

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 11th July 2025

This week Year 6 have been to high school for their transition days at Broadland, Thorpe and Notre Dame. It sounds like the children who went to Broadland had a great time. I saw Mr Sprake, Headteacher at Broadland, today and he said the Year 6 children were brilliant over the two days. I also saw Year 5 at Broadland when they were there today. They were having fun on their Art & Science Day too!

We also held our transition morning on Thursday. It was lovely to meet the new Reception Class and their families as well as see our children in their new class settings.

Next week is equally busy. Tomorrow we have the Summer Fayre and then the whole school trip to the Hippodrome on Tuesday as well as the Leaver's Play on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

Camp Out – *I am just about recovered from a night of little sleep on the camp out last Friday. The children and staff had a brilliant time playing lots of different games including midnight manhunt (10:30pm manhunt doesn't have the same ring to it!) and having a disco and a picnic tea. This class may well have set a new record for the smallest amount of sleep. Even when I woke up at 3am there were still children chatting away in some tents!*

A huge thank you to the parents who provided tents and put them up. Thank you to Mrs Culling, Ms Holmes, Mrs Pilbrow, Mr Palmer and Mr Edwards for camping with the children too. Ms Holmes and I have now done 12 camp outs!!



Clubs Next Week – There are no after school sports clubs or Sing & Sign next week or in the last 2 days of term.

After School Club on Tuesday 22nd July - After School Club will finish at 4:30pm on the last day of term. Families of the children attending that day have been contacted about this.

Guitar Exam Success

It was lovely to be able to present certificates to 7 of our guitarists who recently entered the Trinity Guildhall Classical Guitar Initial Grade Exam. All passed!

Maxwell, Jacob, Mya and Emily gained Distinctions. Rachel, Amelie and Xander were awarded Merits. This is a fantastic achievement and well done for working so hard!



KS2 Cluster Athletics – On Tuesday we took part in Cluster Athletics at Broadland High School. As the organiser of the event I was very pleased that the decision for the event to go ahead paid off despite the cloudy overhead conditions. It was lovely to see all the schools cheering each other on. A total of 37 children from Years 3 to 6 represented the school in different events; 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, ball throw, long jump and relay. In the end we came third overall, only finishing 15 points behind the winners Coltishall. There were lots of great performances across the team. The following children won their events and deserve a special mention:

- Year 3 & 4 girls 100m — Mila and Harriet
- Year 5 & 6 boys 100m — Harlan
- Year 3 & 4 boys 200m — George
- Year 3 & 4 girls 200m — Isobel F
- Year 3 & 4 girls Relay — Mila, Harriet, Emily B and Isobel
- Year 3 & 4 boys Relay — Leo & Henry, Louis and Sebastian
- Year 3 & 4 girls Ball Throw — Matilda
- Year 5 & 6 boys Long Jump — Ellis



We had a lot of second places too. With two relay teams finishing second as well as second places in individual events for Rachel, Mya, Jack A-B, Jack N, Freya, Rosa, Leo, Freddie and Jackson.

Thank you to Ms Holmes for scoring the event and to Mrs Duckmanton, Mrs Howes and Mr Palmer who took the team.

Guitar Performance – On Monday the guitarists performed a lovely concert for the school and their parents. All the children performed fantastically well and it was brilliant to see them all perform so confidently in front of an audience.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Sometimes the Solution is Already There - We Just Need to Pause - Have you ever looked closely at the FedEx logo and spotted the arrow hidden between the "E" and the "x"? Once you see it, you can't unsee it - and yet, many people go years without noticing it. It's a clever reminder that sometimes the answer to a problem is already right in front of us - we just need a different perspective to spot it.

When you're caring for young children, it's easy to feel like you're stuck in a loop: the same bedtime struggles, the same chaotic mornings, the same emotional outbursts. It's tiring, disheartening - and often feels like you're doing everything you can. But as the saying goes, *if you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got*.

Sometimes the smallest pause - a deep breath, a moment of reflection, or simply asking "What else might be going on here?" - can help us spot a hidden "arrow" we hadn't noticed before.

It's not always about trying harder, but about trying differently. That bedtime resistance might not be defiance, but a sign your child needs more connection. That morning chaos might not be about lateness, but a need for calm, predictable steps. We often miss those clues when we're running on empty or racing through the day.

So this week, if something feels stuck, see if you can pause - even briefly - and look again. The solution might already be there, just waiting to be seen. Best wishes, Claire Cookson - Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner (ccookson6nef@nsix.org.uk or 01603 720098).

Selected dates for the next few weeks



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
Tues 15th / Weds 16th July	Leaver's Performances – 6.00pm
Monday 21st July	Celebration Assembly – 10.00am
Tuesday 22nd July	Leaver's Assembly – 9.30am



Reception

This week we have been focusing on sentence writing using lots of our sounds and red words. We have been using our addition and subtraction skills to solve problems in Maths. We have had a number of fantastic Year 10 work experience students join us this week. We were especially lucky in reception class to have Grace help us with our learning – music week. Yesterday, she played her musical instrument, the euphonium, which the children were blown away by. Grace played lots of nursery rhymes and a 'Frozen' song (you know the one!) The children were so inspired and all made junk model musical instruments so we could have a class orchestra together! The show didn't stop there though, many of the children added to the performance with dancing and gymnastics to create a variety show to be proud of! Many thanks to Grace for sharing her expertise with us! We have also changed our role play area to a gym where the children have been busy exercising, becoming personal trainers and booking gym sessions for members. Once again, we have had lots of fun in Reception class!







Year 1

The end of another super week in Year 1. Transition morning on Thursday was a great success and the whole class wowed Miss Shorten ready for September. We have had some musical afternoons this week where the children have used Purple Mash to compose their own songs, using pictures to represent the instrument being played. This has been lots of fun! We have also been having fun with the Spheros and learning how to programme them how to follow the maps we have drawn of the school.

In English this week we have been continuing Paddington. The children have been verbally retelling the story in their own words and we have created a story map, with actions, together as a class. We finished the week by writing sentences about the Paddington story using 'and' to join clauses. The children worked hard on this and produced some super sentences.

In maths we have been introducing money, starting off by learning how to recognise the value of different coins and notes. The children have been counting up coins using their knowledge of counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to help them.

They have even had a go at making different amounts with coins and then using them to buy things in our 'Year 1 shop'. Any opportunity you have at home to reinforce understanding about money will enhance your child learning.

Year 2



We're very nearly at the end of term, but we are keeping busy in Year 2!

In English we begun reading our new class book *The Velveteen Rabbit*! To start, we asked questions about the story and made predictions about what might happen to the rabbit. We then worked on developing our descriptive writing by creating expanded noun phrases to describe the rabbit, and practiced using these phrases in full sentences.

In Maths, we explored different types of turns—full turns, half turns, quarter turns, and three-quarter turns—and learned how to describe movement using the terms *clockwise* and *anticlockwise*. We've now completed all of our Year 2 Maths learning! We'll now spend time revisiting and consolidating everything we've learned this year.

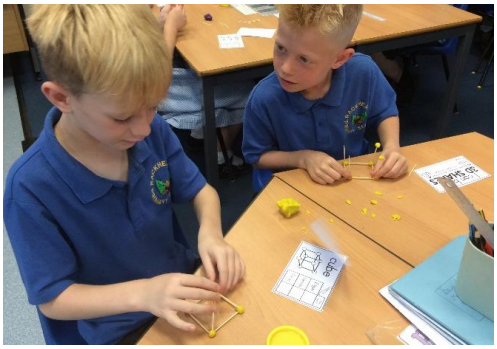
Our topic this week focused on the Women's Euros tournament. We discovered that this year's tournament is being held in Switzerland. We found Switzerland on a map, explored interesting facts about the country, and even designed our own Swiss-inspired mascots! As part of our school sweepstake, our class was assigned Denmark, so we also researched Denmark, located it on a map, and learned about its culture before taking part in a fun quiz and creating football support posters filled with facts we'd learned.



This week in RSHE, we discussed the important difference between a *surprise* and a *secret*. We learned that surprises are usually happy and revealed at the right time, while secrets can sometimes feel uncomfortable and are meant to be kept hidden. We discussed the importance of not keeping secrets – especially those that make us feel uncomfortable – and learned that we should tell a trusted adult if someone asks us to keep a secret that makes us feel uncomfortable. We also identified who our trusted adults are, both at home and at school.

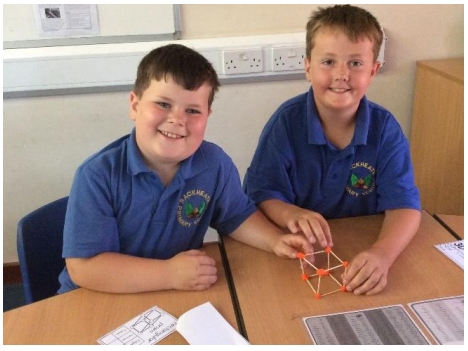
Our spelling focus this week was on changing *y* to *i* before adding *-ed*. For example, *try* becomes *tried*, and *cry* becomes *cried*.

Year 3



This week in English, the children have written Haiku poems following the 5-7-5 syllable pattern for each of the four seasons. They have also developed Tanka poems based on a subject of their choice. Next week, we will move onto learning about Kenning poetry.

In Maths, we have continued learning about shape. This week, the children have developed their ability to accurately and steadily use a ruler whilst drawing a variety of polygons. Alongside this, the children have names and explored the properties of 3 dimensional shapes. To conclude the week, the children worked in pairs to make 3D shapes using cocktail sticks and playdough; they also completed their final maths assessment of the academic year. Next week the children will recap their knowledge of statistics by reading data from bar charts, pictograms and two-way tables.



In Art, the children have been busy designing, created and beginning to decorate their own Maya inspired masks. Next week the children will get time to complete their masks and evaluate the final outcome.

On Thursday, the children all really enjoyed spending the morning with Miss Farrow; it was wonderful to see them return full of excitement to start Year 4.

Year 4



This week has been full of creative tasks in Year 4! As part of our Mayan Art unit we have made Mayan Masks using papier-mache. This was a messy task that many of the children showed resilience with as they did not like the feel of glue on their hands. Later in the week the children painted their masks adding facial features such as eyes and a mouth! Many of the class decided their mask was to be used for scaring demons away.

On Tuesday as lots of our class were out at the cluster athletics, we spent some time writing a story without any criteria for them to meet. As they typed up their ideas so freely, we could really see each of their personalities shine through! There were some stories with great twists for example a story which started at a Taylor Swift concert and ended up on the moon!



On Thursday they all came back very excited after a wonderful morning in Year 5. It was lovely to see so many of their worries just disappear. As part of our transition the children have spent time in English writing letters to Mr Edwards to let him know any worries and what they are excited about. As we planned our letters, I showed the children the letters they had written to me last year, we had quite a few comments about how different their writing was now. I really enjoyed seeing them recognise for themselves how much progress they have made this year!

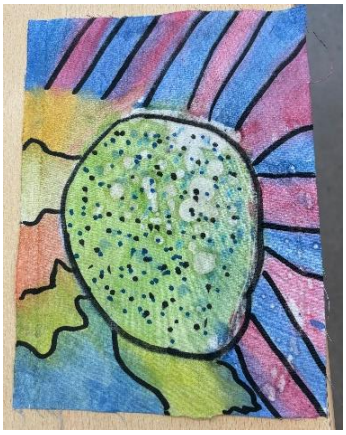
I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the summer fair!

Year 5



Almost coming to the end now… and I'm going to miss this lot loads… well until I see them again in year 6!

In maths, we have continued our work on ration and proportion by looking at how to share money out – to help us with this we used cubes. We then moved on to working out the difference in time and we did this by looking at Taylor Swift's 1989 album (much to Sophia's delight!).



In English, we have been continuing our holiday brochures based on Mexico. Our focus has been on vocabulary choices as we found out that we need to make them as persuasive as possible.

In topic, as well as holding another sacrifice, we have been looking at Aztec Gods and trying to guess what they were the gods of. We then made Aztec God Top Trump cards!

The highlight of the week has to be our transfer day and our day at Broadland. For the transfer day we painted rocks that will go into the wild area. We also painted Mexico desert skylines. At Broadland, we did some printing in art and material pattern making in textiles. Finally, in science we used microscopes, found the food with the most protein and tried to solve a crime using chromatography.

Year 6

I still cannot believe that there's only one more full week left in Year 6! Firstly, I wanted to mention what a fantastic time we all had during the camp out last Friday. They were all brilliant and we were able to pack in so many activities - midnight manhunt being the favourite!

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week, a lot of children have not been in school as it was transition days for high schools. It was lovely to hear how well they got on and I'm sure they will have a fantastic time in September.

Earlier in the week, we had further algebra reasoning challenges and continued inferring information linked to our class book… 'The Arrival'. We also began writing our Leaver's Speeches in preparation for our Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday 22nd July.

During some of the afternoons this week, we had rehearsals for our production and had another RSHE lesson - which linked to changes to the body. Also, the children learnt about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution in science lessons and learnt about Samara in R.E (the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth).







Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **18 out of 30** and
Year 4 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 2 for the highest attendance again last week.
98%.
That's 4 weeks in a row now!!

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Freja, Gracie-Lou, Teddy HJ
Year 1	Archer, Aubrey, Harry
Year 2	Zachery, Lucy, Yanna
Year 3	Sienna, Elsie
Year 4	Esme, Jayden, Sid
Year 5	All of Year 5
Year 6	Ellis, All of Year 6, Emily O

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman