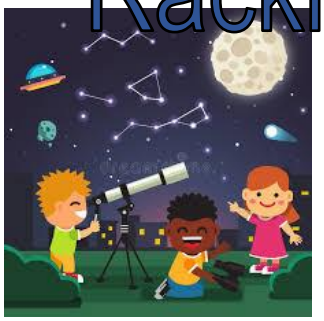
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 17th January 2025

Wednesday evening again showcased what makes our school a special place to be!

The total cloud cover did not dampen enthusiasm amongst the children for our stargazing evening! All the children loved exploring the skies using the Night Sky App. It was brilliant to stand outside with them and see and hear their enthusiasm. Back in class the children enjoyed being in specially prepared classrooms and carrying out space related activities. You can see some photographs in the class pages later on in the newsletter.

It was lovely to see how much the children enjoyed the experience. A huge thank you from me to all the staff who support all the events we put on. A special thank you to all the teaching assistants who came back (or stayed in school) without your commitment we wouldn't be able to do so many of the things we do! Thank you.

Wonderdome Astronomy in School

We started the week with a super-sized astronomy dome in school. The children all loved their visit into the dome to learn more about the universe, planets and stars. The lecturer who taught the children was hugely impressed by the behaviour and attitude of all the children. He was particularly impressed with the quality of Year 4's questions.



Neurodiversity Parent Café – Thank you to all those parents and family members who were able to attend the café run by the Schools and Communities Team. As I understand some useful support was given and some good links were made. I know they are keen to keep working with our families. It would be great to see even more families next time.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

A couple of weeks ago, I dropped off my oldest daughter in London for her final placement to become a qualified Occupational Therapist. The hospital she'll be working at is the same one where I volunteered when I was at university. It feels surreal knowing she's now walking the same corridors I once did at 19, when I was a country mouse navigating life in the big city! If only the younger version of me could see where I'd be thirty years down the road. I wonder - if you could go back in time, what advice would you give your younger self to provide some comfort and reassurance? And what words of encouragement and kindness can you offer yourself today?

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

Football v St Johns

On Thursday we took part in two very enjoyable games of football against Hoveton St Johns. Our girls played their first game of the season and all of them played very well and showed great team spirit and lots of skill. Despite going 1-0 down the girls kept working hard and creating chances. Joint-captain Maisie made some great saves, whilst Nicola, Emily T and Dolcie did a great job in defence. Further forward Grace, Lola and Emily O never stopped running. Joint-captain Rachel and Freya proved the match winners. Both girls had great games, with Rachel scoring 2 and Freya 1. In the end we ran out 3-1 winners.

The boys also performed very well and played some fantastic football in a 9-3 win. Our goals were scored by Harlan (3) Freddie (2) Maxwell (2) Harrison and Sebastian with 1 each. Highlights included Sebastian's excellent goal and Ben's skilful assist for one of Harlan's goals. Great job Ben in your first game for the school. Ellis and Kian both performed extremely well in defence as did Ricki further forward and Ethan in goal.

Thank you to Mr Palmer for refereeing one of the games and to Danny Colk for helping with the boys. Thanks also to all our super supporters!









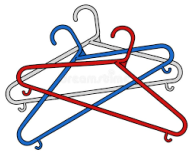
SATS Briefing

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
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.



HELP – If you have any spare children's coat-hangers (age 8+) Mrs Goddard would be very grateful as she is in need of them for the pre-loved uniform rail. Please drop off at the school office if you can help!



Bombers

Happy New Year to all our families. It seems that Christmas is already a distant memory. A warm thank you for all our lovely cards, gifts and good wishes. They were much appreciated. We have been super busy here at Bombers with the children playing lots of turn taking games, putting fires out with our Fire role-play, building some lovely models with the Duplo and Mobilo construction and exploring the arctic animals and books with our snow scene activity. We have also welcomed a few more faces that are new and thankfully, they have already settled well. Next week we are focusing on communication and language development with lots of singing, stories, puppets and small group conversations. We will be exploring textures and sensory materials in our craft activities to help develop descriptive language.

Reception

The planetarium session on Monday was super cool! We learned lots about the moon, all the different planets and that our galaxy is called the Milky Way! We all watched and listened carefully. Then, on Wednesday, we loved seeing lots of children back for our 'Star Gazing' session – the classroom had a space feel with the special stars and nebula projector and we loved using the iPads to see all the planets and star constellations in the sky. In our topic sessions, we have been learning about the planets, this week we have focused on Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars! We have enjoyed some more space themed stories too – a particular favourite was Mike Brownlow's 'Ten Little Aliens!' It's also been wonderful to see lots of the children choosing to explore all our space themed books independently and with friends in our lovely space-themed reading corner – they have been loving the non-fiction space books too alongside the story books – especially coming to share what they think and have found out from the simple words and pictures/ photographs. Well done, Reception class!

It really has been a busy week – on Tuesday we enjoyed welcoming our visitor to help us learn about Road Safety. We talked about holding an adult's hand when walking near roads, wearing bright colours so we can be seen in the dark and always hearing a 'click' when we put our seatbelts on in our car seats. We again listened really well, answered lots of questions thoughtfully and learned lots about being safe when we're out and about with our grown-ups.

We're looking forward to reading a new story book next week about an astronaut!







Year 1

This week in year 1 we've been continuing to learn about space, focusing mainly on gravity. We have had lots of fun testing gravity by dropping objects and noticing how they fall to the ground. Our star-gazing evening on Wednesday was a great success (in spite of the cloudy skies) and the children were all able to spot different planets and star constellations using the 'Night-Sky' app. They also had a chance to draw and make different star constellations using marsh mallows and cocktail sticks.

On Thursday we made gravity-defying rocket boxes, which uses a magnet and paperclip to make the rocket, in the box, fly. These will probably have come home with your child today, so dig out a magnet and have a go!

In Maths this week we have been comparing and ordering numbers to 20; using the greater than and less than symbols to do so. We have also been drawing number lines to 20 and putting the numbers on in the correct order. Any extra practise of this at home would be great.

In English we have been creating our own aliens, planning our own story and writing our own stories about an alien visit to earth. We've had so many brilliant ideas and some super writing!

Please remember to read with your child at least 3 times a week, it only has to be for 5 minutes each time and it makes the world of difference to their progress at school!





Year 2

It's been another busy and exciting week in Year 2!

Our week began with an amazing experience in the Wonder Dome. The immersive show made the children feel like they were truly in space – so much so that some children felt a little dizzy afterwards! Inspired by this, the children independently wrote fantastic recounts of the experience, impressing me with their descriptive sentences and their use of time conjunctions. Tuesday was equally busy with our road safety sessions which all the children enjoyed.

On Wednesday evening, it was our stargazing evening. Although the clouds obscured the night sky, the children loved using iPads to explore what was beyond the clouds. They were amazed to discover star constellations, which we learned about in detail. The children enjoyed drawing constellations with chalk and then got creative, constructing them using sticks and marshmallows.

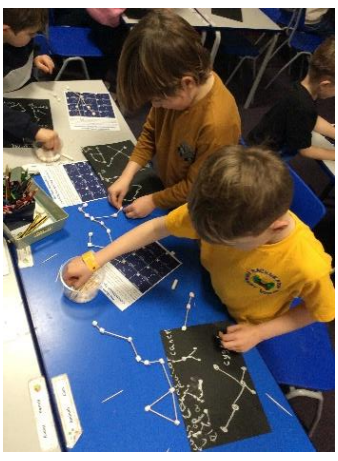
In Maths, we've been working hard on making amounts of money, from pence (e.g., 54p) to pounds (e.g., £28) and even pounds and pence (e.g., £13.22). Using physical money has been great at securing the children's understanding! In English, we focused on correctly using 'there', 'their' and 'they're'. We learnt some actions to help us remember then practiced adding the correct one to sentences and they did a brilliant job!

Later in the week, we explored gravity. The children tested whether objects in the classroom always fall to the ground and learned that gravity is the reason why they do! They then explored balancing lollipop sticks on pencils, focusing on the concept of the centre of gravity. This sparked their curiosity as they found ways to balance lollipop sticks on their noses, feet and the tables.

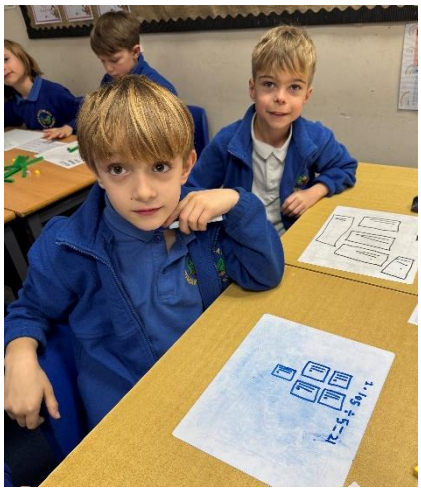
We also spent time reflecting on the Zones of Regulation, thinking about different situations that might place us in each zone. The children were very thoughtful and have been using the zones language wonderfully in class.







Year 3



It has been another busy week in Year 3!

In English, we have begun our new Power of Reading book (The Comet). So far this week, we have discussed the use of language (specifically adjectives) and the personality of the main character (Nyla). In addition to this, we have discovered that Nyla enjoys playing with her dad and loves lots of this about her home. As a result of this, the children wrote personal narratives about their lives and home/s.

In Maths, the children have been using the grid method to multiply a two-digit number by a one-digit number. They have also learnt how to use the chunking method to divide a two-digit by a one-digit. During the latter part of the week, the children were solving divisions with remainders.

In Topic, we have continued our learning on light. This week, our lessons have provided the opportunity for some practical learning. On Monday, the children worked in groups, using torches to explore reflective and non-reflective materials before designing a new and improved reflective school bookbag. Alongside this, the children have explored how light aids reflections in mirrors. To end the week, the children learnt about the dangers of UV light for our eyes and skin.

We had lots of fun learning about the moon, Earth and the sun during our 'Wonderdome' experience. The children really impressed me with their recollection of the Apollo 11 team – Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins! We also had a lovely time star gazing on Wednesday and the children created some great constellations!

Year 4

Our week started with a very exciting visit from the wonderdome. It was wonderful to see the children so engaged and asking great questions! These questions were so fantastic that the class managed to impress our visitor who gave them excellent feedback.

In English we have continued reading 'How the stars came to be', with the children's increasing knowledge of stars and space they have written some fantastic explanations to help the story characters. Today we started to plan and prepare a new piece of writing linked to creating our own star constellation and story behind it. After listening to their initial ideas today I cannot wait to read their stories once they are written next week.

In Maths we have begun looking at written methods to support our multiplication and division. We have focused on using calculations we know such as our timetables to help us with more complex questions. In topic we have continued looking at light and shadows. This has included a few experiments using torches and other light sources in our classroom.

As a class we have revisited our expectations within the classroom. The children have taken time this week to be reflective on how their actions impact their learning. Myself and Mrs Goddard have been very impressed with their renewed focus and determination. The children have enjoyed earning raffle tickets this week and are looking forward to seeing if they are lucky enough to be picked for a prize next week.

Year 5

It's been a great week in year 5!!

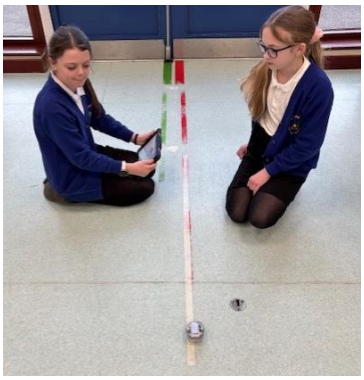
In maths, we have continued our work on multiplying and dividing using the formal methods. We finished the week by looking at work problems to solve using these methods.

In English, we completed our unit on Explanation texts by finishing off our Non-fiction pages of how a rabbit does a binky! They are up on display at the moment but will be coming home in the next few weeks for you to see. We then moved on to some grammar work linked to relative clauses – a clause about a noun. E.g. the boy (who was late for school) sprinted down the road.

In Science, we have been learning about the relationship between the Sun, Earth and the moon. Hopefully, the children came home with their model and they were able to explain what happens! You can see Amelia in the picture below with her model.

Another Highlight of the week was our first computing lesson using the spheros. These are small robots that are controlled using the iPads. In the lesson this week, the children had to write a piece of code to direct the bots along a path… the class had sooo much fun!!





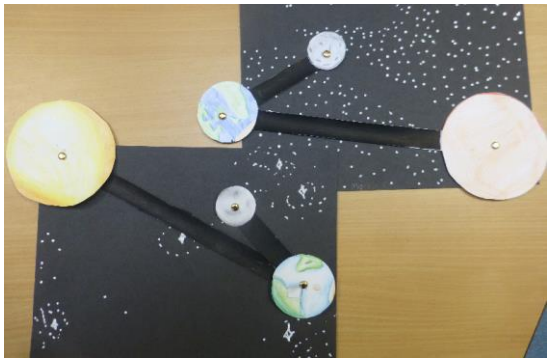


Year 6

This week has raced by with so many activities taking place. I will start by talking about our Star Gazing event on Wednesday. In addition to watching a fascinating video, which compares the sizes of stars and planets, we learnt about constellations and how they can be linked to our star signs. The children then designed and made their own constellation viewers before going outside onto the playground to use the 'Night Sky' app. This is where they could identify the moon, planets, stars and even the International Space Station!



In Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of dividing fractions and moved on to translating shapes on a four-quadrant grid. This links to our new topic of: Shape, Space and Measure.



In English, the children continued their Space non-chronological reports and were introduced to Spag.com – where I set up a variety of grammar challenges.

In Science, we learnt about orbital movements. As an extension challenge, the children used card and split pins to demonstrate how the Sun, Earth and Moon orbit one another. The end results were very impressive! Another Science lesson focused on how Earth rotates on its axis which causes day and night. The children finished their chalk planet artwork too.

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had 99% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **31 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	Kieran, Emie, Teddy B
Year 1	Austin, Eden, Jesy
Year 2	Klarka, Chester, Kipp
Year 3	Tristan, Hunter, Oakley
Year 4	Esme, Eden, All of Year 4
Year 5	Olivia C, Sophia, Bonnie
Year 6	Kian, Maisie, Rosa

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Chris Ashman