Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21st 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 Years 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.

Cluster Tag Rugby Event

Last Tuesday we took part in a cluster tag rugby event at North Walsham Rugby Club. In the morning the volunteer coaches from the rugby club ran some different training drills. Then in the afternoon we took part in some quick-fire games each. There was lots of great rugby on show from all the children that took part and the different teams scored a lot of tries! A big thank you to everyone at North Walsham and to Ms Holmes who went with me to the event.





Well done to all our players; Rachel, Maisie, Grace, Freddie, Maxwell, Ellis, Harlan, Kian, Sebastian and Ricki. You all showed lots of good team work and progression in skills as the day went on. A special mention for Harlan who scored an incredible 11 tries in 3 games!

Hopefully some of them will continue playing at North Walsham or at another local club.

Whole School Weekly Focus Target

We have been focussing on kindness in assemblies over the last 2 weeks. On Thursday I shared this clip called Colour the World with Kindness:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdA2sByFX1I I really like the idea it portrays.

The focus for the last 2 weeks of this term will be all about "treating each other with respect."

Sing & Sign Club – On Monday 31st March at 10am the club will be performing at an assembly. Parents of those attending the club are welcome to attend.

Fundraising for Leon

We ended the week with a non-school uniform day and some fun games over lunchtime with small prizes! We raised an amazing £309.20.

A reminder that the Coltishall Colour run organised by the friends at Coltishall is 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. The link is here:

https://race-nation.co.uk/register/friends-of-coltishall-primary-school/coltishall-rainbow-run-2025

I am planning to run (if my knees hold out!) and get friends and family to donate to Leon's go fund me page. https://gofund.me/b7c0e211 I know other school staff are planning to do the same too.



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.



Mad Science Visit – Each class loved their visit from Mad Science earlier in the week. The children learnt some fantastic facts!

SEND Network Parent Drop-in - On Monday 24th March we have been lucky enough to secure a visit from 3 members of the Norfolk SEN Network. 7 of the 8 appointments have been filled. If you would like to take this valuable opportunity to speak to one of the advisors, please book the last appointment via the SchoolPing link as soon as possible.

Football Match v Buxton

On Thursday our mixed team played a home game against Buxton. Our squad of 11 contained 8 boys and 3 girls with some of the children making their debuts for the school too! The game was played in a great spirit with lots of good football played by both sides. Rackheath finished the game 5-0 winners with goals shared around the team, 1 each for Harrison, Sebastian, Ellis, Maxwell and Freddie.

Well done to everyone in the squad; Ethan, Harlan, Ellis, Rachel, Freya, Mitzy, Maxwell, Freddie, Kian and Harrison.



Second Hand School Uniform Rail – Due to lack of space and being inundated with clothes, we will no longer be takin in school trousers, skirts and shorts. We will only be accepting school logo'd clothes (e.g. jumpers, cardigans, polo shirts, PE tops and tracksuits). You can however advertise your uniform on the Facebook second hand uniform page.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

The Joy of Outdoor Play - Whatever the Weather! - With the days getting longer and the clocks going forward soon, it's the perfect time to embrace *Friluftsliv* the Danish concept of "open-air life." Spending time outdoors, whatever the weather, boosts children's mood, resilience, and immune system while helping develop their confidence and a love for nature.

It also gives children the chance to experience the *real* versions of words like cloud, stream, tweet, web, and bug - before they became part of the digital world!

Whether it's jumping in puddles, spotting the first signs of spring, or feeling the sun on their faces, there's always something to enjoy outside. Dressing appropriately makes all the difference, (in Denmark there's a proverb - "No such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes!"). I hope you enjoy your outdoor adventures.

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



Mrs Goddard is going to hold a Jumble Sale to raise funds for Leon. Please could you all have a good sort out and donate anything you no longer need or use so it can go to a new home. She will be accepting clothes, shoes, toys, games books and bric-a-brac. Any donations can be dropped off to school reception or to 9 Craske Drive. Collection can be arranged for any large amounts. Once we have enough donations, she will set a date.



Safe Parking - I hope you all are enjoying the posters for safe parking which are now on display. Well done to the competition winners! Thank you to everyone supporting our safer parking initiative.

A few parents have mentioned that sometimes car engines are left on and idling. Please do turn your engines off when waiting to drop off or pick up. As this article shows air pollution caused by engine idling can be really damaging: Engine idling - why it's harmful and what's being done | RAC Drive



Dates for the Diary

There is still a lot to happen in the last 2 weeks of term:

Monday 24th	Year 4 Team Building with Thorpe High School
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
Monday 31st March	Year 4 Football Squad at Colney Training Centre
	Sing & Sign Club – Assembly at 10am (parents of those in club are welcome to attend)
Friday 4th April	School Council Non-Uniform - Pyjama and Crazy Hair Day



Bombers

We have been busy this week making some special cards, exploring lots of creative skills with mixing ingredients, handling textures and lots of make-overs in the hairdressing role play. There has been dancing and singing with music and instruments and some lovely representation with various construction resources.





We also started our RED theme to help raise funds for Leon. That was his choice of colour. We will continue this next week so children who do not attend on a Friday or forgot today, can wear something Red. A suggested donation of £1 would be appreciated. Thank you.

Next week we are focusing on 'Understanding the World'. We will be discussing growth, life cycles and families. We will also be looking at occupations and our families and talking together about what we observe.

Reception

Our book this week has followed on from last week – Aliens in Underpants Save the World! The children have loved adding their writing to our class book and we look forward to sharing it with you at our Celebration of Learning session soon.



Reception class have enjoyed being imaginative and creative this week as they joined in with crafting our junk model planet. They worked individually or with friends to create a 3D model of a planetary landscape. They had super ideas – rivers, volcanoes, bridges, mountains, play parks and more! The following day, we set their collaborative model up like a museum piece and the children wrote captions for what they could see, etc. They put their brilliant phonics skills into practise independently – well done!

We have enjoyed learning outside again this week in beautiful weather – den building has been popular and many of the children worked together to help create some shade.



In phonics we have learned a new sound 'air' (hair/ chair) and were excited to learn it can be a word all by itself! So now we can spell that word! In maths, we have explored the concept of doubling – we've used lots of practical resources such as numicon and small world objects to help us understand.



Year 1

This week in Year 1 we kicked off the week with a visit from the Mad Scientists. We loved our visit from Mad Science on Monday. We learnt about Bernoulli (and the Bernoulli balloons), Newton (and Belinda the beach ball flying despite gravity) and Tesla and the Tesla coil.






Throughout the week we have continued our science investigations on animals and focused on comparing the structure of different animals. The whole class have done a super job drawing an animal of their choice and labelling its different features. On Wednesday we had lots of fun making 'mix-up animals' using different body parts, from different animals to create our own unique animal and creating a name for it. We also used our animal knowledge to have a go at creating our own 'What am I?' animal quiz, which the class really enjoyed.

In maths we been having fun with capacity and volume; using a selection of jugs, bottles and cups to investigate which container has the greatest capacity. We have been discussing and experimenting with full, empty, half full, half empty; you could have a go at doing this at home too during bath-time as it's always fun to play with water. The children have also been comparing the volume of water in each cup and ordering them from smallest to greatest, this has then led us on to measuring the capacity of different containers using cubes, water and sand. It's been another hands-on week in maths which we've all really enjoyed!

In English we are continuing to use our class book 'Here we are'; this week we are focusing on how we can care for ourselves and others by creating a poster to promote kindness. We have then moved on to thinking about how we can help our world and look after living things. The children have produced some fabulous leaflets which we look forward to showing you during our presentation of learning afternoon in a couple of weeks.

Year 2



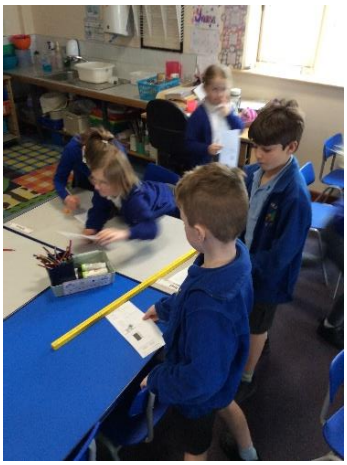
We have had a busy week in Year 2! Monday was particularly exciting as we had a Mad Science visit. The children learned about famous scientists and their discoveries and were amazed by the exciting experiments and demonstrations.

In English, we have been busy writing our newspaper reports. We started by writing a catchy headline and a summary paragraph that answered the key questions: who, what, when, where, and why. Afterwards, we spent time carefully editing our writing, checking for capital letters, full stops and making sure everything made sense. Towards the end of the week, the children gathered quotes and used them to write the main body of their reports.

In Maths, we continued exploring length and height. Using metre sticks, we measured objects around the classroom to find which were taller, longer, or shorter than one metre. We practiced comparing lengths using words like taller, longer, and shorter, and even used the greater than (>), less than (<), and equal to (=) symbols. To finish the week, we challenged ourselves by measuring different objects and ordering them from shortest to longest. We also put ourselves in order from tallest to shortest and solved some tricky problem-solving questions.



For Topic, we investigated the structure of animals. We discussed why animals have different body parts and how they use them before labelling an animal of our choice. On Thursday, we played a fun game of 'Who Am I?' where each child wrote three scientific clues about a chosen animal. We then had to guess their animal before they revealed the answer!



Finally, our new spelling rule of the week is all about words ending in 'y'. We learned that when adding 'ly' to words that end in 'y', we change the 'y' to an 'I'. For example, 'happy' becomes 'happily'.

Year 3



In English, the children have been busy using their plans (which they wrote last week) to write a detailed explanation text on the life-cycle of a flowering plant. Whilst writing their explanation text, the children used skills including time connectives to demonstrate chronology and casual conjunctions to extend their sentences.

In Maths, we have continued learning about mass and capacity. This week, the children have learned about equivalent masses. They have also added and subtracted mass before moving onto learning about volume and capacity. During the latter part of the week, we had lots of fun using water and beakers to explore finding the capacity and measuring volume.

In Art, the children used oil pastels to develop their final pieces inspired by the artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe. I am so impressed with the artwork they have produced!

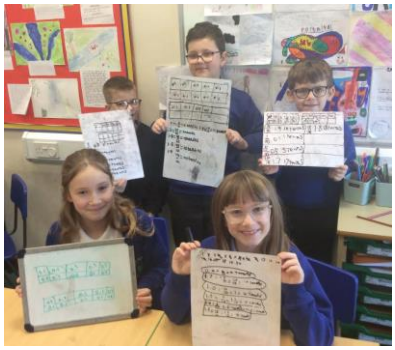
In Science, we have continued learning about plants. This week we dissected a flower and labelled the different parts - the petals, stem, spathe, corona/trumpet, stigma, style, anther, filament (together known as the stamen), ovules and ovary. In addition to this, the children also continued developing their knowledge of a plant life-cycle which provided a cross curricular link with our explanation texts in English.



Finally, the children also enjoyed their visit from Dr Dee Nay (Mad Science). During their session, they learned about great physicists including Sir Isaac Newton who discovered gravity and Nikola Tesla, a famous inventor and scientist who studied electricity. Nikola Tesla was responsible for discovering alternating currency and has since inspired the development of modern-day electric cars. In addition to this, the children enjoyed watching a chemical reaction known as 'Elephant's toothpaste'.

Year 4

I think I must say this every week but it has been another busy week in Year 4! We had a visit from the Mad Scientist on Tuesday. The children were really engaged with this and learnt about lots of important figures whilst taking part in a range of experiments. In Maths we started our decimals unit and as I suspected the children have really enjoyed it, showing an eagerness for even more work each lesson.



We have continued our plant-based art unit looking at different tones of colour and how to create both shades and tints. Next week we will continue this with this unit and build up to creating flower-based work using clay.

For the last few weeks we have been building towards writing a persuasive advert, for leaving Earth and moving to a new planet. This is something the children have been very excited to write, asking daily if they get to write it. On Friday it finally was the day! As they were writing you could see everyone thinking carefully and working hard to create their best writing. Here are a few examples of rhetorical questions from their books; "*How can you resist a planet with only sunshine?", "Are you tired of the same old routine on Earth?" And "Tired of rotten, stinky bananas on giant Earth?"*.

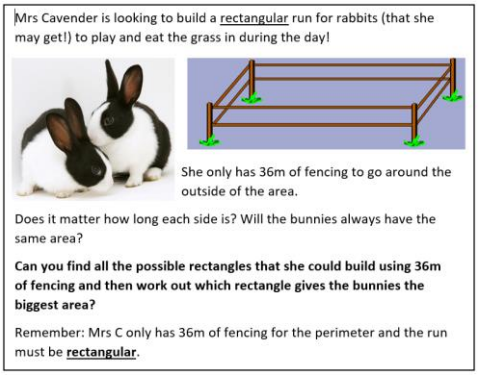


We a nearing our school trip to Horstead, as the children have been previously, we are not holding a parent meeting this year. Therefore if you have any questions or worries, please speak to myself or Mrs Goddard.

Year 5

It may have been a lovely week with the weather in school but we have been completing our end of term assessments. However, the children have been ace! All of them have made progress showing how hard they are working.

In maths, we have briefly looked at area – we have finished this week with this little challenge:


Mrs Cavender is looking to build a rectangular run for rabbits (that she may get!) to play and eat the grass in during the day!

She only has 36m of fencing to go around the outside of the area.

Does it matter how long each side is? Will the bunnies always have the same area?

Can you find all the possible rectangles that she could build using 36m of fencing and then work out which rectangle gives the bunnies the biggest area?

Remember: Mrs C only has 36m of fencing for the perimeter and the run must be **rectangular**.

In English, we have been writing speeches to raise the spirits of the crew members of the Endurance as in the book we are currently stranded in the Weddle Sea! We then wrote these up onto stained paper to give them a more authentic feel.

We are coming to the end of our science topic now. This week we have looked at the impact of the rotation of the earth linked to time zones and then tried to figure out what the time would be in different parts of the world.

Year 6

It's been another very busy (and productive) week in Year 6! In Maths lessons, we concluded our volume unit of work and moved on to interpreting line graphs.

In Literacy, the children completed their instruction texts and began planning a narrative – based on an image – to create suspense. The class quickly understood how to use language and short sentences to build suspense and engage the reader. I'm looking forward to reading the finished narratives next week!

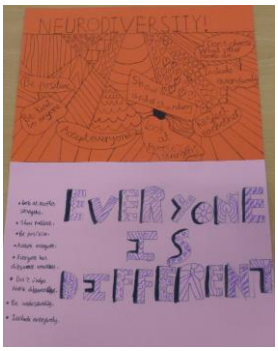
On Tuesday, Mad Science visited and lots of their fun activities linked to our whole-school topic of Space. There were also a variety of other scientific equipment which the children explored. My personal favourite was the Van de Graaff generator - which was connected to an exercise bike. Mia had the challenging task of peddling for quite some time in order for the generator to produce electricity. Some children got to touch the generator in order to give electric shocks to their peers!

As it was also Neurodiversity Celebration Week, we learnt about different types of neurodiversity and how it's great that we are all different. Just some of the key messages that the children came up with were: how we should include everyone, show understanding, be positive, look for people's strengths and that the world would be boring if everyone was the same! To celebrate neurodiversity further, each child created a piece of artwork with positive messages to share with one another. The end results were great!

As well as having another coding challenge, the children recapped their learning of the equator, the tropics and stated which countries were either: above, below or on the equator. Finally, we spent some time getting into groups to prepare for our Presentation of Learning Day.







Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had 98% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **22 out of 28** and
Year 6 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	Gracie-Lou, Aria, Ruby
Year 1	Riley, Joshua, Amelia
Year 2	Emmy, Jamie, Phoebe
Year 3	Willow, Henry, Elsie
Year 4	Mila, Teddy, Miss Farrow
Year 5	Jenson, Olivia C, Lilah-Mae
Year 6	Seb, Mitzy, Ellis

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman