Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

Whole School Weekly Focus Target – This week in school we have re-introduced a whole school focus linked to promoting and maintaining the highest standards of behaviour and attitudes across the school. The focus up to half term is 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. Year 5 set the ball rolling with a litter pick. We have lovely grounds and we all want to keep them free of rubbish. We also talked about making sure all the daffodils that are on the bank get to flower and how we need to keep off the grass and use the steps to allow this to happen.

After half term we will be focusing at different times on aspects of school life like playing well with others, moving around school sensibly and being kind to each other

Children's Mental Health Week – This week in assembly we have also been looking at the theme of the year for children's mental health week, which is "know yourself, grow yourself." In the assembly we were talking about self-awareness. Knowing what you like, what you worry about, your hopes and dreams. I shared that I used to find it really hard to stand up in front of lots of people but have found it easier the more I do it! We also talked about how being self-aware helps you to grow. The children also completed some work in their classes identifying their strengths, areas to develop and their plans for the future.

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. Earlier in the week you should have received more information about the role and the process for applying if you are interested.





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. There is still space to sign-up via School Ping. If you are having any problems with making an appointment, please drop in to the school office.

Governor Drop-in at Parents Evening – Our governors will be in school during Parents Evening to answer any questions you may have about the governor role and also to give parents a chance to share their views about the school. They will be based in Mrs Cookson's room:

- Tuesday 11th between 3:30pm - 5:30pm
- Wednesday 12th between 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Thank you, governors! You can also grab me and ask any questions about the governor role.

Clubs next week – Due to parents evening there will be no Year 5 & 6 Football on Tuesday or Year 1 & 2 Football on Wednesday.

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 event will take place from 8.00pm – 9.30pm via the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88079486983

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.

Girls Football



Last Friday the girl's team took part in the Norwich City U11s Cup at the Nest. There were 3 groups of 7 schools each. With 8 teams going through to the quarter finals. Our first game was a spirited 0-0 draw against Firside. This set the scene for much of the tournament. The girls performed very well but found it hard to put the ball in the net. The only exception being one game where we couldn't stop scoring and won 4-0! In total we drew 4 games, won one and only lost one. If we could have turned some draws into wins, we could have gone further. However, the girls showed great attitudes throughout and we had lots of fun! In our goal Maisie was excellent and was backed up well by Emily T and Lola. Further forward Rachel, Grace, Freya and Emily O played some good passing football. Our goals were scored by Rachel (3) and Grace (2). What was pleasing was that I think we improved every game. Well done girls. Thank you to Ms Holmes and to our supporters.

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

Here's another date for your diary: Saturday 15th February through to Saturday 22nd February - for an epic celebration of science and technology! Incredible research and innovation associated with the city is on offer to visitors of all ages giving them the opportunity to explore the many wonders of our world.

For more information follow this link: https://norwichsciencefestival.co.uk/news/nsf-returns-2025

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

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!
Thursday 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.

Science Fiction Dress Up day – Thursday 6th March



During the week starting 3rd March, 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 or even a character from their favourite Sci-fi film!



Bombers



Hello from us all here in Bombers. The children have had a very energetic week focusing on using their gross and fine motor skills. There has been lots of jumping, balancing, exercising, jogging and craft activities that utilise one handed tools such as drawing, tools in the dough, cutting and painting. Next week we will focus more on their fine motor skills with threading, cutting, hairdresser role play and mark making. We will also be thinking of everything red and heart shaped with Valentine's Day at the end of the week. We will be holding a **Stay and Play** week from the **3rd – 7th March** for parents / carers to pop in and play for around 30 minutes when their child attends. Parents usually come half an hour prior to collection but you are welcome to drop in any time that suits. Just mention to a staff member so we are aware of who to expect. If that week is not convenient then can we please stress that parents are always welcome to pop in at any time, so please ask.

Reception

We've had lots of variety in reception class this week! We have continued our Space theme and enjoyed more stories, such as The Moon Man by Harris and Grey. The children have all finished crafting their Astronaut helmets and are loving the space role play area – we have many keen engineers who like to mend the rocket!

It has also been Children's Mental Health week so we have used some great CBeebies resources and videos about emotions – we've explored what it's like to feel happy, sad, angry, worried and shy. The children have been really good at listening and telling us what strategies they could try when they feel these emotions.

In phonics, we have learned the 'ow' (blow the snow) digraph. In maths, the children have loved learning about 3D shape. The children have been singing and dancing to the 3D shape song and especially loved the game where we had to make 3D shapes with our bodies and then someone had to guess which shape we were being!

This afternoon, we had a football fun taster session – it was so much fun, great exercise and we learned some new skills!

Next week, we are excited as the children need to bring in a small / medium soft toy on **FRIDAY** as we have a special visitor coming in to work with all the children … we'll reveal more next week!







Year 1

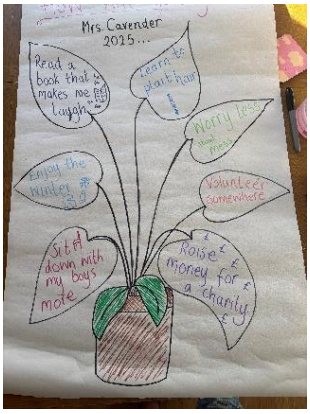
In Year 1 this week we have been learning all about the WEATHER (always a hot topic for us in the UK)! We have been describing the four different seasons and how the weather changes throughout the year. After watching several weather forecasts the children planned and made their own weather reports for the UK. They performed these for the camera, using weather symbols and a map, and we thoroughly enjoyed watching them on the big screen (aka the whiteboard) the following day.







With it being 'children's mental health week' we used this opportunity to talk about how we can get to know ourselves better and how this can be very useful when thinking about how we would like to grow this year, what things we would like to improve on and how we can make small changes each day to achieve our goals. You could ask your children what they put on the leaves of their plant and maybe think about what you might put on yours to?



We were very lucky to have a football taster session this Friday, the children were super keen to show off their skills and were really encouraging of each other.

In English we have started a new poetry unit called 'Out and About: A first book of poems' by Shirley Hughes. The children have enjoyed hearing and responding to a variety of poems, and have been writing sentences explaining what they love about being outdoors and how it makes them feel.

In Maths we have been subtracting using our number bonds, subtracting by counting backwards, finding the difference and finding fact families for addition and subtraction. For example: 11+4=15, 4+11=15, 15-4=11, 15-11=4. It has been great fun discovering these related facts; the children have really impressed us with their knowledge.

As part of our phonics, every Friday, we learn our 'tricky words'; today we played a game on the whiteboard called 'Little Bird Spelling'. This is a great way for the children to read and spell those tricky words. If you type 'Little Bird Spelling' into google then your child could have a go at home.

Year 2

On Monday, we learned that it was Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'. The children reflected on things they are good at, what makes them happy and the people who help them grow. They also thought about the things they find tricky and want to get better at.





This week, we learned our first spelling rule! We discovered that the *or* sound is spelled *a* when it comes before *l* or *ll*, as in the word 'all'. We also found out that in words like walk, talk and stalk, the *l* is silent. Keep practicing at home!

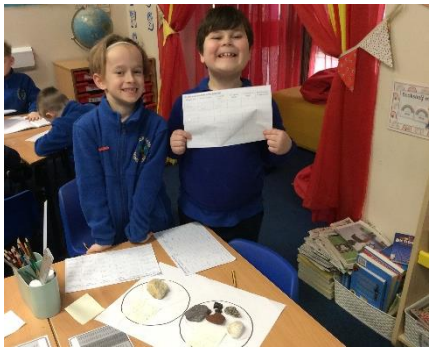
In Maths, we started our new topic - multiplication and division. The children have made a fantastic start! We began by learning about equal groups and practiced drawing them. Then, we wrote repeated addition sentences and turned them into multiplication sentences using the multiplication symbol (x), which means 'lots of' or 'groups of'. For example: 4 + 4 + 4 = 3 x 4.

In Topic, we explored the weather and the four seasons in the UK. We learned that the seasons change because the Earth is tilted. The children created beautiful

artwork to represent each season. We also discovered that not all countries experience four seasons – places near the equator only have two: a wet and dry season. We investigated different ways to measure weather and had fun making rain gauges and wind socks. Throughout the week, we've been keeping a weather diary too!

In English, we focused on building expanded noun phrases to describe settings and characters. We also recapped that every sentence needs a subject and a verb. The children had fun building silly sentences and then extended them with expanded noun phrases.

Year 3



Another week has whizzed by in Year 3!

In English, we used thesauruses to explore vocabulary associated with a variety of emotions. In addition to this, the children planned and wrote their own stories linked to a life-changing event such as moving house from the countryside to the city. During our story writing, we focused on implementing skills including paragraphs, expanded noun phrases, powerful adjectives, conjunctions and figurative language.

In Maths, we have continued learning about length and perimeter. This week we have focused on adding and subtracting lengths. The children were challenged to convert lengths from one unit of measure to another (for example 40mm = 4cm or 9m = 900cm). At the end of the week, the children explored and measured the perimeter of different shapes.

In Topic, we have continued our learning linked to rocks and fossils. At the beginning of the week, we explored properties of rocks. To do this, we carried out an explorative task where we used pipettes to drip water onto a selection of rocks. The children observed whether the water soaked into the rock (permeable) or simply ran off its surface (impermeable). Alongside this, the children learnt about three types of weathering and the damaging effects that they can have on igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks.



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 designed their own programmes and planned their own codes before bringing them to life on Purple Mash.

As part of children's mental health week, we considered ways in which we would like to grow over the upcoming year. The children thought about skills they'd like to learn, goals they'd like to achieve and things they'd like to try. We also discussed our emotions and considered ways we could show more gratitude, patience and / or confidence.

Year 4

This week year 4 have continued to work on their Space topic in English. The children have recapped expanded noun phrases and used them to write a description of a space setting. Later in the week we looked at the use of present and past tense to help our paragraphs make sense.

In maths we have been finding the perimeter of rectangles and other rectangular shapes. We have looked at the properties of a rectangle and how this can help to answer questions efficiently. We have also been practicing our times tables using a meterstick to help us count up and down as well as to work out answers. The children have really enjoyed this task and are showing great confidence with it.

In topic we have looked at different types of soil and their properties. During our experiment the children were excited to find plants and possible remains of a worm in the clay soil sample. In PE we used all the equipment in the hall to support the development of routines. The children all worked incredibly hard and showed great teamwork skills as they begun piecing together their routines. On Friday we had a taster session in football which was a real treat.

For the last few weeks, the children have been earning raffle tickets throughout the week for various reasons such as excellent focus, kindness and brilliant work. As we move into the final week of half term, we will also award raffle tickets to children who read 3 times at home this week and bring their reading journal in on Friday.

Year 5

We have been working our socks off in year 5 this week!

In maths, we have been looking at ordering decimals up to 3 decimal places. Children find this tricky as they sometimes think that the more numbers there are, the bigger the number… but this isn't always the case. We have been ordering numbers like these:

3.7 3.38 3.004 3.032

In English, we have completed our poetry unit by writing up our favourite poem that has been sent off to a national 'Young Writers' poetry competition! The children have a chance of winning a range of prizes as well as having their poem published in a book. I'll send more information out about this once I hear.

In science, we have been looking at the planets of our solar system and planning a trip there! We will then use this information to make a postcard from space!

LITTER PICK: The class were also very excited as we decided to go on a litter pick around our school to help improve the school grounds; I actually can't believe how much they loved it! We ended up collecting two big bags full of rubbish. I was then pleased to see that Jack and a few of the boys decided to pick up litter on the way to school too!





Year 6

During parts of some mornings this week, the children completed tests. Ms Holmes, Mrs Culling and I were so impressed with the children's resilience, positivity and amazing progress. They should all be proud of themselves and they were given some extra break time as a reward for their fantastic efforts!

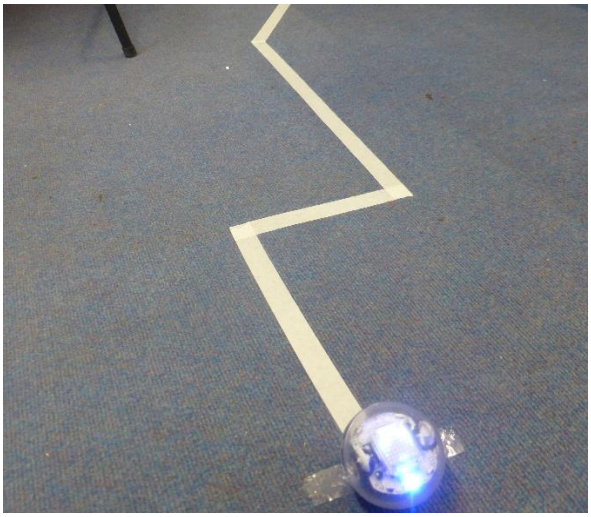
In art lessons, we finished an astronaut piece of artwork using a mixture of pen and chalks. By completing the background separately (and cutting out the visor of the astronaut's helmet) it gives the effect of reflection in space.

In a PSHE lesson, we discussed the question "How will we grow?" – focusing on ways the children will grow this year. Some of the answers included: learning a new skill, showing gratitude, feeling confident and being patient. This led to the children being creative – as they could show these targets in any way they liked.

During a computing lesson, the children had to create their own maze / path that their Sphero had to follow. If their Sphero was able to stay exactly on their chosen path, then their maze was extended. It was great to see them having lots of fun whilst also knowing how to edit / improve their code.

In R.E, the children recapped their understanding of the 5 pillars of Islam. Once the class were able to confidently explain what each pillar represents, they then came up with 5 pillars for their own lives. It was lovely to hear so many thoughtful and positive suggestions, such as: being generous, showing appreciation, to try your best and to be kind.

On Friday, we had a football taster session from 'We Make Footballers', where the children participated in a variety of mini games.





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 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 2 who had **19 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	Keira, Maggie, Ashfia
Year 1	Jaylen, Isla B, Liam
Year 2	Cian, Aminah, Emmy
Year 3	Landon, Rosie, Ben
Year 4	Sid, Izzy, Ella
Year 5	Jack, Sid, Cara
Year 6	Maxwell, All of Year 6, Isabelle

Have a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Chris Ashman