

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Tuesday 22nd July 2025

At the end of the year I would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone in our community. The list of people to thank is just too long so instead I'd like to say thank you to all facets of the school community; all of you, the FORS, the Governors, the staff and the amazing children.

It is far from a complete list but during the year we have:

- Welcomed a new class and lots of new children to Rackheath
- Held lots of special curriculum days like Mexico Day and a Horrible Histories Day where we were visited by a Roman Soldier
- Studied the stars during our star gazing evening
- Presented our 'To Infinity and Beyond' learning to families on our museum days
- Performed two nativity plays and Treasure Island
- Enjoyed sports taster sessions in cricket, rugby, archery, karate and axe throwing! (Year 5)
- Developed our wild area
- Enjoyed a teddy bear clinic with Rackheath vets
- Been on residential trips to Aylmerton and Horstead in Year 4 and 6
- Been on lots of trips including a day trip to Eaton Vale with Year 3
- Been on a whole school trip to the Hippodrome Circus (thanks FORS)
- Been visited by Mad Science and a Planetarium and by authors, story tellers and sports people
- Been on local walks and visits to museums,
- Raised money for EACH, The Salvation Army, Comic Relief and Children in Need
- Been visited by Father Christmas
- Held an open-air Christmas Concert with the Salvation Army
- Had school musicians perform at live events and take music exams
- Taken part in competitions like the 8 billion ideas project
- Enjoyed lots of different sports and special sports days including Sports Week
- Taken part in different cluster events and other sports events
- Taken part in projects linked to the Second World War and the Rackheath airbase
- Won the Norwich City Football league 3 times. Winning the Championship once and the Premier League twice.
- Taken part in football events at Norwich's training ground and met Josh Sargent, Onel Hernandez, Marcelino Nunez and Ante Crnac
- Run lots of clubs after school including sports clubs, craft clubs, gardening club and sign and sing
- Involved families in cafes and book looks and held class assemblies
- Camped Out on the school field
- Held two water fights
- Performed Christmas plays, concerts and end of year plays as well as watching performances
- Enjoyed a wide selection of events organised by our amazing FORS including the recent summer fair
- Received our Outstanding OFSTED report

On top of all this on a day-to-day basis the staff teach exciting and stimulating lessons. Once again, our school performance data in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 was very pleasing. This is really important as it shows that the staff manage to combine exciting extra opportunities with academic progress and achievement and I thank them all for it.

"As we come to the end of another academic year, the Governing Body would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who makes Rackheath Primary such a special place.

*To our **incredible teaching and support staff**, thank you for your unwavering dedication, creativity, and care. Your commitment to nurturing every child's potential and making Rackheath a place where our children feel safe, happy and included continues to shine through in all that you do. It's been wonderful to see this ethos grow in the wild area.*

*To our **parents and carers**, thank you for your ongoing support, encouragement, and partnership. Your involvement in school life whether through attending assemblies, parent / carer cafes, fundraising events or through parent survey feedback - makes a real difference.*

*To our **wider community**, including the amazing **Friends of Rackheath School**, thank you for your generosity, time, and enthusiasm. Your contributions have enriched the school community experience for us all, from Christmas discos, jumble sales, the recent summer fayre as well as community fundraisers like Leonfest.*

*And of course, to our **wonderful children**, you have been brilliant! Your curiosity, kindness, and resilience have been a joy to witness. A special mention must go to our **Year 6 pupils**, who we now say goodbye to with pride and admiration. Your **incredible SATs achievements** are a testament to your hard work and determination. We wish you every success and happiness as you move on to your next adventure.*

*This summer also marks **one year since our Ofsted inspection**, where the school was officially recognised as **Outstanding**. This achievement reflects the collective effort of our entire school community and continues to inspire us to aim high and grow stronger together.*

We hope you all enjoy a restful and joyful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year ahead."

With warmest wishes,
The Governing Body of Rackheath Primary School





Today we said goodbye to Year 6 and Spencer. We wish them all the best of luck for the future! We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Petraglia and Mrs Coe.

Mrs Coe is a legend of the Bombers setting! She has been involved with the pre-school for around 30 years. Going from the village hall set up through to them relocating to the school site in 2013 and then becoming part of the school in 2019. Throughout her time she has always championed the children in Bombers. Her care and dedication to the children and the setting has been incredible! Even now she is talking about delaying her retirement to plug a possible staffing gap in September!

Mrs Petraglia has worked at the school since 2016. She first joined us as our Reception Teacher. She has had a number of different roles doing a brilliant job as English lead, EYFS lead and most recently she has done a super job stepping into the SENDCo role whilst Mrs Watson has been on maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best for the future.

Nurture Space

In September we are making changes to the way we support some of our children that need additional help and support to manage their emotions. Firstly, over the summer one of the changing rooms is being converted into a work and meeting space. This will allow us to create a more calming nurture environment in the space where Mrs Cookson currently works. Mrs Cookson, Mrs Redgrave, Mrs Leeming, Mrs Tunmore and Mr Palmer will be working in our nurture provision across the week. We will share more information in September.



Cluster Swimming Gala – On Monday 14th we took part in the Cluster Swimming Gala. The children all swam to the best of their abilities. We had two race wins, both in the butterfly and both by children who will be able to swim for the school next year. Well done to Ayla in Year 5 and Jackson in Year 3! On winning their races. Well done to the rest of the team too; Grace, Maisie, Mia, Harlan, Maxwell and Ethan.



Year 6

Our Year 6 children have had an incredible year, all of us are so proud of them all. They finished the year in style putting on a fantastic performance of Treasure Island last week and reading about their amazing memories in the leaver's assembly. They have been fantastic role models for the rest of the school and great buddies for Reception class. Through their kindness they have made such a positive impact at the start of the reception children's time in school. I know they will all go on to do great things at high school and look forward to hearing about all their future success. We will miss them all very much.

The assembly today was a fantastic way to say goodbye to the class. There was a real feeling of communal celebration as staff and families gathered together to celebrate 32 amazing children and their school journeys.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Edwards, Ms Holmes and Mrs Culling for the fantastic work they have done this year.

Leaver's Trophies – All children in Year 6 received an award this week. After much deliberation we also chose the children to win our special awards. They have their name engraved on a shield kept in school as well as receiving a trophy, which were presented in assembly today:

- **Mathematics Award** – Maxwell
- **English Award** – Emily T
- **Sportsman Award** – Harlan and Freddie
- **Sportswoman Award** – Rachel
- **Outstanding Contribution Award** – Maisie

SATS Results – As usual children in Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6 took part in national assessments. Children in Year 1 and 4 performed very well in their different tests. In Year 6 we have results for the school alongside the national averages.

- In maths 88% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 74% nationally
- In reading 75% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 75% nationally
- In writing 69% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 72% nationally
- In grammar and spelling 63% of our children reached the expected standard compared to 73% nationally
- 63% of our children reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to 62% nationally.
- We were also pleased with the number of children that reached the greater depth standard. 9% achieved this in writing, 28% in grammar, 38% in reading and 16% in maths.

Whatever their results all of our children can be proud of what they have achieved and the progress they have made. The results reflect the hard work of all in the school community – parents, staff and above all the children.

Celebration Assembly – On Thursday we held our Summer Celebration assembly, where each class team picks two children who have performed exceptionally well this term (never an easy task given the fantastic children in every class). This term's winners were:

- Reception Hugo and Ethan
- Year 1 Jacob and Enid
- Year 2 Jamie and Kipp
- Year 3 Myla and Ivy
- Year 4 Jacob and Ella
- Year 5 Aria and Anya
- Year 6 Leon and Grace





Bombers

Hello to all our families. The children have been very busy as usual with a variety of activities. We have been exploring cutting, collage, drawing, colouring and playing with sensory resources to fit in with our expressive arts focus, as well as the doctors role play, dolls house and pirate small world. We explored ice and shaving foam and have been playing musical statues, pass the teddy, dancing as our circle activities. The children have also loved the new sandpit and been good at turn taking as there is only really room for four at a time. There have been some wonderful constructions created and some nice group games outside such as What's the time Mr Wolf and Grandmas footsteps. The school leavers have also enjoyed some more time over the field with playing on the Pirate ship or having races. Our focus letter has been 'Cc' and we have had a display with cat; caterpillar, cake and cow. The children also explored letter 'C' stencils at the easel and some tracing patterns to nurture their pencil control.

It has been lovely to see some families coming back a bit early for stay and play prior to collection or a time to suit. It is lovely to welcome them in. A reminder you are always welcome at any time. Just ask a staff member. If any parents / grandparents ever want to come in from September and help on a regular basis their help would be most welcome. With young children, it is always good to have another pair of eyes in the room or outside. A session or even just an hour here and there would be invaluable. We have been receiving some lovely cards, gifts and good wishes and they are greatly appreciated. A big thank you from us all. Myself, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed in some way towards my retirement. It has been a pleasure meeting all our lovely families and watching the children over the years growing and developing new skills.

We are back on Wednesday 3rd September. Have a lovely summer and good luck to all our leavers in their new journey to school.

Reception

We asked the children to help us write this paragraph for the newsletter.

"We have had a fantastic time in Reception class this year. The BEST things about the year in Reception were: Baby dolls, cars, finding ladybirds and caterpillars outside, playing soldiers, growing and eating our potatoes, bikes, going to the Hippodrome, building with the soft blocks, drawing & colouring, swinging on the rope ladder in the wild area, our role play gym and making bracelets with the beads".

Thank you, Reception class, for being absolutely fantastic and cannot wait to hear about your time in Year 1 – lots of love Miss Brannan, Mrs Pulford, Mrs Rivett, Mrs Tunmore and Mrs Coull.

Year 1

What a super-duper last week and a bit of school in Year 1! On Tuesday we were all lucky enough to visit the Hippodrome Circus in Yarmouth; it was a fantastic summer show and the children (and adults) all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Year 1 made us proud by sitting beautifully throughout the performance and being sensible on the coach to and from the venue. Great job to Year 1! We also had the pleasure of watching our very own Year 6 performance on Monday which the children loved.

In English, we completed our final week of Paddington by planning and writing a fact file all about Paddington Bear. The children have done a super job at writing sentences all about the character and by drawing pictures to accompany their writing. They even had a chance to read each other's work and give them 2 stars and a wish for what was great and what could be even better. We used the afternoons to watch the Paddington Movie!

In Maths the children have worked their way through a consolidation maths booklet. This had a selection of all the maths skills that we have covered this year. Please continue to practise counting and recognising numbers over the summer holidays, any input at all with be greatly beneficial to your child!

We designed Class of 2025 t-shirts to celebrate and remember all the wonderful things we have done this year – we loved sharing our memories.

Despite the storms spoiling our water fight plans, we really enjoyed a mini party and movie afternoon with Year 2 to end the school year. Our favourite games were musical statues and learning some new dance moves!

Thank-you so much for all your generous gifts, we are very lucky! We have loved teaching your children this year and wish them all the best for Year 2. Have a great summer and see you in September.

Year 2

And just like that, a year has flown by.

A highlight of last week was our amazing trip to the Hippodrome. Not only did the children absolutely love it, but they also behaved beautifully—it was such a joy to see them watching in amazement and enjoying themselves so much. Back at school, we spent time working on landscapes of the Swiss Alps. The final pieces were truly impressive, with lots of detail and showcasing some fantastic watercolour work.

Our final few days have been truly wonderful. We've enjoyed lots of special end-of-year activities—playing with the parachute, having plenty of golden time, and finishing with a lovely party to celebrate the end of the year.

I am going to miss this fantastic bunch of children so much, but I know they will be absolute superstars in Year 3. I couldn't have wished for a more enthusiastic, fun, kind, and thoughtful group of children to teach in my first year—they will always hold a special place in my heart. I've told them all that they *must* come and visit me next year!

Finally, from both myself and Mrs Crook, a huge thank you for your kind words, cards, and generous gifts—we feel incredibly spoilt. Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

Year 3

We have all really enjoyed the last week and a half together in Year 3.

In English, the children have explored kenning poetry and have written their own two-word phrase poems to describe something indirectly.



In Maths, we been busy learning about statistics - the children have spent time analysing data; they have also recorded their own data using various methods of recording including pictograms, bar charts and two-way tables.

In Art, the children completed their Maya masks and evaluated their final outcome. To evaluate their masks, they reflected on their original Maya design and aim and considered whether their final design met the desired outcome. In addition to this, they review their favourite feature/s and made note of potential future changes. We also took a closer look at Maya weaving and the children were given the opportunity to develop their weaving skills. During the lesson, the children discovered that weaving is a tricky task; this allowed them to consider the level of patience required by Maya weavers. Nevertheless, they used teamwork, patience and persistence to create a variety of weaves.

We have had a wonderful final few days together, with an exhilarating time at the Hippodrome and a great class party full of cheer and great dance moves. Finally, I have enjoyed taking the time to reflect on what a super year all of the children have had and the progress each one of them has made.



Well done, Year 3 – you have all been a total pleasure to teach; Miss Farrow is one very lucky teacher to have you next year!

P.S. I would like to say a huge thank you for our wonderful end of year gifts on behalf of all the Y3 team – Miss Holding!

Year 4

Wow, this year has just flown bye! Year 4 you are officially ready to be Year 5's (after a fun filled summer of course!) Thinking back to September and looking through some of your work from the first term it is an amazing to reflect on how far everyone has come. They have kept me smiling all year with no dull moments to look back on.

This year has been wonderful and the last week and few days have been no exception! Last Monday our day started with excitement when the classroom chairs went on strike! The children had to work together to write letters to persuade the chairs to come back. This letters where great fun to read many of them apologising for farting and promising never to do it again! Then on Tuesday we had our amazing trip to the Hippodrome. Many of the children now have high ambitions for our next school talent show, we may need to invest in a swimming pool and a motor bike cage to help them perform. The rest of the week we finished off our final bits of work before settling into some end of term crafts and tasks. Yesterday we had our Year 4 party, which was great fun and a lovely way to end off our year together.

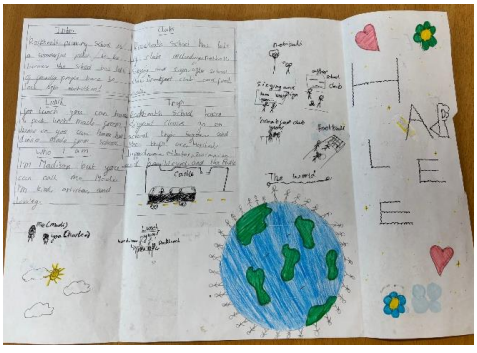
All of the adults in Year 4 would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and children alike for all the cards and gifts we received – it is incredibly kind of you and very much appreciated. Finally just want to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of the children for being so amazing this year! They truly are a special group of children that have been a pleasure to teach every day and to watch grow and develop over the year. We hope you all have an amazing summer!

Year 5

What a brilliant end to the year! I can honestly say that I am really looking forward to teaching this lovely group of children again next year…they have been amazing!



This last week, we have spent time getting ready to be buddies for our new reception children! That has meant making welcome cards and then information leaflets all about Rackheath Primary School. I was very impressed with how focussed the children were and they produced some excellent pieces of work!



We were also incredibly lucky to be joined by Salhouse Scout leaders who treated us to a day of Tomahawk throwing…it was so much fun!! Harley and Mrs Duckmanton were ace! Thank you to Mr Hill for helping to get that organised for us!

Finally, Mrs Duckmanton and I would like to say a massive thank you for our gifts…it is incredibly kind of you! I will actually be going to the seaside tonight to get some fish and chips!

Have a great summer all and I will see you in September!

Year 6



What an amazing year it has been! All of the Year 6 staff are so proud of this wonderful group of children. Since September, they have been excellent role models to every class, they have persevered throughout many difficult challenges, have demonstrated a positive attitude for learning and now they're all ready for their next adventure at high school. Since the last newsletter, we had our incredible trip to the Hippodrome, had two outstanding evening performances of Treasure Island, practised our speeches for the Leavers Assembly and received 'Funny Certificates'. This is amongst lessons and organising books etc to be taken home. Ms Holmes, Mrs Culling and I would like to say a huge thank you for all of the kind words, cards, flowers and gifts that we were fortunate to receive. It is very much appreciated!



We wish the children well in their future endeavours and know they will be missed by everyone. I hope you all have a fantastic summer and thank you once again…Mr E, Ms Holmes and Mrs Culling.

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

STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
The whole school win this week!

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a fantastic summer break. We will see you all on Wednesday 4th September for the start of another exciting year.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

