Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 4th April 2025

It has been a lovely end to the term. It was great to see so many of you in school for the Presentation of Learning on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon this week. I was very lucky to be able to look round all of the class groups and was hugely impressed with both the children's subject knowledge and their teamwork. They certainly have learnt a lot in our "To Infinity and Beyond" whole school topic.

Today we have had a lovely fun day thanks to the School Council and Mrs Goddard and their Crazy Hair and PJs day. The hairstyles were absolutely brilliant and so creative! We raised another £195.40 for Leon. The school council also presented their findings about the amount of sugar in popular drinks in our assembly today. You will see a full report of this later in the newsletter.

Spring Term Celebration Assembly

On Wednesday we held our Celebration Assembly for the term. This is where two children per class who have particularly impressed receive their awards. It was clear from the lovely words of the teachers that this term's winners fully deserved their awards. They were:

- Reception – Oakley and Owen
- Year 1 – George and Isla
- Year 2 – Chester and Summer
- Year 3 – Kory and Willow
- Year 4 – Sid and Ava
- Year 5 – Amelie and Amelia
- Year 6 – Mia and Isabelle





Clubs after Easter

We have a mixture of new and old sports clubs after Easter. Mr Palmer's football and netball clubs will carry on as well as the football clubs for Years 3 to 6 on Tuesday and Thursday.

Cricket club for Year 5 and 6 will start on Friday 25th April and the sign up for this is already open on Ping. Tennis Club for Year 3 to 4 on Monday will stop and be replaced with a Netball Club on the same day again for Year 3 and 4. A sign up for this will go out after Easter and the club will start on Monday 28th April.

After May half term all football clubs will stop and will be replaced with athletics club.

Year 4 Football at Colney Training ground

On Monday 7 lucky Year 4s got to play at Norwich City's Training Ground. The boys had a brilliant time. We played 4 games winning all 4 by scores of 3-1, 8-1, 6-2 and 3-1. The team work, passing and skills shown throughout were excellent. As an added bonus 3 of the Norwich first team; Marcelino Nunez, Onel Hernandez and Josh Sargent surprised everyone by dropping in to say hello and allow us get a photograph. Well done to the team; Alfie, George, Jack, Louis, Max, Seb and Stanley.







Year 4 Horstead Trip

In the second week back after Easter Year 4 will be off to Horstead for their 3 day / 2 night residential. Staff going with them are Miss Farrow, Mrs Goddard, Mrs Pilbrow and Mr Ashman.

Music Assemblies

It was lovely to have two music assemblies this week showcasing some of the music that takes place in the school. On Monday Mrs Robotham's Signing and Singing group performed to the school and parents and this was followed on Tuesday by a ukulele concert from Year 3, 4 and 5 sharing the music they have been learning with Mrs Patterson. Both groups were amazing!





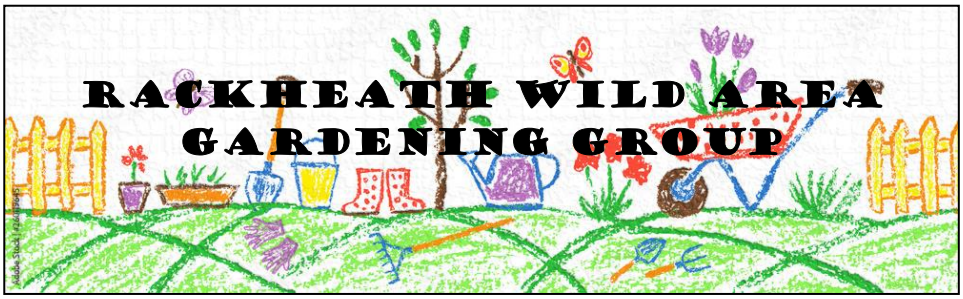
Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson - Credit for my entry this week goes to @nasneuro on Instagram who shared some fascinating facts about why our brains love dancing.

Why do we move to music? Science shows that music naturally makes us want to move, and this happens in cultures all over the world. Our brains love rhythm because it follows patterns of melody, beat, and lyrics. When we dance, our brains get extra clues about what's coming next, making it even more fun and engaging. Dancing is a full brain-body workout - it involves decision-making, movement, and musical awareness. It can even help protect our memory and slow cognitive decline. Dance solo for a quick mood boost, or with others to bond by syncing your brainwaves with theirs!

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and return to school feeling rested and recharged.

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



SPRING IS FINALLY COMING! The area is really starting to take shape and the colours are coming through!

We now have three raised beds (made by Mr Duckmanton and Mr Cavender) sited and filled with cardboard and sticks ready for soil after the Easter holidays. We have also managed to get hold of a sink that has been sealed and is ready to be set in place.

Many thanks to Mrs Lines and the children for all their hard work! Also to Mr Duckmanton for the hard work that he has put in to get things built and prepared.

The plants and veg that we have planted are growing well and will be spending their Easter holidays in Mrs Duckmanton's greenhouse. Below you can see the children with one of the raised beds and a cane tepee that will be used to allow veg to cover them!



School Council 'Sugar' Assembly

Today school council did an amazing job of delivering their first assembly. The topic was 'Sugar'. They had been looking at the amount of sugar in the children's favourite drinks.

The results were shocking! School Council were shocked to see how much sugar is in the drinks. After their assembly the children across all the classes agreed that they did not realise how much sugar they were drinking. A 500ml bottle of Coca Cola contains 53g (2 days' worth of sugar)! Yazoo milkshake has more sugar in it thank Lucozade with no fruit in sight – only sugars and colours.

School Councillors explained that fizzy drinks, and drinks high in sugar, can still be consumed but as a treat now and again and not daily. Milk and water contained 0g of sugar.

We were only looking at the bad sugar called 'sucrose', not the sugar 'fructose' found in fruit or the one called 'lactose' which is found in dairy products. So the next time you pop to the shop or are thirsty, remember our chart and see how much sugar is in your drink. What change will you make today?

Mrs Goddard







Bombers

It has been a very sunny busy week to the end of term. The children have been creating many Easter crafts and working together on two lovely butterfly collages. We have had music and dancing, lots of lovely construction and focusing on sharing, turn taking and being kind to each other. We have also talked about how we feel and how it can help to speak with someone if you feel worried. Please can we remind that pick up is at 2.50pm if your child attends a full day or 3pm if your child just attends the afternoon. Thank you for your understanding. There is an awful lot to do once children have left in order to get the playroom and outside ready for the next day. Hope you all enjoy a lovely Easter break and we are back on Wednesday 23rd April.

Reception

It has been a lovely week in reception class with so much going on! The children absolutely loved making Easter baskets and were thrilled that today was the Easter Scavenger hunt – if they found all the Easter pictures then they could receive some chocolate eggs for their basket! As you can imagine, the challenge around the school field was completed at speed. This had quite a comical edge as many of the children were dressed in PJs with crazy hair for our fundraising for Leon – there were lots of AMAZING hair styles and colours!

In maths, we have explored halving / sharing – the children loved our picnic role play for this. In phonics, we have learned the 'ou' sound (shout/ loud).

We have looked at some of the ways people may celebrate Easter and found out that Christians may visit a church over Easter and we share chocolate eggs as a symbol of new life.

We really enjoyed welcoming so many of you to our Presentation of Learning on Thursday, we hope you enjoyed spending time in our busy reception class.

Wishing all of our families a super Easter break – we look forward to seeing you all soon.







Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been embracing the Easter spirit by enjoying an 'easter bunny hunt' where the children had to find 30 small bunnies hidden, plus the letters spelling out 'HAPPY EASTER'. The children did a super job at working as a team to find all the bunnies and the letters! We have also been making easter baskets and easter chicks (with several little treats inside), which the children have brought home today.

We spent the start of the week preparing for our presentation of learning which was a great success; thank you so much to parents for coming and seeing the fantastic work we've done. The children all really enjoyed having you in the classroom so they could show off their hard work.

In maths this week we have been completing an Easter themed maths booklet. We have sent this home with the children so they can finish them off if they would like to. There is also a little maths game inside, that they could play with you at home.

In English the children have been learning the Easter story, sequencing the events of the story and we finished on Thursday with the children working in pairs to retell the story. Today we made our own Easter cards using a basket template and finger painting to create eggs in the basket.

We hope you all have a super Easter Holiday and the children enjoy a well-earned rest from school. Please continue to read with your child throughout the holidays, as it will really benefit their reading ability.

Year 2

What a fantastic end to the Spring term in Year 2! The children have worked incredibly hard and truly deserve their well-earned break.

This week in English, we wrote our own kennings. We began by choosing a theme for our kenning, then brainstormed nouns and verbs to use. On Tuesday, the children carefully wrote their own kennings – and they did an amazing job!

Our Maths focus was on mass. Through hands-on activities, the children learned how to measure mass in grams and kilograms, developing a real sense of what 1g and 1kg feel like. We used scales to measure the mass of different objects and discussed when to use grams versus kilograms. Towards the end of the week, we applied our learning to problem-solving challenges involving mass.

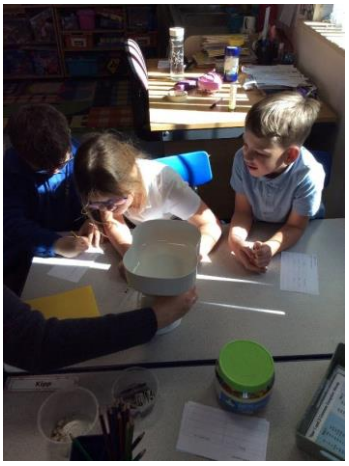
In RE, we learned about the Jewish festival of Passover. We started by exploring the story behind the festival, then we learned how Passover is celebrated. The children discovered the significance of the Seder plate and how each of the special foods eaten during the Seder meal symbolises a different aspect of the Passover story.

A highlight of the week was our Presentation of Learning on Thursday, which was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who was able to come - the children absolutely loved sharing their learning with you.

To round off the term, we enjoyed some Easter fun, including an egg hunt, a letter hunt puzzle, an egg-and-spoon race, and making Easter cards. Have a wonderful Easter break!



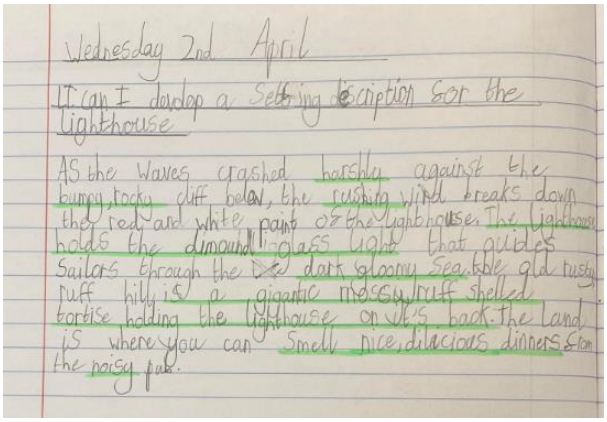




Year 3

Wow, I can't quite believe we are two terms into the academic year!

In English, the children have continued to build upon their knowledge of descriptive vocabulary and use of descriptive sentences. This week, the children explored some examples of setting descriptions and were able to identify a variety of skills including the use of adjectives, adverbs, prepositional phrases, fronted adverbials, similes and metaphors. Following this, they wrote a guided setting description for *The Lighthouse* before moving on and writing a setting description of their own, based on a photograph of the countryside. Take a look at this wonderful setting description – how many writing skills can you spot?



Wednesday 2nd April

I can I develop a Setting description for the lighthouse

AS the Waves crashed harshly against the bumpy, rocky cliff below, the rushing wind breaks down the red and white paint of the lighthouse. The lighthouse holds the dimound glass light that guides Sailors through the dark gloomy Sea. The glad rusty puff hill is a gigantic mossy, ruff shelled tortise holding the lighthouse on it's back. The Land is where you can Smell nice, dilacious dinners from the noisy pub.

This week, in Maths, we have completed our mass and capacity unit of work. Alongside this, the children have been busy practising and mastering accuracy in adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. To end the week, we had lots of fun playing Easter themed times table games.

In RE, we have continued studying our big question: 'What is the Trinity?' This week, we have learned about why people who follow Christianity believe God to be 'the Son' and 'the Holy Spirit'. To complete the unit, we reflected on our learning and the children each developed their own piece of artwork to represent The Trinity - God as three in one.

On Tuesday, the children were very brave preforming some songs (learnt in their ukulele lessons) to the rest of the school. In addition to this, the children have worked incredibly hard on their 'Presentations of Learning'; I am super proud of their efforts in sharing their knowledge with you all during the KS2 museum afternoon.

Please note, there are no spelling or homework tasks set over the Easter holidays, these will resume when we return for the summer term. Nevertheless, please keep up the times table practise! Have a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone of an exciting summer term. 😊

Year 4

We have had another fantastic term in Year 4 that has just flown by! Everyone has worked incredibly hard this term and continue to show how truly amazing each one of them is. At the start of the week the class performed as part of our music assembly, despite some nerves they performed confidently and sung loud enough for everyone to hear.

In maths we completed our first unit on decimals, we will continue with a second decimal unit after the holidays. The children have demonstrated confidence in attempting something new and using old knowledge to support their learning. In English we looked at a small video called space monkey, as part of this the children have written a diary entry from the viewpoint of the chimpanzee.

On Wednesday it was lovely to see so many families coming to enjoy the work the children have put together this term. The children enjoyed building up to this and developing their ideas at the start of the week. On Friday we celebrated the end of term with a mystery maths challenge. The children worked in groups using lots of their knowledge from this term to work out who the stand in Easter bunny was. The class really enjoyed this challenge and I could see the pride once they uncovered which character was the Easter bunny.

As we head in to the summer term, we will soon be going to Horstead. I know the children are very excited about this in school! As preparation for this I have set them the half term challenge of ensuring they can fold their clothes and tie their shoe laces. Finally, I hope you all have a wonderful Easter holiday!







Year 5

What a way to end the term… with the sun shining!

In maths, we have continued our work on data by trying to read different graphs. We then used these to try and find patterns. We have also been incredibly impressed with how the children's times tables scores have improved during our weekly tests!

In English, we looked at our speeches from the previous weeks (below) and then wrote short descriptive stories based on our attempts to reach safety in the small rowing boats. The focus with this writing has been on the use of speech in our writing.

However, most of the first half of the week was spent on our presentations of learning! The museum was then opened on Wednesday afternoon…and I was so impressed with the children. The information they shared was brilliant and their work looked amazing!





Year 6



I cannot believe we have completed another term! The children have all been superstars this week and should be so proud of their positive attitudes for learning. I have to start off by mentioning our Presentation of Learning Day on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many parents and family members and to hear their positive feedback. The children worked incredibly hard putting their displays together, learning their script and deciding which activities or games they would like to create. Everyone did a fantastic job and we were very impressed by the number of facts they could retain!

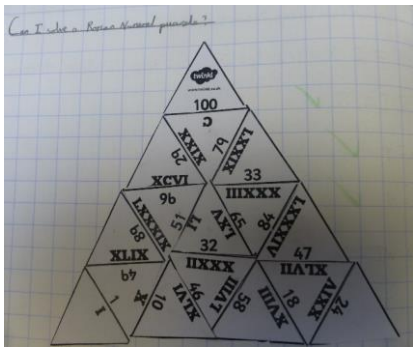
In Maths lessons this week, we continued our topic of ratio and how quantities can be scaled up or down. We then moved on to learning Roman Numerals. The children were so quick to solve a range of questions that they then moved on to solving a puzzle. This is where each triangle (containing a number) had to be matched up to the correct Roman Numeral – eventually forming a large triangle.

In English, we recapped our learning about prepositions and wrote creative sentences linked to images from 'Where's Wally?' The children also continued their narratives linked to an image of a ship stuck out at sea.

In French lessons, the children learnt how to ask and answer questions and we also got to make (and design) mini-Easter baskets.

Today, we had our Easter raffle with lots of prizes on offer, we took part in our end-of-term quiz linked to the spring term's knowledge organiser and had a dodgeball P.E lesson followed by a film. I hope you all have a lovely Easter break!





Attendance Bear

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had 99% attendance last week. Attendance Bear will spend the week after Easter with them!

Have a lovely Easter Break. We look forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday 23rd April.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

