Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd October 2025

We ended last week with 3 super circus shows on Friday and over the weekend. I enjoyed the show on Sunday and it was lovely to see how much fun all the children were having both watching and taking part in the show. This week has also been a busy and exciting one. It has been lovely to see so many family members enjoying working with their children in one of our cafes. Year 3 and 4 also enjoyed a road safety magic show with Olly Day!





School Photographer

A ping has gone out about school photographs, which are taking place on Monday 6th October. These photos are of all the children individually and with siblings. This takes place during the school morning but the photographer will start from 8:15 for families of children who have siblings in Bombers.

Class Assemblies

This term each class have an assembly where they share what they have been learning so far this year. In the autumn term the assemblies are just for family members (the rest of the school don't attend). Parents should arrive for 2:40pm. The first assembly is Year 5's, their assembly is next Wednesday. A full list of dates is below (if we have to change any of the dates, we will let you know as soon as possible)

- Wednesday 8th October Year 5
- Tuesday 21st October Year 1
- Thursday 23rd October Year 3
- Friday 7th November Year 4 (note this is a change from the Diary Dates sheet we sent home)
- Thursday 13th November Year 2
- Tuesday 18th November Reception
- Wednesday 26th November Year 6

Football Coming Up – The school football team have their first match of the season on Thursday 9th October at home against Coltishall (supporters welcome) The girls team take part in the Norwich City League on Monday 20th October and the Cluster football tournament is during the morning of Wednesday 22nd October.

Thursday 9th October - No Year 3 and 4 football club – There will be no Year 3 and 4 football club due to the home football match against Coltishall on that day.

Bombers Manager

As you know 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 closing date for applications is Monday 3rd November.





Rackheath Primary Vision and Values – As previously mentioned, one of our key priorities this year is to rewrite our vision and values statement. We have a survey for parents that will only take a minute or two to complete. It can be found at:

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

Thank you to everyone who has already filled in the survey. We have had exactly 50 replies so far. It will stay open until Monday 6th October.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Support for Brothers and Sisters – YoungSibs

Siblings of children with additional learning or medical needs often have their own unique experiences. They might feel proud of their brother or sister, but they can also sometimes feel worried, left out, or unsure about how to talk about their feelings.

YoungSibs is a national charity that supports these brothers and sisters. Their website has clear, age-appropriate information, activities, and real stories from other children who understand what it's like. There's also a confidential "Ask Sibs" service, where children can send in their questions or worries and receive kind, supportive replies. If you feel your child might benefit, you can explore more here: https://www.sibs.org.uk/youngsibs

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner). Please feel free to contact me at wellbeing@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk or phone 01603 720098.

Dates for your Diary

- Monday 6th October – School Photographs – Individuals and Siblings (starting at 8:15am for children who have siblings in Bombers)
- Wednesday 8th October – Year 1 and 2 How Hill Trip
- Thursday 9th October Football match at home against Coltishall
- Friday 10th October FORS AGM
- Friday 10th October FORS Movie Night in the school hall
- Wednesday 15th October Year 3 and 4 How Hill Trip
- Friday 17th October – Geography Day
- Monday 20th October – Year 5 and 6 Girls Football League at the Nest
- Wednesday 22nd October – Cluster Football
- Wednesday 22nd October – Parent's Evening Shorter Evening
- Thursday 23rd October – Parent's Evening Longer Evening



FORS AGM & Coffee Morning – Don't forget to join us for a coffee next Friday morning, 10th October, from 9am to 10am.

Movie Night – Don't forget to book your child in for this event by next Tuesday. The link is in the SchoolPing sent out earlier in the week.



Bombers

Hello to all our families. We have had a very busy time here. We have been focusing on our communication and language skills. The children have been listening to lots of stories and songs. We have had 'touchy', 'feely' books and many sensory materials to explore. We have created group 'collages', had sand and dough and the 'mud' kitchen outdoors to get creative with thinking of descriptive vocabulary. The children's words were, ''smooth'', ''soft and sticky'', ''bumpy'', ''It smells like milkshake'', ''mine's like milkshake chocolate''. Next week we are continuing our focus on communication. Lots of listening activities, following instructions and singing with 'puppets.

Reception

In reception class this week, we have really enjoyed starting our phonics sounds sessions. We have learned **m, s, a** and **d**. Please help us practise these at home, using our sound pot cards, at least 3 times a week & pop a note in our yellow reading record so your child can not only become a confident reader but also begin to earn their reading stars ready for their certificates! Today we enjoyed 'Word Time' in our phonics session in which we take the sounds we've been learning and build words with them - today we made and read together: mad, sad and sam. (We look at capital letters slightly later in the year).

We have loved learning about the look and feel of numbers this week – we learned rhymes to help us remember how to form the digits, for example, *"Down and across and down some more, that's the way we make a 4!"* We'll send the rhyme cards home next week so you know how to remind your child if they are struggling to remember how to write a certain digit. As always, we have had lots of equipment out to encourage the children to explore the value of different numbers and to help with recognising amounts.

The children have also enjoyed chatting about their 'All About Me' books that some of you made together at home. All the children created lovely pictures about who lives at home with them. They have listened carefully to each other, comparing similarities and differences between families/ homes and often enjoying hearing about the various pets in some homes! (And particularly enjoying the pet names!)

Next week, we are looking forward to exploring a traditional tale!

Year 1

A super week this week in Year 1. We have been continuing to expand our knowledge on 'Living Things and their Habitats'. The children have been learning details about what makes a habitat and how different animals thrive in different habitats. The children have also been learning about food-chains and have made a wonderful tube game for this. We also went outside for a lovely game on Rabbits and Foxes on Thursday afternoon which was great fun!

On Wednesdays after PE we are currently introducing the class to the 'Zones of Regulation', which they will have touched on last year in Reception. We use this framework and lessons across the school in order to help the children understand and manage their emotions, behaviours, and sensory needs. It's a great tool for understanding your child's emotions and for supporting them in understanding them too. For more information about it you can have a look online: https://zonesofregulation.com/

In English this week we have been continuing our book Little Red Riding Hood and have been practising our writing skills to produce instructions for LRRH about not going into the woods. The children have been making sure that they remember their capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and using bossy verbs.

In Maths we have continued to use our greater than, less than and equal to symbols to compare numbers. The children have been reading numbers between 0-30 and putting them in order from smallest to largest. We have also been asking the children questions such as 'which number is the greatest? Which number is the smallest? Is 14 greater than 21? Is 9 less than 12?

Year 2

On Monday, we hosted our Parent Café—it was wonderful to see so many of you there! I know lots of the children have already been enjoying playing TTRS at home and practicing their flashcards.

In English this week, we began a new unit where we'll be writing a recount of our trip to How Hill next week. We explored what a recount is, its purpose, and who our audience will be. The children have also been practicing key skills to use in their writing, including coordinating conjunctions, time adverbials, and writing in the first person.

In Maths, we've been comparing numbers using the terms *greater than, less than,* and *equal to*, as well as the symbols >, <, =. We looked closely at the tens digit first, and if they were the same, compared the ones. Towards the end of the week, we challenged ourselves to write two-digit numbers in words.

In Science, we've been learning about living and non-living things. The children discovered that living things need food, move, grow, need air, and need water—whereas non-living things do not. We then practiced classifying objects into those that are alive, those that used to be alive (like the wooden benches outside), and those that have never been alive. The children have been really engaged with this topic, which has been fantastic to see!

Year 3

It has been another wonderful week in Year 3!

In Maths, the children have been developing their knowledge of addition and subtraction. This week they have added and subtracted ones across a ten (for example: 47 + 5 and 52 - 4) and added 10s across a hundred (for example: 360 + 60).

In English, the children have identified the use of inverted commas and practised using them in their own writing to show dialogue between two characters. At the beginning of the week, the children had fun working in groups to add 'inverted commas' (macaroni pasta) to a variety of sentences to indicate the direct speech.

On Wednesday, Olly Day came into school to visit us and to teach us about the importance of road safety; he also presented us with some magic tricks which encompassed the message of 'Be Safe, Be Seen'.

In Science, we have continued learning about living things and their habitats. On Monday afternoon, the children really enjoyed visiting Year 2 to share their knowledge and posters about the 7 life processes of living things. Alongside this, we have been busy identifying living and non-living things and have also used Venn Diagrams to categorise living things according to their similarities and differences. To conclude the week, we explored and categorised vertebrates and invertebrates.

Year 4

Another busy week in Year 4! In English we have completed our big writes linked to the story Escape from Pompeii. We began by making freeze frames for different times throughout the day, then the children created story map plans and added notes about which writing features they may use. Once they had completed their writing the children used their green pens to help edit each other's work, this showcased their growing confidence with Year 4 writing. Finally, on Friday the children published their work, aiming to write and present a final copy of their work.

It has been an exciting week in maths as we introduced our class maths monkey. After much thought and a close vote the children settled on the name Monty Plication. Monty will be coming home with one child each week, alongside his maths book to complete some maths with you all at home. This weekend he is coming home with me to see what maths he can get up to! Aside from this we have been busy playing a few maths games this week to help

secure our place value knowledge and to develop our problem-solving skills. One such game is connect 3 on a number line, this would be a great game to play at home!

Wednesday was a very exciting day in class. We loved seeing so many of you at our parent café, I personally enjoyed getting to know you all a bit better. The children loved showcasing some of their in-school tasks with you. After this we were visited by Olly Day who gave us a magic show all about road safety. Year 4 had some great answers to his questions. Next week we will be looking at a poem in English called 'I am a Roman Soldier' and finishing off our place value unit ahead of starting addition and subtraction. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Year 5

Another week has flown by and yet again the children should all be very proud of their attitudes and work rate! In Maths lessons this week, we concluded our topic of positive and negative numbers by completing a series of word problems. After this, the class moved on to recapping their understanding of column addition. Some of the questions contained missing numbers (or digits) for the children to solve!

In English lessons, we continued a series of tasks based on our class book – Boy Overboard. In addition to this, we completed a range of grammar challenges which started off by learning the main components of a sentence. This then led to us writing single and multi-clause sentences. It's great that the children now have a solid foundation of skills which they will build upon throughout Year 5.

On Tuesday, we had our Parent Café and it was fantastic that so many parents and family members could attend. At the start, we studied the book 'Window' by Jeannie Baker. It is a picture book where (page by page) the view gradually changes out of the family's window. To link into our topic of WW2, the children had to create two pieces of artwork. One was the view of the London skyline during the Blitz and the second piece was the view of a countryside – where many children had been evacuated. The end results were amazing and these will go up around the Year 5/6 building.

The class got to play TTR (Times Tables Rockstars) for the first time and they seemed to enjoy participating in a range of games and challenges. Finally, as well as having further lessons linked to the Blitz, we started discussing our script for Wednesday's assembly next week!

Year 6

Another great week in year 6!

In maths, we have started to look at how formal multiplication using a compact method. Last year we used an expanded method but now we are trying to multiply large numbers in one easy step. See the examples below:

In English, we have been using speech and description to write a short story linked to our class book. We had some fantastic pieces of writing but a special mention must go to Nathan who managed to include all of the features we asked for, as well as being able to captivate with interesting detail.

In topic work, we have been looking at the lives of evacuees and how it must have felt to be removed from their homes and placed with a new family. We did this by getting into character and writing a postcard home. To go with this, we have completed a 'William' style piece of artwork based on the countryside which will be used to o on the postcard.

Finally, the children have been working hard on their 8 Billion ideas project – something that they are all obsessed with at the moment. They have now made their final plans of whet their product may look like. They should have created a list of items that they need to bring in to allow them to make a prototype of their idea. Please could any resources be brought in by Wednesday 8th October so that we can build.



Well done to Year 6 who had

97%

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 **27 out of 29**

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Charlie, Sophia, Olivia
Year 1	Maggie, Raife, Ethan
Year 2	Aubrey, Archer, Max
Year 3	Lochlan, Lucas, Henry
Year 4	Reggie, Sonny, Luke
Year 5	Mila, Jayden, Theodore
Year 6	Jenson, Sophie, Nathan

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman