Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th June 2025

It's been another full-on week in school with reception's trip to Thrigby and Mexico Day in Year 5 & 6 but it has been breaktimes where we have been really impressed. The weather may have been hot, but the children have been brilliant at playing their games in a kind and respectful way… and it has been lovely to see so many children using the drawing station at lunchtimes! Please remember, on these hot days, children should come to school wearing sun cream and with a hat!

Reception 2025 Stay and Play sessions

Our transition plan for reception class 2025-26 continues with two stay and play sessions on Monday 30th June and Thursday 3rd July. Both sessions run from 3:30-4:15. This is a great chance for children to spend time in the classroom and outside area of Reception with their parents before they start in September.





Transition Day – Our school transition morning will be on Thursday 10th July. On the morning the children will move up to meet their teachers for the year ahead. Reception Class 2025-26 are also coming in for the morning in 3 groups of 10. Each group will spend an hour in the school.

Year 6 Transition Days - Year 6 are off to Broadland on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th July for their transition days. Transition days for Year 6 children going to Thorpe are on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th July.

Year 6 Camp Out

On Friday 4th July we have the annual Year 6 Camp Out! Lots of fun and very little sleep guaranteed! Let's hope it isn't as wet as last year! Mr Edwards has sent out a letter about the Camp Out as well as other Year 6 events like "Treasure Island" the leavers play.



Year 5 Broadland Visit – Our Year 5 class are visiting Broadland by coach for a curriculum day on Friday 11th July.

FORS News

Raffle Tickets – These were sent home with the children this week. Please return stubs and money to the FORS post-box in the foyer by Friday 11th July. Extra tickets are available if you would like them.

Teddy Tombola – **We** are looking for donations of Soft Toys for our Teddy Tombola at the Summer Fayre. If you can help us with this these can be brought into school until Friday 5th July 2025.

Euro 2025 Draw

On Wednesday we held our class draw for the 2025 Euro's Championship. Each class picked out 2 teams in a special assembly. The tournament starts on Wednesday 2nd July Come on the Lionesses!

CLASS	POT A TEAM	POT B TEAM
Reception	Norway	Wales
Year 1	Germany	Iceland
Year 2	England	Denmark
Year 3	Spain	Italy
Year 4	Sweden	Belgium
Year 5	France	Poland
Year 6	Switzerland	Portugal
Bombers	Holland	Finland



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

A Fresh Take on Birthdays - It's always lovely to see children proudly wearing their 'Happy Birthday' badges at school - a cheerful sign that it's their special day. At some point, though, many of us stop feeling that same excitement when our own birthdays come around. I clearly remember feeling wobbly about turning 50 (unlike my excitement of becoming double digits at age 10!).

But recently, I came across a fun idea that completely reframed things for me. Someone on Instagram suggested thinking of your age as a software version. So instead of being 50 years old, I'm now version 5.0 - an upgraded and improved edition of last year's 4.9.

Admittedly, it's a little bit silly - but when we can't change the passing of time, why not embrace it with a bit of humour and positivity? Sometimes, a small mindset shift can add just the right touch of sparkle to the inevitable.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720 098). Please take a look at the new additions to our school wellbeing Padlet by following this link: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing

Selected dates for the next few weeks



Tuesday 1st July	FORS organised Bombers Party after school
Friday 4th July	Year 6 Camp Out – 5.00pm (unless putting up tents then it's 4.15pm)
Monday 7th July	Guitar Performance in school
Tuesday 8th July	Key Stage 2 Cluster Athletics
Saturday 12th July	FORS Summer Fayre – 11am to 3pm
Monday 14th July	Cluster Swimming Gala
Tuesday 15th July	Whole School Trip to The Hippodrome - AM
Wednesday 16th July	Reports Out to parents
Tue 15th / Weds 16th July	Leaver's Performances – 6.00pm
Monday 21st July	Celebration Assembly – 10.00am
Tuesday 22nd July	Leaver's Assembly – 9.30am

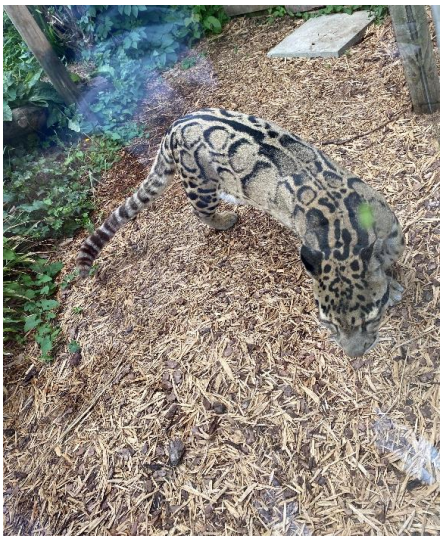


Bombers

What a busy term we are having. We have welcomed some new faces visiting ready to start in September and we are looking forward to the 'leavers' party next Tuesday (1st) over school at 3pm. For the parents of children transitioning to school please ensure you have completed the reply slip for FORS regarding party attendance. A big thank you to them for organizing the party. The 'leavers' did amazing at their little sports event on the 17th with reception. They took part brilliantly, sat, and cheered when not having a turn. We were very proud of them. We have been exploring the letter 'Pp' with 'porridge play/3 bears, looking at different sizes and had a display with penguin, polar bear, pirate and the spiky end of a pineapple. Our focus area has been literacy and there has been some lovely drawing, exploring letter stencils, listening to stories and colouring favourite characters. We also made some plant labels for our strawberries and wild flowers. Next week we are looking at the letter 'Gg' and our focus area will be Maths. Enjoy the sunny weekend.

