# Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th May 2025

This week the Year 6 children have taken the SATS tests that all Year 6 children in the country take. The children have applied themselves brilliantly all week and all staff involved have been hugely impressed with their determination and resilience. The traditional SATS breakfasts were lots of fun too. The bacon rolls and croissants were the big favourites again this year!

A huge thank you to the Year 6 staff team – Mr Edwards, Ms Holmes and Mrs Culling for their super work this week and throughout the year. Thank you to all the staff who helped with supporting the children with the tests and to Mr Cavender for being a big part of the breakfast café staff! Thank you to all the Year 6 parents too.

Today Year 6 headed out on their post SATS treat trip to Great Yarmouth. We will now be getting into all the usual exciting leaver's events in the second half of the term.

**Year 3 at Eaton Vale** – On Wednesday the Year 3's went to Eaton Vale for their activity day. This was the first time we have been to Eaton Vale since we decided to change Year 3 to an activity day from a stay at Horstead. The children and staff all said it was a brilliant day so it looks as though this will become a fixture in the Year 3 calendar. Thanks to Miss Holding, Mrs Tunmore, Mrs Penson and Mrs Howes for taking the children. You will see some photographs in the class pages.




**Parent Survey –** The yearly parent survey organised by the governors will be out soon. This year there will be the option to fill it out online. We will let you know when it goes live!

**School Jumpers – As we head into the warmer months, please do make sure names are in jumpers, fleeces and cardigans. The children often take their jumpers off when they go outside and leave them on the field. Having a name in the jumper makes it much easier to return them to their owner!**

## Year 6 Spring Fayre




Year 6 are holding their final fundraising event, for their end of year celebration, after school next Thursday, 22nd May, from 3.15pm - 4.15pm.

There will be lots to do including a bake sale, sweet and chocolate tombola, teddy tombola as well as all the lovely homemade jewellery, keyrings etc that they have been busy making available to purchase. Please bring your pocket money and come along to have some fun and support them. Cash preferred, if possible, but card machines will be available.

**Sports** - The cluster cricket tournament is next Wednesday 21st May and we have 2 teams and 18 children from Years 5 and 6 taking part.

**Clubs After Half Term** – Football clubs for Year 3 to 6 will stop next week. We will run an athletics club after half term instead. Details of all clubs to be sent out soon.

**Parent Book Look Dates** – The first week of parent book looks have gone well, with lots of parents from Years 1, 3 and 4 coming in to see their children's work. Next week we have book looks for Years 2 and 5. The dates are:




- Monday 19th May – Year 2
- Tuesday 20th May – Year 5




Last Saturday's jumble sale organised by Mrs Goddard and her team was a great success. A huge thank you and well done to all those who supported the sale. Incredibly the team raised over £1000 with all proceeds going to Leon's fund!

**Class Assemblies** – Reception's class assembly on Thursday was a real treat. It was a joy to watch the children perform. They have clearly been learning lots this year and they really enjoyed sharing what they have been learning. The enormous turnip story telling was a particular highlight. It was lovely to see lots of family members there. A big thank you and well done to the Reception Staff team too!

The rest of the assembly dates are:

- Thursday 22nd May – Year 1
- Tuesday 10th June – Year 4
- Thursday 12th June – Year 2

These all start at 2:40pm and parents should arrive for 2:35pm.

**Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson**

**Feeling Ready for a Holiday? You're Not Alone** - If the school runs, packed lunches, and endless laundry are starting to feel heavier than usual, you're not imagining it - parenting is full-on. And sometimes, the best thing we can do for our families is to take a step back and recharge ourselves.

Whether you're dreaming of a proper getaway or just craving a few slow days at home with no schedule, remember: taking a break isn't selfish, it's essential. You don't need to "earn" rest - you just need to recognise when you need it.

With the school half term holidays within reach, here are a few ideas on where to go and what to do: https://norwich.mumbler.co.uk/

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



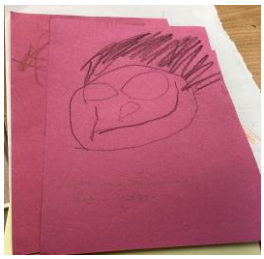

**Leon Fest Reminder**

Don't forget that on Friday 30th May from 12pm – 5pm we will be holding a family friendly fundraiser at The Sole & Heel. Please bring cash as there will be lots of stalls as well as a bouncy castle to enjoy.

Look out as Raffle tickets will also be on sale at school next week from Tuesday to Friday (cash only).




## Bombers



Hello from a very busy 'Bombers'. The children have had great fun this week with 'washing babies', 'Laundry role play', looking at our 'emotion' dolls and doing 'make overs' in the 'hairdressers'. They have been very active outside too. We have planted a strawberry plant, some bedding plants and sprinkled wild flower seeds. The children have helped to water them and we are going to make some pictures to remind us to look after them. They have been bouncing on the 'hoppers' and 'bouncy animals' up/down the garden. We have been talking about our emotions as part of PSED development and the children drew faces to show how they were feeling and also, we did a circle activity and the children placed their names near the relevant face. They have been 'slithering' on the floor like a 'snake' as our letter focus was 'Ss' and looking at our display with 'squirrel', 'snake', ad 'summer' book. Next week we are focusing on communication and language and our letter is 'Dd'.



## Reception



The children have been superstars this week – they rehearsed their class assembly with great excitement and enthusiasm and then performed brilliantly on the day! Thank you so much for coming to see them – we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. **We are so proud of our wonderful bunch of children.**

In phonics, we have revisited the *igh* (night) and *ow* (blow) sounds. Some of the children are being challenged to use describing words in their sentences now, e.g. *It is the **dark** night/ I can see the **white** snow.* You could practise using adjectives orally with your children by describing favourite toys / pets / houses / cars etc. The children love rhyming games too, so the game could be played by trying to find rhyming adjectives, e.g. **big** pig, **fat** cat, **dark** park, etc.



In maths, we have enjoyed exploring 3D shape – the children loved using them in a range of activities and we challenged them to explain the differences in features between the different shapes – they enjoyed a talk partner game in which they had to listen to the clues and decide which 3D shape it could be in the feely bag.



Next week, we are looking forward to enjoying a very well-known children's story all about food!

## Year 1

In Maths this week Year 1 have been learning all about fractions! We have been focusing on finding all about a half, as well as a half of an amount. The children have been drawing round shapes and folding them to discover what a half looks like. They have also been using cubes to build towers of even number cubes and finding what half of their towers are e.g. half of 4 = 1, half of 12 = 6. Your child could have a go at playing 'hit the button' and practising their halves to 10. https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button. You could even have a go at cutting shapes into equal halves at home or sharing toys out equally between 2.

In English we have started our new book 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' which ties in beautifully with our current plants' topic. The children have been introduced to the story and had the sensory version (with props) told to them –

focusing on the main events in the story. We have been drawing pictures of Peter Rabbit and writing adjectives to describe him.

In topic this week we had a Buddha Day on Monday where the children were learning all about Wesak. They coloured in Buddha Day bookmarks and even did some Buddha style meditation, which the children really enjoyed. On Tuesday afternoon we cut out leaf shapes and glued small pieces of string onto them to make a leaf ready for printing. We completed them on Thursday and they have turned out beautifully; the children thoroughly enjoyed creating them.



Thank you to those of you who were able to come in for Tuesday's afternoon book-look, the children loved having you there and sharing their books and learning with you.

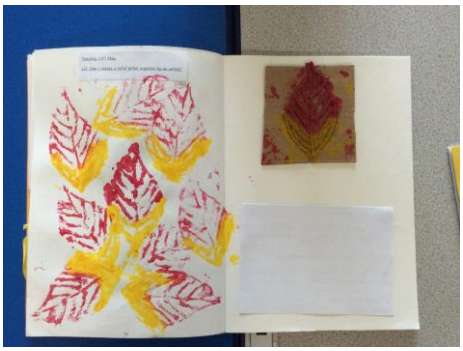
A little reminder that it is our class assembly next week on Thursday 22nd May at 2.35pm arrival. This is a chance for the children to present to you all about their learning so far this term.

## Year 2



In English this week, the children impressed me with their independent writing skills as they wrote character descriptions of Hansel from our story. They did a fantastic job, using a range of techniques such as adjectives, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, and even expanded noun phrases! Come and have a read during our Book Look on Monday next week. Later in the week, we explored contractions – when two words are joined together and some letters are replaced by an apostrophe. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hands-on activities we did together, and by the end of the week, they were confidently using contractions in their own sentences.

In Maths, we continued our work on fractions. The week began with recognising and finding one third (1 of 3 equal parts). We then progressed to finding the whole from a part and explored both unit and non-unit fractions.



Our RSHE lesson focused on self-esteem and goal setting. The children were thoughtful and reflective, setting themselves simple yet challenging personal goals. They showed such positive mindsets and great determination.

In Art, the children explored relief printing by creating their own designs using string and cardboard. They produced some wonderful prints.

This week's spelling rule was "drop the e before adding -ing". For example: *bake* becomes *baking*. When practicing your spellings at home, see if your child can write the word and use it in a sentence!

## Year 3



What a wonderful week we've had in Year 3!

In English, we have spent time exploring newspaper reports and creating our own eye-catching headlines. In addition to this, the children have been busy analysing introductory paragraphs; extracting the 5Ws (these are: Who? What? When? Where? Why?). At the end of the week, the children wrote a headline and introductory paragraph for their own newspaper reports about their chosen innovator next week. Additionally, following our trip to Eaton Vale, the children each wrote a recount to explain their personal experience.

This week, in Maths, we have continued learning about money. The children have been learning about how to find the difference between two values of money. Alongside this, they have been shopkeepers and customers, using role play money to find and give change.



In Geography, we have continued learning about the Northern and Southern Hemisphere. Additionally, the children have also learned about the Prime Meridian and its significance for indicating the Western and Eastern Hemispheres. The class have been enthused by our Geography learning and I have been very impressed with their understanding and retention of knowledge. They particularly enjoyed Tuesday's lesson where they were required to identify co-ordinates for lines of latitude and longitude.

In French, the children have been learning about parts of the body. I wonder if they can recall any of them to show off their knowledge.



I am sure your little adventurers have already provided you with a full report of our trip to Eaton Vale! Nevertheless, I would like to mention that on Wednesday we had an amazing day making wonderful memories. The children made me one very proud teacher with their enthusiasm for each activity and their impeccable behaviour throughout the day. The children loved the activities – go-karting and grass sledging, canoeing, archery and crate stacking; overall, I believe canoeing was their favourite.

## Year 4

In English this week the children have created newspaper reports about their time at Horstead. We looked at writing in the third person, which proved to be a challenge as they detailed their own experiences. They created some wonderful reports which show how much fun they had on the trip! On Friday we worked on presenting them neatly. Not so long ago this task was really frustrating for many of them, however this week they all were eager to present their work to the best of their abilities.

In maths we began our new topic that will take us up until half term on money. We have linked this to our new knowledge of decimals and explored converting between pounds and pence as well as comparing different amounts. Coins are now seen less frequently in everyday life so we have explored which amounts have a coin and which do not. Surprisingly many of the children initially thought there may be a 7p coin! It was lovely to see so many of you come in to look at the children's book this week. Hearing them discuss their work and you ask questions created a wonderful atmosphere in the classroom.

In topic we have continued exploring the use of an atlas. We have looked at latitude, longitude, and the northern and southern hemisphere, the equator, prime meridian and the Arctic and Antarctic Circle. In class we have had some wonderful problem-solving conversations where children have used their prior knowledge to help us answer problems. A great example of this is linked to a few of the children's trips to Lapland and its link with the North Pole. With their prior knowledge they were able to identify which hemisphere it is in and why the daylight hours change throughout the year.

As we approach half term, I would like to ask you all to continue working on times-tables at home. We will be taking our final multiplication check shortly after half term. Any additional practice outside of school will be really beneficial for them.

## Year 5




A brilliant week in year 5 – it's hard to believe that the half term is almost over!

In maths this week we have been looking at shape. We recapped 2D & 3D shapes before moving onto reflection and then co-ordinates!

In English, we have just started one of my favourite class texts: There's a boy in the girls' bathroom! A lovely story about a young man called Bradley trying to find his place in the school as he struggles with personal issues. To start with, we have been looking into the personality of Bradley through clues in the text.



In our topic work we have been looking at the features of the world: Continents, oceans, tropics, mountain ranges. In science, we have been looking at fossils and what they tell us about the past – we were even trying to find clues from fossils to figure out what kind of animal they may have come from. Our art work has focussed on the work of L.S. Lowry. We have been comparing this work to the work of other artists and have started to copy of piece of his work.

**Year 6**

This paragraph will be different to our usual ones as I wanted to discuss SATs Week with you. All of the staff commented on how amazing the children have been and the super progress they've made… we are so proud of them!

Tests can be stressful for a lot of children, but everyone persevered, stayed positive and did their best. This is all we can ask for! They certainly enjoyed the SATs breakfast and it was lovely to see them having fun and appearing relaxed during this part of each day. Thank you to all of the staff involved - ensuring the food was delicious and ready on time. I know they were all looking forward to our Post SATs trip today at Great Yarmouth. We go ten-pin bowling, play games at the arcades, have a fish and chip lunch, and if they wish to – buy an ice cream by the pier! I'm sure it will be an amazing day out and it's fully deserved due to their hard work.

Finally, I hope your children have a well-earned rest this weekend. I will include some photos of today's trip in next week's newsletter.

## Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **19 out of 30** and
Year 5 who had **27 out of 32**

of their children read to their family at least 3 times at home this week!

## Attendance Bear

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

**Star, Angel and Diamond Certificate Winners** – Well done to the following children who got their certificates in assembly today.

| | **STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS** |
|---|---|
| Reception | Harry, Hugo, Louis |
| Year 1 | Tyler, Casper, Eden |
| Year 2 | Cian, Aminah, Alexa |
| Year 3 | Reggie, Florence, All of Year 3 |
| Year 4 | Ella, Arlo, Stanley |
| Year 5 | William, Emil, Cara, Olivia W, |
| Year 6 | All of Year 6 |