Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 21st November 2025

The highlight of the week for me has been seeing the children enjoy the magnificent new playground equipment. Tuesday ended up being our grand opening day when each class got the chance to spend time playing on the bunker for half an hour. Since then we have followed the rota for its use over break and lunchtime. Feedback from the children has been fantastic. A massive thank you to CAPCO for the build and to everyone who helped make the project happen!

Children can use the bunker after school. These are the rules for its use.

Rules for use of the Bunker

- When we aren't on the field classes need to follow the rota
- We are very lucky to have such an amazing build to use we must all look after it
- Play in a way that everyone has fun and is safe
- Be careful in the tunnel and when climbing the ladders and using the slide
- If you aren't sure if you can use the equipment ask a teacher before you do
- Try to keep off all the grass areas around out so the bunker doesn't become muddy and slippery

Things you must not do:

- Go down the back grass bank of the bunker
- Pick up or throw any of the bark
- Pick up any of the stones round the outside, which are part of the drainage system
- Climb up the slide
- Play in a way that is unsafe
- Push in to queues
- Jump off over the tunnel





Reception Class Assembly

Reception's first ever class assembly was on Tuesday. The children did a brilliant job sharing their learning to a packed audience. It was lovely to watch them perform so well and reflect on the brilliant start they have made to school life.

Year 6 Residential – This week Year 6 have been at Aylmerton Field Study Centre on their residential there. A full report to follow next week but judging by the messages I have been sent from staff the children have been brilliant and had a great time. A huge thank you to Mr Cavender, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Roe for giving up their time to take the class, it is greatly appreciated.

Year 6's class assembly is the last one of the term and it will be all about Aylmerton. The assembly will be on Monday 1st December, parents should arrive for 2:40pm

Christmas Information

As we head into the last 4 weeks of term our focus will start to shift towards preparing for Christmas. As usual we will be packing a lot in, with the highlights including our nativity performances and the KS2 Carol Concert.

Christmas Fair – We start our Christmas Celebrations with the Christmas Fair organised by the super FORS on Friday 28th November.

Christmas Performances –With Christmas fast approaching I wanted to share the times for the performances held in the last week of term. Please arrive 10 minutes before the performance starts.

- Monday 15th December– Reception Dress Rehearsal 10.00
- Monday 15th December– Year 1/ 2 Dress Rehearsal 1.50
- Tuesday 16th December Year 1/2 Performance 10.00
- Tuesday 16th December Reception Performance 1.50
- Wednesday 17th December –Reception Performance 10.00
- Wednesday 17th December – Year 1/ 2 Performance 1.50



If you can't make either one of the performances on Tuesday or Wednesday please do let us know. A smaller audience are welcome to join us for Monday's dress rehearsal. This should just be for those parents and family members who cannot make either of the main performances.





Photographing and Videoing Performances

Christmas Performances are always a special time in school. The children put on a fantastic show and understandably, parents like to capture the moment, perhaps for a family member who can't be there. We recognise this and have allowed filming to take place at performances and at other times of the year such as class assemblies and sport's days, provided that no pictures go onto social media of anyone other than your own child.

There have been previous occasions where this has not been adhered to and videos and photographs have been posted on social media. As such it is important to state that the reason this is an issue is that not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example where a child's location needs to be protected. Thank you for your understanding.



Poppies

Thank you to everyone who bought Poppies this year, we raised an amazing £267.80 for the Royal British Legion!

Football Next Week – The girl's team take part in the second Norwich City League on Monday 24th whilst we take a boy's and girl's teams to St Johns for 2 games on Thursday 27th.



This does mean there will be no football club for year 3 and 4 or netball club for Year 5 and 6 on Thursday 27th as Mr Palmer and I will be with the school teams.

FORS Non-Uniform Day - Monday 24th November 2025

Please see detailed below information for the FORS non uniform day on Monday 24th November



School Calendar Second Half Term

Christmas



- Friday 28th November – Christmas Fayre
- Morning of Monday 15th December – Reception dress rehearsal
- Afternoon of Monday 15th December – Year 1 and 2 dress rehearsal
- Morning of Tuesday 16th December – Year 1 and 2 performance
- Afternoon of Tuesday 16th December – Reception Performance pm
- Morning of Wednesday 17th December – Reception performance
- Afternoon of Wednesday 17th December – Year 1 and 2 performance
- Tuesday 16th December – KS2 Carol Service 6.00pm
- Thursday 18th December – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



Bombers

Hello from us all. The children have been excited to be talking about 'Christmas' and starting some 'Xmas' crafts. Our focus has been looking at our preschool rules and discussing 'kind hands/feet', sharing, taking turns and thinking of how our friends are feeling feelings along with how we are feeling. The children also made new hand and footprints to put on the wall, which help to display our boundaries. We will continue to focus on PSE development next week with continued Xmas craft and group crafts. We will explore our PSE books and puzzles and have the 'baby' role- play and 'washing' babies' activity. Today the children have enjoyed mixing the pieces of ice outside with the sand and the other day we caught all the rainwater in the water tray for them to play with. They loved it. Always good to take learning opportunities with natural resources. Thank you for your continued support with the raffle tickets and 'rainbow' hamper items for the schools' fundraising. Can we please remind to ensure all children's items are named, especially hats, coats, lunch bags and drink bottles.



Thank you.

Reception

We are so proud of reception class for putting on a brilliant first assembly! WELL DONE EVERYONE! We hope you enjoyed finding out about our phonics sounds, hearing our songs and seeing their actions and smiles! They are an absolutely amazing group of children - thank you for coming!

We have also enjoyed another traditional tale this week - The 3 Little Pigs! It has involved lots of role play: retelling the story & some science and creative work thinking about why the pigs houses so easily blew down! The children also had great ideas explaining what they thought of the wolf! A favourite activity again linked to some science – we behaved like the wolf and played 'huff-puff tennis' with ping-pong balls and straws. The children had to count how many times they could get their ball through the tunnels!

Today, we watched a little bit of an (online) theatre ballet version of the tale – the children were brilliant at explaining how the dancers acted out the characters: "*The wolf scratches his head because he's thinking!" "He scratches because he's so furry!"*

In phonics, we have learned some more digraphs this week (two letters making one sound): th (thin), z, ch (chop) and qu (queen). In maths the children have loved' finding one less' mostly using practical equipment and also number lines too. Lots of the children explained that when you find one more the numbers get bigger and when you find one less the numbers get smaller – well done, team!







Year 1

We've had a lovely week in Year 1 this week. In topic we have been learning even more about the The Great Fire of London. We have had our detective hats on and been looking at how pictures of evidence can give us clues about what has happened in the past. We have also learnt about how x-rays are used to look more closely at evidence! The children have been finding out about how and why the fire spread across London so quickly and have been acting out firefighting methods that were used at the time. We finished the week with a discussion about whose fault the fire was and having a vote to hear what the children decided.

In English this week we have been learning the story of Beegu from beginning to end and retelling it together with the help of a story map, which we created together as a class. The children have been orally retelling the story in pairs each day focusing on 2 sections at a time. They then made their own storyboards; drawing pictures to show the events of the story in order. Maybe you could ask your child if they could retell the story to you at home with the actions!

In Maths we have been learning to recognise 2D and 3D shapes, what they are called, how many faces, sides and edges they have. We have been sorting them into different groups e.g triangles/rectangles, squares/not squares, number of sides etc. The class have really impressed us with their shape knowledge - great work Year 1!



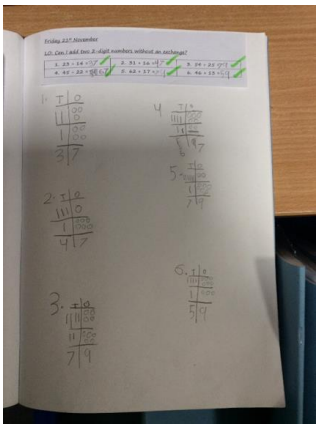
We also had a super time enjoying the bunker this week!!

Year 2

Another week has whizzed by in Year 2.

This week in English, the children used all the skills they have learned so far to independently write a setting description, imagining they were John walking through Pudding Lane during the Great Fire of London. Their writing was fantastic, and it was wonderful to see how proud they were of their hard work.

In Maths, we explored finding 10 more and 10 less, noticing that the tens digit changes while the ones digit stays the same. We then began adding two 2-digit numbers. The children are grasping this new concept brilliantly and are showing great confidence with this tricky skill.





In History, we revisited our predictions from last week to see how the Great Fire of London began and learned about the sequence of events during the fire.We also enjoyed a music lesson where we sang *London's Burning*, clapped the rhythm, and played the tune on the glockenspiels.

Throughout the week we have started learning the songs for our Christmas performance *Babushka*. The children are very excited now that they know which part they have!

Year 3

This week, in Maths, we have been busy completing learning based on multiplication and division. So far, the children have recapped how to draw arrays, explored grouping and sharing (methods for division) and found multiples of 2, 5 and 10. They recalled their 3 times table and division facts linked to the 3s.

In English, each child wrote a balanced argument about deforestation. They were required to include a variety of grammar skills including fronted adverbials, conjunctions to create multi-clause sentences, modal verbs and a rhetorical question. Once completed, they used green pens to make edits and improvements to their writing. Following this, they learned about writing in first tense and wrote their own paragraph sharing their personal opinion of deforestation. To end the week, we explored emotive language. During this lesson, the children looked for opportunities to up level their vocabulary choices from words like sad to words such as devastated, heartbroken and bewildered.

Furthermore, the children named their own sculptures before placing them in different areas around the school. Following this, the children plotted the whereabouts of are sculptures on a map of the school premises. The Year 4 children then used our map to find the twenty-eight sculptures.

In RE we continued learning about our enquiry question, *'How do people express commitment to a religion/ worldview in different ways?'* This week, the children learned about the 'Ten Commandments' alongside it's purpose of providing moral guidance for people who follow Christianity and Judaism.

In History, we have begun our Victorian unit of work. This week, the children learned about the life of Queen Victoria. We also analysed the impact of the industrial revolution through discussing the positive and negative effects on the British Economy and the lives of those who lived during the Victorian Era.

In addition to all this learning, the children had an amazing time on Tuesday afternoon playing on the new playground 'Bunker'.





Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have worked hard in our usual morning lessons and in the afternoons have looked at lots of different subjects including computing and RE. In Maths this week we have looked at how we can check our answers when using addition and subtraction. We talked about how when we add to numbers with find the whole and that when we subtract we find a part. In English we have continued using our base story of "The Wild Robot" whilst looking at what we need to make a sentence. This week we have started to consider how to improve our basic sentences by adding conjunctions, adverbs and adjectives. On Friday we looked at adjectives and prepositions to form expanded noun phrases that described Roz and Brightbill's garden.



This week in RE we looked at a story which showed us how important the Bible is for Christians. In Computing we have been looking at animations, on Monday we explored adding sound and backgrounds, whilst continuing to use onion skinning. On Friday, we worked in pairs to create a story map plan of animations that we will create next week. In our other topic lessons we painted our sculptures, after this we were treated to completing the sculpture trail set by Year 3.

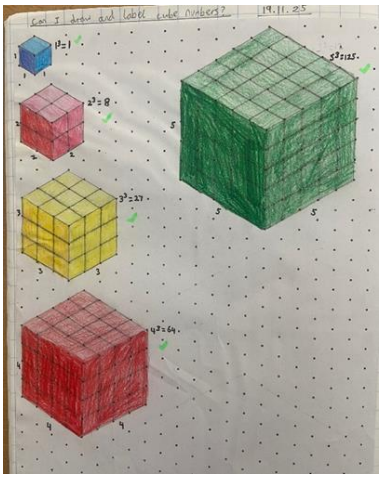
Next week we will be placing our sculptures round school and creating a map for Year 3 to follow.





Year 5

What a great week it has been in Year 5! During Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of square numbers and moved on to finding cube numbers. We combined this area with an art lesson – as the children used isometric paper to draw and colour cube numbers. They then calculated how many cubes were used to create each shape. Towards the end of the week, we learnt how to divide and multiply by 10, 100 and 1000. After deciding which items they were going to sell in a shop, the children calculated how much 10 items would cost, then 100 and then 1000. In English, we completed our explanation texts inspired by Alan Snow's 'How Dogs Really Work'. The class will be presenting these to the children in Reception and KS1 in the next week or two. Their new writing task is to produce a non-chronological report linked to our History topic of WW2. In Science lessons, the children planted runner bean seeds in a variety of materials. These will be placed in the wild area and the class will evaluate if different materials will affect the growth of the seeds. They also learnt about microorganisms and went on to produce some microorganism artwork! We began preparations for our 'Presentation of Learning Day' too. This is where the children got into small groups and chose a topic/area to become experts in. Once their displays are complete, they will present them to a different class in the school. The highlight of the week was seeing how happy the children were when they were allowed on the bunker!





Year 6
We look forward to hearing about their week away at Aylmerton next week!!



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 29** and
Year 3 who had **25 out of 28**

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



Well done to Reception & Year 2 who had

99%

Last week. Attendance Bear will spend next week with both classes!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	All of Reception Class, Lola, Harlee
Year 1	Ashfia, Freja, Ellis
Year 2	Freya, Amelia, Austin
Year 3	Zachery, Alexa, Jasmine
Year 4	Florence, Evie, Ivy
Year 5	Hunter, Vienna, Isla
Year 6	All of Year 6

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman