Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 6th June 2025

What a fantastic and busy week we have had at the start of this half term! On Monday Year 1and 2 enjoyed an amazing trip to Bewilderwood. In the middle of the week our super FORS organised Father's Day Craft and we finished the week today with an epic talent show! *(report to follow next week)*



Sports Week Information

The week of 16th June is sports week which I'm sure will be very exciting!

We have sporting events taking place over 3 days starting on Monday details below:

Monday 16th – Fun Sports Day - 9:15-11:45 All children from Reception to Year 6 will compete in teams in a fun sports event. Parents can stay at school from the start of the day and then follow their children round, cheer them on and join in too!

Tuesday 17th – Reception Sports Day – 10:30-11:30 Our youngest children will compete in a special sports day with the leavers from the Bombers. Those leavers in the Bombers on Tuesday will be brought over by the staff, while any other leavers not in on the Tuesday can come with their parents. Parents to arrive from 10.20am.

Wednesday 18th AM – Key Stage 2 Sports Day – 9:15-12:15 Year 3 to 6 will compete in a series of races in the morning. Parents to arrive from 9:00

Wednesday 18th PM – Key Stage 1 Sports Day – 1:30-3:00 Year 1 and 2 will compete in a series of races in the afternoon. Parents can arrive from 1:15

Information on Sports Day Kit:



On the days the children are taking part in sports days they should come into school in their PE kit and can wear it all day. Hopefully as many of the children as possible will be in their team colours.

This means that on Monday all the children will wear their PE kit to school for fun sports. Reception will wear PE kit on Tuesday and all the children from Year 1 to 6 will need to wear their PE kit on Wednesday.

Please ensure children bring plenty to drink and have sun cream and a hat

Should the British weather intervene in any way we will let you know the reserve date as soon as possible. Thursday 19th and Friday 20th are the scheduled reserve dates.

Other information for parents

You can take photographs but please do not post any to social media unless the photo is just of your child as not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example where a child's location needs to be protected.

Spectators will have seats set out for them on the opposite side of the track to the children. Parents and other spectators should stay sat on the other side of the track to your children

Parents needing shade can bring umbrellas and use them or set up a pop up gazebo as long as you aren't obstructing the view of others



Our yearly survey of parent views organised by the governing board is ready to complete. This year the survey has moved online to make it easier to complete and collate the results.

The survey link is here: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/AcDX9fcTQw

We value your views and hope as many of you as possible can



We have our last 2 class assemblies next week. The dates are:

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

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



New Parent Meeting

We have sent out letters to the parents of our Reception Intake for September 2025. Our meeting for new parents is next week on Tuesday 10th June at 6:30pm. Following that we will have other transition events, the dates of which we will share on June 10th.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Why Challenging Behaviour is Part of Growing Up

When I was around six, I wrote a note to my mum to say I was running away - complete with a picture of me sticking my tongue out! I once had a full-blown meltdown in a shoe shop because I didn't like the sandals chosen for me, and I still remember angrily launching my pencil across the room when I couldn't get my spellings right. Why am I sharing this? Because it's completely natural for children to show challenging behaviour sometimes - it's actually part of how they grow and learn. Whether it's shouting, refusing, sulking or storming off, these tricky moments don't mean you're doing anything wrong as a parent. They mean your child is still learning how to handle big feelings, solve problems, and manage their world.

Your calm presence, clear boundaries and steady support help them learn. So when the wobbles happen (and they will!) take a deep breath and remember - this is what growing up looks like.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner). You're welcome to email me at: ccookson6nrf@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720098).



Next Half Term Events

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

- **Monday 9th** - NCFC Football League at the Nest
- **Tuesday 10th** - New parent meeting Reception class 2025
- **Friday 13th** - Athlete Visit to the school

Week of the 16th – Sports Week!

- **Monday 16th** - Fun Sports
- **Tuesday 17th** - Bombers and Reception Sports Day
- **Wednesday 18th** - KS2 Sports am, KS1 sports PM
- **Monday 23rd** - Reception Trip to Thrigby Hall



Reception

This week, the children have loved exploring another country and understanding the lives of children in other parts of the world with our story, *Handa's Surprise!* It tells the tale of a little girl in Kenya, called Handa, who takes a journey to a friend's house to deliver some fruit but she has some comical troubles along the way - ask your child what happened!

All the children had fun investigating whether they liked/ disliked different types of fruits when they tasted them - some more exotic than they may usually eat following the story. The book has been a brilliant aid to help the children explore and use a rich variety of language - describing a different place and describing a variety of foods and animals.



We were so excited to welcome back Ethan's nanny, Cheryl, with her beautiful tortoises! We learned so much and loved looking closely at these very special creatures – we even fed and held a tiny baby one! Thank you so much to Cheryl for giving up her time and sharing her expertise!

In maths, we have been shown our teachers all the skills we've learned this year and identifying our next steps. In phonics, we have been revisiting the 'or' (fork) and 'ar' (car) sounds.



Some of the class ASTOUNDED us this afternoon as they performed in the Talent Show – we had gymnastics and singing. The children were absolutely amazing and so brave – the cheers of support and love for our little people from the audience were immense – they did us and THEMSELVES very proud! WELL DONE!

Year 1

Well back to the first week after half term; we hope you all had a lovely week off! We kicked off the second half of the summer term this week in year 1 with an absolutely, fantastic trip to Bewilderwood. The children all had a superb time and made the day perfect for everyone who went!

In topic this week we have begun learning all about changes through time, focusing on looking at old toys that children used to play with. On Tuesday the children made their own cup and ball games, which they did a super job at making. On Thursday we made string puppets using toilet roll holders and string. These turned out really well!

This week in English we have continued looking at The Tale of Peter Rabbit focusing on writing character descriptions about Peter Rabbit. The children have all worked very hard at using expanded noun phrases to write their sentences about Peter. They have been editing and improving their work in books to create a final poster, warning other farmers about him.

In maths we have been learning all about position and direction. We have introduced and been using the language: near, next to, behind, in front of, on top of, left, right, under and between. The children have been having lots of fun giving each other instructions to find treasure.

This afternoon we enjoyed the Rackheath Talent Show where many of our year 1 performed beautifully; it was wonderful to watch.

Year 2

We've had an exciting first week back after the half term break.



On Monday, we started the half term off with a fantastic trip to Bewilderwood. The children had an amazing time – racing on zip wires, zooming down slides, and exploring the many climbing frames. They were absolute superstars all day, although there were definitely a few sleepy faces on Tuesday morning!



We used our adventure at Bewilderwood as inspiration to write a recount in English. We began by exploring three example recounts and, as a class, created our own checklist for what makes a great one. The children then wrote their own recounts, carefully including time conjunctions, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, and lots of descriptive adjectives. On Friday, we edited and improved our work to make it the best it could be!

In Maths, we have started our new topic: time. We began by learning to recognise O'clock times before moving on to half past, quarter past, and quarter to using analogue clocks. The children have enjoyed spotting key moments in their day – lunchtime at 12 O'clock, playtime at half past 10, and home time at quarter past 3. Why not challenge your child to tell the time at home?

In the afternoons, we have been busy preparing our upcoming class assembly. The children are full of excitement and can't wait to share everything they've been learning this summer term. We hope to see you all next Thursday!

We ended the week with some amazing auditions for the talent show. Year 2 certainly have talent – from singers and dancers to budding scientists. They should all feel very proud of themselves for getting up on stage and performing so confidently.

Year 3

We have had a busy first week back in Year 3!

In English, on Monday, the children made edits and improvements to their newspaper reports which they wrote at the end of last term. After making edits, they each wrote a final draft which has been developed into a 'book' and will be available to read in the school library from next week. During the latter part of the week, the children explored the adventure story 'Taking Flight' and wrote their own take of the clip.

In Maths, the children have continued learning about time. All the children have really impressed me with their understanding of how to tell the time to the nearest minute past the hour and the nearest minute to the hour. They have also been busy telling the time on a digital clock and differentiating between am and pm.

In topic the children have begun a new History unit of work. To begin the unit, we have looked at reasons for why the importance of the Maya empire and why it is necessary to study this civilisation in school. So far, the children have found that the Maya civilisation occupied Mexico and Central America. In addition to this, the children have learnt that these indigenous people were brilliant mathematicians and astronomers; they also used their own number system and developed an advanced system of writing.

On Friday, Finley's nan and four of her lovely Mediterranean tortoises kindly visited us. During their visit, the children found out about the tortoises' diet and lifestyle. The children really enjoyed looking at the old tortoise eggs, feeding the big tortoises and holding the young ones.

In RSE, the children learnt about the right to protect their body from unwanted touch and rehearsed the phrase 'Stop, I don't like it!' to use in the case of an unwanted future situation. In addition to this, they identified the difference between a secret and a surprise.

Year 4

This week we have settled back in to routine quickly despite the craziness of the summer 2 half term already starting. In English we have started looking at our final story, Robin Hood. This week we have learnt/ relearnt the story and discussed how different versions of the story can be slightly different from each other. We have also spent time exploring the characters and identifying that our word choices we will vary between the characters. On Friday we started to look at the main settings of the story and used expanded noun phrases to describe them.

In maths we have been looking at time, this is a tricky topic. We are all able to tell the time on an analogue clock (despite some need reassurance and a little guidance). We looked at using number lines to count on time and how this would work when thinking about a 24 hour clock. The children have been using the method of adding 12 to the pm time to find how we would show this on a 24 hour clock. For example 8pm would be 8+12=20 and therefore 8pm is 20:00.

I have been blown away by the wonderful optional homework we have had in all ready. I know for many homework is a tricky subject but we have made a positive start to the half term. I have encouraged those that missed the English task to try get both done in time for next Friday in order to avoid catching it up at school.

In topic between class assembly practice and the talent show we have begun our Mayan unit. We had an enquiry based lesson this week in which the children worked as detectives to find out information about the Mayan civilisation. The children then decided what they thought was important for them to learn about. On Friday we had a wonderful afternoon in the talent show. Everyone from our class who took part were truly fantastic and great to watch.

Year 5

A great start to the new half term in year 5!

In maths, we have been looking at decimals numbers. Our focus has been on mentally adding and subtracting these numbers, but we have also been using grids to help us visualise how they look.

In English, we have seen our main character (Bradley Chalkers) realise that he needs to change his behaviour if he wants other people to start believing in him. We have used the book to practise our use of verbs and nouns, as well as writing a diary entry based on Bradley's accidental visit to the girls' bathroom!

In Geography, we have been studying some famous human and physical features from around the world (such as The Great Wall of China). In science, we have been looking at evolution and finding evidence to show this in action. We looked at the different beaks of birds and how they have changed over time depending on where they live and what they eat.



We also started our RSHE work this week where we will be discussing the human body and what happens to us as we go through puberty. One of our golden rules is to try and talk to our parents about it so hopefully they will do this! In our lessons so far we have discussed our emotions, what impacts them and what we can do to make ourselves feel more regulated.

On a side note, I would like to say how pleased I am to be able to follow this class up to year 6 as they are brilliant!! I know some of them may be sad not to have Mr Edwards as a teacher but I promise that I will tell some terrible jokes during the year to make up for it!

Year 6

What a brilliant first week it has been! The children already seem excited about the end-of-year events, which will soon be taking place! Today, I will be sending a Ping message to explain further information (including dates and times) linked to these events.

This week, we began our Lunar Theme Park Project. This is where the children had to travel into the future and design a theme park to be built on the moon. So far, they've been given a budget to select which rides they would like as well as the number of shops, cafés and vending machines. Recently, the children have calculated ticket prices and worked out their income based on visitor numbers before calculating the cost of running their rides, shops and cafes.

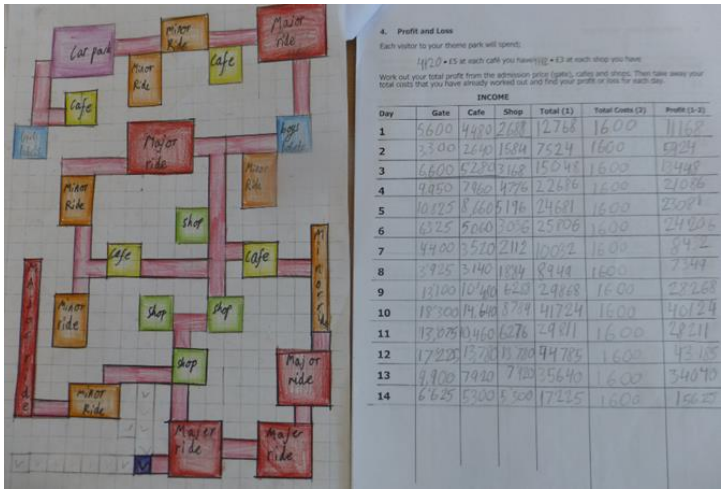
In English, we began planning a new creative narrative, which links to a very peculiar picture of a house balanced on a thin stump of land.

During afternoon lessons, we have had auditions for our end of year production of Treasure Island as well as discussing the plot and characters. In addition to this, we've had a variety of singing rehearsals.

In Geography lessons, the children were given a range of human and physical features from around the world. They had to find out where they are located and accurately place them on a world map.

We had our first RSHE lesson too and these will continue for the next few weeks.







Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **16 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **26 out of 32**

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



Well done to Year 5 for the highest attendance for the week before half term of 96%.
Attendance bear will spend the week in Year 5.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman