Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th February 2025

Despite the rain it has been a great start to the half term. The children have come back with an excellent attitude and are working hard. Well done to them all for settling quickly back into school.

Whole School Weekly Focus Target – For this and next week our focus is on "playing well together." Our assemblies this week have focused on this and I have been very impressed with how well the children have engaged with the ideas shared. Whether inside or out the children have been playing well together. Sharing, taking turns, being kind and working well together when any problems in a game emerge.

Fundraising for Leon

Leon one of our Year 6 pupils has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy a degenerative condition that affects his mobility. https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/muscular-dystrophy/

We are working with Leon's family and friends to start fundraising to raise £30,000, which is what the family need, in addition to the funding they receive from the government, to renovate their house to allow Leon to stay independent in his own home. We are starting our fundraising on Friday 21st March. Normally we raise money for Comic Relief on that day but this year we are raising money for Leon. We will hold a non-school uniform day (£1 donation) and play games with the children over lunchtime (20p a race).

We plan for this to be just the first of our fundraising activities. We know that lots of you will want to get behind our fundraising and support Leon and his family. It may be that you would like to help fundraise for Leon perhaps through a sponsored event or you know someone who could help. We are also going to get in touch with local businesses to see if they can help too.

One idea we have is to hold a bigger fundraising event involving the local community, perhaps around May half term.

If anyone has any ideas to help please let me know at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

We will keep you posted with our plans.



Science Fiction Dress Up day – Thursday 6th March

Next week, the whole school will be having a science and creativity week where we will be taking part in lots of fun activities. As part of this, we would like to have a whole school dress-up day on **Thursday 6th March**. The theme for this day will be **Science Fiction**... so children can dress up in any way that links to this topic. They could be an alien, scientist, astronaut or even a character from their favourite Sci-fi film!



Rackheath Vets Teddy Bear Clinic

Next Thursday we also have Chris from Rackheath vets visiting the school. Children from Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and 3 should bring in a favourite stuffed animal to treat!

2 Johns Parent Workshop Recording

Just a reminder that the 2 Johns Esafety parent presentation is still available to view 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.

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

eSafetyTraining 'The 2 Johns'

The parent page on their website, which is updated regularly taking into account new areas of information and concern, can be found here:

https://esafetytraining.org/resources/parents-carers-area/

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

School Wellbeing Service

Did you know your local library is more than just books? It's a treasure trove of activities and events for the whole family! From story time sessions for younger children to craft workshops, book clubs, and tech classes for older children and adults, there's something for everyone.

Check out what's happening at Norfolk libraries this month by following this link: Library Activities (you'll find the link in the school Padlet too: Rackheath Wellbeing). It's a great way to explore new interests, meet new people, and keep the children engaged while sparking their imagination.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner 01603 720 098 or ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk)

Bikeability Week – A letter has gone out to those Year 5 and 6 children involved in the bikeability programme, which starts on Monday 10th March. By the end of the week the children will have learnt skills to help them to safely cycle on the road.

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 10th – Thurs 13th March	Bikeability Week
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 to all our families. We have had a very energetic week with our focus being Gross motor skills. There has been lots of running, climbing, balancing, jumping and carrying out exercises and actions. They should all sleep well tonight!

Next week we are focusing on communication and language. We will explore a variety of sensory crafts/materials and enjoy stories, following instructions and talking to each other in small groups. It is also World Book Day on Thursday. If your child would like to bring in a favourite character book or dress up then they are welcome. If they do not attend a Thursday then they can dress up or bring a book in another day. We do ask if the dressing up is long that they have normal clothes too for outside play. We are celebrating 'Shrove Tuesday' too and having some fun 'ingredients' in our exploratory play. Fingers crossed we may get to have pancakes for snack. There should be some good conversations around favourite fillings/toppings.

We would also like to inform you that Roxy who is sometimes here has now qualified as a level 3 Early years Practitioner and completed her paediatric first aid as well. She is a much-valued part of the team. In addition, Tina volunteers with us every Thursday afternoon and it is very much appreciated. If anyone else would like to help or know someone who might like to volunteer then please speak with Denise or Michelle. It is invaluable to have an extra pair of eyes and the children love having someone to read to them or play a game. We currently have two students here at present. Mai is with us every Tuesday/Friday and Lily has been here before and is now back with us for a little while on a Tuesday morning. They are very popular with the children and again a great help.

A reminder that next week is stay and play for anyone that would like to pop in. You are most welcome. Just let a staff member aware so we know whom to expect.

Reception

The children have had a great first week back in reception class! We have enjoyed two great books this week; one has helped us with our maths learning – Roger Hargreaves, 'Grandfather Clock'. The other has linked to our Space topic and is called, 'The First Hippo on the Moon.' Lots of the children were excited to tell us about the story as they have read it at home! It's a great one for developing vocabulary with words like *gigantic, ignite, vine, asteroid*. Lots of the children were unsure about what an asteroid was so we found out together. The children loved seeing how Shelia the Hippo designed a rocket and used some of her ideas when thinking about how they'd make their own junk model rockets.

In phonics, we have learned the shorter, harder 'oo' digraph (book, look, foot) and the children were very thoughtful about the fact that this can make a different sound to the other longer 'oo' sound; oo as in poo!

Maths has been fantastic as we enjoyed the above story and the children amazed us with how brilliant they were at creating the o'clock times from the story on their individual mini clocks as we read together! They have also loved thinking about what '1 minute' actually feels like – we estimated how many star jumps they could do and how many times they could write their name in 60 seconds. We had lots of fun with this maths … and exercise!

We're looking forward to next week when we have our whole school 'Sci-fi' dressing up day on Thursday 6 March!







Year 1

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term, we hope all our Year 1s had a super half term break. This week we have begun learning all about animals; identifying and naming animals including birds, fish, reptiles and mammals. We have been using this knowledge to design a piece of 'mammal artwork', a bird picture using feathers, a fish using a rolled piece of cardboard and we finished the week by creating an animal groups key in our science books. We also listened to 'Carnival of the Animals' by Camille Saint-Saëns and the children were able to identify the different animals in the music and several of the instruments used.

In English the children have been performing the poems that we read before half term. They have worked brilliantly in groups and performed using lots of expression, clear voices and stuck to a steady rhythm. The children have also been writing their own poems based on their favourite season of the year. These have been a delight to read!

In Maths we have been measuring, which is always fun! This week we have focused on comparing lengths and heights of people and objects using 'longer/shorter, taller/shorter' etc. The children have begun to measure objects using non-standard units of measurement (in our case cubes). Next week we shall move onto learning how to use a ruler and measure in centimetres.

Don't forget that next week is 'Sci-Fi' day on Thursday 6th March so children can come dressed in a sci-fi themed outfit.

Year 2

We've had a fantastic first week back after half term!

Our new spelling rule this week is doubling the consonant before adding the suffix '-y'. For example sun becomes sunny.

In English, the children enjoyed writing sentences about their half-term adventures before starting our new book, The Snail and the Whale – a story many of the children already know! We explored the book cover, using descriptive adjectives to label what we could see. The children then asked and wrote questions about the story. The children also wrote a letter to the whale, using their senses, adjectives, and adverbs to describe the snail's home to the whale to help him find her. Later in the week, we debated in the class about whether the snail should go on the journey with the whale or stay with her family, which led to writing persuasive notes to help her decide.

In Maths, we continued our work on multiplication and division. The children practiced division by sharing equally and tackled some tricky missing number problems. We also explored the two times table, made links between multiplying by 2 and dividing by 2, and explored what it means to find 'twice as much'.

In Science, we learned how to classify animals into groups – mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians – based on their characteristics. The children even created their own animals and decided which group they would belong to.

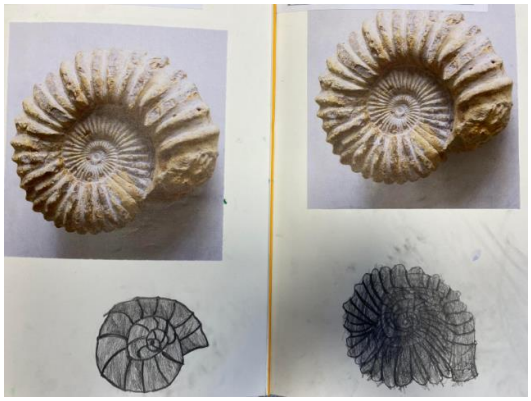
Year 3

We have had a super first week of Spring 2 in Year 3!

In English, we begun a unit of work inspired by Pie Corbett's 'Space Poetry'. This week the children looked at two examples of his work, 'The Rubbish Tip Alien' and 'Six ways to look at the Moon'. After analysing the poems, the children developed their own using skills including metaphors and exciting adjectives.

In Maths, we began our next unit of work based on fractions. This week the children learned about the denominator of a fraction, unit and non-unit fractions and the whole as a fraction. We have placed a big focus on using our key vocabulary (equal parts, denominator and numerator) during explanations. So far, the children are completing this unit of work brilliantly!

In Topic, the children made their own fossils and drew pictures of ammonites using sketching pencils. Whilst drawing, the children explored shading and experimented with adding fine line details. Take a look at these wonderful examples…



In addition to this, we began studying a new art unit based on the work of Georgia O'Keeffe. To begin this unit, the children researched and completed an artist fact-file; they also analysed examples of her artwork, deciding on which piece was their favourite and which was their least favourite.

We also completed a lovely session based on our 'Zones of Regulation'. The children had lots of fun trying to guess the emotion I was displaying/ acting out. Finally, due to the cancellation of swimming, Mr Palmer taught gymnastics where the children learned about point and patch balances.

Year 4

I hope you all had a lovely half term break. This week I set the children the challenge of earning the reading bear, as we were yet to do so this year. The children rose to this challenge brilliantly with almost everyone reading at least 3 times a week at home, many read even more than this! As a class they voted for extra class points as their reward. With regards to maths homework we had almost 100% complete the task, well done Year 4!

In school we have started our fractions unit, this has been something that has proved quiet challenging. The children have grasped mixed numbers well and our being resilient with using them on a number line. In English we have been looking at similes as part of a space poetry unit and on Friday we begun looking at metaphors. In topic we have continued looking at fossil and used our art skills to draw them. The children have worked hard at closely observing the shapes and details of their chosen fossil. We have also explored sketching and how lightly to use our pencil initially to help us create a detailed drawing.

Next week in school is creative week, as part of this Year 4 will be looking at the food technology side of DT. We will be tasting and evaluating different ingredients at the beginning of the week. This will inform our own spaced themed pizzas towards the end of the week, which we will again taste and evaluate.

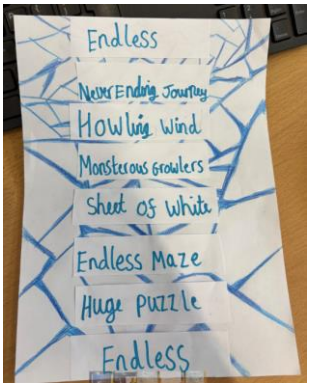
Year 5

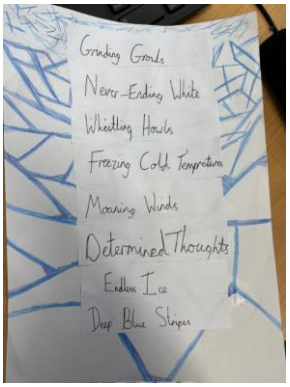
We had a bit of a special treat this week as we had the opportunity to be on a Live Zoom call with a NASA scientist Branelle Rodriguez who is currently working on the next manned mission to the moon. During our zoom call, she talked to the children about the next rocket that the NASA astronauts will be using, as well as the difficulties of setting up a base on the moon. There was also an opportunity for questions…lots of them based on how the toilet is used in space!

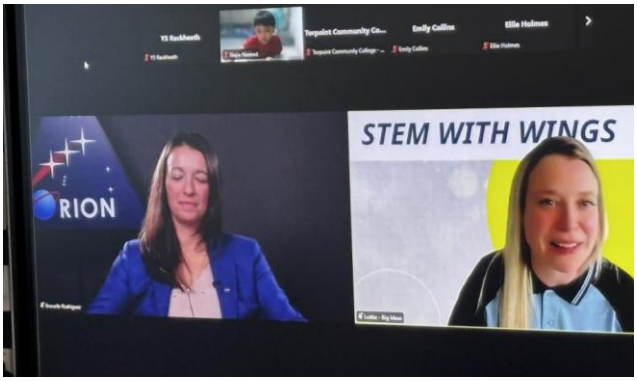
In maths, we have continued our work on %...in particular, how to find 25% of an amount and then work out the sale price of items. Some children found halving numbers a bit of a challenge so why not give them some extra practise at home!

In English, our work has focussed on our book 'Shackleton's Journey'. The children have been imagining what life on board the Endurance may have been like, and then have been writing Expedition Log Entries linked to this. We also wrote descriptive one-word poems and completed a piece of artwork linked to it.

In topic, our work has been about famous people linked to space. The children created small fact pages about them to help us understand how they changed our thinking about space. The famous people included the first women in space, Valentina Tereshkova and Nicolaus Copernicus who first proved that the Earth rotated around the sun.







Year 6

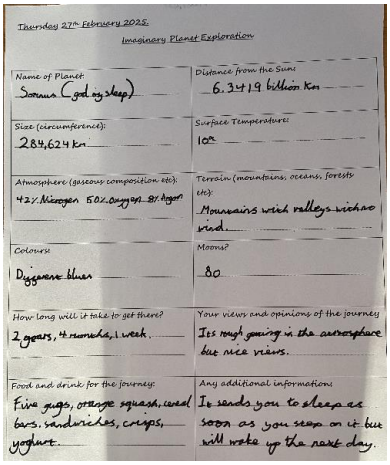


I cannot believe how quickly this week has gone! The Year 6s have continued from where they left off last half term by working incredibly hard and by showing a positive attitude to learning. In Maths lessons, we have been calculating missing angles on straight lines, around a point and within triangles. We then moved on to calculating the area of simple and compound shapes.

In English lessons, the class continued their biographies (of a chosen astronaut) to link to our whole-school topic. We also completed a variety of grammar challenges – one of which focused on writing in the progressive tense.

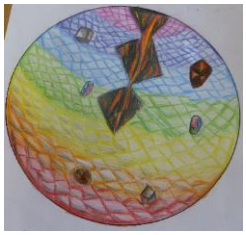
On Tuesday, we were lucky enough to take part in a Space Zoom webinar with Branelle Rodrigues – who works for NASA as the Artemis 2 vehicle manager. It was amazing to hear her opinions of Space and future missions! During an R.E lesson, the class learnt about Hajj – which is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca and is the fifth pillar of Islam.

In a science lesson, the children had to be creative by planning an imaginary planet exploration. This involved them creating the name for their newly discovered planet as well as many other factors. Just some of these included: the atmosphere, terrain, number of moons, size and surface temperature. As a follow-on art lesson, the children then designed exactly what this new planet would look like.


Thursday 27th February 2025:
Imaginary Planet Exploration

Name of Planet: Somnus (God of sleep)	Distance from the Sun: 6.3419 billion Km
Size (circumference): 284,624 km	Surface Temperature: 10°
Atmosphere (gaseous composition etc): 42% Nitrogen 50% oxygen 8% Argon	Terrain (mountains, oceans, forests etc): Mountains with valleys in-between.
Colours: Different blues	Moons? 80
How long will it take to get there? 2 years, 4 months, 1 week.	Your views and opinions of the journey: Its rough going in the atmosphere but nice views.
Food and drink for the journey: Five pugs, orange squash, iced bars, sandwiches, crisps, yoghurt.	Any additional information: It sends you to sleep as soon as you step on it but will wake up the next day.





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 5 who had 99% attendance before half term. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Reception who had **23 out of 32** and
Year 4 who had **28 out of 31**
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	Islan, Azlan, Theordore K
Year 1	Pippa, Rocco, Luna
Year 2	William, Henry, Freddie
Year 3	William, Evie, Jackson
Year 4	Edie, Alfie, Louis
Year 5	Madi, Freya, Emil
Year 6	Leon, Mya, Harlan

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman