Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th March 2025

It has been a lovely week in school. There has been lots of super learning and teaching going on. It has also been brilliant to get out on the field at playtimes. The children have loved the extra freedom and space that being on the field brings. I have been very impressed with how well they have all been playing with each other in and across their year groups.

Presentation of Learning – Rackheath Museum - 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.

Attendance Update

Next week we will send home individual attendance records for the autumn and spring terms. Our overall school attendance figure has been better this year. As a school we have attendance of 96%. This is pleasing but there is still work to do as before Covid our attendance was around 98%.

Many of the children haven't missed a day or just a few days, which is great. We know that sometimes children do get ill and can't be in school but if you aren't sure whether to send them in, we can make adjustments to keep them in school.

We also have fewer children in danger of being classed as persistently absent. There are 190 school days a year so what this means is that if a child is absent for more than 19 days across a school year they would be classed by the government as being persistently absent as their attendance can now not be higher than 90%. When you think about it like that, 19 days off out of 190 is a lot of missed learning.

Music Assemblies

On Wednesday Mrs Thomas one of our peripatetic music teachers performed a mini-concert on the flute for the children. Watching the audience during her performance I could see a lot of mesmerised children. Mrs Thomas teaches flute and is looking to add to her students. If anyone from Year 3 to 6 is interested in starting in the summer term please let the office know. Current Year 2's can start learning instruments when they move up to Year 3 in September.

On Monday 31st there will be a performance from Mrs Robotham's signing and singing group at 10am. Parents of the children in that group are invited to join us.

On Tuesday our Year 3, 4 and 5 classes will be holding a ukulele concert to the school to showcase what they have been learning with Mrs Patterson. This will just be for the children.

Head for the Day - Emily and Jake



"We arrived at 8:25am prepared for a busy action-packed day; as soon as we got in, we went to a lovely meeting with the teachers (who were all very welcoming and helpful). We sat down while Mr Ashman when through some quick news points, while we sat and listened. He then introduced us as Mr Hudson and Miss Thoulass, which made us feel like real teachers, we could not wait for what the day would bring.

After this, it was time for the other children to come in, so we went outside and rang the bell. As parents left, we headed back to Mr A's office to be informed what we would be doing next. After being told what our day would bring, we went round the classes seeing who was listening and looking at what they were learning, from this we gave stickers to children from each class who we thought did especially well.

We then did some laminating (after being informed by Mrs P how to use a laminator) we laminated different food menus, which all looked very delicious. Next, it was break time, it felt like the first part of the morning had whizzed by!

After we had had lots of fun outside with our friends, we started break duty for key stage 1; this consisted of many different jobs and kept us very busy. Then we went back inside and sat in the staff room, Mrs Pilbrow was very generous and made Jake a tea and me a hot chocolate (which were both spectacular) we then had a few snacks that were open in the staff room – being a teacher is hard work!

After this, we travelled round to each class asking a few questions about history, we were very impressed by how much the Year 2 students knew however, Year 6 was the only class to get all the questions right! After that, we answered some of Mr Ashman's emails to our best ability. Now it was time for lunch we ate how we normally would and at the end of lunch, we went to our SATS booster groups.

After this, we went to the library and prepared to do a fire drill. When this happened, we went with our class, the classes did very well. We then had a picture with Mr A and us; this was our only picture of the day. After that, we started writing this report, we didn't finish this all in one go we helped out in reception for ten minutes or so and then helped FORs with Mother's Day crafts, came back and finished this report. Overall, it was a thoroughly great day and Jake and I both really enjoyed it."

By Emily Thoulass and Jake Hudson

FORS Mother's Day Craft – Over the two sessions we had over 150 children attend the Mother's Day Craft activity days organised by the FORS. Thanks to the fabulous FORS for organising the 2 days. A Happy Mother's Day to all the Rackheath mums!

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

It's not long until the Easter holidays start (and hopefully the warmer weather too!). If you're looking for ideas of what to do until we return to school on Wednesday 23rd April, please follow this link: Easter Activities

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

Dates for the Diary



Monday 31st March	Year 4 Football Squad at Colney Training Centre
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
	Thursday 3rd from 2pm – 3pm for EYFS / KS1
Friday 4th April	School Council Non-Uniform - Pyjama and Crazy Hair Day

FORS News

Mother's Day craft – Thank you to everyone who supported and took part in this year's craft event in time for Mother's Day. The hall was very full and busy on Tuesday for sure!

Please remember as per the ping sent out that the item your child decorated needs to be completed at home. All items to finish assembling the item is in the bag.

Thank you to parents who volunteered to help at the events and all the FORS for all their planning and support for the event.

Year 6 leavers hoodies – A ping and a letter has been sent to all parents this week with the information. If you haven't received either of these please collect a letter from the box in the school foyer underneath the tv, where you can also find and try on the samples of the hoodies for sizing. Please return your letter by Friday 4th April as the order needs to be placed. Any questions please contact Tonya Colk.



Bombers

What a busy week we have had. The children have been proudly creating some lovely cards for Mother's Day. We have been looking at 'Mummy' stories and talking about our families. We have started some Easter crafts and been exploring The Very Hungry Caterpillar story, with life cycle puzzles, bugs in the sand and creating a large group Caterpillar collage. Next week our area of development focus will be P.S.E.D. We will be looking at Easter celebrations with a variety of crafts, puzzles and books. Also remembering our kind hands and kind words to each other along with sharing and turn taking. We have finished with our red week raising funds for Leon. A huge thank you for joining in and contributing. We raised £56.00.



Reception



We have enjoyed thinking about Mother's Day this week and creating something special to celebrate all of our lovely mummies! (If you find anything in bookbags, maybe hide away until Sunday!) We enjoyed the Anthony Browne book 'My Mum' which looks at all the different roles a parent has to play! It prompted lots of lovely discussions!

The children have been enjoying their PE sessions too on a Monday afternoon – we are thinking about how we can move in time with the music and different ways to respond to the changes in the music – for example, quick hands/feet movements with a quick beat or long, flowing movements for the slower parts. We loved being fireworks; we explored words like bang, crash, pop and created dance movements to reflect these words.



We have 'Show and Tell' sessions weekly and were all intrigued by Elijah's object. It was the fascinating shed skin of his pet snake, Colin, a 7-year-old royal python. The children thought about how it might feel and then some of them took turns to touch the skin gently and find out if their predictions were right. Elijah helped us understand why a snake sheds its skin, that it didn't hurt the snake and he's alive and very well at home! Thank you, Elijah, we learned so much!

In phonics, we have learned the 'ir' digraph as in 'bird' and 'girl'. In maths, we have explored measuring length. We have discussed key vocabulary in our work and play such as longer, shorter, equal, near, far and ruler. Favourite activities this week were the ramp and cars (making predictions about distance travelled!) and water play! The children were given syringes and had to predict how near or far their water would shoot out! They engaged in lots of scientific thinking too as they thought about what made their syringe work and how to adjust the distance by pushing lightly or harder.

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning all about the Jewish festival of Shabbat. The children have really enjoyed getting to know the Jewish creation story and how the festival of Shabbat came about. We have been looking at artefacts linked to the festival and learning about what they are used for and symbolise. We have also been learning about things that Jews can, and cannot do, during Shabbat. So, if you'd like to know more about this Jewish festival then look no further than your very own Year 1 child!

In English this week we have moved onto week 2 of our 'Here we are' unit which has taken us onto learning about how we keep ourselves safe and healthy. We have been share-writing instructions for 'How to brush your teeth' and then having a go at writing our own; remembered to use a title, steps in order, bullet points (or numbers) for each step and bossy words. Your child might want to have a go at writing their instructions for something that they do at home; which we would love to read in class. In addition to this we have also been busy designing posters welcoming someone to planet Earth, making sure the posters are bright, colourful and packed with useful information. The class have done a super job at creating these!

In maths this week the children spent the first few lessons showing off their maths knowledge by completing a short maths test. We then moved onto practising our number bonds to 10 and 20 using Hit the Button and also learning how to play the classic game 'Shut the box' (which really helps with gaining a secure knowledge of adding 1-digit numbers and a quick recall of number bonds).

Next week is our final week of the term before Easter and we look forward to showing you all our terms egg-cellent work in Thursdays 'presentation of learning.'

Year 2

This week in Maths we started our new learning on mass, capacity and temperature. We learned that temperature in the UK is measured in degrees Celsius and had a go at reading thermometers with scales going up in 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. Today, we began exploring mass by using balance scales. We had lots of fun finding objects around the classroom to compare which were heavier or lighter. Our challenge was to get the scales to balance by choosing different objects for each side!

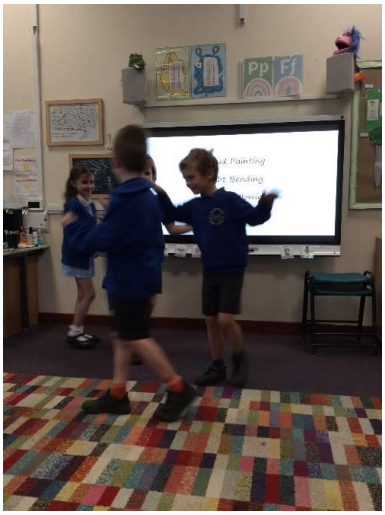
In English we started our poetry unit and we are on our way to writing our own kennings! We learned that kennings are a creative way to describe something using two-word phrases made up of nouns and verbs. For example, 'treasure guarding'. We read lots of different kennings and had fun guessing what they might be describing. Today was especially enjoyable because we worked in groups to perform a kenning, coming up with actions for each verb.

In RE we explored Easter by discussing the different ways we celebrate it. We then learned about the Christian Easter story, reflecting on how it has both sad and happy moments. To represent this, we created artwork, using dark, sad colours on one side of the cross and bright, joyful colours on the other.

Our spelling rule this week focused on the 'n' sound spelled as 'kn' like in 'knock' and 'gn' like in 'gnat'. Keep practicing at home!







Year 3

It has been a busy week for us in Year 3. In English, we have watched a short clip called The Lighthouse (from the Literacy Shed). To hook the children, we used questioning in role which involved asking the Lighthouse keeper questions about the event that night to gather his thoughts and feelings. The children have also created their own comic strip retelling of the story and practised using descriptive language to depict the setting from the clip.



This week, in Maths, the children have completed the Year 3 spring term maths assessments (arithmetic - paper 1 and problem solving and reasoning - paper 2). In addition to this, the children have continued learning about mass and capacity; developing their knowledge of litres and millilitres.



In Art, the children evaluated their final pieces of artwork based on the style of Georgia O'Keeffe who's regarded as the 'mother of American Modernism'.

In Science, the children finished their plant unit of work and completed an end of unit knowledge quiz about plant survival and their life-cycle.

In RE, we have been studying our next big question: 'What is the Trinity?' This week, we have looked at and commented on artwork demonstrating the Christian belief that God is three in one: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We explored a parable titled 'The Prodigal Son' to support the children's understanding of why people who follow Christianity regard God as 'the Father'.

Year 4

On Monday morning Year 4 took part in team building challenges run by some teachers from Thorpe High School. The children engaged really well with the tasks and gave some fantastic drama performances. We have continued working on our plant based art unit and looked at drawing trees this week. Once we had practised some intial skills in the classroom we were able to enjoy some time in the sunshine to observe and draw trees on the school grounds.

This week in Year 4 we have been completing end of term assessments. After a few quick refreshment activities at the beginning of the week the children were all eager to answer the questions. Next week we will be finishing off our assessments with one final maths paper.

In English we have begun writing postcards to a friend. Whilst writing these postcards the children have been imagining that they have visisited their imaginary planet. They have some fabulous ideas such as a planet with a never ending football game, homes full of glowing planets and lots of planets full of sweet treats. Addiditionally, we have had some less apealing planets with no adults, no bed time and even some with demons!.

Finally this week the children have begun working on their presesntations of learning. They have picked their topic based on what they are interested in. It has been wonderful to watch them work so successfully in their groups and play to each others strengths.

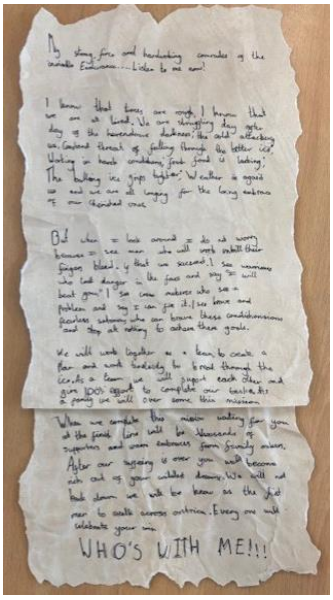






Year 5

A brilliant week in year 5!



In maths, we have been looking at data and what information we can gather from it. The children figured out that when rolling two dice and adding the total, the most common number would be 7. We then looked at common themes in the class (favourite ice cream or pizza) and created charts to represent this.

In English, we started the week by writing up and then delivering our speeches to try and raise the spirits of the Endurance as the crew had been stuck in the Weddle Sea ice for 2 months. We wrote these up onto stained paper as well! We are now preparing to write a short descriptive story based on our attempts to reach safety in the small rowing boats.

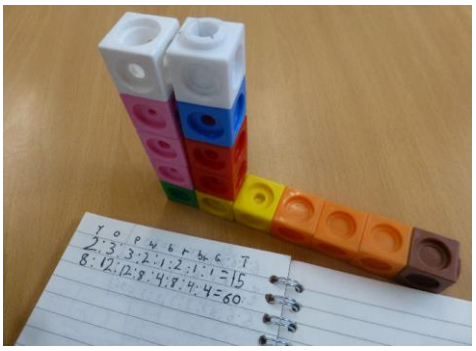


Several of our afternoon sessions have been based on preparing for our Presentations of Learning in the museum next week… we hope that lots of you will be able to join us for it! We also spent some time making a Mother's Day sliding card and a small piece of Easter based art!

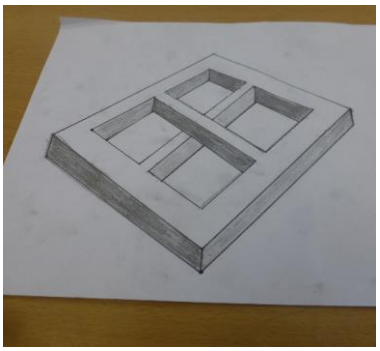
Year 6

I cannot believe we are about to enter the final week of this term!

For parts of some mornings, the children completed tests and I am so impressed by the progress they have made. They should all be incredibly proud of themselves. In Maths activities, we looked at a variety of reasoning problems and then used multi-link cubes to calculate ratios and percentages. The children were also able to scale these amounts up or down.



In English, we continued our narrative writing unit where the children had to include dialogue as well as short sentences to create suspense. It was brilliant to see everyone putting their fantastic imaginations to good use as well as understanding how vocabulary choices have an impact on the reader.



In Geography lessons, we learnt about latitude and longitude and the children had to answer questions linked to the equator, northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere. They were quick to locate countries depending on whether they were on, above or below the equator. The class also spent parts of some afternoons preparing for our Presentation of Learning Day next Wednesday. One of the pictures is from our optical illusion artwork – which we have now finished.

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 4 who had 97% 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 **20 out of 28** and
Year 6 who had **30 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	Freja, Ellis, Louis
Year 1	Luna, Jace, Mabel
Year 2	Alexa, Spencer, Lochlan
Year 3	Myla, All of Year 3, Sienna
Year 4	Parker, Louis, Max
Year 5	Anya, Sophie, Millie
Year 6	All of Year 6, Olivia, Dolcie

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman