

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th March 2025

What a difference a week makes! The weather has been amazing all week. It's been lovely to see blue sky and on Thursday and Friday we were able to get on the field over lunch!

Bombers News – Denise Coe has decided to retire as manager of the Bombers Pre-School at the end of this school year. Denise has been an amazing manager and is so passionate about the children in her care. She has been part of the Bombers for an incredible 28 years and we will all miss her so much. We have advertised for the role of manager and the link to the advert is here:

https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/job/23c5f381-5ee1-40f5-b5d7-7b8e3f01af26

Welcome New Governors - I'm very pleased to let you know that we have had two super volunteers come forward to join our Governing Body. Thank you to Aileen Nicholls and Jonathan Phipps. I look forward to working with them both alongside our other governors to help keep moving the school forward.

Sci-Fi Dress Up and Rackheath Vets Visit

Thursday was a really fun and exciting day. We had our sci-fi dress up day, with the children and staff coming up with some super costumes. You will see a photo of the staff below and photos of the children in the class pages.

We also had a visit from Chris from the Rackheath Vets. He kindly came in to lead an assembly and took teddy bear clinics in our four younger classes. A huge thank you to Chris for coming in to speak to the children.



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 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.

Whole School Weekly Focus Target – It has been great to see how well the children have been playing together this week. It is always great to see the Year 6 team up with their Reception buddies over lunchtime! Our focus for the next 2 weeks is on "being kind to each other"

Warmer Weather (fingers crossed) Rules and Reminders

As it is the time of year when we can get on the field and the weather heats up it seems timely to remind everyone of a few school rules:

- The monkey bars are for use by children from Year 3 to 6 only. This is for safety reasons.
- Water bottles – children should only have water in their water bottles. It is okay to drink flavoured water (some children add lemon or other fruit to their drinks)

Football Code of Conduct

Everyone playing football agrees to:



- Play fairly
- Let all class mates who want to play join in
- Encourage each other
- Play in a way that keeps everyone safe

We also understand that:

- Sliding tackles cause most issues so they aren't allowed other deliberate fouls such as pulling someone over are also not allowed
- Rough play like that mentioned above will mean that the person being rough will have to spend some time not playing football

Friday is football free

I will talk to the children about these rules in assembly on Monday

Norwich City Football League



In November the school football team won the Championship trophy at the Nest meaning we were promoted to the Premier League. Unlike Norwich, this week we then went on to win the Premier League! The boys were in a league with Mile Cross, Hethersett and Bure Valley. All 3 teams were closely matched. We beat Mile Cross 1-0 to start off the competition, then came back from 1-0 to equalise and earn a draw against Hethersett. Other results meant that we knew that if we beat Bure Valley, we would win the league. We started off strongly but just couldn't score until Harrison popped up with his third goal of the tournament; an excellent strikers finish to win us the game and the cup. The trophy presentation was done by Ante Crnac, Norwich's Croatian striker, which made it even more special. Well done to all the boys; Ethan, Ellis, Freddie, Maxwell, Harrison, Sebastian, Harlan and Ricki. Thank you to all our supporters!



Acle Cricket Club Junior Coaching

It's hard to believe we are heading towards the cricket season! Acle Cricket Club's junior section starts on Wednesday 23rd April. There are details to the right about training night. It was great to see some Rackheath children at the club last year and hopefully some of you will give cricket a go this year too.

2 Johns Parent Workshop Recording

I hope you all found the 2 Johns E-safety parent presentation useful. If you weren't able to watch it live, we do have a recording available. This can be viewed 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

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson - One of my favourite activities is inviting children to join me for lunch in my room. It provides a wonderful opportunity to chat, connect, and learn more about what's important to them. This week, we've had discussions on topics ranging from what to wear for our science fiction themed day; the arrival of new pets; how high you can safely bounce on a trampoline and whether dogs have skin!!

Research shows that sharing a meal together (regardless of whether it's lunch during the weekend or breakfast on weekdays) can have significant positive effects. It's been linked to a lower risk of teenage drug and alcohol misuse, improved relationships, and a reduction in the escalation of mental health issues. Most importantly, it provides time for lots of fun off-beat conversations.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson - Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner (cookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720 098)

P.S. Dogs skin is only 3-5 cells thick, while human skin is 10-15 cells thick!!

Dates for the Diary



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

It has been a lovely week with some parents joining us to play for a little while with our 'stay and play'. You are always welcome so please ask if you would ever like to come in.



We have been enjoying our pancakes as part of snack and having a pancake set up with our exploratory play. Our focus was communication and language and there were some lovely conversations and use of describing words. There has been singing, stories and ideas being communicated in the doctors' role-play and small world. Some children dressed up for World Book Day and brought their favourite stories in. We also played with the Space station to link in with the school theme. Thanks to FORS the children have enjoyed their new climbing equipment (now it has arrived) and Scooby Doo small world which was their group Christmas gift.



Next week we are focusing on Maths. Looking at counting and numerals and exploring shape, with a variety of books, puzzles PSE games and 'maths' related crafts. We will explore size with Goldilocks and three Bears story sack and porridge/bowls in our exploratory play.

Reception

What a fantastic, sunshine-filled week we've had in reception class – outside learning and play has been very popular! The children have enjoyed continuing the David Walliam's story, The First Hippo on the Moon. They've all constructed their junk model rockets now and they all loved exploring cutting, sticking, attaching, and assessing their models. Some of the children said things like, "I need two wings there because I need it equal so it can fly!" and, "I need more flames to give it more power to launch!"

In phonics, we have learned the 'ar' (car, start) digraph. In maths, we have loved reading the story by Judith Kerr called 'One Night in the Zoo' which is a beautifully illustrated, rhyming counting story. The children used the pictures from the book to help them generate their own addition number sentences - they loved counting the animals 'altogether' to solve the problems.

We loved our Sci-Fi dressing up day – the children were able to describe their outfits really well and loved seeing all the adults in costume too.

It was lovely to welcome back Rackheath Vets. We had a great morning having health checks on our soft toy animals from Chris the Vet. We are pleased to report they all have a clean bill of health! The children were fantastic assistants and followed instructions really well.





Year 1

This week has been *Creative Week* based on our 'To infinity and Beyond' whole school topic. Year 1 have used this opportunity to make one of the 8 planets in our solar system using papier mache. It has been lots of fun getting messy with glue and being creative with paint. The planets have turned out wonderfully; we look forward to showing you all during the final week at school. We have also been using this week to share lots of space stories and practise some cosmic yoga each day. The children have also been able to learn 2 pieces of classical music including: 'No Place Like' by Kerry Andrew and 'Mars from The Planets' by Gustav Holst which they thoroughly enjoyed. On Wednesday afternoon we also had fun imagining we were Astronaut's dancing through space.

On Thursday morning Year 1 had a visit from Rackheath Vets and were taught all about how to look after our pets in a special 'teddy bear clinic'.

We have had a super week in English this week; using our imaginations to go on a space journey in a rocket! An alien managed to hitch its way back on our rocket without us realising and hid in our classroom cupboard. We all imagined what the alien might look like, we drew a picture of it and used some excellent adjectives to describe it. The children had lots of fun creating a poem based on 'The Alien in the cupboard,' describing everything about their own aliens.

In maths we have been measuring with a ruler! The class have been brilliant at working in groups and measuring different items accurately, in centimetres, and recording the measurements in their books. At the end of the week we moved onto comparing and ordering lengths of objects by their measurements. We continue to practice our number bonds to 10, doubles to 10 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s throughout each week as a maths starter; it would be fantastic if your children could have a go at practicing any of these at home; we would really love to hear about it!



On the left - Jaylen reading to the class for World Book Day. His favourite book is We're Going on a Bear Hunt.

On the right - Drawing rockets whilst listening to 'Mars' from The Planets by Gustav Holst.



Year 2

It's been another busy week! In Maths, we focused on doubling and halving, discovering how they connect to multiplying and dividing by 2. We also explored the 10 times table and used this knowledge to divide by 10. For example, knowing that 2 x 10 = 20 helped us see that 20 ÷ 10 = 2.

In English, we explored verb endings by adding the suffix '*-ed'* to form the past tense and adding the suffix '*-ing'* to form the present tense. To put this into practice, we took an imaginative journey to Antarctica – just like the snail in The Snail and the Whale. We pretended we were the snail, exploring the icy landscape, and then wrote diary entries describing everything we saw and heard. We focused on using the correct verb tense endings whilst using descriptive adjectives and adverbs.

In Topic, we started by exploring our solar system, learning about the eight planets and their order from the sun. Later in the week, we brought our knowledge to life by creating solar system hanging mobiles. The children were also eager to learn about the five dwarf planets and enjoyed listening to planet-themed songs. They even designed their own imaginary planets, which they later brought to life using the 2Paint tool on Purple Mash on the laptops.

For World Book Day, we read the comic book '*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus'* and had fun following a draw-along to sketch the pigeon. The children then created book covers of their own versions of the story with fantastic new titles such as 'Don't Let the Pigeon Go to School' and 'Don't Let the Pigeon Fly a Rocket'!

Finally, our new spelling rule this week is dropping the '*e*' before adding the suffix '*-y*'. For example, shine becomes shiny.





Year 3



We have had a wonderful week in Year 3!
To celebrate creative week, we completed a DT unit of work linked to food technology. The children have been very busy this week planning, making, taste testing and evaluating their own space-themed tortilla pizza. They really wowed me with their creative skills and created some super space products.

In English, the children typed up their favourite poem from the three they wrote last week. They also practised performing them to the class with expression and intonation. In addition to this, the children explored some examples of different recipes before writing one for their own tortilla pizza.



In Maths, we continued learning about fractions. This week the children were busy learning about fractions involving scaling, fractions on a number line and fractions as bar models. We focused on making sure we were counting the intervals (the gaps/ jumps) instead of the dividing lines on the scale (which are known as 'graduations'). This allowed us to ensure we were achieving accurate answers.

The children also attended a session with a veterinary surgeon from Rackheath Vets. During the session, the children explored using their sense of touch to find and identify hidden items in a stuffed sock. They also had an opportunity to use a stethoscope to listen to a beating heart and to practise bandaging a limb on their teddy.

Alongside all of this learning, the children learned about how and why Christians celebrate Shrove Tuesday in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales; we also discussed the religious significance of Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent). Finally, due to the cancellation of swimming, Mr Palmer taught some fun PE games, one of which involved carrying a 'pancake' on a 'frying pan'!

Year 4

We have had another very busy week in Year 4! As part of creative week the children have enjoyed a few cooking activities. We have looked at the nutritional value of different ingredients and how this may impact our choices. We discussed how it is ok to have foods that are mostly / all red but agreed a healthier choice would be labelled as green. The children created some amazing pizzas, we had aliens, planets and stars to name a few themes.

On Tuesday we looked at why we have pancakes, quite a few in the class were shocked that it is not just because we like pancakes. We looked at the Christian reasons behind Shrove Tuesday as well as some slightly strange traditions such as the pancake race. As part of World book day we listened to the author Pamela Burchart talk about her writing and some of the inspirations behind her books.

In English we have been writing poems using metaphors and in maths we have looked at converting mixed numbers to improper fractions. On Friday we started our new topic all about plants by looking at the jobs of different parts of the plant. The children have a great knowledge base already but were interested with the role of the leaves. The warm weather meant that as part of our lesson on Friday we were able to explore the field for different plants in our school environment, they found far more than I had expected!

Finally it was lovely to see all their wonderful costumes on Thursday! It was a very exciting day having a classroom full of aliens and other creatures!







Year 5

A week of nothing but science and creativity… the class have loved it!!



Monday, Tuesday and into Wednesday morning was nothing but lunar moon pod work! The children were tasked with designing and building a pod that could be used on the moon to allow astronauts to live there. The children used nothing but newspaper and PVA glue and had to include and airlock and different rooms inside. Once completed, we then took them outside and scientifically tested them. The testing categories were:

- The look and finish of the Moon Pod
- Did it have an airlock and different rooms?
- Lunar quake test (Mrs Duckmanton and I shook the tables for this!)
- Solar Wind test (I used a big bit of plastic to waft at it)
- Space debris and dust test (I threw sand at the moon pods)

Each area was scored out of 10. The winning team (with a score of 47 out of 50) was Nicola and Iris!

Thursday we then continued with the children trying to create a Lunar lander that could land on an Earth-like planet without losing its payload. For this, the children could only use paper, card, foam and plastic bags to try and get a cup full of sweets to land on the ground (when dropped from different heights) without spilling anything. We ended up with a draw as I couldn't physically get any higher to drop the after I climbed on to the top of the monkey bars! The winning teams were Nicola & Cara and Freya & Erin!

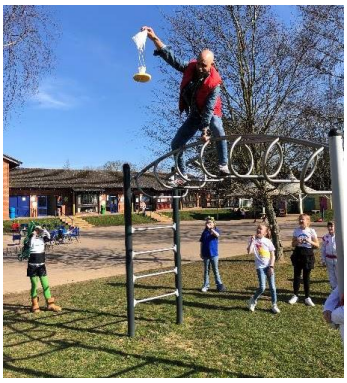
On Thursday afternoon we learnt about the phases of the moon using Oreos!! The children split them open and used the cream to show how the moon changes through a lunar month. If I'm being completely honest, I think they just couldn't wait to eat them!!

The week then finished with the children designing and making wind powered rockets, with the task being to keep redesigning their paper rockets to see if they could get theirs to travel the furthest when blown with a straw. The winner of this challenge was William!

All in all…a fantastic week! I want to say a big thank you to you for the effort with their costumes on Thursday…the children look 'out of this world'!







Year 6

It's been great to see the children being so creative this week!

In Maths, we completed a series of challenges linked to finding the area and perimeter of compound shapes. In Literacy, the children began a new topic of instructions. They began by highlighting the key features of an instruction text and then planned their own. This focused on giving detailed instructions to an alien who is starting Year 6 at Rackheath Primary School.



On Monday, the children got to create their own brand of drink, cereal, crisps or confectionary - including coming up with a brand, target audience, unique selling point, slogan and mascot to only name a few! On Wednesday, we began our moon pod challenge. This is where the children got into small groups and had to plan (and then build) a moon pod which humans can inhabit after their landing. After ensuring it had separate rooms / areas and an airlock, each pod went through a space debris, lunar quake and solar winds test.

As part of World Book Day, we participated in a live Zoom webinar and quiz – as well as recommending our favourite ever books to other children in the class. Each child received a book token too. Our creative week concluded with a NASA inspired 'landing' challenge. The children were given a cup with marshmallows inside. They then had to choose a variety of other materials to ensure the landing of their cup was as slow as possible and therefore no marshmallows fall out! The results of both competitions will be revealed next week. Finally, I have to give a huge thank you to family members for organising lots of amazing outfits for your child during the Sci-Fi Dress Up Day!





Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception who had
100%
attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Reception who had **21 out of 29** and
Year 4 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	Ethan, Theodore K, Elijah
Year 1	Freya, Tyler, Archer
Year 2	Kipp, Ella, Harley
Year 3	Freddie, Lily, Emily
Year 4	Ava, Oscar, Matilda
Year 5	Nicola, Nathan, Micky
Year 6	Ethan, Rachel, All of Year 6

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman