Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 19th September 2025



Rackheath Primary Vision and Values – One of our key priorities this year is to rewrite our vision and values statement so that is clearer and becomes more high-profile in the school and within the wider community. We want to make sure that everyone knows and understands what we as a school community are all about and what we are striving to achieve.

It is really important that we gather views from staff, children and parents. As part of this process we would appreciate it if you could all fill in the short survey below. The survey is to help us to pick 7 key values we want our children and wider school community to embody.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lOM_8mowLU-yDq7UATSAsd71ahEnGFtLqGTKDrtZnX1UM1dPNTUzUkJTQU83TVNaREpaS09LOFJUSi4u



House Captain Elections

On Tuesday we held our House Captain Elections. The children voted in received their House Captain badges in assembly today. Our new house captains are:

- **Hickling Green – Emily and Xander**
- **Oulton Yellow – Erin and Jack**
- **Ranworth Red – Aria and Joey**
- **Barton Blue – Ayla and Sidney**



I look forward to them leading their house teams at Sports Day, presenting our House Captain Awards in assembly and being Heads for the Day.

Commiserations to the other Year 6 children who put themselves forward but didn't get voted in. You all would have been excellent House Captains too!



The Circus is Coming to Town

The circus is coming to Rackheath next week. 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 has gone out on School Ping this week. We hope to see lots of you at the shows!

Clubs are back - It has been lovely to get clubs up and running again this week. I have hugely enjoyed the 2 football clubs I have taken this week. All the children seemed to really enjoy themselves and showed great sportsmanship as well as lots of skill. This morning was also great as we had a NEW RECORD of 24 children come along to Cross Country Club, which was amazing!

Parent Cafes – Our first cafes of the year start next week. As usual they will run from 9am until 10am. 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

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

I hope you all had the opportunity to share your acts of kindness with your family over the past week.

Credit for this week's newsletter entry goes to Mrs Roe who emailed me with some information about the Adult Learning courses (available both online and in-person).

If you follow this link: https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing you'll find a new section on the school Padlet with the heading 'Adult Learning'. There's lots on offer, such as - DIY skills, Sports and Nutrition qualifications, wellbeing groups plus maths and English classes, too.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner). Please feel free to contact me at wellbeing@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk or phone 01603 720 098.

Special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) Update

It's been lovely to return to school, following my maternity leave, to catch up with the children and see how well they are all doing. I will be in school on Tuesdays and Fridays working with children, staff and parents to support all of our learners across the school. If you would like to arrange a meeting with me then please drop me an email on senco@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk or contact the school office.

Best wishes,
Hannah Watson

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

Scholastic Book Fair



As mentioned last week, we will be hosting a book fair, next week and the week after, 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:

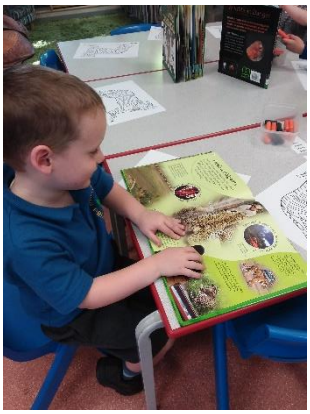
- By credit / debit card.
- Clicking on the following link and selecting Rackheath Primary School from the drop-down menu www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay (This option will also work if you cannot attend the fair).
- Finally, pre-paid gift vouchers are also available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go 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



Reception



Another great week in a very busy and happy reception class. We are feeling very lucky to work with this lovely group of children.

They have been really caring and thoughtful as we shared and discussed our class golden rules. We all agreed to try and stick to them and signed our golden rules poster by adding our fingerprints. This will help us to remember them! Talk to your children and see if they can tell you some of the rules. If not, we'll pop them on our communication app 'Tapestry' once it's up and running so you can prompt your child. **(See you at the parents / carers Phonics / Tapestry meeting next Friday at 9am, hoping you can all make it!).**



We have enjoyed lots of stories together again this week, such as Jez Alborough's *Where's My Teddy?* and the classic, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, which we wanted to share as we'd learned it was a favourite in some homes at the Home Visits. The children loved thinking about the characters in these stories, how they might be feeling and what might happen next!



We have been really focusing on gross motor skills with lots of music and dancing – the children have had to follow instructions, routines and think of their own moves. Also, listening skills have again been a priority – we used lots of different percussion instruments today in our listening game. Another focus has been fine motor skills which help the children to develop strength and agility for eventual writing / art work, etc. We practise things like pinching, cutting, sticking, peeling, colouring, squeezing and much more! There was some beautiful mark making today with chalk on blackboards! **Well done Reception Class!**

Year 1



What a fun week we've had in Year 1! The children have all worked very hard and shown us some really super listening, learning and sharing skills. We started the week by continuing our geography topic on the UK by finding Rackheath on a map of Norfolk and planning a route from school to the local post office. The children were then given their own envelope, and a copy of their home address which they had a go at writing on the front of the envelope. On Tuesday the children then wrote their own letter, popped it into their envelope ready to post on Wednesday. Our walk to the post office went very well and the children thoroughly enjoyed having a chance to post their letters.

In Phonics this week we have been recapping the sounds 'ow' (blow the snow) and 'igh' (fly high). If you fancy having a practise at some sentences at home you could ask your child to write: 'The snow is light.' And 'Look up high and low.'

In English this week we have been continuing our work on Little Red Riding Hood focusing this week on writing lists. Firstly a list of items that LRRH might carry in her basket and then making a list of the characters in the story ensuring that we don't forget capital letters for the names of characters.

In Maths we have been counting 1 more and 1 less. The children have been enjoying singing several different counting songs to 20, practicing writing their numbers 0-10 (ensuring that their number formation is correct) and using dice to roll a number before working out what 1 less or 1 more is. This sort of maths practise is really easy to do and a fun game to play at home, if you get the chance.

Well done for reading 3 or more times with your children this week. Year 1 were the Reading-Bear winners! Let's see how long we can keep hold of him for.

Year 2

We've had another fantastic week in Year 2! The children have worked really hard on our classroom routines and expectations, and their efforts paid off – they managed to earn 10 stars in the star jar, which meant some well-deserved Golden Time on Friday afternoon.

In English this week, we've been busy learning more about nouns and verbs. We started by spotting nouns in sentences and sorting words into "noun" or "not a noun." Then we moved on to verbs – if you can *do it* or *you are it*, it's a verb! The children had great fun acting out physical action verbs in a game of *Guess the Verb* and then spotting them in sentences. To end the week, we looked at those trickier mental action verbs – things we do in our heads – and the children really impressed me with how quickly they understood this.



In Maths, we've been building on our place value work, focusing on two-digit numbers. We practised using place value charts before moving on to partitioning numbers into tens and ones. The children also rose to the challenge of finding as many different ways to partition a number as possible! We then finished the week by writing numbers in expanded form, for example: 53 = 5 tens and 3 ones *OR* 53 = 50 + 3.

In Topic, the children wrote letters all about their Year 2 journey so far. We also learned about the lines of an address and had a go at writing our own on envelopes. We then explored a map of Rackheath to plan our route for our walk to the post office next week, where we will be posting our letters. Please, if possible, it would be great if you could send in a stamp so your child can post their letter to you!

Year 3

Yet again, we have had a brilliant week in Year 3.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their knowledge of place value to 1000. This week, the children have used place value counters to support their understanding of finding 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a given

number. Alongside this, the children have placed and estimated numbers on a number line. During the latter part of the week, they compared and ordered numbers to 1000.

In English, the children began the week planning their diary entries from the perspective of Fern. Following this, they wrote their diary entries with a focus on applying a variety of grammatical skills including present perfect tense, conjunctions and prepositions to express time/ for chronology. To end the week, we explored the setting and discussed adjectives to describe the farmyard.

In our guided reading lessons, the children have practising retrieval and inference questions linked to our class text.

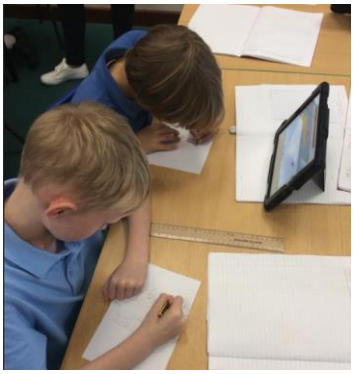


In Topic, we have spent time exploring the current land use in Rackheath and compared urban and rural areas across Norfolk. To conclude the week, the children explored how land is used for different types of farming and why the farming industry in East Anglia is now prominently mixed (both arable and livestock) this change came as a result of economic environmental and technological pressures.

Just a reminder, 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

This week in Year 4 we have settled fully in to our routine. In topic work we have continued to look at our local area. On Friday afternoon we spent time looking at news articles from 1988, 1999 and 2000 to find clues as to why Rackheath Primary needed a new school building. We also spoke to Ms Holmes who told us all about the old school building including the outside toilets with lots of spiders! In addition to this we looked at land use and the changes that have happened other time, this led us to looking at different types of farms and designing our own farm that was not only an arable farm but also had livestock.



In maths we have continued our work looking at place value, exploring large numbers. As part of this we have looked at 1000 more and 1000 less. We talked through and explored how and when exchanging will be needed to ensure we answer questions correctly. We have spent time using place value counters to practically explore different numbers alongside our in-book work.



In English we have continued to look at our class story "Escape from Pompeii". When writing sentences the children have become confident sharing ideas and imagining what life was like in Pompeii on the day of the eruption. This week we have continued to explore using fronted adverbials as well as first person and practiced writing in the past tense. These are all features the children will be aiming to include in their recount of a day in Pompeii which they will write through a diary entry.

Finally, the children explored 'Timestables Rockstars' in school and are starting to build their confidence with using the app. Next week we are looking forward to a visit from the circus as well our first swimming session.

Year 5

It's been a very busy (but productive) week in Year 5! The children have worked incredibly hard and have kept up their positive attitudes and resilience.

In English lessons this week, we completed our informal letters – linked to our class book 'Boy Overboard'. We then learnt about the difference between informal and formal language which will lead us into writing a second letter. This time, it will be addressed to the government of Afghanistan from the main character in the story of Boy Overboard.

In Maths lessons, we ordered whole and decimal numbers before rounding them to the nearest £1, £10, £100 and even 10p! The children were asked to think of items they would like to sell in their shop and then round these amounts to new prices.

During Science lessons, we continued our topic of 'Living Things and Their Habitats'. Whilst recapping our understanding of vertebrates and invertebrates, we completed a classification key to differentiate between various animals. Also, in Topic, we learnt about rationing in WW2 – in preparation for our Gressenhall trip. In Art, we learnt how to draw to a one-point perspective and I will include some examples in next week's letter! Finally, we began an '8 Billion Ideas' project. The children got into small groups and began thinking like entrepreneurs. Their main aim was to create a 'World Changing Idea'. Next week, we will begin the design process for this project.

Year 6

It has been another brilliant week for our new year 6 children but the highlight has to be seeing our buddies again! This year 6 group have been fantastic at supporting them, playing games with them and making the new reception children feel confident in their new school… I am incredibly proud of all of them!



We started the week with a visit to the Forum to have a look at the Silver Wings exhibit, along with our work. We didn't get to spend as long as we would have liked looking round at the fantastic items on show, but we did get to study photographs and maps that told us a little more about life in Rackheath during WW2.

In maths, we have continued our work on place value by looking at ordering negative numbers. In English, we have read more of Goodnight, Mister Tom and have focussed on the use of speech along with apostrophes for possession.

In topic, we have been thinking about life as an evacuee by comparing what we would take with us nowadays and what a child from WW2 would have taken with them. In science, we looked at types of seeds and how they are dispersed. ***REMINDER: We have our trip to Gressenhall next Thursday, which promises to be a fantastic day! Please see the letter about this regarding the dressing-up and the optional themed lunch.***



Finally, I want to say a massive well done to all of the year 6 children who put themselves forward to be a house captain. I honestly believe that every single one of them would have done an amazing job but unfortunately, we can only have 8 house captains.

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 4 who had

99%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Year 4 next week!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **25 out of 29** and
Year 5 who had **29 out of 31**

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Reception will join these assemblies later in the year!
Year 1	Allie, Isabelle, Owen
Year 2	Isla B, George, Mabel
Year 3	Chester, Aminah, Lucy
Year 4	Kory, Ben, Leighrye
Year 5	Isobel, Charlie, Eden
Year 6	Olivia W, Sophie, Millie

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman