Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 9th May 2025

Year 4 Horstead Residential

Year 4 had a fantastic few days at Horstead last week. The children took part in a number of activities including: a vertical challenge, a tower climb with zip line, archery, a village walk, bushcraft (where we learned how to clean water, create fire and build a shelter strong enough to survive a storm), a camp fire with popcorn and marshmallows and raft-building (this may need to be renamed as a swim in the river!).



I am incredibly proud of all the children in Year 4, they pushed any fears or worries to the side and attempted every activity with the support of their friends. At all times on the trip they showed kindness and team work. By Thursday evening the children had impressed all the staff at Horstead so much that they allowed us to be the first group to experience eating our dinner outside. It was lovely to see the children enjoy their sausages and wedges alfresco. As it came to bedtime the children were excited to share a room with their friends, in the morning we had many smiles as they enjoyed the experience. Throughout the trip we also enjoyed some downtime, during this time the children enjoyed creating domino tracks, playing Uno, hula-hooping and playing pool, table tennis and foosball in the games room.

Thank you to Mrs Goddard, Mr Ashman, Mr Palmer, Mrs Howes and Mrs Pilbrow and all the children for making it such a wonderful experience.

Miss Farrow

Parent Book Look dates – Over the next 2 weeks parents can come in to look at their children's books with them. Sessions will take place from 2:45 until the end of the school day. Please come into school through the office entrance. The dates are:

- Monday 12th May – Year 3
- Tuesday 13th May – Year 1
- Wednesday 14th May – Year 4
- Monday 19th May – Year 2
- Tuesday 20th May – Year 5





Breakfast Club – Next week breakfast club will be based in Year 4 from Monday to Thursday as we are holding the Year 6 SATS breakfasts!



Year 6 will be sitting their SATS next week. Beforehand the school are putting on breakfasts for all the children to help them relax into the day before their tests. Mr Edwards, Ms Holmes and Mrs Culling as well as other staff, have been hugely impressed with the application and attitude our Year 6 children have shown this year. They can all be very proud of their achievements. Our traditional post SATS treat will take place on Friday 16th May, when we will be off to the seaside on what will hopefully be a sunny day!

Year 2 Multi-skills – the Year 2 class had a super time on Wednesday taking part in cluster multi-skills at Hoveton St Johns Primary School. Miss Shorten, Mrs Crook and Mr Palmer were very impressed with how well the children did and the children loved it too!

Whole School Focus (WSF) – Over the last few weeks our focus has been on looking after our new play equipment well. The children have done this very well so far. A big well done to everyone, especially our Year 6 play leaders – Rachel, Grace, Rosa, Maisie and Millie.

For the rest of the half term our WSF is **working well in groups and teams.**

VE Day 80



To celebrate and remember the events of 80 years ago when the war in Europe ended on 8th May 1945, we have been doing some work on the subject. On Tuesday Key Stage 2 met Frank, who is getting ready for a VE Day party. Frank told the children his story of the war and how it had affected his family and community.



On Wednesday Year 5 took part in the Silver Wings project a session organised to look at the air force bases in Norfolk during World War 2. With Rackheath having a USAF base during the war this was a great insight into what took place in Rackheath at the time.

Reception and Key Stage 1 also enjoyed a story from Gripping Yarns story. Their story was all about a monkey called Ooo oo and the challenges he faces growing up!

Class assemblies –Year 5's assembly was on Wednesday. The class skilfully told the story of Ernest Shackleton's great adventure to the Antarctic. The children shared some fantastic English work including journals, poems and creative writing. The class all spoke very clearly too. Well done Year 5!

Next week it is the turn of Reception. Their assembly is on Thursday 15th May. 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. Parents should arrive for 2:35pm.



Saturday 10th May	Jumble Sale
Wednesday 14th May	Eaton Vale Activity Day - Year 3
Wednesday 21st May	Cluster Cricket Tournament
Thursday 22nd May	Y6 Spring Fayre

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Rolling for Regulation - Credit for the wellbeing activity suggestion this week goes to one of our year four pupils...A simple, soothing activity - **rolling a ball slowly back and forth between your feet** - can support emotional wellbeing in surprising ways. This gentle movement engages both the left and right hemispheres of the brain, encouraging better communication between them. As the brain balances sensory input and motor control, children may begin to feel calmer, centred, and emotionally regulated. This bilateral movement mimics the benefits of walking or crawling, known techniques for grounding and reducing stress. Whether used as a brain break, part of a sensory routine, or just a calming moment, this easy exercise can help children reconnect with their bodies and emotions in a safe, manageable way.

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



Bombers



Hello to all. The children have been very busy with lots of gross and fine motor physical activities this week. There has been dancing, exercises, printing, roller painting, floor vehicles and many drawing and writing opportunities. The children made a lovely group 'poppy' as a mark of remembrance for V.E Day. We have been looking at the letter Aa and had our display of apple, ant and astronaut. Next week we are focusing on the letter 'Ss' and PSED as our area of development. We will be encouraging turn taking, sharing resources, helping each other as a group and being kind with our words and hands.

Reception

We have been encouraging the children to think more for themselves this week - we have ensured they've all been warm enough but have been supporting them to look at the weather and think how it feels to work out what they needed - warm coat some days; sun hats the next! We love to be outside though and so we what to equip the children with skills that make them more independent. The children are loving working with Mrs Coull outside - she is very green fingered so has been helping them care for their potatoes. She is also very crafty and artistic so she has created a number of new resources such as wooden building blocks painted to look like real bricks. The children have loved using these in conjunction with other resources such as the small world figures to create imaginary worlds.

We have enjoyed a story called Oliver's Vegetables. It is about a little boy who only eats chips but when he goes to stay at his grandpa's, and explores his veg patch, it encourages him to try (and enjoy!) lots of other vegetables.

In phonics, we have revised the 'ee' and 'ay' sounds (feet/ play). In maths, we have looked at measurement and especially the vocabulary of tall/ taller, short/ shorter, big, small, etc. To help us with this, we read a story together called Jasper's Beanstalk in which a little cat tries hard to grow a beanstalk. We problem solved for him and predicted how tall his beanstalk would be if it grew one leaf bigger each day.

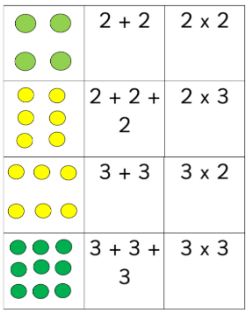
Next week, we look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoon for our class assembly!





Year 1

We've had a super week in Year 1! The children have continued to observe our plants grow, making sure that they are regularly watered and cared for. They have also been planting their own cress seeds in order to see which are the best conditions for them to grow in. Today the children have made their own cress head using a small yoghurt pot, cress seeds and cotton wool; please encourage your child to the water it and place it somewhere sunny so they can watch their cress-heads 'hair' grow!



In maths this week we have continued with our multiplication and division work. We have been grouping toys into equal groups and also unequal groups; discussing what is meant by equal and unequal. We have also been making arrays using our counting of 2s, 5s and 10s e.g. 2+2+2= 6 and 3x2=6 and 3 lots of 2 equals 6.

In English we have spent our final week using 'The Bee Who Spoke' by Al MacCuish, by finding out all about bees, collecting facts about them and using these to write down information using capital letters, full stops and interesting words. The children have also learnt all about how to people can help protect bees; they then made some super posters showing people how to look after bees. We ended our English this week with another 'free-writing' session where the children get to write sentences, a story or a poem about a picture given to them. It is excellent practise for them to think independently about what is needed to write successfully: finger spaces, full stops and capital letters.

Year 2

It's been a busy week in Year 2!

On Tuesday morning the children were delighted to spot the first signs of growth in our pots outside - our radish and marigolds seedlings are growing strong!

Tuesday was made even more exciting as we had a visit from a storyteller. The children thoroughly enjoyed joining in and used sign language to express their emotions.

Wednesday's multi skills sports trip was another highlight. The children showed excellent teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the morning. A huge well done to everyone for representing our school so wonderfully.

In Maths, we have continued exploring fractions. The children confidently found a half of different amounts and then moved on to discovering quarters – understanding that a quarter is one part of four equal parts. By the end of the week, we were finding a quarter of different amounts.

In Topic, we started our investigation into what plants need to grow. We're growing cress under different conditions – some with sunlight, some without, some with water, and some without.

This week we began our RSHE lessons, focusing on self-esteem. The children shared their strengths and learned how positive self-talk can help them to feel happy and boost their confidence. We also continued our work on the zones of regulation, learning how to recognise the signals our bodies give us about our feelings and understanding which 'zone' we are in.

Our new spelling rule is, if a verb ends in a short vowel (a, e, i, o, u) followed by a consonant, we double the consonant before adding "-ing." For example, slip becomes slipping.







Year 3

Yet again, it has been another wonderful week in Year 3!



In English, we have continued our learning linked to 'Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World' by Kate Pankhurst. The children redrafted their poems, making necessary edits and improvements. On Thursday, the children had lots of fun rehearsing and performing their poems. To conclude the week, we moved onto exploring features of a newspaper report. Over the next couple of weeks, they will be developing the skills to write their own newspaper report about an influential woman of their choice.

This week, in Maths, we have begun learning about money. Over the past four days, we have the children have been counting in pounds and pence, converted pounds and pence alongside adding and subtracting amounts of money.



In RSE, we have explored relationships from blood relatives, step relatives and friends to our beloved pets.

In Geography, we have started learning about countries around the world. This week, the children recapped their knowledge of the seven continents and have used atlases to find countries across the World. In addition to this, we have explored the Equator, Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere.

In PE, the children have been practising their relay racing skills ahead of Sports Day, next half term.

During this week's ukulele session, the children collaboratively wrote the chorus lyrics to their song about the ocean.

So far, the lyrics for the chorus are…

In my precious dark sea,
The turtles come to swim with me,
The ocean holds me in the deep,
The waves soothe me, I fall to sleep.

(I wonder if your child can sing it to you!)

Year 4

Despite being only four days we have packed lots in to this week. On Monday morning many of the children (and adults) were still very tired from Horstead but they quickly settled back into routine. We began the week with times tables before Music. In music the children have been writing their own songs this week they have been thinking about which chords may work together, whilst building lyrics linked to nature.

In English we continued working on our class vaults. Before Horstead the children created a label to tell visitors all about their item. This week we wrote letters inviting adults around school to come and visit! The children enjoyed delivering their letters and waiting for a response. On Friday afternoon Mr Ashman, Mr Cavender, Mr Edwards, Miss Holding, Mrs Roe and Mrs Tunmore visited the class vault alongside the whole of Year 3. Whilst at first the children

were nervous about speaking to adults and Y3 they all agreed afterwards that they felt far more confident and that they enjoyed sharing their work.

In topic we have begun looking at geography. We started by refreshing our knowledge about the seven continents before finding countries using atlases. We discussed how we could use our prior knowledge to help us locate countries for example the children identified that France is in Europe and they discussed the shape of Italy. This helped them to search smaller areas and find countries quicker!







Year 5

What a busy (and short) week we have had in year 5!

Tuesday started with the class frantically preparing for our class assembly! The children decided what should be included, what the script should say and who would read – in fact, they had so many ideas that I had to cut some of them out! They then performed this on Wednesday afternoon and they did a fantastic job too. The assembly was linked to our class book Shackleton's Journey and they told the story of the explorers attempt to be the first person to cross Antarctica on foot.

As well as this, the children were also treated to a story telling session linked to WW2 from Gripping Yarns. The session told the story of a man who patrolled towns at night to ensure the Blackout was followed. As well as giving the children a sense of what life was like, it was also done in a hilarious manner!



Wednesday morning also had a WW2 feel as the class were involved with the Silver Wings project. This saw a team from the American Library come into class to talk about the American influence on Norfolk during WW2, known as The Friendly Invasion. The children looked at the B24 Liberator plane (which was also based at Rackheath) and then we learnt about how children were impacted by the changing of their small sleepy villages to bustling areas surrounded by American Airbases. After hearing about the lives of two children during the war we wrote our own diary entries imagining that we were in 1942. All of this work will eventually be displayed as part of a huge project in the Forum from September. This was a great way to kick off our learning about WW2 which will take place in the Autumn term.

Year 6

Although it's been a shorter week this week, we've still managed to fit in a lot of lessons and activities!

During Maths lessons, we looked at the features of circles and completed questions linked to the circumference, radius and diameter. We also recapped our understanding of BODMAS - which led to a range of #OFTB challenges being completed.

In English, we learnt to write dialogue to establish a character's personality and to move events along. Afterwards, we completed grammar challenges linked to phrases and clauses and formal language. On Tuesday afternoon, the Year 6s had a visit from Gripping Yarns – where the storyteller explained what life was like during WW2 and the importance of VE Day.

In Science, the children discussed the 7 characteristics of living things and then learnt how adaptation can help humans, animals and plants to survive. After having further discussions about VE Day, the children had a competition

to see whose model Spitfire could travel the furthest! **Please remember that for Monday to Thursday next week, the children will arrive between 8:15am and 8:20am for their SATs breakfast.**





Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **28 out of 32**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 1 who had 99% 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	Emie, Teddy B, Theo P
Year 1	Liam, Jesy, Austin
Year 2	Phoebe, William, Eve
Year 3	Ben, Joshua, Leighrye
Year 4	All of Year 4, Jacob P, Henry
Year 5	Iris, Ayla, All of Year 5
Year 6	Kayden, Izzy, Freddie

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman