Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 26th September 2025



What a busy and exciting week it's been at Rackheath. Circus Ferrel have been with us all week and the children have all enjoyed taking part in circus workshops. Our parent cafes have started, Year 2 went for a local walk on Tuesday and Year 5 and 6 went to Gressenhall on Thursday.

On Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th Circus Ferrel will be putting on shows for all the family to enjoy. The Friday show is at 6pm and the other shows are at 2pm. More information about ticketing and performance times has gone out on School Ping. You can buy tickets on the door. We hope to see lots of you at the shows!



Rackheath Primary Vision and Values – As previously mention, 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

Thank you to everyone who has already filled in the survey. It will stay open until Monday 6th October.

Parent Cafes – Our first cafes of the year have been great. They have been really well attended and the children and parents have really enjoyed them. Next week's cafés are.

- Monday 29th Year 2
- Tuesday 30th Year 5
- Wednesday 1st Year 4

As usual they will run from 9 until 10. As the hall is now in use every morning, please can parents wait in the entrance hall.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

The Power of How we Say Things - If I was more organised, I'd have a neat list of all the newsletter entries I've written - a quick way to keep track and avoid repeating myself! But if today's thought has come up before, I think it's worth saying again.

Whenever I use the self-serve checkout at the supermarket and the automated voice reminds me, *"Don't forget your shopping,"* I can't help but think it would be better if it said, *"Remember your shopping."* It's a small shift, but it makes me wonder how often the words we use can gently point towards what's helpful.

Why it works - When we tell children what *not* to do, their brains are left with a gap. If you say *"Don't run,"* they still have to work out what the better choice is. But when you clearly say what you want instead - *"Walk, please"* - *you've* given them a positive, specific action to follow.

This makes it much easier for children to succeed, because they don't have to guess what the "right" behaviour is - you've already shown them. Positive instructions also feel calmer and kinder, which helps children stay emotionally regulated and more willing to cooperate.

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.



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



We have had lots of visitors already to our book fair and there are lots of exciting reads available for all ages. If you haven't visited yet we have two more days left:

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.

Don't worry if there is only one copy left of the book you would like to purchase as these will be delivered when they come to collect the fair.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Bombers

Hello from us all in a very busy Bombers. We continue to have new faces joining us and they are settling very happily, which is lovely to see. This is testament to the caring and nurturing nature of the staff team.



We have been focusing on the children's physical development. Exploring many ways to move, using a variety of one-handed tools and thinking about our self-care with handwashing, toileting and the healthy food we eat. Our returners had a chance to go over for a 30-minute workshop at the circus tent on Tuesday / Wednesday that they thoroughly enjoyed.



The next two weeks we will be focusing on communication and language skills. There will be lots of stories, singing and a variety of sensory and tactile resources to inspire their descriptive vocabulary as well as small group conversations. There are some new posters in the lobby with regard to safe eating practices. Please could families remember when sending lunch to cut any small round fruits such as grapes /cherry tomatoes etc. lengthways and prepare cheese or meats in small strips. This will greatly reduce any choking hazards for our young children. Thank you.

Reception

The weeks are zooming by in reception class! It has been so much fun this week as we have been enjoying visiting the circus - observing the huge tent being erected and then practicing some circus skills of our own, such as spinning plates! Today, we enjoyed more time with our Year 6 buddies when we had a shared circus skills workshop. Our buddies were so kind, patient and helpful working with us. It was brilliant – the most popular activity was the parachute game!

We have also been enjoying exploring our 'welcome topic' called All About Me. Each child has drawn a self-portrait this week; it has been interesting thinking about our facial features and observing ourselves and others more closely. Our teachers have been conducting the Reception Government Baseline Assessments so that we are ready to begin our reading journey next week with our first Phonics sounds lessons! We are super excited about that - learning to read is one of the most empowering experiences for a young child and opens up so much more of the world for them - whether real or imaginary!







