Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 31st January 2025

It has been lovely to see the sun the last few days. Although my highlight of the week was probably Tuesday's Year 5 and 6 football club, which if I'm honest we should have cancelled (but I'm glad we didn't). It was a bit of a mud bath and some of the children finished the practice caked in mud! (Sorry parents). Having said that it was great fun!

Prospective Governors - Your school needs you!!



We are looking to recruit to some new school governors to be part of our excellent governing board! We are looking for parents or other family members who are keen to be part of shaping the future of our school and our children. Next week we will be sending out more information about the role and the process for applying if you are interested.

Existing governors will be hosting a **drop-in at Parents Evening** to give everyone a chance to share their views on the school and also answer any questions those of you interested in being a governor may have about the role itself. More details about when governors will be available will be sent out next week. You can also grab me and ask any questions about the governor role!

Head for the Day - Mitzy and Jack

"On Tuesday we came into school 20 minutes early for a staff meeting! It was a teaching briefing; it was a bit strange being in there with so many teachers. After we did the meeting, we went outside to ring the bell. We went inside, we looked around all the classrooms to see who was behaving, and whoever was behaving the best got a headteacher award sticker. After that, we did office jobs and sorted out the dental letters into the year groups the children were in. We responded to Mr. Ashman's emails and we sent some off to! As soon as it was break, we went outside to do break duty, and had to stay out for KS2 and KS1. Then we had coffee and biscuits! Later we went round school and chose two children from each year, and we each did a survey for each child. Mitzy did P.E and I did Science. It was great fun!"



Mitzy and Jack



SATS Briefing – On Monday evening we held our SATS briefing for Year 6 parents. Thanks to everyone who made it along!

Roys Birthday Card Competition – Roys of Wroxham is soon to celebrate its 130th birthday. They are holding a competition to design a card to celebrate this milestone. The competition runs from 1st February until 28th March. The first prize is a £130 voucher to spend at Roys. The winning child's entry also wins £1895 for their school!! More details can be found by clicking this link:

https://www.roys.co.uk/design-a-birthday-lcard?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2BEMKLiapF3eTkxPz5EEZ8vIBH_l6rakKbB7bqo-zh5g-IDnkY9X9utY4_aem_dvuQ4igKZ-UIIU0b49siSg

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson - When you hear words like "stream," "web," "tweet," and "cloud," what comes to mind? Is it the wonders of the natural world, or do you think of the digital world instead? The National Trust has created a short film that explores this idea. You can watch it here: Watch the film.

They're also offering a list of 50 simple activities to help children and their families reconnect with nature: 50 Things to Do.

While getting up early for a sunrise might not be for everyone, there are plenty of other enjoyable activities that don't cost a thing - like splashing through muddy puddles, making friends with a bug, or learning to identify different types of trees. Sometimes, the best adventures are right outside our door!

Claire Cookson (Pupil & Family Wellbeing Practitioner) 01603 720 098 or ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk).

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. Sign-up is now available on School Ping.





Dentist Visit – On Thursday Plummers dental team visited the school. First, they led an assembly on the importance of good dental care and then the team carried out free check-ups on over 150 of our children. A big thank you to the team for coming in to the school for free.

Rackheath Vets Teddy Bear Clinic

The children really enjoyed the teddy bear clinic that Rackheath Vets put on a couple of years ago! We are very pleased that Chris from Rackheath Vets has kindly agreed to visit the school again. He will lead a whole school assembly first and then spend time with children from Reception up to Year 3 carrying out special clinics for the children's teddy bears and other toy animal friends (no real animals!!).



Girls Football – Today the girl's team played in the Norwich City U11s Cup at the Nest. Well done to Maisie, Rachel, Emily O, Emily T, Grace, Freya and Lola. A full report to follow next week.

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



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!
Thurs 6th March	Rackheath Vets Teddy Bear Clinic
Mon 17th / Tues 18th March	Mad Science Curriculum Visit
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. The children have been celebrating Chinese New Year this week.

We have had our textured beam in a wavy shape like a snake, worked as a group to make a big snake and had snakes and lizards in the dry sand activity representing a desert. We have had various reference books and puzzles too and some children have decorated 'Lucky' envelopes and put chocolate coins in, we have more to finish next week. We will be focusing on physical development over the next two weeks and will be looking at using gross and fine motor skills in a variety of ways. I cannot believe it is only two weeks to half term!

Reception



Another great week in reception class! We have enjoyed beginning a new space themed story about an astronaut called Bob! It has been lots of fun seeing what his job on the moon entails.

We have also enjoyed learning about The Lunar New Year - your child may be able to tell you what animal is being celebrated this year. Hopefully they could also tell you which colour brings luck for the new year ahead!

We enjoyed a visit from the Dental Team on Thursday - we remembered that we need to brush our teeth twice a day for two minutes! Some of the children were very nervous about going to see the Dentist at school but Mrs Rivett and Mrs Coull accompanied them and every child came back into class beaming!



In phonics, our new sound has been 'igh' as in night/ light, etc. In maths, we have loved our first taste of algebra (we didn't use that word) as the children solved problems based on a picture book called 'One is a Snail, Ten is a Crab' by Sayre and Cecil. The book explores the number of 'feet' belonging to different creatures. We posed questions like 'How can I make 10 legs if I already have a crab and a dog?!' 'How can I make 10 legs in a different way?'

Next week we are looking forward to lots of hands-on space themed activities as we continue to explore the Man On The Moon story.

Year 1

This week Year 1 have been using their ICT skills to 'paint' a planet on the laptops, using 2Paint on Purple-Mash. We have been very impressed with many of the children's designs and their use of the 2paint. The children have also been painting their own planets on paper plates and also making giant posters all about our solar systems 8 planets. You could quiz your child by asking them to name as many planets as they can!

In English this week we have read The Smeds & The Smoos by Julia Donaldson. We have talked all about the story and the message that it gives, about friendship and kindness to everyone. The children have done some super writing (concentrating on using full stops and capital letters) to describe the feelings of a character. They have also created a 'missing' poster for Janet and Bill, and also written an invitation to their wedding.

In Maths we have been looking at doubles and near doubles; using our knowledge of number bonds to help us. For example 2 + 2 = 4, 3 + 3 = 6 therefore 2 + 3 = 5. And also finding patterns when we double numbers e.g Double 5 = 10, double 6 = 12, double 7 = 14 etc. Feel free to have a go at home with your child at home and see what they can do. 'Hit The Button' is a great game to play on the internet at home.

We always enjoy the children bringing bits in from home to share with the rest of the class however can we ask that they are either achievements of your child (e.g certificates, medals, badges) or something that they have created themselves at home that they are proud of.

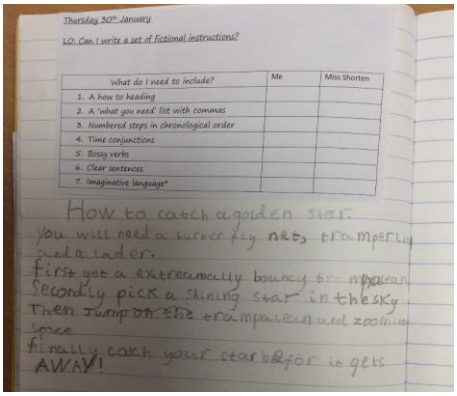
Year 2

It has been a wonderful and busy week of learning in Year 2!

In English, we explored the differences between fiction and non-fiction texts. The children then planned and wrote their own fictional instructions on *How to Catch a Star*. Their creative ideas included using bouncy trampolines, butterfly nets, unicorns, stickers and even candy ladders to help catch a star. Today, the children focused on editing their work, using green pens to spot missing capital letters, full stops and sounds in words. They also worked with a partner to give a star (something great) and a constructive wish (something to improve next time).

Our focus in Maths has been finding change, both from pence amounts and from £1. At the start of the week, this was a tricky concept, but with lots of practice and role-playing shopkeepers and customers, the children have become much more confident in calculating the correct change.

In RE, we have been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We explored the story of Rama and Sita and discovered that diva lamps helped guide them home after defeating the demon Ravana. The children then got creative, making their own diva lamps from clay before painting them with colourful patterns. They look fantastic!


Thursday 30th January

LO: Can I write a set of fictional instructions?

What do I need to include?	Me	Miss Shorten
1. A how to heading		
2. A 'what you need' list with commas		
3. Numbered steps in chronological order		
4. Time conjunctions		
5. Bossy verbs		
6. Clear sentences		
7. Imaginative language*		

How to catch a golden star:

You will need a turner key nets, trampoline and a ladder.

First get a extreamelly bouncy trampoline

Secondly pick a shining star in the sky

Then jump on the trampoline and zoom in space

finally catch your star before it gets AWAY!



Year 3

It has been another fabulous week in Year 3.

In English, we finished our letters to Nyla's dad. The children then made edits and improvements to their own writing before writing a final draft. Alongside this, the children also researched London to explore the entertainment and fun that city-life has to offer to a country lover like Nyla. The children then created persuasive posters linked to teaching Nyla about city-life.

In Maths, we have begun our new unit of work, length and perimeter. This week the children have explored measuring using length millimetres, centimetres and metres. By the end of the week, the children were comparing different units of length.

In Topic, we have continued our learning on light. This week, the children created their own shadow puppets. They worked in groups of four with their puppet character to act out the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. In addition to this, the children began a new unit of work linked to rocks and fossils. So far, they have explored the three main types of natural rock (igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary) alongside human-made rock such as brick and concrete.



In Computing, the children have continued to develop their knowledge and understanding of how to implement their own block of commands. In this week's lesson, the children learned about nesting and debugging their programmes.

Year 4

This week we began our new unit Rocks and Fossils. The children have loved sharing their prior knowledge which has been a great starting point for several discussions. On Friday we completed our first experiment of the unit, where we looked at the properties of different rocks. The children first examined each rock type to identify properties such as smooth or rough and heavy or light. Then they poured water to see if it was permeable or impermeable. Next week we will continue learning about rocks and begin to look at fossils.

In English we began our new story Survival in Space by David Long. This is based on the true story of the Apollo 13 mission. In our first lesson we looked at each chapter title and made predictions about what we thought it would be about. Some of my favourite predictions came from the chapter titled 'Sticky tape and socks', these included 'they only packed tape and socks' and 'they had to tape their socks on because there was no gravity'.

In maths we started yet another new unit! This is length and perimeter. Our first lesson was recapping millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres. To secure the difference in size between a metre and kilometres we travelled a km on the playground, this was much further than many of them realised, especially those who tried to run the distance! Finally this week we have looked at kindness and the impact of our words on others. The children were each given another member of our class to make a poster for. As the children read their messages today it was

lovely to see so many big smiles. We have put these on display in the classroom and will send them home before half term.







Year 5

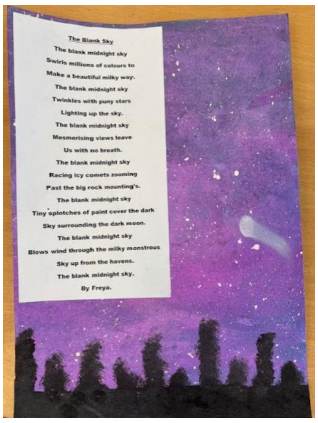
A wet but wonderful week in year 5!

In maths, we have been learning about fractions of amounts in word problems. We have been solving these by drawing a bar. For example:

I eat 12 sweets from the bag. There is still 3/5 of the bag remaining. How many sweets were in the bag at the start?

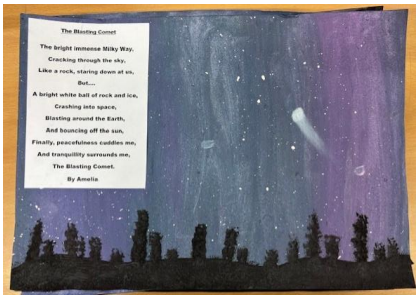
6	6	*6*	*6*	*6*
I ate 12		Left over		

In English, we have finished our poems from the perspective of being on earth. We then moved onto imagining that we were the comet racing through space! We also wrote Kennings Poems for this.



In topic, we have been looking at the planets in our solar system. We found that there are 4 rock planets and 4 gas planets. We made a small mobile to show these!





Year 6

This week has absolutely flown by and I cannot believe we are nearly in February! Firstly, I would like to thank the parents and family members for attending the SATs briefing on Monday.

During Maths lessons, we have looked at averages and how they are calculated. It began by working out the mean, median, mode and range for a set of data. This led to a variety of 'average' challenges! At the end of the week, we learnt how to measure and draw angles accurately.

In English, we continued our poetry unit of work where the children recapped their knowledge of figurative language before planning and writing a poem linked to a comet. It was fantastic to see so many imaginative ideas with lots of descriptive vocabulary!

In Science, we recapped our learning of how Earth's tilted axis causes the seasons as well as how its rotation creates night and day. During our Computing lesson, it was fantastic to see how much coding knowledge the children were able to retain and this led to a variety of challenges being completed. In R.E, the children researched the key beliefs of Islam and in French lessons we were able to name items of clothing and parts of the body. Finally, the children completed a 'draw-a-long' art activity of an alien from a distant planet and began a second piece of space artwork.

Attendance Bear

Well done to Years 1 & 3 who both had 97% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **19 out of 30** and
Year 5 who had **28 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	Teddy H-J, Larna, Isabelle
Year 1	Grace, Isla C, Caspar
Year 2	Phoebe, Spencer, Charlotte
Year 3	Leo, Harriet, Myla
Year 4	Ava, Hunter, Isla
Year 5	Nicola, Sophie, Aria
Year 6	Mia, Emily O, Isaac

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Chris Ashman