Reception

What a fantastic start to the week we had in reception class! It kicked off with an action-packed visit to Thrigby Hall zoo. We really did have an awesome day! We saw very cute red pandas, a stunning snow leopard, the noisiest gibbons ever and some rather menacing looking crocodiles. Plus so much more. The children loved the coach trip too, particularly enjoying seeing scenery from high up! We could not have been prouder of our superb class - they were a credit to themselves and the school.





In phonics we have been revisiting the ou (shout) and oy (toy) sounds. In maths, we've practised multiple skills like adding and measuring with sports themed activities, such as mini javelin throwing, cotton wool ball flicks and bean bag target practise. The children made great predictions of scores before giving the activities a go!

Next week, we will be looking more closely at the animals we saw at Thrigby so we can write about them - for example, did you know a saltwater crocodile can go through 3000 teeth in a lifetime. Wow!

(We also have our 'Stay & Play' sessions after school next Monday and Thursday for the new children starting in reception class in September).

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have had our geography hats on and been looking at maps. The children have been talking all about places we find in Rackheath and drawing them. They have then moved on to look at our special maps of Rackheath and learning about what a map needs to include. The children then made their own maps in groups using their drawings of the landmarks and features of the village. This has been a lot of fun and the children did a super job!

In Maths this week we have begun learning how to tell the time. Now is a perfect age to make your child aware of the time (with any clocks that you have around the house, or even wearing an analogue watch) and teaching them how to read o'clock and half past. We started the week by talking about our day and the order in which things happen. We have also looked at days of the week and the order of the months of the year. The children finished the week by being introduced to reading the time to the hour (o'clock) and half past.

This week in English we have concluded our Tale of Peter Rabbit unit by completing retelling the story of Peter Rabbit. We have model written the middle and ending together before the children have had a go at doing it independently. They have also been reading through the stories and editing and improving any mistakes made. We

also completed a book review for Peter Rabbit. We finished the week by watching the Peter Rabbit movie which we all thoroughly enjoyed!

Year 2

It's been another fantastic week in Year 2.

This week in English, we wrote expanded noun phrases to describe the witch, and practiced writing extended sentences that included them. We also focused on the past progressive tense, discussing how it differs from the simple past (e.g., *was shouting/were shouting* vs. *shouted*). On Friday, we stepped into character as Gretel, imagining how she might feel when the witch asked her to check if the oven was hot. We wrote thoughtful questions Gretel might ask or be thinking in her head.

In Maths, we finished our statistics unit by working with pictograms. We practiced drawing and interpreting pictograms using different keys (1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s). Over the week, the children have developed such confidence in presenting and understanding data visually.

In RSHE, we reflected on what makes each of us special and unique, and celebrated the differences within our families. We discussed the importance of being true to ourselves and respecting others' differences. The key message was: it's okay to be different, and we should never feel pressured to change just to please others.

In Geography, we looked at Rackheath on a map and noticed that places are represented on a map by different symbols. We then created our own map keys for important locations in Rackheath and used them to draw our own maps of Rackheath.

Our spelling focus was the 'o' sound spelled with an 'a' after *wh*, *w*, and *qu*—for example: *wash, what, squash*. When practicing at home, see if your child can put each word into a sentence!

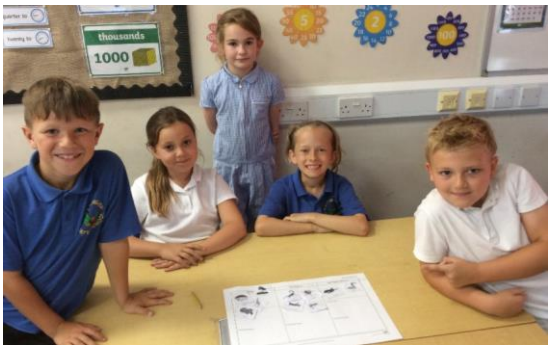
Year 3

This week in English, the children finished writing their adventure stories and were given time to make edits and improvements to their writing. Towards the end of the week, the children planned and wrote a first draft letter to introduce themselves to Miss Farrow ahead of moving up to Year 4.

In Maths, we have begun our next unit based on shapes. So far, the children have explored the four types of turns: a quarter turn, a half turn, a three-quarter turn and a full turn. Alongside this, they have begun to develop an understanding of acute angles, right angles and obtuse angles. Next week, the children will recap and build upon their knowledge of 2D shapes.

During topic lessons, the children investigated the ancient Mayan diet, discovering that maize was a very important crop, and formed up to 80 percent of their diet. It was so important that they worshipped their own 'Maize God' and believed that the first humans were made by the gods from maize dough! Alongside this, we explored the complex Mayan number and counting system which was very advanced for this period of time.

In Science, the children have learnt about animal skeletons (including humans'). During these lessons, they have analysed x-ray images of different animals before categorising them into 'vertebrates' and 'invertebrates. To extend their knowledge of skeletons, they learnt about the three types of skeletons – endoskeletons (all vertebrates), exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons (invertebrates). I wonder if your child / children can define each type of skeleton… they may be able to teach you something new!



Year 4

In English the children have spent lots of time retelling the story of Robin Hood. As part of the writing process the class came up with a checklist for their writing. They must have named almost all the writing skills we learn and use in Year 4, making for a very long list to try to tick everything off. After writing their first draft they helped to check and edit each other's work before publishing their writing. Once everyone has completed their publishing, we will pass our stories on to Mr Edwards to show him the wonderful writing they are capable of.

In Maths we have finished our unit on shape and revisited improper fractions and mixed numbers ahead of our end of year papers. Initially we had to jog our memories but once they started, they were great at following the method to answer questions. In topic this week we have continued looking at the Mayans, we have looked at Mayan architecture and spent an afternoon working in groups to build a Mayan home. This was a lovely afternoon which showcased the class's growing team work skills.

On Friday we completed our termly reading paper which had the children's brains working hard. They all focused excellently and showed great resilience when facing tricky questions. On Friday we discussed and explored how their bodies will change as they become teenagers and young adults. Despite this being a lesson that could lead to some silliness they demonstrated how mature they have become, giggling but able to focus. Finally, this week the children earned all their class points (they have been working towards a party which we will have on the final few days). They have now been set the challenge of earning class points for some rewards such as biscuits and fruit to have at the party. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the warm weather.





Year 5

Only a few weeks left to go in year 5 now…but we are still working hard!

In maths, we came to the end of our Averages Mini Olympics… we finished with 100m sprint where the children had to move cubes from one pot to another as quickly as possible. I will now add up all of the points that the children gained to see who will be our overall champion of year 5!

In English, we have come to the end of our unit on There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom work! The children were happy to see that Bradley had finally started to change and was now happy in himself and had friends. Most children gave it a 5/5 as a top must-read book for others.

In science, we have studied Charles Darwin. We looked at his life, what led him to come up with his world changing theory of Natural selection and how he made his discovery. We then looked at finches in more detail and used our art skills to make Darwin style drawings of their beaks.

But the highlight of the week has to be Mexico Day! First, I want to say a massive thank you to everyone for the effort that you all put in… the children looked amazing. On the day we listened to Mexican music, studied the Day of the Dead, made Aztec Sun Stones, watched Coco and even tried some Mexican style food. I hope none of the children had dodgy tummies from the number of Jalapenos that some of them ate!!






Year 6

It's been an exciting week in Year 6 with lots of play rehearsals taking place as well as having a 'Mexico Day' on Thursday. It was great to see so many children wearing bright and colourful outfits – and sombreros too! In the morning, we used clay to recreate Aztec sun stones and learnt about key differences between Mexico and the UK. Before lunch, the children got to make their own Mexican wraps with a variety of ingredients. Just some of these included: spiced rice, jalapenos, bell peppers, cheese, guacamole, salsa and lime. Some children found them spicier than others! We then learnt about the multi-day holiday celebration Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). As part of this, the children received their own skull masks and coloured them in vibrant colours.

In Maths lessons this week, our topic has been 'probability'. The children had to colour in a variety of spinners to match up with the statements alongside it. Examples included: likely to land on red, unlikely to land on yellow, impossible to land on blue, a 3 in 8 chance it will land on green etc. During another Maths lesson, children were given cards which they had to place under the correct headings of: impossible, unlikely, even chance, likely and certain.

In Literacy, the children recapped their understanding of persuasive language and used it effectively to ensure people would visit their Lunar Theme Parks (from last week's Maths's project). The children were excited that the stage was up in the hall and this enabled full rehearsals (including songs) to take place. They are all doing an amazing job and it's incredible that a lot of children already know their lines off by heart!

In addition to a further RSHE lesson, the children looked at a map of London and listed the similarities and differences compared to Mexico City. In a further Geography activity, they planned a holiday to their chosen destination within the county of Mexico and researched all of the activities that could take place there. They then designed a postcard from that part of Mexico to send back home to England to a friend or family member.





Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **18 out of 29** and
Year 4 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 Year 2 for the highest attendance again last week of 100%.
Attendance bear will spend the 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	Theo P, Ethan, All of Reception Class
Year 1	Enid, Riley, Isla C
Year 2	Ella, Jasmine, Lucy
Year 3	Rosie, Archie, Freddie
Year 4	Teddy, Theodore, All of Year 4
Year 5	Whole Class, Sidney, Xander
Year 6	Kian, Maisie, Dolcie

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman