

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th May 2025

Staffing for September 2025

Our teachers for next year and their year groups are:

- Reception – Miss Brannan and Mrs Pulford
- Year 1 – Mrs Pallant and Mrs Cavender
- Year 2 – Miss Shorten
- Year 3 – Miss Holding
- Year 4 – Miss Farrow
- Year 5 – Mr Edwards
- Year 6 – Mr Cavender





New Bombers Manager – I am very pleased to say that we have appointed Mrs Helen Gilham to be our new nursery manager. Helen has lots of great experience managing pre-school settings. She will be starting with us in September but will be in during July to meet staff, children and families.

Head for the Day

Firstly, we had a briefing meeting at 8:25am with the teachers. Then, we walked round each class and chose a child each who was showing good learning habits to give them a sticker. After that we answered some emails on Mr A's computer. Next, we went out on break duty for KS1 and KS2.

After, Mrs P gave us some primary times magazines to give out to every class. Mr C wrote up a mathematics survey for us to ask two children from each class some questions. We also had to help in reception for a while. Lastly, we helped Mr A set up for the cricket tournament on Wednesday.

We had a very good day. The best part was helping in Reception class.



Honey and Seb



Year 6 Spring Fayre – Thanks to everyone who supported the Year 6 fayre on Thursday. A special thank you to the FORS and a big well done to the class. You worked really hard and very well in your groups.

Cluster Cricket

On Wednesday we took part in the cluster cricket held at the lovely home of A&B Wanderers. We had two teams taking part and both teams played four games of Kwik Cricket during the day. Team 1 started very well beating Horning and St Johns. In their third game the team played against Salhouse knowing that whichever team won would be in the final. The team played their best game of the day to win and go through to the final. In the final the team came up against a very strong Coltishall team. The children all performed well but Coltishall had the edge. Meaning the team came second overall.

At the same time Team 2 were also playing. This team was mainly made up of children quite new to cricket. Although they played well the team lost their first three games before beating Horning in their final match. What was great was that throughout the team showed good spirit and their skill level developed as the day went on.

As usual it was a lovely day with some excellent batting, bowling and fielding on display as well as lots of encouragement and good team work. A special mention to Freddie, Xander and William for doing a great job in the captain role. Thanks to Mr Palmer and Ms Holmes for joining me in looking after and supporting the teams.

Rackheath 1 – Freddie (captain) Ellis, Ethan, Maxwell, Harlan, Harley, Rosa, Maisie and Dolcie

Rackheath 2 – William and Xander (captains) Jake, Kayden, Kian, Olivia, Grace, Micky and Jenson





Clubs After Half Term – As mentioned last week football clubs for Years 3 to 6 will stop at the end of this half term. A ping has gone out about next half terms clubs including athletics club on a Tuesday night for Years 3 to 6.



Parent Book Looks - We finished off our fortnight of book looks with family members from Year 2 and 5 coming into school to look at their children's work. It was great to see lots of you join us over the 2 weeks.

Class Assemblies *– Year 1 finished off this half term's class assemblies with a bang! The children thoroughly entertained their audience with a super assembly showcasing their learning this term. All the children did a great job whether they were singing, speaking, acting or dancing! Well done everyone. A big thank you to the super Year 1 team too.*

The rest of the assembly dates are:

- *Tuesday 10th June – Year 4*
- *Thursday 12th June – Year 2*

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



The last half term is always an exciting one! Lots of exciting events are taking place in June:

Monday 2nd June	Year 1 & 2 trip to Bewilderwood
Tues 3rd / Weds 4th	FORS Father's Day Craft – 3.15pm to 4pm
Friday 6th June	Talent Show – organised by Mrs Goddard & School Council
Monday 9th June	NCFC Football League at the Nest
Tuesday 10th June	New parent meeting Reception Class 2025
Friday 13th June	Athlete Visit to the school
Monday 23rd	Reception Trip to Thrigby Hall



Week of the 16th June is Sports Week!

Monday 16th	Fun Sports - AM
Tuesday 17th	Bombers and Reception Class Sports Day - AM
Wednesday 18th	KS2 Sports – AM KS1 Sports - PM

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Supporting Your Child Through Big Emotions - When your child comes to you upset (tears flowing, emotions running high) your natural instinct might be to calm things down as quickly as possible. You might try to stop the crying, reassure them that everything's okay, or distract them with something cheerful.

While it's understandable to want to help them feel better fast, there's great value in letting children fully experience their emotions. This doesn't mean encouraging them to dwell on every detail of what upset them - but it does mean giving them space to feel.

So what can this look like in the moment?

Offer calm, supportive presence rather than trying to fix it right away.

Depending on their age, they might want a cuddle or simply to sit quietly with you.

Let them know you're listening: "You can talk if you'd like to - I'm listening."

Help them name what they're feeling: "It looks like you're really angry." (Remember: *name it to tame it!*)

Once the emotional wave passes (without you jumping in to distract or dismiss it) your child learns something powerful: emotions are just energy moving through their body. They come and go, and it's safe to let them run their course.

This kind of support helps build emotional resilience - and trust - in both themselves and in you.

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

Parent Survey – The annual parent survey organised by the governors is now live! The link to complete this is:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/AcDX9fcTQw

You will have 2 weeks to do so. We really value your opinion so it would be really helpful if you could spare a few minutes to complete it.



Bombers

Cannot believe we now have half term week upon us. The children have been super busy this week enjoying the push/pull toys, playing with the farm and trains small world and climbing with our lovely new frame. Some of the older children have been looking at writing their name and we have done lots of listening activities and sensory play to encourage descriptive language. On return from half term, we will be focusing on PSE development and talking again about feelings, being kind, taking turns and looking after each other and ourselves. We will be exploring PSE information and storybooks, PSE puzzles and having our tooth brushing activity. Reminder that the children transferring to school will be given a P.E bag as part of their leaving gift and there will be a leavers party on Tuesday 1st July in the school hall at 3pm. More details will follow. We will also be starting our transition visits to school and having visits from receiving reception teachers at some point.

Happy half term break to all.

Reception



We have loved sharing the classic story *The Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle this week – we have had lots of interesting science discussions around lifecycles and used this information for a craft project using pasta! The children have been able to explain the cycle to us: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, butterfly! It has also helped them to think about sequencing the days of the week and to consider healthy and unhealthy food choices! If the caterpillar had simply chosen one treat it may not have suffered such a bad tummy! The children have also loved exploring the small world minibeasts – there has been lots of great use of vocabulary and lots of new words learned – it was great to hear the children teaching each other!



In phonics, we have focused again on the oo digraphs, (oo – poo and oo – book). In maths, the children have revisited sharing/ division – they have loved explaining why you can share odd numbers and lots of them could recognise this very quickly this time by relating it to the odd Numicon tiles.

Next week, our class story takes us much further afield so we can think about our geography knowledge!

Year 1

What a super last week of the half term we've had in Year 1. The children have all worked so hard on practising their class assembly for Thursday, which went really well; we're all very proud of how well they performed. Thank you so much to all parents who could attend! We have also been checking how our cress has been growing in school and finding out which conditions help to grow most successfully, how is your child's cress growing at home?

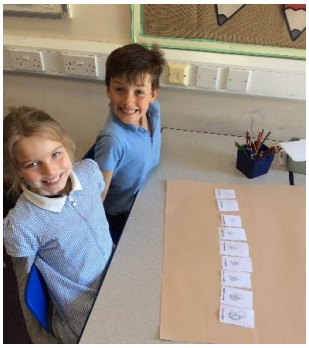
In English we have been continuing our work on The Tale of Peter Rabbit. This week we have focused on writing sentences to describe Peter Rabbit, using 'and' to join our clauses and the adjectives that we came up with last week. We have also been writing questions for Peter Rabbit by thinking about what we would like to find out about him and using question marks in our sentences.

In Maths we have been finding a quarter. We started the week by cutting and folding shapes to make 4 equal sections and we moved on to finding quarter of amounts by halving and halving again. We finished the week by making pizzas and selecting toppings for ½ and ¼ of the pizza.

Remember that our KS1 phonics screening test is coming up in the week after half term so please don't forget to practise real and alien words with your child by using the QR codes in the back of their reading records; you can also practise this on 'phonics play' online by playing 'Picnic on Pluto.'

https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/picnic-on-pluto

Hope you all have a super half term.



Year 2

It's been a short but busy half term in Year 2!

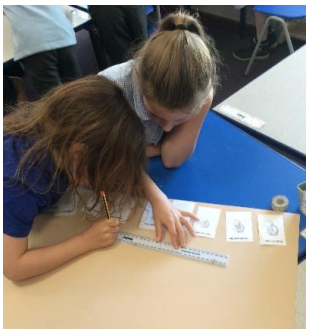
On Monday, we hosted our Book Look, and it was wonderful to see the children proudly sharing their hard work with you. Thank you to everyone who was able to come.

This week, we also completed some of our KS1 SATs. The children have been fantastic, showing both resilience and enthusiasm as they demonstrated everything they've learned so far.

In English, we revisited different types of sentences: questions, statements, and commands. We began by sorting them into categories before writing some of our own.



In Maths, we finished our learning on fractions. We explored the **equivalence** of $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$, learned to recognise $\frac{3}{4}$, and worked on finding $\frac{3}{4}$ of an amount. We ended the week by counting in fractions all the way up to a whole – for example: $\frac{0}{4}, \frac{1}{4}, \frac{2}{4}, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{4}$.



In Science, we compared the vocabulary used to describe parts of a plant and parts of a tree. We also explored the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees. In Art, we took inspiration from Vincent van Gogh's famous sunflower painting. The children observed the piece closely before sketching their own versions in his style – bringing their artwork to life with expressive lines and detail.

In PSHE, we explored how our bodies grow and change over time. The children measured and drew lines to show the length of a baby inside a mother's tummy at different stages, and discussed what we're able to do at different stages in our lives.

If you find a few spare moments over the half term, please do keep practicing times tables and the Year 2 common exception word spellings sent home! And don't forget we're off to Bewilderwood on the first day back!

Year 3

I can't quite believe we have whizzed through another half term; it has been a busy final week!



In English, we have been busy learning about the use of direct and indirect speech. To begin the week, the children worked hard to identify and separate examples of direct speech from the indirect. They used this knowledge to write some of their own examples of direct speech ready to apply this knowledge to the main paragraphs in their newspaper reports. To end the week, they completed the conclusion to their newspaper reports ready to make edits/ improvements and publish after half term.

This week, in Maths, we have begun learning about time. So far, the children have recapped their knowledge of o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. They have also learnt roman numerals to 12. In addition to this, they have been learning about telling the time to 5 minutes and to 1 minute past the hour.



We have also completed lots of Geography, having learned about climate zones, differences in the climate between the tropics and the UK, biomes in countries around the world and the significance of time zones.

In PE, the children have been practising their throwing and catching skills, specifically developing their chest press action.

This afternoon, we spent some time in the wild area exploring the inhabitants and watering the plants. The children thoroughly enjoyed using the watering cans, magnifying glasses and bug pots.

Please refer to the end of this newsletter to view the photographs from our Eaton Vale.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday; I look forward to the children on 2nd June ready for a fun final half term.

Year 4

Wow, this half term has flown by! We have packed lots into the last 5 weeks and this week was no exception. In Maths we have completed our unit on money. This week we looked in detail at some word problems and focused on how to identify what the question needs us to do. The children have grown in confidence with this throughout the year and have been able to explain why they picked the method they had used.



We have also focused lots on our times-tables and practiced the test on the government website. The children are all working well and progressed nicely with their times-tables this year. Again we would like to ask you to continue working on this at home ahead of their final test in the first few weeks back at school. In school we have been slotting in practice with quick fire questions throughout the day.



In English we have created newspaper reports about a wolf attack. The children worked in three groups to create a freeze frame for before, during and after the attack. Whilst holding their position they each spoke a sentence in character to share ideas for writing direct speech in their reports. We revisited how to write direct speech with punctuation and explored the story further to make sure what they were writing was something appropriate for their character.



In topic we continued looking at the globe in our geography lessons, checking weather forecasts in different climates and identifying countries in between the tropics and those in the Polar Regions. On Friday after a challenging morning of writing and maths questions we learnt how to draw a wolf, I was very impressed with the quality of their drawings!

Myself, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling would like to wish you all a happy half term. We are looking forward to hearing all about what you have been up to when we return to school.

Year 5

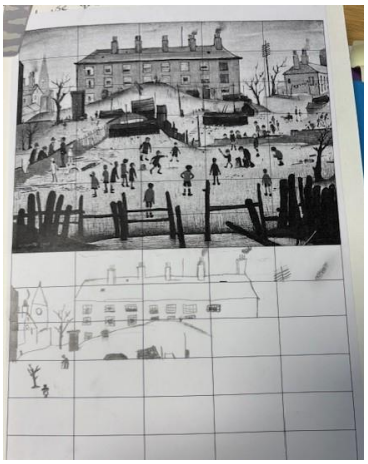
We've had a lovely end to the half term in year with the children bringing in their cuddly toys as a reward for all of their hard work… I have loved meeting them!

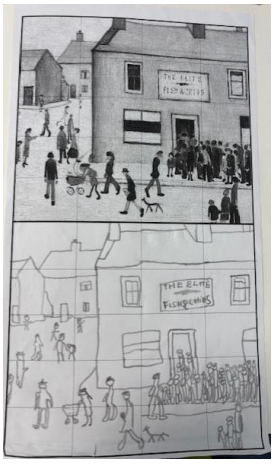
In maths we have finished our work on shape by using 'translation' to move shapes around a grid. We then quickly covered time on an analogue clock… which was interesting! I was surprised to find that nearly half of the class couldn't tell the time using a normal clock face. As we do not get much time to cover this in school, please spend some time to look at this at home to help support them as only through constant practise will they be able to do it.

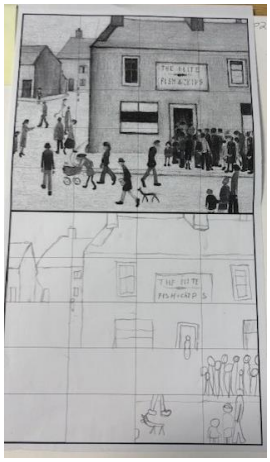
In English we have continued our work on 'There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom' by writing a letter to Jeff to give him some advice linked to the problems he is having. We have also practised our use of speech by imagining what we think characters might say to each other.

In science, we looked at how animals have adapted to living in different environments with the help of inheritance of certain genes from parents. We looked at how bear changed over time to become a polar bear. We also studied a giraffe and a camel. To help us with this, after half term I will be asking if the children could bring in or email me a photo of their parents from when they were roughly 10 to see if there are any similarities to the children now!

We have also been trying to copy a piece of artwork using block grids. Below you can see Emil's, Lola's and Ayla's work. Next time, they will finish them and start to add shading and tones used by L.S. Lowry.

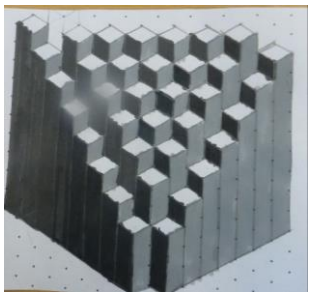






Year 6

I cannot believe that another half term is now complete! It's been a brilliant one and the children should be so proud of themselves. As mentioned in last week's paragraph, the class have made lots of progress and have consistently shown a positive attitude for learning. They also represented our school fantastically well during our Post SATs trip last Friday to Great Yarmouth. We had such a fun time bowling, playing on lots of games in the amusements and having a fish 'n' chip lunch.



During Maths lessons, we have converted units of measurements and then answered a variety of word problems linked to this topic. During English lessons, we used our knowledge of formal language to write letters to local companies – asking for raffle donations for the Summer Fayre.

In Science, we recapped our understanding of fossils and then matched up images of dinosaurs to their correct fossil. During Geography lessons, the children learnt about key physical and human features of Mexico as well as comparing and contrasting other features to the United Kingdom. We had an R.E lesson linked to important beliefs of Hindus, produced further optical illusion drawings in Art and learnt French words for rooms around the home.

I want to say a massive thank you to the children and FORS for putting together an amazing Year 6 Spring Fayre on Thursday. Also, well done to the cricketers for their brilliant performances on Wednesday and to Honey and Seb for being excellent Heads for the day on Tuesday. Have a brilliant half term everyone!







Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **15 out of 29** and
Year 6 who had **29 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 the week after half term 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	Ellis, Ashfia, Oakley
Year 1	Isla B, Whole of Year 1, Rocco
Year 2	Charlotte, Harley, Zachary
Year 3	Emily, William, Ivy
Year 4	Parker, Esme, Mr Ashman
Year 5	Micky, Hugo, Sophia
Year 6	Ben, Rosa, Jacob

Have a wonderful half term holiday and see you all again on Monday 2nd June

Best wishes

Chris Ashman



Last week, Year 3 had a wonderful activity day at Eaton Vale; here are some photos of their experience...



























































