Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday14th March 2025

Presentation of Learning – Rackheath Museum – Save the date!

The children have produced lots of super work as part of our, "To Infinity and Beyond," whole school topic. They are very keen to share that learning with you! Family members are invited in to two days of the Rackheath living museum!

On Wednesday 2nd April Year 3 to 6 will be presenting their learning from 2pm - 3pm and then on Thursday it will be Reception, Year 1 and 2s turn, again from 2pm - 3pm.

Friday 21st March Fundraising for Leon

This a non-school uniform day and we will also run some fun games over lunchtime with small prizes! Please bring a donation of £1.

We have already had some lovely offers of support for Leon following the message sent last week both from parents and in the community. Some parents have asked if there is a Go Fund Me page and there is. Here is the link: https://gofund.me/b7c0e211

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

Plans are already coming together for different fundraising ideas. Thank you to everyone who is making a difference.

Coltishall Rainbow Run for Leon

A School Ping has gone out today about the Coltishall Rainbow Run organised by the friends at Coltishall on Sunday 8th June. They have kindly agreed that parents and staff connected to Rackheath can enter the race early and raise money for Leon. I am planning to run (if my knees hold out!) and get friends to donate to Leon's go fund me page. I know other school staff are planning to do the same too.



Mad Science Visit

On Monday and Tuesday next week each class will have a session with the Mad Science Team. They are always lots of fun and full of great learning. This time the focus is on space!

Whole School Weekly Focus Target – *The focus for this week and the next has been on "being kind to each other." In class and assembly we have been focusing how we can be kind to each other. We have also been reflecting on two very wise sayings:*

- *Treat other people how you would like to be treated yourself*

and….

- *If you haven't got something nice to say don't say it*

Football Match – On Thursday 20th March the Year 6 mixed team have a football match at home vs Buxton. **This means that there will be no Year 3 + 4 football club on that day.**

This week we have had a group of 22 children who have been learning how to safely ride their bikes along the busy roads around Rackheath, led by Bikeability. I am pleased to say that all children who finished the training on Thursday have passed their assessments and will be awarded their certificates and badges next week.

The two leaders who took the children out commented on how polite, well-behaved and hardworking our children were. They said it was so nice to be in a school with such wonderful children!

A massive well done to those who took part!

Didn't get a chance to do it this time round? … do not worry! Keep an eye out for letters for the 25/26 school year.

SEND Network Parent Drop-in

On Monday 24th March we have been lucky enough to secure a visit from three members of the Norfolk SEN Network. They can offer support and advice on all aspects of SEND. For example SEND provision, EHCPs, SEND Tribunals and school placements. Their website link is here https://www.norfolksennetwork.org

A SchoolPing went out earlier in the week so parents can make an appointment. When I last looked there are three of the 20-minute appointments left. So if you would like to take this valuable opportunity to speak to one of the advisors, please book via the SchoolPing link as soon as possible.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

This week's newsletter entry comes courtesy of Mr Ashman, who shared an interesting article with me called *Ten Scandi Life Lessons.*

In a future newsletter, I'll explore the concept of *Friluftsliv* (pronounced *free-loofts-liv*), but this week, I'd like to focus on **volunteering.**

The article highlights that nearly half of Denmark's population volunteers - whether at a local football club, library, or school - giving their time and energy to support their community. While their efforts benefit those around them, volunteers themselves gain a sense of fulfilment, too. I can relate! At sixteen, I volunteered at the old West Norwich Hospital - despite having to wear the ugliest green uniform (absolute torture at that age), I genuinely enjoyed the experience of spending time with the patients.

If you're interested in volunteering, check out this resource, which lists a wide range of opportunities to match different skills and availability. You'll also find the link on the school Padlet. Additionally, The Walled Garden in Little Plumstead is always looking for volunteers - take a look at their Instagram for a glimpse of what they do. If your average week is already at capacity with other commitments and responsibilities, becoming a blood donor can also give you the feel-good factor:

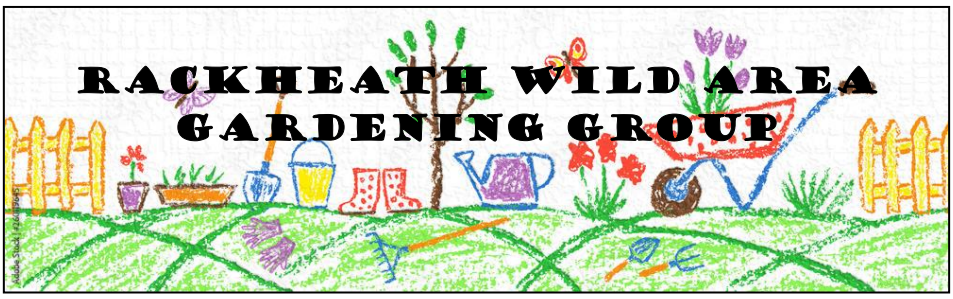
https://www.blood.co.uk/ Plus you get a biscuit and drink afterwards!

Best wishes, Claire Cookson - Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720098).

Dates for the Diary



Mon 17th / Tues 18th March	Mad Science Curriculum Visit
Tues 18th March	Mixed Year 6 Football match v Buxton
Fri 21st March	Non-Uniform Fundraiser for Leon
Tues 25th / Weds 26th	FORS Mother's Day Craft after school
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. Wednesday 2nd from 2pm – 3pm for KS2 and Thursday 3rd from 2pm – 3pm for EYFS / KS1
Friday 4th April	School Council Non-Uniform - Pyjama and Crazy Hair Day



SPRING IS FINALLY COMING! and that means that our keen little gardeners have been working hard to get the area ready for the return of local wildlife! We recently received a donation of 8 bags of compost as well as loads of veg seeds from B&Q and we are now in the process of putting these to good use.

But we need your help! We are looking for any donations to be able to put all of these seeds to good use! Items that could be helpful are:

- Pots (large or small)
- Seed trays
- Perennial plants
- Shrubs

A strange one but we are also looking for a Belfast sink (pictured below) that we could use to create a mini water feature!









Bombers



Hello from an extremely busy but happy Bombers. The children have enjoyed lots of outdoor play this week and it has been lovely to see some sunshine although a dip in temperatures. We have been letting the children go straight out to play on arrival if they want to and this has proved popular. It also saves hanging coats up then putting them back on again once everyone arrived to then go out. In addition, it has benefited the children to channel their energy for a slightly calmer focus mid-morning for snack and other activities. We will continue with this, especially with summer on the horizon. The children have been exploring lots of shape, size and measure along with lots of number and counting activities. We will be focusing on Expressive Arts next week with Hairdresser role-play, a variety of construction and craft activities with of course Mother's Day in mind. Funding forms will be going out from next week for the summer term so please complete and return ASAP. Many thanks.

Reception

We are busy being authors again this week in reception class! This time, we are using the comical book 'Aliens love Underpants!' as the basis for our writing. We are having to think about using lots of describing words. In provision, the children have enjoyed lots of space related activities, such as alien crafts. Again, though chilly, they have loved taking their learning outside, with lots of children working collaboratively in the wild area – collecting leaves and making mud potions! We wondered … is there mud in space?

In phonics we have learned the 'or' digraph (fork, sport) and in maths we have been revisiting subtraction. The children loved playing skittles/ bowling and solving their number sentences that way! The favourite was obviously 10 (skittles) – 10 = 0!

Year 1

This week we have been exploring the 3 different types of animals; Herbivores, Omnivores and Carnivores. We have been investigating the different diets of the animals and have made a beautiful mindfulness picture using this information. At the end of the week we each made a bird feeder using oats, raisins and lard.

In Maths we have been using balance-scales to compare the weights of objects found in the classroom; working out which item was 'lighter' and 'heavier'. We have also been measuring the mass of different objects and weighing them against cubes for find out which weighed the most cubes and which weighed the least cubes; putting them in order from lightest to heaviest. The class have been really engaged in this learning and it's been a real joy to teach!

In English we started the week with an independent, free-write task where the children had a picture as their stimulus and had to write either a poem or a story linked to the picture, they were encouraged to use finger spaces, full stops and capital letters; some children were even able to use exclamation marks and question marks. We continued the week by listening to, and looking at, the lyrics of "What a Wonderful World" by Louis Armstrong. We discussed what it is about our world that is so wonderful and used these ideas to construct a poem using interesting word choices, full stops and capitals. On Friday we shared some out work with the rest of the class which the children thoroughly enjoyed doing.

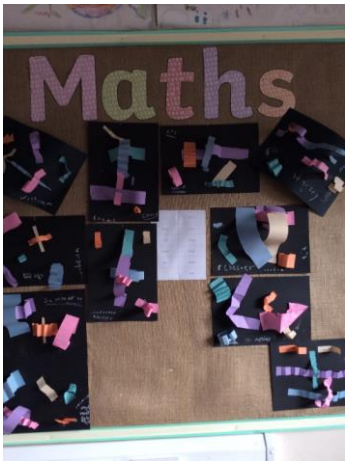
Year 2

This week in English we developed our editing skills. We carefully edited our diary entries from last week using green pens to spot and correct missing words, capital letters, punctuation, incorrect verb tense endings and any incorrect sounds. We also continued to explore our story 'The Snail and the Whale'. We discussed the snail's journey so far and identified the different Zones of Regulation she had visited along the way. As part of our new focus on newspaper reports, we identified their key features and practiced writing catchy headlines. We also explored

summary paragraphs, identifying the 5 W's – who, what, when, where, and why – in preparation for writing our own newspaper reports about the beached whale from our story.



In Maths, we finished our multiplication and division unit by working on multiplying and dividing by 5. We then moved on to our new topic: length and height. We discussed the difference between length and height and talked about using a ruler to measure in centimetres. Then we put or knowledge into practice by drawing lines of specific lengths and creating sculpture art work. We had to carefully cut different coloured paper to exact lengths before creating our artwork.



In Music, we listened to The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns and had fun guessing which animals were represented in different sections of the music. The children had to explain their guesses – for example, 'I thought it was a cheetah because the music was fast.' We then worked in groups to compose our own pieces of music using instruments to represent an animal. The children did a fantastic job and it was wonderful to see them supporting one another and listening respectfully as we guessed each group's animal.

In Science, we learned about the term's carnivore, herbivore, and omnivore. We then explored different animals' diets and discussed whether they eat meat, plants, or both. We used this knowledge to classify the animals into the correct group based on their diets.

Finally, in Spelling, we focused on the rule of keeping the root word the same when adding the '-ly' suffix, such as slow becoming slowly.

Year 3

It has been another very busy week in Year 3!



In English, the children explored the features of an explanation text before planning their own. Next week, they will use their plans to write a detailed explanation text based on the life-cycle of a flowering plant. On Wednesday, the children enjoyed a zoom call session with Stephen Pass, the author of 'Madge the Mermaid' and the sequel, 'Madge the Mermaid and the Attack of the Twins'. During the session, the children discovered that Stephen first book (Madge the Mermaid) took over two years to produce. In addition to this, Stephen shared that his inspiration to write the book came from a visit to Perranporth in Cornwall where he found a Mermaid on the beach, constructed by recycled materials. Stephen also shared his writing process: developing imagination, planning what to write, writing a first draft, editing and writing a second draft and finally looking for feedback from experienced authors.

In Maths, we have begun a new unit of work based on mass and capacity. So far, the children have learned about reading scales, measuring in grams and kilograms and finding equivalent masses. We really enjoyed using the interactive scale tool on:



https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/87/itp-measuring-scales to make and measure a variety of masses!

On Monday, we undertook some observational sketches of chrysanthemums, focusing on making them oversized just like Georgia O'Keeffe's perspective.

In Science, we have been busy learning about plants. The children have labelled the different parts of a plant and their specific jobs. The children also learned about the requirements needed to keep a plant alive; using the acronym LAWNS + T allowed them to swiftly and accurately recall all six requirements. I wonder if they can recall the six things needed to grow a happy; healthy plant.

Year 4

In science this week we have completed several science experiments. The children have been observing changes over time and have used their observations to form scientific conclusions. We have seen a real improvement in homework and reading over the last few weeks. This week the children won reading bear with 30 out 31 children reading☺.

On Thursday we were treated to an online author visit from the writer of Madge the Mermaid. The children listened very to Stephan and enjoyed answering his questions. They attempted writing in short-hand like a journalist used to and had many great questions answered. A handful of children also stood up to the camera and read beautifully!

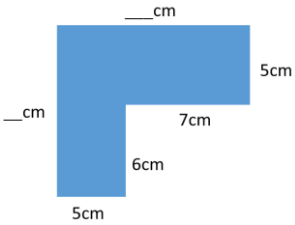
On Friday we finished our unit of work on fractions. The children have really impressed all adults with their confidence in this unit. They have been applying their knowledge from previous units such as multiplication and division to help them answer a range of questions. Next week we are moving on to looking at decimals which is something new that is introduced in Year 4. I am confident with their fraction knowledge secure that they will be able to tackle this new challenge.

This week Oscar set up a comic book competition which many of the children enjoyed entering. I was incredibly impressed with the detail in some comics. Next week the class have been set the challenge of creating a poster to persuade someone to follow an Easter tradition from around the world. We will be judging this on Friday.

Year 5

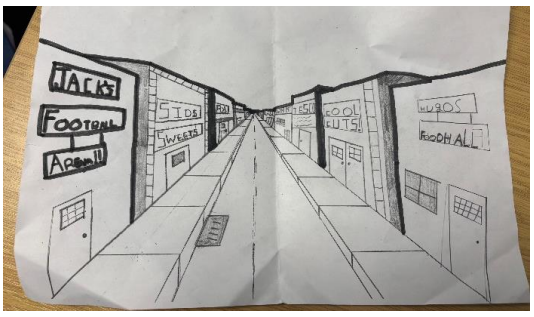
With so many children being out for Bikeability this week it has meant that we have had to slightly change our normal plans!

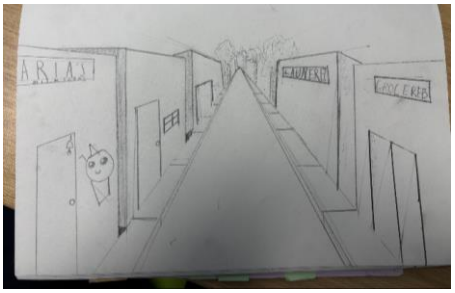
In maths, we have been focussing on finding the perimeter of rectilinear shapes when there are missing sides. Below is an example of what we were trying to solve:



In English, we have focussed on some key grammar skills such as apostrophes for pronouns. Another key focus has been on making sure that all of our sentences are correctly punctuated!

Our afternoon work has centred on art linked to perspective. Below you can see Aria's and Jack's work on this. You can also see the final product of Amelie's space art work linked to Peter Thorpe.







Year 6

The Year 6s have worked incredibly hard this week and have completed a range of activities. Firstly, in Maths, we concluded our topic of area and perimeter by tackling a 'trowel and error' gardening task. They had to use their Maths skills to design a garden by calculating the area of features such as: patios, shed bases and soil borders whilst also working out the perimeter of the surrounding fence. Once this was complete, they worked out the cost of each feature. Later this week, we moved onto understanding and interpreting pie charts.

In Literacy, we continued our instruction unit by writing a series of clear and precise instructions to an alien – to ensure they settle into life quickly at Rackheath Primary. In Geography, we understood time zones and used a map to calculate the current time in a variety of cities. We had a further coding challenge in Computing and understood the importance of the Qur'an in our R.E topic of Islam.

The children really enjoyed creating 3D/optical illusion artwork on Thursday and I was very impressed with the end results! In addition to some children participating in Bikeability, we also revealed the results of the 'Moon Pod' and the 'Planet Lander' challenges. Well done to Jake, Maxwell and Kayden (Moon Pod winners) and Connor and Mya (Planet Lander winners).





Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception who had 98% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **22 out of 30** and
Year 4 who had **30 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	Mia, Kieran, Raife
Year 1	Aubrey, Max, Harry
Year 2	Zachery, Ada, Arthur
Year 3	Kory, Ivy, Archie
Year 4	Matilda, Jack, Seb
Year 5	Jack, Amelia, Iris
Year 6	Connor, Emily T, Jake

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman