

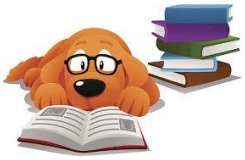
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025



Mrs Cookson – I am very sad to say that Mrs Cookson will be leaving us on November 6th. Mrs Cookson has been with us at Rackheath since January 2018 and in that time has done a great job supporting countless children and their families. We will all miss her a great deal and wish her all the best for the future.

Mrs Milligan, who worked at the school as a teaching assistant for a number of years, is taking on Mrs Cookson's role. Since leaving us Mrs Milligan has built up some great experience working for the Big C charity and then for a group of schools in a pastoral role. Mrs Milligan will be starting from the 13th November and is looking forward to meeting and working with our children and families.



Reading Dog Retires – For the last 8 years Gem and her owner Sue have been coming in to school to hear children read. So today was a sad day as it was Gem's last day hearing readers as she has now retired. Sue is hoping to come in to hear readers without Gem and we are looking to bring in another reading dog if we can.

Breakfast Club Dropping Off Procedures



After half term we are changing the way children come into breakfast club to mirror our procedures at the end of the day at after school club. From Monday 3rd November children will enter breakfast club via the set of black gates near to the hall. The gates will be opened by breakfast club staff from 7:45am when children arrive. Parents can ring the bell if no one lets them in straight away. This will replace the current system where children come in through the school.

Playground Build – Rules to Keep Everyone Safe

We are all very excited about the playground project, which is going to be starting over half term. The build will then go into the first week of the new half term. It will be amazing to watch the progress of the build and I am sure lots of the children will love to watch.

On the week of the 3rd November areas of the field and the playground will be cordoned off. To keep the children safe it is very important that everyone follows these rules:

- No one to enter into the building area at any point during the week. At the moment we are expecting the mound and the section of the field running from the mound to the wild area to be out of bounds for everybody.
- The path alongside this section of the field will be open for children and families who use that entrance to the school. Everyone must keep to the path.



Class Assemblies – This week we were treated to 2 class assemblies. On Tuesday year 1 shared their learning and then on Thursday it was Year 3's turn. Both classes did a super job sharing their learning to an audience of family members.

FOOTBALL NEWS!



Girls Football - Norwich City League at the Nest - On Monday our girls team took part in the first of three league events organised by Norwich City. With many of our girls playing their first competitive games there was a mixture of excitement and nerves at the start. Our first game was against Mile Cross. After an even start we took the lead through Ava and then captain Freya added two goals. The defence of Nicola, Esme and Jayden stayed strong throughout and we ended up with a great 3-0 win. Our next game was against a very strong Bure Valley, despite going 2-0 down quickly to two super goals the girls kept working hard and only conceded 1 more goal to lose 3-0.

Our third game was against Hemblington. The game was 0-0 for the first 5 minutes before Freya scored a super goal from long range. From there the girls played some super football with Ella and Matilda playing especially well. Freya added two more and Ava scored as well to give Freya a hat-trick and the team a 4-0 win. Our last game was against Lionwood, who started the game well, Izzy pulled off two super saves to keep the scores level, as the game went on the girls started to dominate but couldn't quite find a winning goal and the game finished 0-0. An excellent start for the girls in the league winning two, drawing one and losing one. Thanks to all the parents for their brilliant support.

Cluster Football Tournament – On Wednesday 22nd October we took two teams to take part in the Cluster Football Tournament at Hoveton St Johns. The Year 6 team were in one group of 4 and the Year 5 team in the other group.

The Year 6 team started very well with a 4-0 win over St Johns 2, with goals scored by Sid, Jenson, Xander and Harley with Freya at the centre of a lot of the action. In our next game we played Coltishall and in a very close game we narrowly lost 2-1 with Sid scoring our goal. In our final group game against Tunstead the team recovered from an awful start going 2-0 down to Tunstead to peg it back to 2-2, with 2 goals from Sid.

At the same time Year 5 were playing their games. We started with a 0-0 draw against Salhouse with Max making some good saves and some lovely football played by Sid and Stanley as well as some strong defending from Seb, Alfie and Parker. We then played very well to beat Coltishall 2 by 2 goals to 0 with goals from Louis and Jack. The team then narrowly lost 1-0 to St Johns in a very close and competitive game.

This meant both teams had identical records and both finished second in the groups and went through to the semi-finals. The Year 5 team put up a brave fight against Coltishall but ended up losing 3-0. The Year 6 team played their best game of the morning to beat St Johns 3-0 with goals from Sid, Hugo and Jenson.

The final saw us play Coltishall. The game was very close with Jack our man of the match. In the last-minute William pulled off a miraculous double save that looked to have taken the game to penalties but Coltishall finally forced the ball home to win the final 1-0.

Well done to all the children that played and thanks Mr Palmer, Mr Poole and Ms Holmes for taking the teams and to the parents for their support



Parent's Evening – It was great to see lots of parents at our two parent's evenings this week. I know the teachers enjoy the opportunity to meet and share the successes of the term both academically and socially.

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.



Wellbeing with Mrs Cookson

Stepping Outside Your Comfort Zone - It's funny how often we tell children to "have a go" or "try something new" yet we can be the first to stick with what feels safe and familiar! But stepping outside our comfort zone isn't just good for children - it's great for us grown-ups too.

When we try something new - whether that's joining a club, speaking up about something we care about, or even just saying yes to something that makes us a bit nervous - we give ourselves a little boost of confidence. It reminds us that we *can* do tricky things and that those first uncomfortable moments don't last forever.

And the best bit? When children see us having a go (even if we're not perfect at it!) they learn that being brave doesn't mean not being scared - it means trying anyway. We're showing them that mistakes are part of learning and that new experiences can lead to some amazing things.

So, maybe the challenge over the half term break is to do one small thing that's a little out of your comfort zone. Who knows - you might end up inspiring your child to do the same!

Best wishes, Claire Cookson (Pupil and Family Wellbeing Practitioner – Tel: 01603 720098).

Class Assemblies

Our assemblies next half term will be as follows. Parents should arrive for 2:40pm for a 2.45pm start.

- Friday 7th November — Year 4
- Thursday 13th November — Year 2
- Tuesday 18th November — Reception
- Wednesday 26th November — Year 6

Judo Session

On Monday 13th October, we were lucky to have a visitor for each class from Year 1 to 6. Mark from Harrier Judo club gave us the chance to try a free Judo session. Thanks Mark! Attached to this newsletter is a flyer with more information about his club in Acle should your child want to do more Judo.







Bombers

Reception



We have to start by saying the biggest WELL DONE to Reception Class – they have completed their first time at school and, without exception, they have been BRILLIANT! They are really gelling well as a group and learning how to play and work with lots of different characters. It has been a pleasure getting to know them all!



We have looked at **u, b, f and e** in phonics this week – the children loved practising their letter recognition and blending with the halloween potions activity – wizard hats, witches fingers and pumpkin cauldrons helped them to conjure up sounds and words!

In maths, we enjoyed focusing again on number formation and counting. The children loved playing with the large dominoes and practising counting and matching with those.

We ended our first term with a treat – a visit from a fantastic local author, Abbie Lawrence, and her daughter. They are both actresses and put on a special interactive storytelling session based on her book, ***The Loddon Dragon*****.** As they listened, the children helped to create the Dragon's fiery breath, were squirted with water to extinguish the flames and they joined in with the words as they learned them! *"Shh! Don't wake the dragon!"* If you wanted an idea for half term, you could visit Loddon Library where there is a 'dragon cave' – the inspiration for the book. Abbie runs lots of free library storytelling sessions too over half terms and her book is available to buy if you follow *Story Magic Norfolk* on Facebook.

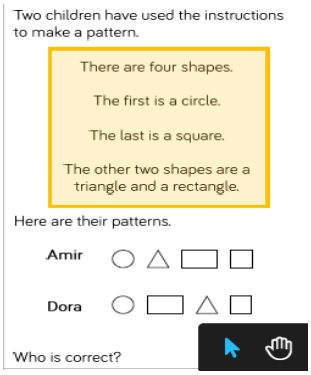


Year 1

We've had a busy last couple of weeks in Year 1. We started the week before last, with a karate taster session which the children all thoroughly enjoyed. We also practised hard all week for our class assembly which took place on Tuesday; the children were all very exciting about showing you what they had been up to this half term and they did an incredible job at presenting it to you all on Tuesday. We finished the week with our whole-school Geography-day where we mixed all the year groups up and the children spent the day with others from across the school. This year

our task was to design, and create, a brand-new country. It was so much fun hearing all the children's ideas and seeing how everyone collaborated so beautifully.

In English we have finished our work on Little Red Riding Hood and concluded by writing instructions for the woodcutter to get to granny's house. The children have been making sure that they use full stops, capital letters, finger spaces and bossy verbs. We have also introduced using exclamation marks; the class have really enjoyed creating some great phases to use these with! This week the children were introduced to our new topic for English and they met our friendly alien 'Beegu'. They worked hard to find out all about our new discovery and have labelled a picture of him using adjectives.



In Maths last week we used ordinal numbers (first, second, third etc.). We set the children a challenge to make a pattern of shapes giving them 4 simple instructions as to the shapes position in the pattern. Not only was this lots of fun but class did a great job at creating their own too. Here is an example of one, maybe have a go at your own one at home with your child. In the second half of the week, we moved onto practising using a number-line to find out the position of different numbers. We asked the children lots of questions about the numbers 0-20 e.g. If I start on 7 and make 2 hops forward, which number will I land on? If I start on 5 and make 4 hops back, which number will I land on? etc. All the children were getting the hang of using the number line to solve problems, by the end of the week.



This week we have returned to using our adding and subtracting skills to complete part-part-whole models.



At the end of the week the children learned all about Diwali and made their own paper craft and rangoli patterns. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from a story teller on Friday who worked in our class and ran a workshop with us all about Little Red Riding Hood. It was great fun and so lovely to see the children getting really stuck-in.

Year 2



We've reached the end of a wonderfully busy and exciting first half term — and what a great start to the year it's been!

This week in English, we explored kennings! We began by learning about their structure — two-word phrases that often follow a *noun + verb* pattern. The children then worked in groups to perform kennings with actions for the rest of the class to guess. Later in the week, everyone created their own kennings on a topic of their choice. We saw some wonderful themes — from Halloween and autumn to "under the sea," and even one inspired by Christmas!



On Friday afternoon, we had a special treat: the children shared their kennings with the Reception class. They loved reading them aloud and watching the younger children guess what each kenning described!



In Science, we learned about habitats around the world. Working in groups, the children created mini-presentations to teach the class about different habitats — including the plants and animals that live there and how they're suited to their environments. We also discussed food chains, exploring how living things depend on one another for food. The children then created their own food chains for woodland and ocean habitats.

This week in RE, we learned about the Hindu festival of Diwali. We listened to the story of *Rama and Sita* and discovered how people lit diva lamps to guide them home. The children enjoyed making their own diva lamps from clay and decorating them with bright colours and beautiful patterns.

On Friday, we were visited by a storyteller who shared the tale of the Loddon Dragon, said to live beneath the library! The children were captivated by the story and loved joining in as active participants.

Year 3



What a superb final couple of weeks we have had in Year 3!

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip to How Hill last week undertaking three activities: a game called 'Blackbirds and Hawks' linked to knowledge of food chains, minibeast searching in the woods and dyke dipping.





In Maths, the children have been building on their knowledge of adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. They have been solving questions that require exchanges from 10s to 1s and 100s to 10s in order to solve more complicated questions.

In English, the children have edited their narratives and written them up in neat. They then shared their stories with the Year 2 children. They have also recapped their use of prepositions for time and have written their own diary entries from Wilbur's point of view.

In Science, the children have been busy developing their own classification keys. Following our trip to How Hill, we reflected on our knowledge gained from the learning experience. The children then explored and discussed the impact of changing environments on habitats. During our discussions, we considered the importance of our role as humans in protecting different habitats.

The children have all worked really hard this week with rehearsing and performing their class assembly. I know they thoroughly enjoyed sharing what they've been learning about over the past half term with you all. Participating in a class assembly is not easy; particularly in the final week of term. Because of this, I am immensely proud of all the children for their determination and hard work.

Year 4



Wow, I cannot quite believe we are at half term already! It has just flown by, perhaps because we have been so busy. Last week we begun with a Judo session which the children loved. Then we had our trip to How Hill. On the trip everyone was fantastic we spent the morning finding creatures in the woodlands (such as a camouflaged moth on a leaf) before pond dipping. After lunch we played a food chain game in which the children had lots of fun trying to help their family survive.

Moving on to this week we have finished off our Roman English unit by writing poems starting each stanza with the phrase 'I am a Roman Soldier', the children have used some great vocabulary to elevate their work. Next half term we will be reading the Wild Robot and will be writing lots of descriptions based of the story. The children will spend time writing in the role of Roz to consider how the story could be told from her view point.





In maths we have continued looking at addition and subtraction ensuring we are secure in our knowledge of adding and subtracting 1, 10, 100 and 1000. This knowledge base will help the children as our sums become a bit trickier after half term. In topic we linked our work to How Hill and discussed which animals are found in different habitats. We then explored how habitats can be destroyed and what we could do to prevent this!

Finally, it was wonderful to have to opportunity to talk to you all at parents evening this week. I hope you all have a wonderful half term whether it be relaxing or busy!

Year 5

What a brilliant half term it has been! I wanted to start off by saying how proud I am of the children's work rate, resilience and enthusiasm for learning.

In Maths lessons this week, we concluded our topic of subtraction and began learning the expanded form of multiplication. This area will be continued after half term. During English lessons, we focused on a new text type – balanced arguments. Our aim was to create a balanced argument for Jamal (the main character from Boy

Overboard) to list the 'for' and 'against' reasons about travelling to Australia. I was so impressed by their understanding of our class book and it showed in their detailed (and creative) reasons!

In Science lessons, we continued learning about living things and their habitats. After finding the function of parts of a plant, we began planning an experiment. Each group will receive a seed and then see if planting them in different environments and materials will affect the growth. Also linked to this topic, we have had two recent art lessons – sketching butterflies and flowers. The end results were superb! The children demonstrated a fantastic understanding of our recent WW2 tasks too. These focused on the important roles of women during WW2 and how this changed before, during and after the war.

As part of Black History Month, the Year 5s discussed (and then researched) the lives of several heroic and inspirational people. Today, we also finished our 8 billion ideas project and the children presented their ideas to the rest of the class. Four winning groups will be chosen from Year 5 - as well as a further four from Year 6. These will be chosen after half term and they will present their ideas to a visiting judge.

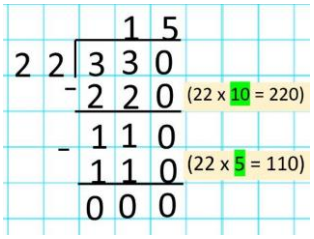





Year 6

A great end to our first half term as a year 6 class!

In maths, our focus has been on chunking for division. We have been learning how to work out questions such as 2,343 ÷ 16 by using big chunks! We were really impressed with how well they got on with this!



In English, our focus has been on constructing sentences using a subordinate conjunction and also finding the subject and verb of each sentence. For example:

Quickly, **William ran** into the house **before** the rain soaked him.

Most of our afternoon sessions have been used to get ready for the presentation day of our 8 billion Ideas project! The children have been using PowerPoints to help showcase their project and try to build a presentation that will persuade the judges that their idea is the best world changing concept. In year 6, we will select 4 winners with year 5 doing the same. Finally, we will have a 'Finals' presentation and the winning group will have their idea sent off to the national finals. The children are very excited.

Last week, we had our whole school geography day where each class was tasked with creating a new country. Children needed to think about land use, what physical features they wanted, what buildings they needed…even a flag! Here are a few of the final creations!




Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had

98%

last week. Attendance Bear will be in Year 6 after half term!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **21 out of 29** and
Year 4 who had **28 out of 30**

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Alice, Novalie, Libby
Year 1	Theodore K, Larna, Hugo
Year 2	Enid, Ruby, Jaylen
Year 3	All of Year 3, Jamie, Elliott
Year 4	Harriet, Willow, All of Year 4
Year 5	Max, Sid, All of Year 5
Year 6	Lilah, Bonnie, Cara

Have a lovely half term break. We look forward to seeing you and the children on Monday 3rd November.
Best wishes

Chris Ashman

