Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 10th October 2025

Amazingly we find ourselves well into October. It is great to see how settled all the children are in school. They are working well and showing great learning behaviours. It has been another busy week with Year 1 and 2 visiting How Hill, Year 5 visiting Thorpe for a coding session and Year 6 going on a local walk. As I write we still have the FORS movie night to go!

Class Assemblies

Year 5 kicked our assemblies off in fine style with a lovely class assembly all about their learning so far this term. It was great to see lots of family members enjoying the assembly before going back to school; taking part in a World War 2 Themed Quiz! 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). Parents should arrive for 2:40pm.

- 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 Report – Match v Coltishall

The school football team had their first match of the season on Thursday 9th October at home against Coltishall. In a close game we took the lead with a lovely move finished off by Jack. For most of the game we were the stronger team but some near misses and some good defending from Coltishall kept the game close. As we went into the last 10 minutes Coltishall equalised from a corner and then scored what would turn out to be the winner in the last minute. The team were disappointed at the end but there were lots of good parts to their performance and it was great to give lots of children their first game for the school. Well done to all the squad; Freya, Xander, Jenson, Sid, William, Emil, Jack N, Hugo, Harley, Jack AB and Louis

Football Coming Up - 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.



Parent's Evening – The sign up for parent's evening went out earlier in the week. The booking is on SCOPAY this time! If you are having any problems booking up, please let the office know.



"I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Extreme Reading Competition. In total, we had nearly 40 entries – many of whom had sent in more than one photo! There were so many creative ideas which ranged from being under water, in a helicopter, appearing to be upside down in a house and on a theme park ride… to only name a few! Everyone deservedly won a certificate and we will set another challenge towards the end of the academic year. Lots of these photos will be put up in our library during the next few weeks too.

Well done to everyone who entered - especially Theo (in Year 1) and Klarka (in Year 3) for their winning entries. In addition to their certificates, Theo and Klarka won a book voucher and a book mark."

Mr Edwards

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.





Change in the Kitchen

We have had a change in the kitchen over the last few weeks. Shane has taken on a new role and as such VERTAS are looking to appoint a new head of kitchen. In the meantime Richard has joined Abbie. This has been one of the reasons why we have changed our lunch system to include the children wearing a wrist band so the kitchen staff know what the children have booked and have knowledge of any children with allergies.

Thanks to Shane for all he has done over a number of years. Should you have any queries relating to school dinners please do contact mail@vertas.co.uk or let us know and we will pass on your thoughts.

Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

The wellbeing page on our school website has recently had an update. You'll find a link to our wellbeing Padlet - filled with lots of information and resources for you and your family.

Please follow this link https://padlet.com/ccookson6nrf/wellbeing to take a look. If there's a resource, you'd like me to add to the Padlet, please get in touch at: wellbeing@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner - 01603 720098)

Dates for your Diary



- 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 NEWS

After a successful AGM this morning. We would like to introduce our new FORS team.

Our official officers are:

Chair - Treena Barrett / Tonya Colk
Treasurer - Lucy Bryan
Secretary - Alex Scott



A growing group of trustees:
Samantha Lines, Jenny Cornwall, Suse Sweatman, Evelyn Brink and Karyn Hitchcock

A big welcome to our new trustee members:
Jasmine Barrett, Anna Ayres, Emma Betts and Laura Cudden

Faces of FORS! Feel free to speak to any one of these should you have any questions or ideas regarding FORS events.

This evening was our Movie Night and our next event will be a Neon Nights Disco on Friday 7th November. A link to book will be sent out before half term.



Bombers

Hi from us all. The children have had a lovely week exploring 'Harvest' and focusing on their communication and language skills. We had a display of 'Harvest' vegetables and did some vegetable printing. Some of the children went for a nature walk and we made 'leaf' faces. They have played some 'lotto' games to encourage their vocabulary/attention, singing with puppets, listening to 'Farmer Duck' big book story, and watching 'The Gruffalo' on the screen.

Next week we will be revisiting PSE skills as our focus. Working together, sharing, turn taking and exploring how we feel.





Reception



The children have loved stepping into a more autumnal theme this week and especially hearing the traditional tale, 'The Little Red Hen.' We have learned to retell the whole story together as a class using picture symbols as a 'script' to read. Well done, fantastic job, reception class!



All the children loved getting stuck in to mimicking the main story character (Little Red Hen) &, like her, they made some delicious bread! They tried hard to use sometimes new vocabulary such as 'dough/ knead/ flour' etc. The children then enjoyed eating their freshly baked bread the next day for their morning snack.

In phonics, we have learned t, i, n and p. So, we could now try and read words like: nip, tin, pat, mat, etc. (Also using our sounds learned last week). We have started to learn 'tricky red words' too - these are words that cannot be sounded out in the normal way - either the whole word is tricky or it has tricky, unknown parts. We have looked at 3 such words this week: *my, like, the*. So, for example, with 'my' we would teach the children that we know the 'm' sound and that's behaving normally in this word, but, the 'y' is making a tricky sound this time ('igh'). Then we will try and learn it by lots of sight reading and thinking about the size and 'shape' of the word.



In maths, the children have enjoyed learning the formation rhymes for the remaining digits: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Some of the children took on the 'dominoes challenge' – which dominoes total makes 8? Some of the children problem solved (without prompting!) that they could add other dominoes to increase their total when they didn't have enough! We were really proud!

Next week, we are going to be thinking about the season of Autumn in more detail.

Year 1

What a super week we've had this week, with our first Year 1 trip of the year. How Hill was a fantastic day out where the children participated in 3 outdoor activities. These activities were pond dipping, nature art and den building. The children were absolute super stars all day; they showed some great team work, asked & answered some excellent questions and all got stuck into every activity!



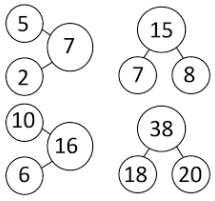




In Topic this week we have been designing and making bug hotels using plant pots, conkers, leaves, twigs and rolled up newspaper. The children had a great time making these and have placed them in our class wild area and will be checking on them for bugs over the next few weeks. We finished the week by learning how to do observational drawings. The class have learned all about Monet and have used some of his famous work to their own observational drawing.

In English the children have been learning all about 'imperative-verbs' and creating their own imperative sentences such as 'Draw a picture' and 'Build a tower.' They have been following instructions to make their own LRRH snack; which was lots of fun and very yummy! After our How Hill trip we used the opportunity to do some sentence writing about our day out. The children chose a photo from the day and wrote some beautiful sentences about what they did.

This week in Maths we have been adding! We have begun by using a part-part-whole model to add numbers within 20 (using counters and a number line to help us).



We moved on to creating 4 addition sentences using 3 numbers. 3+2=5,

2+3=5, 5=2+3, 5=3+2. Feel free to have a practise of these at home with any numbers.

We also introduced the class to our 'Maths Monkey' this week. His name is Addam Monkey and he will be coming home at some point in the year with your child to enjoy some fun maths at home!

Year 2



Another busy and exciting week has flown by in Year 2!

In English, we continued learning about the use of *time adverbials* in a recount. We also discussed how, when writing a recount, we need to use the *past tense*. We explored how most past tense verbs end with the *–ed* suffix, but we also discovered that some verbs don't follow this pattern — these are called *irregular verbs*. For example, instead of saying *goed*, we say *went*. On Thursday and Friday, we put our learning into practice by writing our own recounts all about our exciting trip to How Hill, making sure to include all the skills we have been developing.

In Maths, we have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, starting from different numbers and looking carefully for patterns in the sequences we created.



In Science, we learned about *habitats* — the places where plants and animals live. We explored our local habitat to see what living things we could find and discussed how they *depend on each other* to survive. We then investigated *microhabitats* in our wild area, searching for minibeasts and recording our findings in a pictogram. Next week, we will compare this microhabitat with another to see what similarities and/or differences we can spot.

Our Science learning was brought to life during our highlight of the week — our fantastic trip to How Hill! The children were brilliant all day and thoroughly enjoyed taking part in activities such as creating environmental art using natural materials, dyke dipping, and building dens to protect their chosen animal.

Year 3



Wow, I can't believe another week has flown by!

In Maths, the children have used number lines to subtract 1s across a 10 and 10s across a 100. They have also used base-10 resources to add two three-digit numbers together. Following this, the children used the pictorial method of addition through drawing base-10 on place value charts. Finally, they began using the abstract method of addition. Next week, we will use the same approach to solve subtraction questions.

In English, the children planned and wrote their own narratives, mirroring the storyline of Charlotte's Web. Whilst writing their own narrative, the children focused on implementing powerful adjectives to describe the setting and inverted commas to show dialogue between characters. To conclude the week, we recapped how to construct expanded noun phrases with prepositional phrases before revisiting our narratives to include more of this SPaG skill.



In Science, we have been busy identifying different types of vertebrates and explored the five vertebrate groups - mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Whilst exploring these groups we identified the similarities and differences in their characteristics (for example, reptiles have dry scaly skin whereas amphibians have moist, smooth skin). On Wednesday the children took a trip down to the wild area to explore the wildlife; whilst exploring they found a frog! Alongside this learning, the children identified a number of living things using a classification key before creating their own.

On Thursday afternoon, the children spent time playing Times Table Rockstars and Hit the Button to practice and rehearse their target times tables. 'Maths Master Monkey' joined in too!

Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have squeezed lots of work in! In English we started looking at the poem 'I am a Roman Soldier'. We have been looking at the poem and the author's word choices. At the start of the week after familiarising ourselves with unfamiliar words, we performed sections of the poem and discussed how emotions

change throughout the poem. Towards the end of the week we looked at synonyms, within this work we have been using a dictionary and thesaurus to help us understand why the author used different words. We used the poem to inspire some of our art work this week where we listened carefully to lots of instructions. The children have created and coloured some amazing illustrations.

In maths we have finished our unit on place value. We focused this week on rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. The rhyme 0-4 slide to the floor, 5-9 climb the vine has helped to see which way we need to round numbers. This week our maths monkey has gone out to his first family to see what maths he can do at home on top of any fun activities you have planned.

Finally in science we have looked at classification keys. We have talked about the different questions and why they need to be yes and no answers. The children then used a classification key to identify different animals before making their own questions. Next week we have a very busy week to look forward to with sport activities, our trip to How Hill and Geography Day.

Year 5

Year 5 have continued to be superstars this week and they should all be proud of themselves. During Maths lessons, we focused on column subtraction and this developed into answering a range of reasoning questions linked to this unit. In English, we began writing our final letter to a friend (from Boy Overboard) to inform them about our perilous journey. This was based on all of the events that the children could remember from our class book.

It was a very busy day on Wednesday because we had our coding trip - at Thorpe St Andrew High - and our class assembly! Whilst at Thorpe, the children programmed a micro:bit (minicomputer) to perform a variety of tasks. Just some of these included getting the micro:bit to display their name, light up, and show messages. The second part was led by the high school's digital leaders. After participating in an online safety quiz, they set the Year 5s a challenge to design a poster featuring the key messages of staying safe when using the internet. All of the designs were fantastic but a big well done needs to go to the four winners: Ali, Theodore, Jayden and Matilda! It was great to hear the Thorpe St Andrew staff comment on the children's excellent behaviour and positive attitudes.

I was also very proud of the class during our assembly. It was great that so many parents and family members could attend. It linked to our history topic of WW2, our trip to Gressenhall, our parent cafe and our class book (Boy Overboard). We concluded with a quiz which the children seemed to enjoy as it put the parents' knowledge to the test! Finally, in addition to further history and art lessons, we got to explore the wild area at the back of the field. To link to our science topic of 'Living things and their habitats', we went bug hunting and brought lots of living things back to the classroom. It was amazing to see what the children were able to find and how sensible they were being.






Year 6

As well as our usual English and maths lessons, we have had a brilliant week full of lots of unusual activities!

It started off with our 'Girls in Data' morning where a team from Aviva came into school to talk to the class about possible careers in data. They discussed the importance of data, how it is used and different jobs that you could do in the future linked to this. The children then looked at coding and created their own games using Scratch. I was really impressed with how well the children took to the challenge, especially William and Madi who managed to complete all tasks set!

On Wednesday afternoon, as part of our science project, we went into the Wild area armed with pots, tweezers and magnifying glasses to collect as many invertebrates as possible. We then brought these back onto the classroom and studied them further – our buddies even joined us for a look! We found: spiders, worms, centipedes, woodlouse, slugs, slug eggs, beetles, and even a frog!

Thursday afternoon found us strolling round Rackheath to complete a study of the village with us looking at road use, land use and then completing field sketches. We stopped at 4 points and talked about how and why each area was different.

As well as all of this fun, our usual lessons still happened! In maths, we have been looking at formal compact multiplication – a new concept for us. If you want to see how this works, please look at our school website where you will find our calculation policy.

In English, we have been building towards writing a short descriptive story based on Goodnight, Mister Tom. Our focus has been on adverbial phrases, use of inverted commas and the use of descriptive language. We also finished our 'William' style artwork for our WW2 postcards, many of which can be found on display in the year 5 and 6 area!







Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had

97%

Attendance 3 weeks in a row.
Attendance Bear will be in
Year 6 again next week!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **22 out of 29** and
Year 5 who had **25 out of 31**

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Leo, Rocco, Mavis
Year 1	Emmy, All of Year 1, Oakley
Year 2	All of Year 2, Eden, Caspar
Year 3	Summer, Cian, Emmy
Year 4	Hunter, Oakley, Sienna
Year 5	Theodore, Matilda, All of Year 5, Jayden, Ali
Year 6	William, Madi, Sophia

Have a lovely weekend