Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

It's been a busy week in school with parent's evenings, E-safety workshops with the 2 Johns and the FORS disco. We end the week and the half term with love in the air on Valentine's Day!

Whole School Weekly Focus Target – This week we have continued to have a whole school focus on "looking after our school." In assembly, and in class, we have been talking about keeping our school very tidy, respecting wildlife and looking after equipment well. The children have done a great job keeping the school and grounds litter free.

After half term our focus for the first 2 weeks will be on playing well together.

Safe Parking Banners

The winners of our safe parking competition had the chance to see and share their winning entries this week (a couple of them are below). They have been turned into eye-catching banners, which will go up outside the school after half term. A big thank you to Mark Baker at CIM signs and graphics for producing the banners for us.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our safe roads initiative. The roads around the school are definitely quieter and safer. Thank you!





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. The deadline for applications to be in is Friday 28th February. You can pick up an application from the school office.





Parent Teacher Evenings – It was lovely to see lots of you at our second parent's evening of the year on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. It was great to hear lots of positive comments from parents about their children's learning this year.

FORS Valentine's Disco

Our Valentine's Discos were lots of fun this week. The children all seemed to have an amazing time. There was a lot of fantastic dancing and the children enjoyed getting tattoos and face painted too. Although being in the middle of the KS2 Hokey Cokey reminded me of my younger days in the mosh pit! A huge thank you to all the FORS involved especially Mrs Bryan who organised both the discos!





A message from FORS: "FORS would like to thank everyone who supported the discos and especially the parent volunteers, Mr Ashman, Mr Grubb and Mrs Holmes for staying late".

'The 2 Johns' E-Safety Cluster Event

In national online safety week it was really beneficial to have an input from the 2 Johns, who ran online workshops for the Broadland cluster of schools on Thursday. One of their key pieces of advice was to always talk to a trusted adult if you are ever worried about something you come across online as a child.

2 Johns Parent Workshop Recording – I hope you all found the 2 Johns E-Safety meeting for parents useful yesterday. If you weren't able to watch it live, we do have a recording available. This can be viewed for the next 28 days until the 13th March. Please do give it a watch as I'm sure everyone from Bombers parents to Year 6 parents would find it informative and useful.

eSafetyTraining 'The 2 Johns'

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HW5QdLSm2Y3xM_rOGNwgn8ZRdpzGnxdwg3jkSp9smt-6fqXSUX3Kpv-hy4y4mQUz.xr0A5DBNBnJsz6dZ

School Wellbeing Service

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Every two weeks, I curate a playlist of songs based on a specific wellbeing theme. As the children pass by my room, they can enjoy the music and take a moment to look at the mini poster I've put up, which shares key insights related to the theme.

This fortnight's playlist highlights the importance of sleep. I like to think of our brains as being like dishwashers: when we sleep, our brains 'clean' all the information we've absorbed throughout the day. After a restful night's sleep, we wake up with a refreshed, 'sparkly' brain! However, activities like late nights, phone scrolling, or being woken up by family members can prevent our brains from fully 'cleaning' themselves, leaving us with some leftover information.

If you'd like more insights into the benefits of sleep, please feel free to visit our school Padlet, which offers some helpful tips on sleep and wellbeing: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing

For a deeper dive into the science of sleep, take a look at this TED Talk by Dr. Matt Walker, who has spent two decades studying the relationship between sleep and performance: https://shorturl.at/0myvL

Wishing you all the best for a restful and refreshing holiday!

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

Dates for the Diary



Week of the 3rd March	Creative Week – during this week we are focusing on being really creative! More details to follow!
Thursday 6th March	Rackheath Vets Teddy Bear Clinic Science Fiction Dress Up Day
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

Hello from us all. The children have been practising their fine motor skills this week with lots of threading, drawing, and use of a variety of one-handed tools. They made some lovely pictures today with pens and paint sticks and there were many heart creations to celebrate Valentine's Day. We talked about love and listened to the Cinderella story. We have been encouraging lots of good listening and have had some good little helpers with tidying,

sweeping, and putting lunches / chairs out. We are focusing on Gross motor skills when we return after half term and looking at self-care with dressing and looking after our teeth. Happy half term to everyone.





Reception

Wow, another half term completed here in Reception class! We've had lots of fun with our new space themed story by Julia Donaldson called 'The Smeds and the Smoos!' With it being Valentine's Day also, we've thought about the people we love and care for and have enjoyed lots of Valentines themed activities!

We have learned the 'oo' digraph this week (as in 'moon', and yes, the children may have told you, also as in 'poo!' This digraph is always a favourite one – they might be able to remember the sentence they wrote for this one this week! 😊)

In maths, the children have enjoyed exploring coins and money. This is something the children are (understandably) often not very familiar with due to a more cashless society so it's been really interesting seeing how the children have responded to it!

Importantly, we discussed Safer Internet Day on Tuesday and thought about how we can be safe if we are using tablets or gaming – the children knew to always check with their grown-ups first and report anything they didn't like or were worried about.

We were also very lucky to enjoy the 'Bear Ear Clinic' this morning. We met a super team of adult helpers who showed us some sign language, read us a lovely story all about a deaf bear and we even role played a trip to the audiologist. We took our own cuddly soft toys and learned whether they could hear low, medium or high frequency sounds. Some of our toys were given hearing aids and others a BAHA. The children then decorated their hearing aids with gems and stickers. It was a fantastic session and we learned lots about being deaf aware. We want to say a big thank you to Teddy Brockett and his family for helping to organise such a brilliant event.







Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have done some very exciting science experiments linked to extreme weather. Our 'tornado in a jar' was great fun to create and test whilst our 'blizzard in a bag' showed us how snow moves during a storm.

It was internet safety week this week; on Thursday we had a webinar from 'The 2 John's' who taught us all about how to stay safe online and the importance of your child telling an adult as soon as they are unsure of anything they see online. Please encourage your child to talk to you about this if there is anything that they are unsure of.

In English this week we have continued our poetry unit and had a go at writing our own poems. All the children have had a really good go at using some fantastic describing words to write about Spring Flowers. We have also been writing questions and using question marks in our sentences.

In Maths we have been counting to 50 and 100, counting in 10s and also making 2-digit numbers using our dienes equipment. Any practise counting to 100 or counting in 10s at home is great for securing your children's number knowledge.

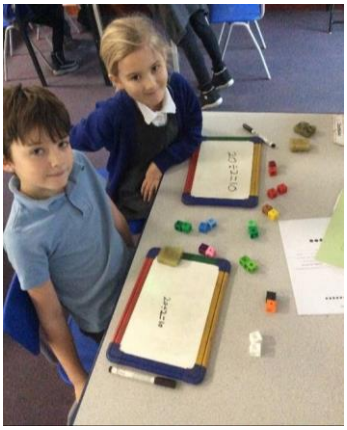
Don't forget to continue reading with your children over half term; the more practise they get the faster they progress.

Year 2

We've come to the end of another busy half term!



This week in English, we learned that adverbs can be used to tell us how an action is done or to describe the verb, for example 'I slept peacefully'. We then planned and wrote our own stories inspired by The Three Little Pigs, using fun twists like The Three Bunnies and the Fox and The Three Fish and the Shark. We focused on using repetitive language to make our stories catchy and memorable.



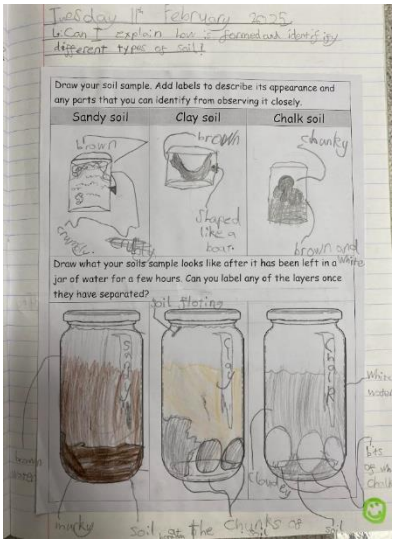
In Maths, we've been doing a fantastic job with our multiplication and division unit. We practiced drawing arrays to solve multiplication problems and then moved on to dividing by grouping. For example, if we divide 12 into groups of 3, we get 4 groups, so 12 ÷ 3 = 4. We used cubes, pictures and number lines to help us understand these concepts. We've also been working hard on learning our 2 times tables, and the children have really enjoyed playing Hit the Button – a great game to practice at home too!

In Topic, we enjoyed learning about extreme weather events like tornadoes, hurricanes and blizzards. We even had a go at making tornadoes in a jar! For safer internet day, we took part in a session from The 2 Johns. We then discussed who our trusted adults are and what kind of information is not safe to share online.

Finally, our new spelling rule this week focused on the 's' sound spelled with a 'c' before i, e or y, as in city and race.

Year 3

Just like that, another half term has flown by in Year 3!



In English, we completed some peer marking. The children were required to read and edit each other's work. During this task, they specifically focussed on checking for the use of conjunctions and powerful adjectives. Once all edits and improvements had been made, the children wrote up a final draft of their stories. To conclude the week, we focused on some year 3 SPAG content, including the use of prepositional language and adverbs which are used to provide context in a sentence by describing, how, when, where and to what extent something occurs.

In Maths, we continued learning about length and perimeter. This week we have focused on calculating the perimeter and converting lengths (m, cm and mm). In addition to this, the children completed an assessment task and spent time practising their target times table/s.

In Topic, we have continued our learning linked to rocks and fossils. On Monday, we learned about the process of fossilisation. We have also been busy exploring and analysing different soils; we looked at clay soil, chalky soil and sandy soil. On Wednesday, we completed a fun experiment where we tested the permeability of all three soils. In addition to this,

we took down our coloured sugar paper from the windows to see how the sun had faded (damaged) the colour of the paper. We linked this to the impact UV light (produced by the sun) can have on our skin.

