Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 24th January 2025

Compared to last week, when we had the Wonderdome in school as well as our Stargazing event, it has been a quieter week in school this time around. Across the classes lots of high-quality teaching and learning has been taking place linked to our Infinity and Beyond topic. We also welcomed our second reading dog, Rosie, into the school on Wednesday.



SATS Briefing

Next 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. If you do need to bring your child with you, they will be able to sit in another area of the school.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Date for your diary! The Walled Garden in Little Plumstead is celebrating the opening of their 'Men's Shed' on Saturday 15th February from 10am. They'll have children's games, face painting, craft stalls and displays, plus bacon rolls to nibble!

Men's Sheds (where women are welcome too) provide a valuable source of wellbeing support to all visitors. They're all about connection, conversation, and creation while repairing and repurposing objects to support the local community. If you'd like to find out more, please follow this link: https://menssheds.org.uk/

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



Parent Teacher Evenings

Our second Parent Teacher meetings of the year are on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th of February. Wednesday being the later date. The sign-up will go out on School Ping soon.



To Infinity and Beyond – We are busy adding new curriculum events to our topic. We have an author visit and 2 days with Mad Science in school planned for March.

Keeping Children Safe Online

Keeping up with what our children are accessing online and understanding the potential dangers of our children's online activities is a challenge for all parents.

On Thursday 13th February the Broadland Cluster are once again working with EST E-Safety "The 2 Johns." https://esafetytraining.org/ Some of you will be familiar with the work they do with schools and families from their previous workshops. In the past we have hosted them at our school. Children from the cluster came over to Rackheath. We hosted a cluster staff meeting and parents from across the cluster came to a parent workshop.

This time we have decided to make this an online event rather than face to face. The reason being that we hope to reach more families, as we will be able to share the parent workshop with families who can't make the 13th February. The recording will be available to watch for a month after the event.

eSafetyTraining 'The 2 Johns'

The 2 Johns have a wealth of experience, know about all the sites (new and old) that the children use and know the potential dangers. They also have loads of good advice as to how as parents we can support our children to stay safe online.



Dates for the Diary

Friday 31st January	NCFC Girls Cup (Year 5 and 6)
Tues 11th / Weds 12th February	Parents Evening
Thursday 13th February	E-safety Training – the 2 Johns Broadland Cluster Training event
Thursday 13th February	FORS Valentines Disco
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.



Bombers



Hi to all our families. What a busy time the children have had this week. Lots of lovely vocabulary heard whilst exploring different textures. It really helps with them thinking of descriptive words. We will continue to focus on communication and language next week. They have also loved jumping off the stepping-stones piled up and walking along the textured beam. There has been lots of singing and stories and much mark making with free painting. Next week we also have Chinese New Year starting from the 29th January and it is the year of the Wood-snake. We are having

snakes and lizards in dry sand, relevant puzzles, and activities with stencils and the letter 'Ss'. A polite reminder that any permissions to take part in the dental screening at school need to be back Monday or ASAP.

Reception



This week, we have had more correspondence, in the form of postcards, from our friendly alien buddy, Zogzee! He's been telling us about his adventures in space and what the planets are like that he's visited! We looked more closely at Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. Maybe you could have a fun quiz with your children – can they remember – is Jupiter the largest or smallest planet in our solar system? And, which planets have volcanoes on them?

In phonics last week we learned a new digraph (two letters together making one sound): 'ay' as in play and way. This week, we have learned 'ee' as in beep and sleep. In maths, we have focused on taking away/ subtraction. We have used toys, numicon, number lines and ourselves to help us visualise number sentences.



As the children's confidence grows, many are now keen to participate in '*Show and Tell.*' We have explained to the children that we'll do this on a **Thursday only** so please ensure they only bring things in on Thursdays. We politely ask that they only bring in items that are linked to topics or have a very special meaning – we try and avoid 'toys' where possible otherwise we often get lots of children bringing in the same toys! Things they've made at home work really well, as do photos / souvenirs from events / holidays, family photos, etc. Children do not have to take part but this is just some guidance if they wish to do so. Many thanks.

Next week, we are really looking forward to starting a new space themed story which will take us to the moon!

Year 1

This week in year 1 we have been getting creative by designing, and making, our very own space rockets! The children have had so much fun making them and they look absolutely brilliant! We even had time to make a little alien flying saucer on Friday afternoon.

In Maths we have been learning our number bonds to 10 and number bonds to 20. There are lots of really FUN number bonds songs available to watch on YouTube if you fancy helping to boost your child's number confidence at home.

In English we are continuing to use the story 'Man on the Moon'; this week we have been writing postcards to friends and family imagining that we were a tourist on a trip to the moon. We have also been making posters to persuade other people to go on a trip to the moon.

In phonics we have been looking at the 'ur' and 'ir' sounds; why not see if you can spot any words with those sounds in over the weekend. You might even spot a girl who has dirt on her purse!

Year 2

In English this week, we started exploring instructions. The children started by identifying the key features of instructions and then practiced using each key feature - time conjunctions, imperative verbs and commas in a list. Inspired by our rocket making, the children ended the week by independently writing a full set of instructions for building a junk-model rocket, and they did a fantastic job!

In Maths we continued our money topic. The children compared amounts of money using 'greater than' and 'less than' vocabulary and symbols, as well as practicing adding different amounts together. Today we learned that there are 100p in £1, and the children explored different ways to make £1. Any extra practice at home with real coins and notes would be really helpful to build their confidence.

In Topic, the children had to carefully follow a set of instructions to make a straw rocket. Then we had lots of fun testing them outside on the playground. The children also made their own rockets using junk modelling materials. The end results were impressive and they were very excited to take them home and share their creations with you.





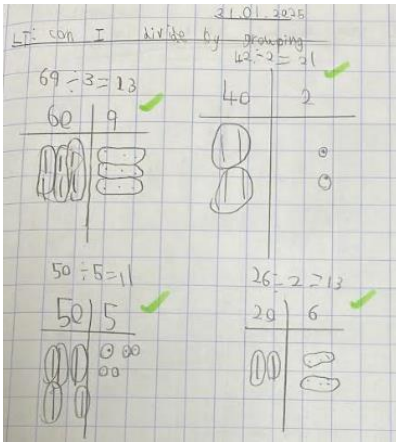


Year 3

Well done Year 3, you've made it through another week of term!

In English, we have been busy exploring the use of conjunctions alongside developing expanded noun phrases linked to the two window views from the illustrations in our Power of Reading text. Alongside this, the children paid particular attention to the author's use of vocabulary choices and its effect on the reader. To end the week, we looked at letter writing and wrote our own informal letters to Nyla's dad to explain her feelings to him and to provide him with guidance on how to support her with a big life change like moving house.

In Maths, we have used grouping to divide two-digit numbers by a one-digit number. The children also solved maths problems involving scaling and have undertaken an end of unit assessment. Next week we will be moving onto our next unit of work (length and perimeter).



In Topic, we have continued our learning on light. This week, the children explored and categorised transparent, translucent and opaque items. We also learned about shadows and completed an experiment to explore the effect the distance of a light source can have on the size of a shadow.

In Computing, we have continued learning about coding. This week the children secured their knowledge of how flowcharts are used for computer programming. They are now also confident in applying timer commands to their own programmed sequences. In addition to this, they have also learned about how to implement a repeat command to their own block of commands.

Year 4

It has been another jam-packed week in Year 4! In topic we are coming to the end of unit on light. To conclude our learning we have been working on a shadow puppet project. The children have created spilt pin puppets and today we tried to get them to move using string! This required lots of problem solving and is something we will continue to work on alongside our new unit of Rocks and Fossils.

In Maths this week we have look at both multiplying and dividing 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. At the start of the week this was a very daunting task. But by the end we have been confident using a grid to help us. The children were fantastic at spotting when they needed to exchange!

In English we have worked on a few different tasks this week. We started by finishing off our constellation stories and have begun revisiting explanations from earlier this term. Next week the children will be writing an explanation of the life cycle of a star!

In PE we have continued with our gymnastics topic. It has been lovely to see how much the children want to challenge themselves. This week we started to piece together some small routines that included two partner balances and a jump. Overall the class have had another wonderful week and are continuing to impress all adults with how grown up they are.

Year 5

Another great week in year 5 with the children producing some brilliant work!

In maths, we have moved onto fractions. We have started with multiplying lots of fractions first such as 3 x ½ = 3/2. We have then moved onto finding fractions of amounts by using a bar. E.g.

2/5 of 35 = 14

35				
7	7	7	7	7

In English, we have moved onto writing poetry linked to space. We will be writing a poem as if we are looking at the stars and then moving onto a second poem linked to us being a comet racing through the solar system. The plan is then to send these completed poems off to hopefully get them published in a book. More details will follow.

In science, we have looked at how and why we have our seasons… we then completed a piece of art work linked to this. In computing, we have been using code to create sounds and lights on our Spheros.







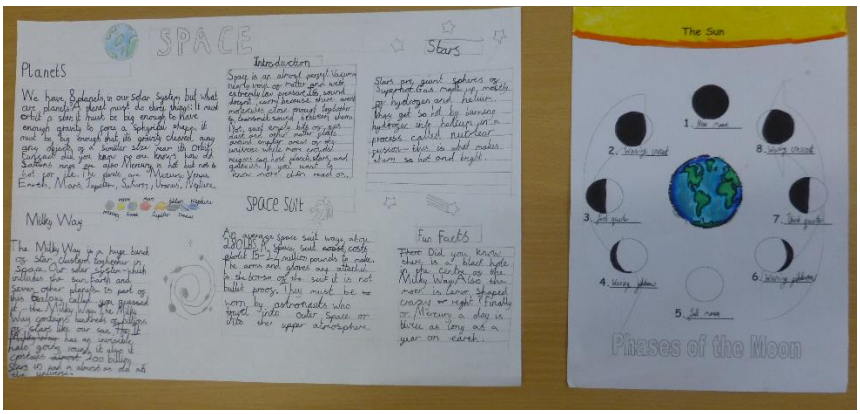
Year 6

The Year 6s have worked incredibly hard this week and they should be very proud of their focus and determination. In Maths, we've had lessons linked to shape. This has mainly included: translating shapes, reflecting shapes in a mirror line, and drawing lines of symmetry on shapes. We also recapped prior learning of prime numbers, factors and prime factors.

In English, the children completed their non-chronological Space reports and then started a new unit of work, which focuses on poetry. We began by learning about figurative language: similes, metaphors and personification. They then used this knowledge to plan a Space Poem linked to comets. It was also lovely to hear the children's impressive understanding of our new class book – 'The Final Year', by Matt Goodfellow.

We had another coding lesson too, where the children understood how to debug an algorithm and programme their Sphero to perform certain tasks. Further Science lessons were also completed - one of which was based on the phases of the moon. I couldn't believe how quickly they learnt words such as waxing, waning, gibbous and crescent.

Finally, just a reminder that we have our SATs briefing for parents at 6pm on Monday 27th January.





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 1 who had
98.6%
attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **20 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **29 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	Owen, Jacob, Hugo
Year 1	Delilah, Amelia, George
Year 2	Jamie, Lochlan, Ivy
Year 3	Joshua, Willow, Reggie
Year 4	George, Vienna, Jacob P
Year 5	Erin, Hugo, Poppy
Year 6	Freddie, Rachel, Harrison

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Chris Ashman