Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 12th September 2025

Reception Class 2025-26 – It has been great to see how well the new Reception class have gelled together and settled into the school. The children have had lunch in school for the last few days and have also met their year 6 buddies. I look forward to seeing the buddies friendships develop over the next few weeks. Thanks also to the Reception Team for all their hard work in making the children's first two weeks so successful. Next week the class will be in all day!



Exciting Playground News

On Thursday the children found out about our exciting playground development, which is due to take place over the October Half term. The project will transform the mound into an exciting play space that can be used all year round. CAP.CO (Creating Adventurous Places) are the company we are working with. They were involved in building Bewilderwood as well as lots of other amazing play spaces. A huge thank you to the FORS and all of you who have made this amazing project possible with your generous support of our fundraising.





Bombers Update

Unfortunately, we have been let down by the person we appointed to start as nursery manager in September. Denise Coe has been incredibly kind to offer to carry on in her role as manager for this term. I am very grateful to her for offering to do this and to the Bombers staff who have taken on more hours at short notice.

This does mean we are looking for a new nursery manager for January. An advert has gone out which can be found at https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/

Should you be interested and know anyone who might be suitable for the job please do share this information.



The Circus Is Coming To Town – The circus is coming to Rackheath for the week of the 22nd September. Circus Ferrel who last visited us in 2017 are coming back. The big top will be going up on the school field on Monday. Then the children will all get to take part in a circus workshop and circus themed events during the week. On Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th Circus Ferrel will be putting on shows for all the family to enjoy. More information about ticketing and performance times will go out soon.

Clubs

After School Activities

We are looking forward to clubs starting again next week. As always we want to ensure that the clubs run as smoothly and safely as possible. To help us with that if on the day your child is not going to be at a club please do let the office know so they can mark this on the register. This will mean that staff running the clubs know why someone down to attend the club isn't there.

If we have to postpone a club on the day we will let you know. For children from Reception to Year 4 we know that normally parents then pick their children up at the end of the day. However, we do know that some parents may not be able to pick up at short notice so we will make provision for those children to stay in school until the clubs scheduled end.

Thanks to Year 5 and 6 parents who have completed their preferences for whether their children can walk or not after school, after clubs and when a club is cancelled.

Parent Cafes – Our first cafes of the year take place from Monday 22nd September. As usual they will run from 9 until 10. The focus for these cafes is to give you the opportunity to take part in some exciting learning whilst seeing the children with their new teachers. Before the café parents can wait in the hall before being collected and taken to the classroom. The only exception being a Tuesday café when the hall is in use for ukulele. In this case Year 3 and 5 parents can wait in the entrance hall.

- **Tuesday 23rd – Year 3**
- **Wednesday 24th – Year 6**
- **Thursday 25th – Year 1**
- **Friday 26th – Reception**
- **Monday 29th – Year 2**
- **Tuesday 30th – Year 5**
- **Wednesday 1st – Year 4**

PARENT CAFÉ

Wellbeing with MrsCookson

In a world where you can be anything, choose kindness

Last night I went to a talk at The Maddermarket Theatre by Dr David Hamilton (@davidrhamiltonphd). He spoke about the powerful link between our **mind and body** - how what we think and feel can actually change what happens inside us. For example, when we believe we can get better, our body often works harder to heal.

What really stuck with me was what he said about **kindness**. Being kind - or receiving kindness - isn't just about feeling nice for a moment. Kindness makes the brain release "feel-good" chemicals that lower stress, lift your mood, and even make you healthier.

This morning on my way to school, I tried it out - I silently wished the drivers on the road to have a good day. At breaktime, I also started noticing little acts of kindness all around me (and there were plenty!).

Maybe this week, during a quiet moment at home, your family could share one way you've each shown kindness - or spotted kindness in action. It might surprise you how powerful those small moments can be.

For our school Padlet resources, please follow this link: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing

If you have a question or concern, please send me an email at **wellbeing@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk**

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner)



Parent Volunteers – We really value the support we get from parents who volunteer to spend time in the classrooms. We are always looking to add to our volunteers. If you would like to spend some time in school doing things like hearing children read or helping them learn their times tables please do let me know at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

School Book Fair



As mentioned in a Ping message last week, we will be hosting a book fair on the following days:

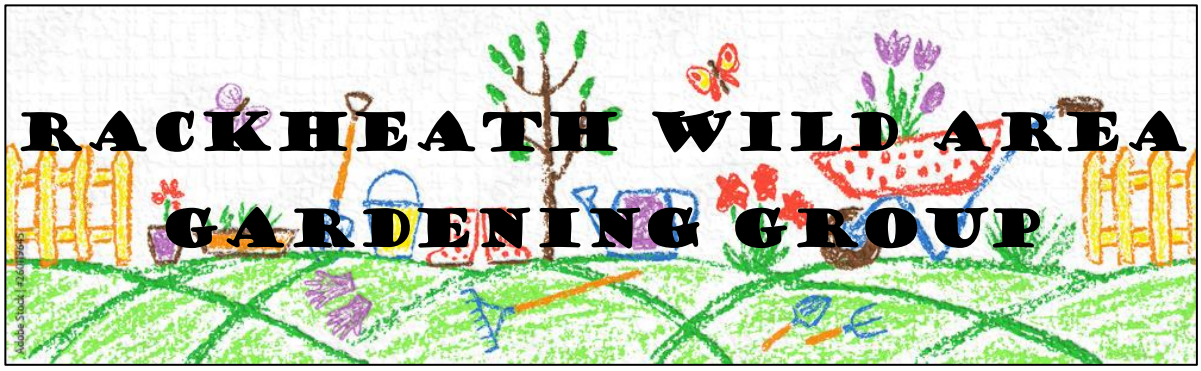
Thursday 25th September, Friday 26th September, Monday 29th September and Tuesday 30th September

It will take place from **3:15pm until 3:45pm in the hall**. Payments can be made by the following options:

- Scanning the QR code at the Fair - therefore please bring your mobile phone and credit/debit card along with you as the card details need to be entered.
- Clicking on the following link and selecting Rackheath Primary School from the drop-down menu www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay (This option will also work if you cannot attend the fair).
- Finally, pre-paid gift vouchers are also available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mr Edwards



The Gardening Club 'Trowel and Error' is back up and running! First order of business was to collect all of the apples as there were LOADS! Some just went straight into compost but we ended up with 8 large bags full! Thankfully, nearly all of these have now gone to good homes to be made into delicious treats (some of which I've been able to sample already!)

We've got some new members of the team now and they are looking forward to working hard, no matter the weather!

I wasn't to say a massive thank you to Mr & Mrs Duckmanton as they gave up time over the summer to come in and build a new water collection shelter to allow us to get some water down there…now we just need some rain!





FORS NEWS

The Lemonade Sale today raised £23.00. Thank you to everyone who supported this. Next Friday from 3.15pm – 4.15 pm there will be a Donut Sale held on the playground. A Ping with all details to follow next week.



Bombers

Hello from us all following a lovely summer break. The children have returned happily and settled back really well and we are meeting new faces joining us on a daily basis.

We have been focusing on PSE skills and the next two weeks our focus will be Physical development. (Gross and fine motor skills.) We will be using an assortment of one-handed tools for our craft activities and explore actions, dancing, balancing, climbing and exercises for our 'circle' group activities. Some children have been able to enjoy a nature walk in the afternoons, taking advantage of the numbers being low at present as new members filter in. We have also welcomed our student Mai back with us for now. She will be here every Wednesday/Thursday.

We would like to thank all our families for the lovely cards, gifts and kind wishes as we finished for the summer break. We wish lots of luck to all our school leavers and hope they are settling in well and enjoying their new environment.

Reception



A very big welcome to all our wonderful new reception children and their families – it has been a superb first week in class! All the children have been very keen to explore the different areas of our classroom both inside and out! They have consolidated existing friendships and we are starting to see new ones blossoming.



The wild area is proving very popular with the tree swing and tree climbing being a firm favourite. The water tray is always busy and the children are gradually remembering those skills they began at preschool and at home, such as turn-taking and sharing – not easy when there are 29 other children to compromise with. However, they really are all making a super effort – well done, children! We have loved seeing them find their own pairings for the double trike too and the way they have to communicate – '*Which way shall we go? Slower or faster? When do I want to get off?'*

We have enjoyed singing familiar songs such as Incy Wincy and The Wheels on the Bus. The children have been showing us their ideas for actions! And of course, we have enjoyed many stories together already, such as, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt.'



The highlight of the week was when our Year 6 buddies visited us today for a play session and to take us to lunch! It was a fantastic time - we were absolutely amazed by how confident our class were and how excited they were to meet and play with their buddies. Sometimes, reception children need support to meet and confidently communicate with much older children but, this year, every child was raring to go! A huge well done to all and we must thank the lovely Year 6 children for how wonderful they were with our young class.

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back next week when we will look at lots more stories together and explore our Class Golden Rules.

Year 1

What a wonderful start that we have had in Year 1! The children are all settling in beautifully and we have been so impressed with their kindness to everyone and positive attitude to school and learning. We have begun our topic 'Rackheath Rocks' and kicked it off with some geography, learning all about the 4 countries and capital cities of the UK. We have looked at where the countries are located, what their flags look like, the national emblems, food and famous people. We have read George and the Dragon and the children have made their own dragons. The children have also looked at Wales and had a go at building castles using classroom materials which turned out beautifully. We learned about Scotland and designed our own tartan. On Friday we looked at Ireland and had a go at some Irish dancing with some of our super Year 6 girls!



In English this week we have been reading Little Red Riding Hood. The children have then been retelling the story using actions and words. They have also been practicing their writing skills to label a Wanted Poster for the wolf. Perhaps you could see if your child remembers the story and the actions that go with it; they did a super job in class!

We have begun our phonics lessons this week, which we do every morning before English. This week we have been recapping on sounds learnt in Reception focusing primarily on 'ay and ee'. If you fancy practicing some sentence writing at home you could ask your child to write: 'I want to play in a tree.' Or 'I have seen a bee.' Making sure that they use full stops, capital letters and fingers spaces. Any practise at home is brilliant and we love to see it, and hear about it, in class.

In Maths this week we have learning all about Place Value. The class have wowed us with their counting skills and recognising the order of numbers 0-20. We have been counting backwards and forwards whilst making sure we understand each and every number. There are lots of videos on Youtube that you could watch with your child to practise counting forwards and backwards within 20 at home.

PLEASE hear your child read <u>at least 3 times a week</u> and record it in their reading records. Hearing your child read at this stage in their learning journey is key to making progress and developing a real love for enjoying books. Just 5 minutes a day will make a difference! Plus, they will then earn their reading stars in class, which they can spend in our class shop at the end of every half term.

Year 2

We've had a fantastic first full week in Year 2! The children are settling into routines beautifully and are already showing great enthusiasm for their learning.

In English, we've been focusing on writing sentences using capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces. I've been so impressed with how carefully the children are applying these skills. We have also been concentrating on the different ways of making the ai sound (ai, ay, and a-e). The spellings that went home on Monday are linked to this focus. We also explored what a *noun* is and went on a classroom hunt to spot different examples.

In Maths, our focus has been on place value. The children have been working with two-digit numbers, discussing how many tens and ones each number contains. Using base 10 equipment, they've enjoyed building numbers in a practical way and are already showing a strong understanding.

In Geography, we've been learning about the four countries of the UK. The children have been using atlases to find and label the capital cities, which they really enjoyed.

Finally, all children should now have a reading book and reading record. Please try to read together at least three times a week — it makes such a difference to their progress and confidence!

Year 3

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year; I am very excited to support your child(ren) as they begin their KS2 journey.

In English, we have begun our first unit of work based on the book, Charlotte's Web. So far, the children have learnt about and practised using, subordinating conjunctions, the present perfect form and prepositions to express time and place in their own writing. Next week, the children will write their own diary entry from our main character's (Fern) point of view.

In our guided reading lessons, the children have been reading a text linked to our class book. This week, we have discussed pauses for commas and full stops and explored the use of changes in tone and speed of our voice as we read. Additionally, the children have been busy using dictionaries to explore the meaning of the different vocabulary (including devour, aimless, scamper, peculiar and chaotic), found in our guided reading text.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their knowledge of place value to 1000. This week, the children have used base-10 hundreds, tens and ones resources to support their learning and secure their knowledge of place value. Alongside this, the children have enjoyed taking their learning outdoors and drawing place value counter representations with chalk on the playground.

In Topic, we have begun our first geography unit based on the local area. To begin the unit, we recapped the names of the four countries that make up the United Kingdom, along with their capital cities. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the atlases and identified Norfolk and Rackheath on their own map. Alongside this, we have spent time using Google Maps to analyse Rackheath before the children developed their own sketch maps of the area.

Please note, our 'Welcome to Year 3' parent café is on Tuesday 23rd September (9am – 10am). I look forward to seeing you there! Miss Holding 😊

Year 4

Wow what an amazing start to Year 4! Today I was asked if we would be doing something similar to a previous task from 'a few weeks or months ago' when referring to a task we did last Friday! This made me smile as I thought to myself that they have settled so well it feels as if we have known them for weeks and months already.

In English we have jumped straight in looking at our new book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. Initially the class knew very little about Pompeii, so we had a lovely discussion sharing our thoughts and ideas whilst looking at the front cover of the book. We had some great predictions including escaping to the city of Pompeii and of course the opposite escaping from Pompeii, a few children linked the word escape to possibly breaking out of prison or a place in which they were trapped. Later in the week we explored what happened in Pompeii and the children have written some wonderful description for different time periods on the day of the eruption.

In maths we have started our place value unit, this lays the foundations for lots of our maths this year. We began by revisiting knowledge of hundreds from Year 3 and have begun exploring numbers up to 10,000. We will continue with this work next week. In topic we have being looking at our local area and creating sketch maps to identify the use of land both in school and the village of Rackheath.

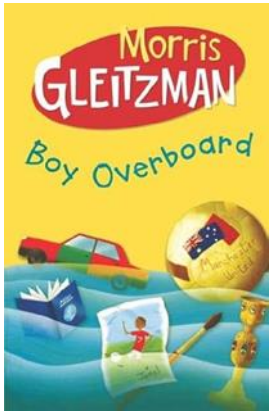
Finally, I would like to finish by reinforcing what a fantastic start everyone has had to Year 4! Myself, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling our all very excited to the year ahead. I hope you all have a lovely weekend!





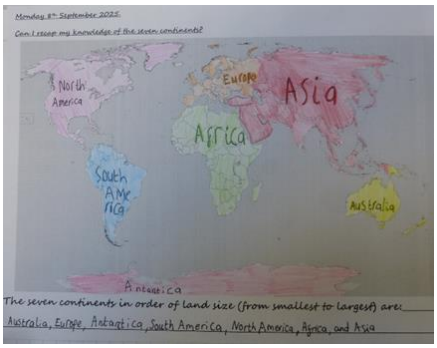
Year 5

What a brilliant start it's been to the new academic year! The class have been absolutely brilliant and should all be proud of themselves. Already, they are making excellent progress whilst demonstrating a positive attitude for learning. In Maths, our main area of learning has been 'Place Value'. This began with the children being able to read and write numbers into the millions and then being able to write down the value of each digit. Towards the end of this week, we looked at decimal numbers in the tenths, hundredths and thousandths. In English lessons, a lot of tasks have linked to our class book 'Boy Overboard' by Morris Gleitzman. In addition to showing an impressive understanding of the storyline so far, the children have planned an informal letter to a friend or family member back home – telling them what life is like in Afghanistan. In Science lessons, we learnt the acronym 'MRS NERG' to remember the seven characteristics of living things. They then classified animals within a Carroll Diagram. Just some of the categories within the diagram linked to whether the animals are a vertebrate or invertebrate. In our Topic lessons, we have learnt about WW2. This has included organising key events within a timeline and learning about the Axis Powers, Allied Powers, Allied Controlled and Neutral countries. Finally, we learnt about 'tessellation' in art and began producing our own tessellating patterns.



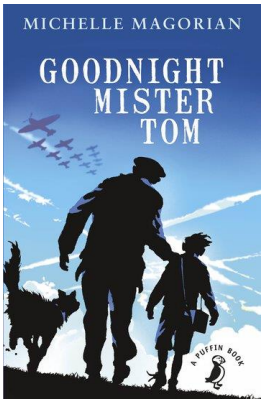






Year 6

It has been a great start to the new school year for us…the children have been phenomenal!

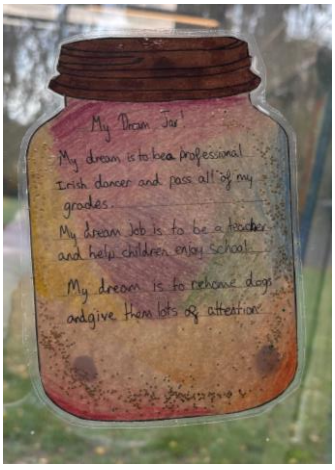


In maths, we have focussed on place value of numbers up to a million and have been trying to partition them.

In English, we have started our new class text Goodnight Mister Tom; this book links to our topic of WW2. So far, we have focussed on relative clauses and speech. The book touches on some hard hitting themes but the class have been brilliant and listening and understanding them.

For Rackheath Rocks, our history unit is WW2 – so far we have looked at the reasons behind the start of this war and then looked at some keys dates linked to this. For science, we have learnt about MRS NERG…the seven things that a living organism will do. See how many your children can remember. We have also thought about our dreams for the future and used these to create a Dream Jar display on our class windows.





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had

100%

attendance for the first 3 days of term last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Year 2 next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Reception will join these assemblies later in the year!
Year 1	Teddy H-J, Isla, Louis
Year 2	Luna, Pippa, Tyler
Year 3	Freddie, William, Niamh
Year 4	Leo, Henry, Evie
Year 5	Jack, Matilda, Jacob G
Year 6	Sophie, Aria, Sidney

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

DIARY DATES – 2025 to 2026



Term Dates

Autumn 1 – Wednesday 3rd September until Friday 24th October
Autumn 2 – Monday 3rd November until Friday 19th December

Spring 1 – Tuesday 6th January until Friday 13th February
Spring 2 – Monday 23rd February until Friday 27th March

Summer 1 – Tuesday 14th April until Friday 22nd May
Summer 2 – Monday 1st June until Friday 17th July

Class Show and Tell Assemblies

These take place in the hall, parents to arrive for 2:45pm start:

Year 5	Wednesday 8th October
Year 1	Tuesday 21st October
Year 3	Thursday 23rd October
Year 4	Tuesday 11th November
Year 2	Thursday 13th November
Reception	Tuesday 18th November
Year 6	Wednesday 26th November

There will be another class assembly in the summer term

Christmas

Mon 15th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – AM Year 1&2 Dress rehearsal - PM
Tues 16th December	Year 1&2 Performance – AM Reception Performance – PM
Weds 17th December	Reception Performance – AM Year 1&2 Performance – PM
Tues 16th December	To be confirmed - KS2 Performance with the Salvation Army – Evening
Thurs 18th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Year 6 Events

Week of 17th Nov	Aylmerton Residential
Week 11th May	SATS Week
Friday 15th May	Post SATS treat
Weds 1st / Thurs 2nd July	Broadland Transition Days
Friday 3rd July	Camp out
Tues 14th/Weds 15th	End of term performances – 6.00pm

Parent's Evening

Autumn Term	Weds 22nd / Thurs 23rd October
Spring Term	Tues 10th / Weds 11th February