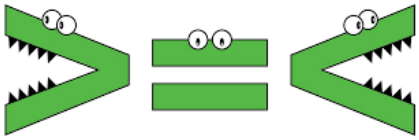
Year 1



What a fantastic week we've had in Year 1! It's been very exciting having the circus tent up on the field; we even had a chance to watch it being put up on Monday morning when it arrived. We also thoroughly enjoyed our circus workshop on Tuesday afternoon where they children had a go at some circus skills.

Thank you to all parents who managed to come to our curiosity café on Thursday morning, it was great to see you all there and some wonderful book marks were created!

This week in English we have been continuing with our class book: 'Little Red Riding Hood' and having a go at retelling the story by ordering pictures and adding captions. They have been learning to join words using 'and', whilst also using capital letters, full stops and fingers spaces in their writing. The children ended the week by editing and improving their work from earlier in the week, to give them an opportunity to make any corrections and to practise their beautiful handwriting. These have turned out wonderfully and have been proudly displayed on our class WOW wall!



In Maths this week we have introduced the symbols for 'greater than', 'less than' and 'equal to'.

The children have been comparing a number of object and finding which are more/less/the same. They have been learning how to use these symbols to make number sentences that are true e.g. 4 = 4, 3 < 4, 5 > 4. We have also been practising counting to 100 and also starting to count in 2s.

In topic this week we have begun our science unit introducing habitats and how they are important to plants and animals. We had lots of fun this afternoon searching for animals, birds and insects in the school grounds.

Year 2

What a busy and exciting week we've had in Year 2!



On Monday, we watched the circus big top being set up on the school field. The next morning, we stepped inside and tried out some circus skills, including plate spinning, juggling, and using the diabolo – the children (and adults) had lots of fun!

In English, we continued exploring nouns and verbs. The children began by sorting "doing verbs" into physical and mental actions, before being introduced to a third type of verb – "being verbs" such as *am*, *is*, and *are*. They rose to the challenge brilliantly and can now confidently sort words into nouns and verbs, as well as identify the different types of verbs.

In Maths, we've been focusing on number lines. We practised working with number lines that move up and down in steps of 1 and 10, and at the end of the week the children enjoyed estimating where numbers should go by creating their own human number line!



For our Topic lesson, we walked to the post office to post our letters. Although there were a few tired legs along the way, the children loved the experience. Thank you to everyone who sent in a stamp – hopefully lots of letters have already started arriving at home!

On Thursday afternoon, we introduced *Times Tables Rockstars*, which will now replace Sumdog. I'll be sharing more about this at our Parent Café on Monday 29th September, 9–10am, and sending home logins too. I look forward to seeing you there!

Year 3



That is another busy week completed! In Maths the children have been busy counting in fifties to conclude our place value unit of work. Following this, they began working on adding and subtracting ones and tens to 2-digit and 3-digit numbers.

In English, the children have been busy editing their writing. They have also used a variety of adjectives to describe the setting in our book 'Charlotte's Web'. To do this, they analysed it from Wilbur's point of view. Wilbur thinks the farmyard is a boring and unattractive place. Because of this, we discussed antonyms for lovely. In addition to this, we considered expanded noun phrases to describe our main characters (Charlotte and Wilbur).



We concluded our first Geography unit of work where the children have been learning lots about the local area, specially exploring changes within Rackheath over the years. The children really enjoyed reading old news reports to compare today's Rackheath Primary site to the previous school which was situated at the other end of the village with inadequate facilities.

Today, we began our first Science unit of Year 3. In the first lesson the children have been busy learning about the 7 life processes of all living things. Next week we will be categorising living and non-living things.



On Wednesday, we attended a lovely circus workshop. During the hour session, the children all had a go at walking the tight rope, juggling with scarves, spinning plates and playing Poi which is a game that originates from the ancient Māori people of New Zealand.

I would like to end this week's newsletter by thanking you for attending our class café on Tuesday. Both myself and your children really appreciate your support! Have a wonderful weekend. 😊

Year 4



Another busy week in Year 4! We were treated to a visit from the circus this week, it started on Monday when we watched the big top go up. During the week we were treated to assemblies and workshops in the tent where we were taught how to perform different skills including tightrope, plate spinning and juggling. On Friday the children had the opportunity to showcase their new skills alongside some old skills as they performed in the tent to Year 3.

In English we are nearing the end of our work linked to the story 'Escape from Pompeii', therefore we have spent time revisiting some of our previous learning in this unit ahead of writing diary entries next week. On Friday we worked together to create a checklist of all the writing features they will need to include in their diary entries. They created a long list including features such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and using the past tense. Next week we will carefully plan our diary entries before carefully writing them.



In maths we have continued looking at place value. This week we begun by comparing numbers to 10,000 and then looked at ordering them. Towards the end of the week we looked at the concept of rounding numbers to the nearest 10. Next week we will continue to explore rounding with larger numbers. In topic we have begun our science work by looking at what makes something living. To help us remember this we used the acronym MRS GREN (move, reproduce, sensitive, grow, respiration, excretion and nutrition).



Finally, the Year 4 parent café will be next Wednesday (1st), it will be lovely to see as many of our families their as possible.

Year 5



It's been another busy (but creative) week in Year 5!

In Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of rounding and moved on to finding the difference between positive and negative numbers. In English, the children continued to learn the difference between formal and informal language. They then used this knowledge to write a formal letter in the first person – linked to our class book 'Boy Overboard'.

During Topic lessons, we learnt about rationing during WW2 and then started understanding what life must have been like for evacuees. This led nicely into our trip to Gressenhall, where the children took on the role of an evacuee leaving London and arriving in the countryside.



Just some of the activities included: cooking, army drills, farming, sitting in an Anderson Shelter and also attending a WW2 shop, house and garden. The outfits were absolutely amazing and we really appreciate the effort you made! Everyone seemed to have a great time and represented the school brilliantly.

Finally, we had a lesson on the Blitz and our Geography activity linked to this was plotting the main cities that were bombed and thought carefully about the locations of each place. Next week, as well as our Parent Café on Tuesday, we will spend some afternoons continuing with our 8 Billion Ideas project.



Year 6

What a busy week we've had!! Too busy to actually fit all of my photographs onto this section.

It started with us being involved with the circus. We got to spin plates, juggle, tightrope walk, diablo spin and finally use some poi. The children (and myself) absolutely loved it with some really excelling.

We had our parent café this week to. The parents and children had an opportunity to construct a model of a WW2 Garden, complete with Anderson shelter and 'Grow your Own' vegetable patches. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more though… the children or the parents. We also went through some info linked to year 6 life.

This was followed quickly by our fantastic trip to Gressenhall as WW2 evacuees. Whilst there, we went shopping for a birthday party (which proved quite difficult due to rationing), we made some WW2 ration party treats (Mashed potato truffles) which I absolutely loved, we practised some home guard drills by attacking stuffed potato sacks hanging from trees, practising for an air raid by getting into an Anderson shelter and working water pumps, and finally we worked the fields like the Women's Land Army by picking potatoes. Lots of these are still available if you would like to bring in a bag on Monday. What I love most about this trip is that the whole day is a story and the children are imagining that it is 1939 – and their behaviour was phenomenal.

But, the highlight for the children has to be taking their buddies into the circus tent to practise all of their skills from the week!







Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had

98%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Year 6 next week!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **23 out of 29** and
Year 5 who had **25 out of 28**

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Chester, Willow, Marcia
Year 1	Theo P, Teddy B, Harry
Year 2	Jesy, Freya, Jace
Year 3	Phoebe, Harley, Klarka
Year 4	Myla, Lily, Elsie, Mia
Year 5	Esme, Edie, Henry
Year 6	Freya, Zander, Hugo, Joey

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman