Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 14th November 2025

We have really packed a lot in to the week - On Monday the football team took part in the Norwich City League at the Nest. On Tuesday It was our annual governor day, when our team of super governors came in to school for the day. It was also Remembrance Day and we had a visit from a touring theatre company performing "Beauty and The Beast." On Wednesday it was Cluster Cross Country and then on Thursday Year 5 & 6 visited the nuclear bunker at RAF Neatishead! Finally today we raised money for Children in Need and also held interviews for the Bomber's manager position.



Mrs Milligan starting – It has been lovely to welcome Mrs Milligan back to the school over the last two days. Next week she will be getting to know the children across the school. Part of Mrs Milligan's job is to support and work with families too and I know she is available to chat with if you would like to. Just give the office a call.

Cluster Cross Country

On Wednesday we took part in the Cluster Cross Country at Coltishall. In all 40 children across Year 3 to 6 ran in one of the four races. The standard across the schools was very good and I was hugely impressed with the efforts and attitude of everyone who took part. Wherever the children finished in their race they can be proud of their efforts as they all ran through the pain barrier to achieve their best. We did have some standout performances the highlight of which being Ayla's fantastic and determined run to win the Year 5 and 6 girl's race.

Other top ten finishes came from Leo who was 4th, Henry who came 5th, Jamie and Ava who came 6th, William who came 7th, Emily B. who came 8th and Emily S and Archie who both came 9th. No matter where they finished all the children ran to the best of their ability and they can all be very pleased.



Overall we came second in the school competition. Our team was:

- *Year 3 – Chester, Eve, Freddie, Kipp, Ivy, Jamie, Lucas, Zach, Jasmine, Elliot and Arthur,*
- *Year 4 – Archie, Emily, Henry, Leo, William, Finley Elliot P, Sienna, Oakley, Karina, Florence and Willow*
- *Year 5 – Ava, Edie, Esme, Matilda, Jack, Jacob G, Louis and Seb*
- *Year 6 – Lola, Nicola, Emily, Sophie, Erin, Ayla, Nathan, Jack N, Jenson and Sophie*

Thanks to Ms Holmes and Mr Palmer for coming along with the team and to the parents for their support.

Playground Build – There has been lots of excitement linked to the building of "the bunker." The CAPCO team have done an incredible job and it looks truly magnificent! The main build was finished on Wednesday and all being well all the children will get an opportunity to play on "The Bunker," on Monday 17th after it has been inspected and we have had morning assembly. A huge thank you to CAPCO and to our incredible fundraisers at FORS as well as everyone who supports them and their fundraising. We now are looking to raise money for the "Command Centre," which will turn part of the canopies on the playground into an outdoor learning space.

Class Assemblies – Last Friday Year 4 shared their learning with family members, whilst on Thursday it was the turn of Year 2. Both assemblies were great and it was lovely to see so many family members in attendance.

Armistice Assembly – On Tuesday we marked Armistice Day with a special gathering of remembrance. The assembly was linked to the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II and based on giving thanks and remembering people. Richard kindly came in to play the Last Post, which was a very poignant and lovely way to end our shared silence at 11am.





Year 6 Aylmerton Residential – *Year 6 are gearing up for their week at Aylmerton starting next Monday. The forecast is for the weather to turn cold so it is really important the children all come with lots of warm clothing. A huge thank you to Mrs Roe, Mrs Goddard and Mr Cavender who are taking the class to Aylmerton for the week.*

Pantomime Visit – On Tuesday the children thoroughly enjoyed the Beauty and The Beast pantomime performance from M&M Productions. Lots of fun was had by all!



Norwich City Football League Day 1

On a very wet Monday afternoon the school team took part in the first of three fixture days at the Nest. We had 5 games to play in our league. We got off to an incredible start with some excellent play leading to a 6-0 win against Mile Cross. Our scorers being Jack A-B with a hat-trick and Sid T, Freya and Jenson scoring one each. Our next game was a really tight one against Hillcrest. William in goal along with Hugo, Jenson, Xander and Jack N helped to keep another clean sheet and near the end Freya scored an excellent goal to win the game 1-0. Our next game saw us win again, this time against Stoke Holy Cross. Yet again William didn't concede and our goals came from Sid S and Jack A-B. Our last two games were against Firside and Hethersett, both schools were very strong; the team battled very well but ended up losing both games 2-0. This meant we finished a very credible third in the group.

A big well done to all the team. Despite the relentless heavy rain they showed great team work, played well and stayed positive throughout. Thank you also to our super supporters!

School and Eco Council Elections

We held elections this week for our School and Eco Council and are pleased to announce that the following children were elected to represent their classes:

School Council		Eco Council	
Reception	Mavis & Chester	Year 3	Emmy & Freddie
Year 1	Ruby & Louis	Year 4	Florence & Leo
Year 2	Austin & Amelia	Year 5	Ava & Louis
Year 3	Niamh & Lochlan	Year 6	Freya & Jack
Year 4	Emily and Landon		
Year 5	Sidney & Mila		
Year 6	Amelie & Sidney		

School Calendar – Autumn 2

Class Assemblies

These take place in the hall from 2:45pm - Parents should arrive for 2:40pm

Tuesday 18th November	Reception
Wednesday 26th November	Year 6



Friday 28th November	Christmas Fayre
Monday 15th December	Reception dress rehearsal (AM) Year 1 and 2 dress rehearsal (PM)
Tuesday 16th December	Year 1 and 2 performance (AM) Reception Performance (PM)
Wednesday 17th December	Reception performance (AM) Year 1 and 2 performance (PM)
Tuesday 16th December	KS2 Carol Service 6.00pm
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

FORS News

Neon Disco - thank you to everyone who attended. We were able to raise £377.52. We look forward to planning our next disco in the Spring.

Raffle Tickets - Each child should have brought a raffle ticket book home. Please return sold tickets, with monies and any unsold tickets to the FORS red box in the foyer. There are also additional tickets on top of the box too.

Non-Uniform Rainbow Day - Monday 24th November. Please bring an item in the colour that your child's class has been given. A ping has been sent with all info.

Christmas Fayre - Friday 28th November after school in the school hall. Father Christmas will be visiting too (no booking required as this will not be a grotto).



Bombers

Hello to our all our families. We continue to have new faces join us and all the children have settled very happily. We have been covering communication and language development again this week with lots of role-play, small world, stories, following processes / instructions and talking about Fireworks, Diwali and Remembrance Day. The children worked together to create a lovely group Poppy picture and we did the two-minute silence using the sand timer to watch. They were amazing and all received a sticker for remaining quiet and still.



We have been celebrating Children in Need today with bright colours, painting and colouring. Thank you for your contributions. Next week we will be focusing on personal, social and emotional development. Revisiting our boundaries and talking about being kind to each other and sharing. We will be making a start on Xmas crafts and creating some new hand and footprints for our display in the playroom. A reminder that we will be having a Rainbow week from Thursday 20th November to Wednesday 26th November. Children can come in wearing any colour and bring an item of food for the FORS Christmas Hampers.

Reception

There has been even more singing than usual to be heard coming from reception class this week as we have celebrated 'International Nursery Rhymes' week as have other children from all over the world! The songs this year have been really different choices: Two Little Dickie Birds, Sing a Song of Sixpence, Humpty Dumpty, I hear Thunder and When I was One. We have had lots of fun learning some of the songs (they have been much wordier / longer this year!) and linking lots of our activities to the songs. Many of the children loved making two little dickie birds in a nest and, in our work about weather linked to 'I Hear Thunder', the children had huge fun dressing up in different weather appropriate clothes and explaining their choices!

In phonics, we have learned j, v, y and w. A favourite activity this week was the sensory play with 'jjjj jelly!'. Not only lots of fun for squishing between little fingers to help build strength and coordination but it also made our classroom smell very fruity and sweet! In maths, the children have loved exploring two dimensional shapes – they especially enjoyed the shape hunt around the school. It was interesting to discover which shapes were really common and which were harder to find. We helped each other to accurately name them and to try and explain their properties. We thought about the number of sides and corners and sometimes it was tricky to decide whether a shape was a rectangle or a square – we really had to check carefully whether two of the sides were longer! Triangles and pentagons were pretty difficult to spot too.

Next week, we are going to be enjoying another traditional tale and also, we look forward to welcoming you to our class assembly at 2.40pm on Tuesday 18th November.







Year 1

We've had a lovely week in Year 1 this week. We started the week by marking Remembrance Day by completing some potato poppy printing and learned a bit about why we celebrate Remembrance Day each year. In topic we have been detectives in trying to find out how the Great Fire of London started. The children also worked though ordering the key events of the Great Fire and sequencing these events so they understood how the fire spread. On Tuesday we were lucky enough to be joined by M&M productions who performed this year's panto for us all; the children loved the Beauty and The Beast storyline and found it very entertaining to watch. On Friday this week we learned all about Children in Need and the importance of raising money for charity.

In English this week we have been reading further on in our story of Beegu and learning a bit more about our friendly alien visitor. The children have been using their writing skills to create a Lost Poster all about Beegu, concentrating on using noun phrases and the word 'and' within their sentences. We finished the week by editing and improving their work for our class WOW wall!

In Maths we have been focusing on subtraction by using objects to create subtraction sentences e.g.



5 – 1 = 4

We have also been using number lines to count backwards and recording what we have done as a subtraction sentence. The children finished the week by having a go at some maths word problems which they completed in pairs. Great work everyone!

Year 2

What a fantastic week it's been in Year 2!

We had two exciting highlights this week. The first was the *Beauty and the Beast* pantomime, which the children thoroughly enjoyed — it was a fantastic afternoon for everyone. Our second highlight was Thursday's class assembly. The children were incredibly excited to share what they have been learning, and every single one of them read their line clearly, confidently, and with a big smile. It was wonderful to see so many of you there.

In English, we have continued working with our book *Fire Cat*. We began by stepping into the role of John from the story and writing statement sentences in the first person. We then learned how adjectives describe nouns before exploring the present progressive tense to explain things happening right now. The children combined adjectives and the present progressive tense to create some brilliant sentences. Next week, we will be completing our Big Write.

In Maths, we have been continuing our work on addition and subtraction. This week we focused on using mental strategies, especially number bonds, to help us add to the next ten and subtract from a tens number.

In History, the children examined eight historical sources and used them to piece together ideas about how and why the Great Fire of London may have started. Next week, we will find out whether their predictions were correct as we explore the sequence of events during the fire.

Year 3

Yet again, it has been wonderful week in Year 3!

In Maths, we have completed our addition and subtraction unit. To conclude this unit, the children worked hard to solve a variety of worded questions where they were required to make decisions on whether the question was asking them to add or subtract. During the latter part of the week we moved onto our next unit, multiplication and division. The children also spent some time on *Hit the Button* and *Times Tables Rock Stars* to practise their target timetables.

In English, the children have learned about fronted adverbials. This week we have specifically focused on the use of fronted adverbials for addition (additionally, furthermore, similarly, moreover) and fronted adverbials to introduce opposing views (alternatively, however, on the other hand, in contrast). Both of which the children will need to use when writing their balanced argument based on deforestation. We also learned about vowels and consonants and identified them in words linked to the Amazon Rainforest.

In Art / DT, the children used the plans that they created last week to paint their 'Go-go' safari sculptures. Next week, we will place our sculptures around the school and plot them on a map for the Year 4 children to find.

In RE we have begun our first enquiry, *'How do people express commitment to a religion/ worldview in different ways?'* To begin the unit, the children thought about their own commitments related to life, in and out of school. Following this, we moved onto discussing the different ways that people show commitment to a religion or belief.



Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have squeezed lots in. On Tuesday we were treated to a visit from the pantomime, it was wonderful to see the children having so much fun and singing along. On Wednesday lots of children went off to cross country (I heard they were all wonderful!). In class the children typed up character descriptions for a character of their choice, we then used AI to create an image of their description, this was great fun and something we will do again!

In maths we have been looking at subtraction using two 4-digit numbers. We have focused on questions that require us to exchange. Throughout the week we have worked practically using place value charts and counters before moving into our books where we made sure to show our exchanges in our working.

On Wednesday we held our school council and eco committee elections, all the children who put their name forward and gave a speech should be very proud of themselves. I really enjoyed watching them all talk with such confidence. In topic this week we made our clay sculptures of either a giraffe, rhino or elephant. Since making the sculptures I have had lots of adults come to tell me how amazing they look! Once they are dried, we will be painting them to create our own GOGO Safari Trail in school.

Finally, in computing this week we have started working on purple mash looking at how to create animations. Our first skill we looked at was onion skinning, this is almost like using tracing paper for each new frame to help us draw our new image. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and don't get caught in the rain!





Year 5

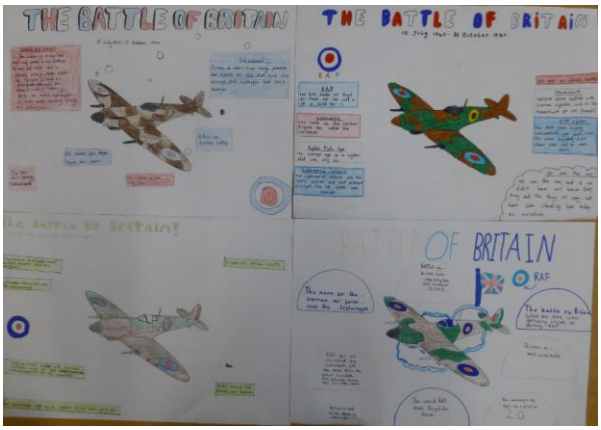
As always, it's been a very busy week in Year 5! In Maths lessons, we continued our multiplication unit and this included calculating common factors, prime factors and understanding square numbers. In English, we learnt how to include relative clauses in our writing and then carried on with our explanation texts linked to 'How Dogs Really Work' by Alan Snow.

On Tuesday afternoon, the children thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime of Beauty and the Beast by M&M Theatrical Productions. We also had a group of children who participated in the cluster cross country tournament on Wednesday morning – where the school finished 2nd. A huge well done to all those who took part!



As well as completing a task for Anti-Bullying Week, the Year 5s and 6s also had an exciting trip to experience RAF Neatishead's Cold War nuclear bunker. This included learning how a radar detects sounds, viewing futuristic inventions (such as a car that can drive itself) and even seeing lots of deer! During an art activity, the children produced a close-up image of a lion and used pastels to create gradients of colour.

In Science, the children learnt about food webs and understood key words such as: producers, primary consumers, secondary consumers, tertiary consumers and predators. This information was used to design and label their own food web. We also had a history lesson focusing on the Battle of Britain. Whilst researching information linked to this topic, the children participated in a quiz and then completed their own information posters.



Year 6

Our last week before Aylmerton – the children have been very excited. I think I must have answered thousands of questions!

In maths this week, we have been looking at fractions. The main focus has been around finding equivalent fractions and simplifying fractions.

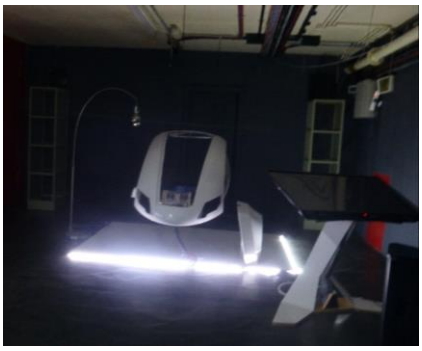
Our work in English has been on the use of relative clauses in our sentences as we are preparing to write newspaper recounts based on the war. Here is an example of a relative clause:

Winston Churchill, ***who was the British Prime Minister during most of WWII,*** *delivered speeches that inspired a nation.*

During our afternoon sessions, we have focussed on WW2 and the Battle of Britain. We watched several extracts linked to this event and then the children created their own fact pages. On Thursday, we also visited Neatishead RAF cold war bunker to take part in an art project. We also got to meet the owner of the site who talked through how he became a multimillionaire through his tech ideas.

Now we need to get ready for Aylmerton! The weather looks wet so make sure the children have appropriate clothing!





Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had

99%

Attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman