Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 28th November 2025

It has been a quieter week in school as we take a breath before Christmas really kicks in. Having said that the FORS, staff and children have been busy decorating the school including our beautiful Christmas Tree ahead of today's Christmas Fayre. Thank you to our amazing FORS team and thanks in advance to all of you in supporting the fair today. The new play area wouldn't be there without your support. The benefits to the children of the Bunker are huge in terms of their physical and emotional wellbeing and for the opportunity it gives them to create their own games and adventures. It has been amazing seeing them having so much fun on there.

With your help we plan to raise money for the next stage of the project, "The Command Centre," which will provide us with an outside class base, which would utilise the canopy and by adding sides would create a space children could use at breaktimes and during lessons to be creative.

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 Performances

Please see below a reminder of the information sent out last week:

- Monday 15th December – Reception Dress Rehearsal (10.00am)
- Monday 15th December – Year 1 & 2 Dress Rehearsal (1.50pm)
- Tuesday 16th December - Year 1 & 2 Performance (10.00am)
- Tuesday 16th December - Reception Performance (1.50pm)
- Wednesday 17th December – Reception Performance (10.00am)
- Wednesday 17th December – Year 1 & 2 Performance (1.50pm)



Please arrive 10 minutes before the performances start.

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

We are coming up to our Christmas Performances, which 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.



On Monday the girl's team took part in the second Norwich City League. We were without an ill Freya, our star player from last time, so we knew it would be tough. The girls played four games and showed great spirit, team work and determination. Despite losing all four games the girls never let their heads drop and kept smiling and encouraging each other. A fantastic attitude to take forward in sport. Well done, Izzy, Nicola, Ava, Matilda, Esme, Jayden and Ella you did yourselves and the school proud.

On Thursday we took boy's and girl's teams to St Johns for 2 games. Both games were very enjoyable affairs with the girls winning 2-0 and the boys scoring a last-minute winner to win 3-2. The girls dominated much of the game but found it hard to break down a stubborn St John's defence. We scored a goal in each half; the first scored by Emily and the second by Freya. At 1-0 Izzy made a super save before Esme cleared off the line. Ava, Matilda, Nicola, Jayden and Ella all had excellent games too.

The boy's game was very close. Sid gave the team the lead before St Johns hit back to go 2-1 up. With 10 minutes to go Jenson scored an excellent free kick and then in the last-minute Sid was played through and he finished calmly to win the game for Rackheath. Thanks to Mr Palmer for running the side whilst I was refereeing the girl's game. Mr Palmer was especially impressed with Hugo and Jack AB who he made joint players of the match. Jack N, Xander, Harley and William also played well in their different positions.

Christmas Events

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





Bombers

We have had a lovely week, exploring emotions and feelings, playing with dough, the 'hairdressers' role play and water play. The children have been making 'Xmas' crafts and there was a surprise visit from Santa this afternoon delivering the 'group toys' for Christmas. Next week our focus will be Physical development with a variety of fine and gross motor skill activities. We will be using a range of one-handed tools, lots of climbing, throwing /catching and balancing activities.



To try to speed up handover can we politely remind that it is fine for parents to gather in the lobby or just outside the door, especially with the weather colder and sometimes wetter. It helps us to see who is next for collection. Also a reminder to parents that will have children transferring to school in September 26 that an application needs to be submitted to Norfolk County Council as soon as possible. The deadline for applications to admissions is 15th January. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Reception

The festive feel has definitely entered the reception class this week. With the delivery of the beautiful real Christmas tree in the school hall, the children loved designing their own bauble decorations for it. Then the 'Reception Elves' were busy last night and our classroom is ready for December festivities! One of the children whispered to us this morning, "This room is BEAUTIFUL!"



Mrs Rivett has really got into a wintertime spirit as she created a beautiful hot chocolate role play area within our reading corner - what better at this time of year than a good book and a steaming mug of hot chocolate! The children have loved pretending to create these and fill in their order forms, they've added 'marshmallows' and charged their customers - prices ranging from 7p to five hundred pounds! The children have also enjoyed thinking about the coming season of Winter – they had lots of science fun ice painting!



We are also busy as we've started to learn the Nativity songs for our performance!

In phonics, we have learned **x, ng, nk** and **ck** (e.g. box, sing, pink and sack). In maths we have been learning to write addition number sentences, e.g. 4 + 2 = 6 but always using concrete resources, such as Numicon, to help us understand what the sentence means.

Next week, we will be using our phonics knowledge to write letters to a very special person!

Year 1

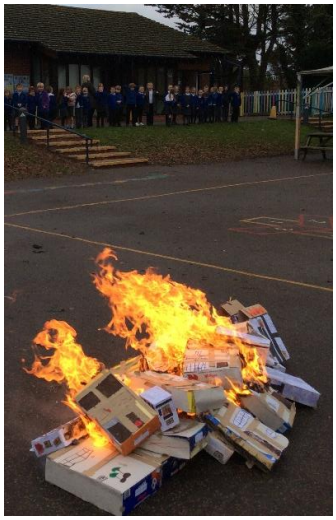
What lovely wintery weather we've had this week and yet another super week in Year 1! This week the children have been making their Christmas decorations for our school Christmas tree. They have also been discussing why people managed to escape the Great Fire of London even though so many houses were destroyed and what were the main problems after the fire. The children used their ideas to produce a solution board ordering the ideas from best to worst. On Thursday we had our final Great Fire of London lesson where we took the houses we had built out onto the playground, and making sure we all stayed at a safe distance, we lit the houses and watched them burn; just like in GFofL. We then finished the week with a quiz all about what we had learnt! Alongside this the children have been eagerly practising our Christmas play songs from Babushka, which is so far going beautifully.

In maths this week the children have been completing some end of term assessments which we have seen them trying very hard with. We have also been finishing off our shape work by going for a shape walk around the school and making pictures using 2D and 3D shapes.

In English this week the children have been retelling the story of Beegu by writing a sentence for each of the pictures they drew on their storyboards last week. We have been focusing on using noun phrases and the word 'and' whilst remembering to use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. The children have also begun creating a 'Guide to Planet Earth' – drawing and labelling what Beegu got up to on her time on Earth.

Well done to those parents who regularly hear their children read. We've been impressed with most parents' dedication to this and it has been reflected in the amount of progress many of the children have made with their reading so far. And don't forget that the more they read, the more reading stars they earn!!!

Year 2



There have been two highlights this week in Year 2! The first was the end of our Great Fire of London project, where we placed the houses we had made out on the playground to recreate Pudding Lane and watched as the fire spread from house to house. We also had a very exciting visitor on Friday afternoon – Father Christmas! The children were lucky enough to receive some gifts from him, and they really enjoyed playing with these during our golden time.

In English, we have continued our work on *Fire Cat* and are now working towards a new Big Write. So far, we have explored the third person and how it differs from the first person. Later in the week, we learned about three different types of sentences—statements, questions, and commands—and practised writing each type as well as sorting sentences into their correct categories.



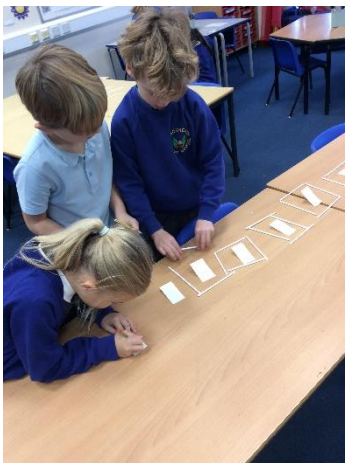
In Maths, we have continued adding two 2-digit numbers, this time learning that when there are 10 or more ones, we need to make an exchange. This can be a tricky concept at first, but the children are approaching it with growing confidence.

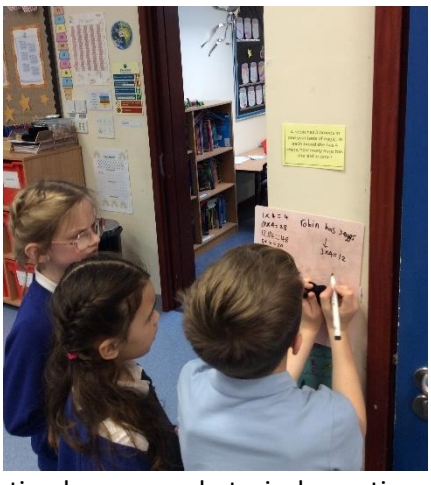
In Art, we talked about primary colours and how to mix them to create secondary colours. We also discussed what a *hue* is and practised creating different tones using white and black. The children then applied these skills to produce Great Fire of London artwork inspired by Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. The finished pieces looked fantastic, with lots of thoughtful colour mixing, tonal variation, and swirling brush techniques to show the movement of the flames.

Year 3

Wow, this week has totally flown by! In Maths, the children have been busy exploring and recalling the 4-times table along with its fact family division facts. On Tuesday the children really enjoyed our active lesson where they were required to make a number track and complete a 4-times table scavenger hunt activity.







In English, the children have practised using grammatical devices including emotive language, rhetorical questions and exaggeration. To generate emotive vocabulary, the children worked in pairs to use a thesaurus and find synonyms for common vocabulary such as sad/ worried etc. In addition to this, they analysed an example persuasive letter and applied the grammatical skills they'd developed this week to their own plans to aid the construction of

their own persuasive letter. Next week, the children will write a letter to President Lula (President of Brazil) to persuade him to cease the act of deforestation.

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 commitments within the Jewish religion; the children learned about two important events, the Bar Mitzvah and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies which symbolise when either a boy or girl enters adulthood; then they gain more responsibility with choices within their life.

In History, we explored many Victorian inventions including the telephone which was invented in 1876; the children were surprised that coca cola was invented way back in 1886. Furthermore, they also learned about health, the spread of disease and medicine all of which were positively impacted by four innovative public health advocates: Florence nightingale, Joseph Lister, James Young Simpson and John Snow.

Year 4



Another week has flown by in Year 4. On Friday we were treated to a very exciting visitor! Father Christmas brought us some wonderful presents and sweets. We spent the last little bit of Friday afternoon playing with our new games and toys. It was lovely to see everyone playing so nicely to teach other new games.

In English this week the children have done lots of writing. We revisited how to write speech and have learnt a song to help us remember the rules. We also read lots of the story and even had a go at writing our own chapters. These were great to read, the children had some very creative ideas. Their writing was full of the features we have been looking at this term including adverbs, fronted adverbial, direct speech and unusual verbs. In Maths we started our new topic area. This is a short unit but the children have grasped it really well so far. We have been using squares to find the area of a shape as we found this was the best shape to ensure there were no gaps left. The children have been drawing their own shapes with a given area, they even used half squares to challenge themselves.

This week we finished our animation unit in computing. The children worked in pairs to plan and create their own animations. Their animation stories were very creative, one pair created an animation where a football player was sent to space whilst other groups had Father Christmas eating cookies. Finally, this week we have started looking at Victorians. We discussed the life of Queen Victoria in our first lesson and then started to look at the industrial revolution.

Year 5



I can't believe that we only have 3 more weeks left until it's the Christmas holidays – where has the time gone? It's been a really productive week in Year 5 with lots of different activities taking place. I would like to start off by saying how amazing the children were during our WW2 Day on Wednesday. We began by listening to the Declaration of War made by Neville Chamberlain. They then learnt about what it was like for children during this time to leave busy cities such as London before moving to a safer area. The class created name labels and then 'packed' their suitcase – by drawing the essential items that they would have taken with them on their journey to East Anglia. Other tasks included a water colour piece of artwork influenced by the Blitz, and labelling the American airbase in Rackheath. I was so impressed by their creativity throughout the day, and this was also put to good use when they had to design their own B24 Liberator. One of the highlights was when the children had to hide under their tables as soon as they heard an air raid siren!



We also got into the Christmas spirit by designing stars for the Christmas tree in the hall. During some mornings, we have had tests and both Mrs Duckmanton and I were really proud of the children's positive attitudes and resilience. In Maths lessons, we continued our learning of dividing (and multiplying) numbers by 10, 100 and 1000.

The class also began writing their WW2 non-chronological reports and will continue these next week. In Science lessons, we completed a case study of Sir Alexander Fleming to link in with our topic of microorganisms. Finally, we planned a 'mouldy bread' competition and this will take place on Monday.





Year 6

After an amazing week at Aylmerton the children have come back into school with a brilliant attitude!

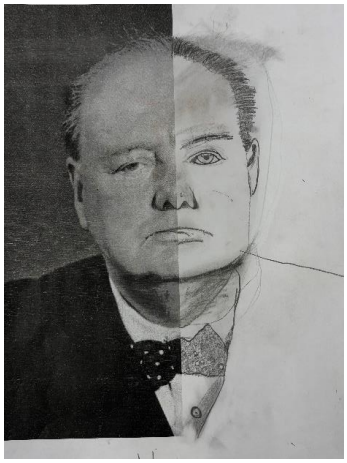
I want to start by saying how amazing the class were last week – gave everything a go and they were always smiling! I think that is the most sleep I have ever had on a residential! **On Monday at 2.30 we have our class assembly all about our trip!** A big thank you to Mrs Roe and Mrs Goddard for given up their time to be with us and for making it so much fun!

In maths, we have been looking at multiplying and dividing fractions. We have also been working on converting mixed number fractions to improper fractions. In English, we have been preparing for our newspaper recounts by looking at reported and direct speech. Our newspaper reports will be based on Aylmerton so they should be fun!

In geography, we have been working on our use of 6 figure grid references to help with our map reading skills – this is a follow on from our orienteering skills from residential.

Another highlight of our week was our WW2 evacuee day on Wednesday – the children looked brilliant in their costumes. For this we looked at how Rackheath used to be during WW2 when the American airbase was a key feature of the village. We learnt more about the Blitz and then completed water colour art showing the London skyline. We then looked at three important historical figures (Winston Churchill, Anne Frank & Douglas Bader) and used our sketching skills to draw them.







Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 29** and
Year 3 who had **27 out of 29**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 who had

99%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Oakley, Theo, Aaliyah
Year 1	Autumn, Theodore K, Larna
Year 2	Mabel, George, Pippa
Year 3	Niamh, Kipp, Summer
Year 4	Emily, Henry, Elliot
Year 5	All of Year 5, Ali, Arlo
Year 6	Micky, Jenson, Amelia

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman