdome in school. Each class visiting in turn.
Wednesday 15th January	The children are invited to come back to school once it is dark for "stargazing," themed work.
Wednesday 15th January	Neurodiversity parent café
Thursday 16th January	Boys and girls football away at St Johns
Friday 31st January	NCFC Girls Cup (Year 5 and 6)
Week of the 3rd March	Creative Week – during this week we are focusing on being really creative! More details to follow!
Week of the 31st March	Rackheath Museum week – Family members will be invited in to the school for each class to present their "To Infinity and Beyond," learning.



Reception



Welcome back everyone! It has been brilliant to see the children again and hear all about their Christmas and New Year adventures. We hope you all had a lovely time – we were so sad to hear of some illnesses doing the rounds though (and still in effect!) We hope everyone feels better very soon.

This week has been really exciting as we have begun our new topic: 'Here Comes the Sun!' in which we learn all about Space. We have enjoyed the classic picture book, 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy which tells the tale of a little bear with a big imagination who pretends that he zooms into space. The children have loved role-playing the story with props and exploring lots of skills in space related activities, such as junk modelling rockets and using playdoh to create the food that the little bear imagines he takes on his journey.

In phonics we have revised all our previous sounds and in maths we have been focussing on number recognition, estimating and counting. We loved playing a game in the hall in which we all jogged around listening for the tambourine shake which signalled STOP! We then had to look for the target number and run and find friends to make that number as a team – it required so much maths thinking and really helped our social skills too (we didn't leave anybody out and instead helped them to find another group).

We are super excited for next week when the topic really comes to life – we have a space workshop in the hall on Monday (we won't reveal all yet) and, don't forget, our special 'Star Gazing' evening on Wednesday 15th January!





Year 1

Welcome back to the Spring Term. It has been lovely to hear about your Christmas holidays – in spite of all the chicken pox! We also got to know Mrs Cavender better now that she is our teacher at the end of the week.

This week, we learnt the new sound 'aw' (yawn at dawn) and compared it to the sound 'or' (shut the door) that we already know. In English, we started looking at the book 'Man on the Moon (A Day in the Life of Bob)'. We had a letter from Bob about his job cleaning the moon! We drew and labelled maps of his route to work, and designed new healthy sandwiches for his lunch and an exercise routine for Bob to follow.

In Maths, we have been looking at place value of numbers to 50 and beyond. We recapped the symbols <, > and = and their uses to show less than, greater than and equal to. We ordered numbers to 50 or more, and used tens and ones to show teen numbers and beyond, e.g. 23 = 2 tens and 3 ones.

We started our new whole-school topic 'To Infinity and Beyond'. We are loving our new space toys and displays. We looked at some famous astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Tim Peake, and Nicole Ayers, and designed a new spacesuit. We enjoyed reading the Astro Girl story, and even got to try astronaut food!

We started a music unit called Your Imagination and had fun starting to learn the song.

Year 2

We've had a fantastic start to the term, and the children have been absolute superstars! They have returned with lots of enthusiasm and ready to learn.

In English, we revisited some key concepts from last term, focusing on nouns, verbs, and writing complete sentences. The children also impressed me with their ability to expand their sentences using adjectives and co-ordinating conjunctions. Later in the week, we introduced possessive apostrophes, learning how they show ownership. The children picked this up brilliantly and wrote some fantastic sentences to demonstrate their understanding.

In Maths, we began exploring money, looking at coins and notes, and practicing counting pence and pounds. We've also been working hard on our 2 times-table, using songs and games to make it fun and memorable.

Our new topic, To Infinity and Beyond, has been a big hit! We started by learning about Neil Armstrong, and the children came up with thoughtful questions they would've loved to ask him. We've also been answering their own questions about space, learning about the International Space Station, how astronauts eat, drink, sleep and even how they go to the toilet – this last one was definitely a class favourite!

Year 3

As we enter our second term, we have certainly hit the ground running!

In English, we have spent time revisiting the three types of verbs: physical action, mental action and state of being words; we practised identifying the subject and variety of verbs in different sentences. Alongside this, we revisited the use of capital letters and punctuation (including the use of a full stop, exclamation mark and question mark). To end the week, the children were challenged to use powerful adjectives.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their knowledge of multiplication, using arrays before moving onto using the grid method. This week we have been using pictorial representations (drawing 10s and 1s). Next week, we will learn how to apply our knowledge abstractly (using numerals).

In Topic, we have begun our first science unit, 'Light'. This week, our lessons involved recognising and understanding that dark is the absence of light. To begin, we explored different sources of light. In addition to this, the children learnt that light from a light source always travels in a straight line; when it hits an object it reflects (or bounces off) into the pupil of our eye/s via another straight line.

As Mrs Cavender has moved to Year 1, on Thursday the children had a lovely day with Mrs Leeming and look forward to having her each Thursday moving forwards. Furthermore, the children were all super in their first swimming lesson. To top it off, they all returned to school with smiles on their faces!

On behalf of all the Year 3 staff, we would like to say a big thank you for our generous Christmas gifts! I hope you all have a lovely, restful weekend! Miss Holding 😊

Year 4

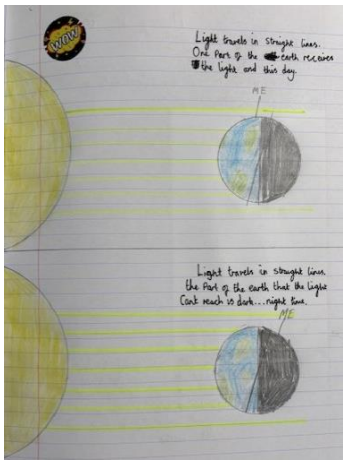
All the adults working in Year 4 this week have been really impressed with how mature the children have come back from the break. They have come back to school ready to learn and with a fantastic eagerness to share their ideas. We have jumped straight into a new English unit based around the story "How the stars came to be" by Poonam Mistry. Towards the end of the week we practiced, performed, and wrote a play script for a scene using the characters in the story.

In maths we are continuing to look at multiplication and division. This week we have spent time recapping our knowledge from last half term to ensure we are confident to move onto more difficult questions!

We have started our topic lessons by looking at light. The children enjoyed exploring reflection this afternoon using torches. They found shiny and smooth materials were the most reflective.

Earlier this week the children were sent home with homework grids and knowledge organisers to support their learning, spellings will be sent home from next week. This term the children will have PE on Tuesday afternoons, for this half term we will be indoors.

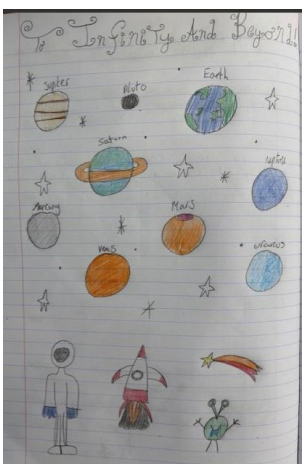
Year 5



What a brilliant week back we have had! It has been great to see how keen the entire class has been, I'm pleasantly surprised.

In maths, we have started with place value. This has included reading numbers in the millions and then partitioning them. We have also been organising numbers from largest to smallest – we used the planets in our solar system to do this!

In English, we have continued on with our explanation work linked to rabbits. We have been writing about how they Binky - which is an unusual and large jump. Our focus has been on relative clauses and the use of brackets to give extra information to the reader. Now that we have finished this writing, we will be turning it into a nonfiction page and writing our work up into neat.



In science, we have started our Space topic work by beginning to understand why we have night and day. We have also asked lots of questions that we would like to answer during the term such as:

- How far away are the other planets from Earth?

- Where did the planets get their names from?

- Are aliens real?

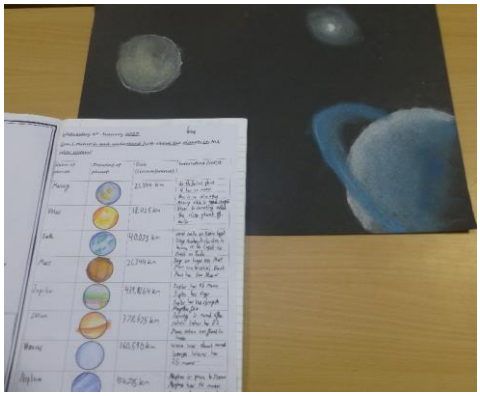
Hopefully we will be able to answer these as the term goes on!!

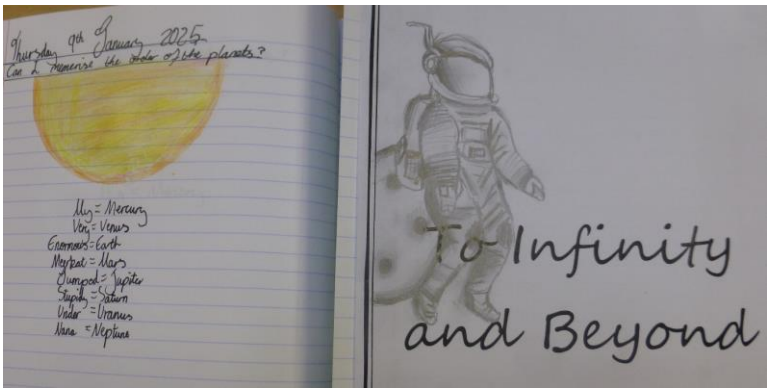
Year 6

Firstly, Happy New Year everyone! I am so proud of how quickly the Year 6s have settled into the new term. Their behaviour and work rate have been fantastic every day. In Literacy, we began planning a non-chronological report linked to Space. The children decided on four key areas to research and have understood cohesion to link sentences and paragraphs together. I was amazed by lots of the 'Did you know?' facts that the children included too. Our grammar activity linked to our reports by using pronouns to create cohesion.

In Maths, we continued our multiplying fractions topic from the end of last term and the children learnt how to multiply a mixed number by a fraction. We also had lessons focusing on a mixture of arithmetic and reasoning questions.

The class were introduced to our new whole-school topic: 'To Infinity and Beyond'. As well as finding ways to remember the order of the planets, they were given a series of tasks. One of which focused on the size and circumference of each planet. During an art lesson, we used chalks to create some space artwork. Although they are not quite finished, the results so far are amazing! Finally, in a coding session, the children learnt how to 'debug' and then programmed their Sphero to move in a series of shapes.







Well done to Year 5 who had
97%
attendance in the last week of term.
Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **17 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **25 out of 32**

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	Ebenezer, Autumn, Oakley
Year 1	Harrison, Mabel, Ruby
Year 2	Summer, Ada, Alexa
Year 3	Sonny, Luke, Florence
Year 4	Bonnie, Charlie, George
Year 5	Olivia W, Joey, Aria
Year 6	All of Year 6, Grace, Mitzy

Have a lovely weekend

Best Wishes
Chris Ashman