As part of online safety week, the children attended a zoom meeting where they thought about the influence online activity can have on their thoughts and opinions of the wider world. In addition to this, we looked at online safety linked to the dos and don'ts of sharing information online.

Year 4

Wow, I cannot quite believe we have reached half term and half way through the year! This week the adults in Year 4 have spent time reflecting on how much everyone in the class has matured since September. They have all shown themselves in a fantastic way and continue to impress us week on week. It was lovely to talk to so many of you at parents evening to be able to share their in-school growth and achievements with you.

This week we have finished units in lots of subjects. In topic we concluded our learning on rocks and fossils ahead of an art / DT week, when we return, that will allow us to look closely at some fossils. In English we wrote stories about an astronaut and an alien, there were some very creative ideas in these stories and many great descriptions. In maths we looked at the perimeter of shapes and explored how to identify missing numbers in a perimeter. As we talked through examples children were able identify each step and tell me exactly how to solve the questions and were all starting to apply this knowledge in their own work.

On Thursday we had an online lesson looking at internet safety and what to do if we find ourselves in trouble. Everyone was able to identify at least one person they feel they would be comfortable asking for help. However, initially many were worried they would get in trouble or not be allowed to play anymore if they told. As part of the session we took part in a quiz about who certain YouTubers were. As a class we were very quick with responses showing just how much our children know and how important it is they know how to keep safe, especially with the half term break.

Myself and Mrs Goddard would like to wish you all a lovely half term, we cannot wait to hear all about when we are back.

Year 5

A lovely final week of the half term in year 5!

In maths, we have been focussing on subtraction to find change with money. To do this, we have been rounding the prices of items to the nearest £1, working out an estimated price and then using our mental maths and number bonds to work out the actual answer. For Example:

£100 – £82.92 =

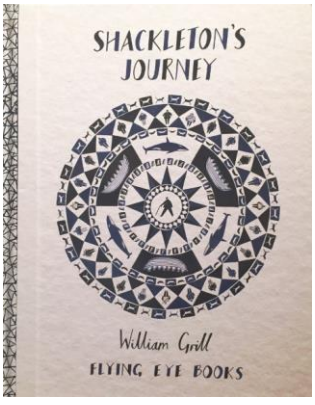
An estimate of £100 - £83 = £17. Then mentally solving:

£100 – 80 = £20

£20 - £2 = £18

£18 – £0.90 = £17.10

£17.10 – £0.02 = £17.08



In English, we have started our new class text called Shackleton's Journey. So far, we have written an advert to try and find a crew and then have been assigned a crew member that we have researched. Why not ask your child who they are in our book!

Our afternoons have focussed on Internet safety. We have had an online meeting with Norfolk Police, where they talked about the law linked to being online and then we had a Zoom presentation with The 2 Johns who discussed the dangers online as well as the impact that dares and challenges can cause us. I was rather concerned about the number of children in the class who had viewed content that was not age appropriate – mostly about dares which could lead to people being seriously hurt. All of these were viewed on either TikTok or YouTube. Please check your child's account, discuss with them what they are viewing and ensure that the correct safeguards are in place. They also discussed making sure children **DO NOT** keep devices in bedrooms.

Year 6

What a brilliant half term it has been! The children should all be really pleased with their attitudes to learning and the progress they have made. In Maths lessons this week, we identified missing angles on a straight line and around a point. We also looked at some tricky reasoning questions where the children worked well with their peers to discuss the necessary steps to get to an answer.

In Literacy, the children completed their descriptive Space poems and moved on to a new unit of work (biographies), which we will continue after half term. As a class, we discussed and then highlighted the key features of a biography before choosing an astronaut to research.

In R.E. lessons, we continued with our study of Islam and the children learnt about the importance of Ramadan. Afterwards, the class suggested good deeds that they could implement into their own lives. In addition to a further coding lesson, we also completed a music challenge. This is where the children listened to 'The Planets' by Gustav Holst, which is seven-movement orchestral suite linked to seven of the planets in our Solar System. The children had to listen carefully to the pitch, tempo and instruments used to decide which planet each movement was linked to. Just some of them included: Mars – The Bringer of War, Venus – The Bringer of Peace, and Saturn – The Bringer of Old Age.

As part of Safer Internet Day, the children watched an online webinar from the Norfolk Police. To link to this, the children also took part in an online event hosted by "The 2 Johns," which focused on how to keep safe online.



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



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	All of Reception Class, Harry, Allie
Year 1	Jacob, Enid, Ava
Year 2	Yanna, Lucas, Eve
Year 3	Mia, Leighrye, All of Year 3
Year 4	Bonnie, Henry, Parker
Year 5	Xander, Joey, Emily
Year 6	All of Year 6, Honey, Jack

Have a lovely half term and we will see you all on the 24th February.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman