Rackheath Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr C Ashman

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to another year at Rackheath Primary School. I have been lucky enough to spend time in all the classes over the past three days and it has been fantastic to see how quickly everyone in the school community has settled back into learning and teaching!

Our normal newsletter is a colourful affair and includes lots of photographs as well as reports about different events, winners of the weekly Star, Angel, Diamond awards and a paragraph from each class. These letters will start next week.

As usual we have lots of exciting learning planned for our school wide topic "Rackheath Rocks."

This week Reception staff have been visiting children at home. Next week will be exciting as we welcome the new class into school.

The start of the school day – it has been lovely to see everyone in school on time over the last few days. Last year we did find more children arriving late, whilst we appreciate there can be reasons for this, it is really important that children are in school by 8:45. The start of the day is when a lot of key learning takes place. If your child misses the start of a lot of phonics lessons they will struggle to keep up with their key early reading learning. Similarly, if they miss a lot of teacher input in a maths lesson they will find it hard to understand the learning for the rest of the lesson.

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.

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. The timetable for the cafes will be shared next week.

Attendance - Being in school on time as close to every day as possible is vital. We want to continue to work with you to support good attendance for all our children. Our attendance improved last year but it remains one of our school priorities this year to continue to improve our overall attendance figure. A separate letter was sent out on Thursday via School Ping detailing the new legal position regarding taking holidays and other unauthorised absence.

Nurture Space and Changing Rooms – Over the Summer we changed the boys changing room into a new work space linked to our new nurture provision. The room will now be used for meetings and for interventions and group work. This does mean that in Key Stage 2 boys will get changed for PE in their classrooms whilst the girls will use the changing room.

Y5 walking home – A form has gone out on School Ping for parents of children in Year 5 to indicate if you are happy for your child to walk home by themselves. Please do complete when you are able to.

Tuck Shop – Unfortunately, due to a change outside of our control VERTAS will no longer be running a tuck shop at morning break. Key Stage 2 children can bring in their own snack. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 still get their free fruit snack.

Knowledge Organisers – Knowledge organisers linked to our Rackheath Rocks whole school topic will be coming home over the next few days. They include some of the key learning we want the children to remember. A good thing to keep somewhere safe and quiz the children on as the term progresses.

School Website – Our website can be found at https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/ . This is a useful place to find out more about the school. You will find lots of information about the school's curriculum as well as our weekly newsletters and lots more.

Clubs – After School clubs will start in the week beginning the 15th September. We will send out information about the clubs and how to sign up for them via School Ping early next week.

School Lunches – The first week of ordering on our Scopay lunch app this year has gone very smoothly. Please remember to keep up with ordering lunches for your children. It really helps the office and kitchen to run smoothly when we know how much food to cook. Reception children have their first lunch time session on Thursday 11th. The office will liaise with parents about accessing the Scopay System.

Church car park – Rackheath Trinity Church kindly allow us to use their car park at drop off and pick up time. This is a really convenient and safe place to park. They do ask that parents don't use the car park at other times of the day. The owners of the Sole and Heel have also kindly agreed that their car park can be used at the start and end of the day. Please do take advantage of these places to park as they really ease congestion around the school and help keep our children safe.

School calendar – Next Friday you will receive the school calendar for the term, which will include all the key dates for the term. We have lots planned starting with Parent Cafes in September, leading into class assemblies, trips and finally dates linked to Christmas.

School Ping – Our main method of communication is through the School Ping app. Please let the office know if you are having any issues with the app.

School routines and rules

Football timetable and code of conduct

Everyone playing football agrees to:

- Play fairly
- Let all class mates who want to play join in
- Encourage each other
- Play in a way that keeps everyone safe

We also understand that:

- Sliding tackles cause most issues so they aren't allowed other deliberate fouls such as pulling someone over are also not allowed
- Rough play like that mentioned above will mean that the person being rough will have to spend some time not playing football

Lunchtimes

Year 5 and 6 have the pitches until they are called into lunch. Then Year 3 and 4 can use the pitches. At lunchtime younger children can play in the area in line with the wild area

Friday is football free

Monkey Bars Rules

- Only children from year 3 upwards can use the monkey bars
- When the field is out of use the class using the pirate ship can use the monkey bars
- During the school day the bars can only be used when an adult is supervising. Normally this will be at break and lunchtime
- If the bars are wet they will be slippery so can't be used
- You aren't allowed to climb over the top of the curved bars
- One person on the bars at a time
- The monkey bars aren't to be used before school
- After school only children from Year 3 and above can use the bars supervised by your parents

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman