Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 7th November 2025

It has been a super first week back in school after half term. Some of our Year 5 and 6 children have been taking part in their Bikeability training. Over the course of four days, they have been taught how to cycle safely on the road. It was great to hear from the Bikeability trainers that all the children had shown fantastic attitude throughout the four days.

This morning we broke our cross-country record with an amazing 31 children coming along for a morning run ahead of cluster cross country next Wednesday. We ended the week with the Year 4 class assembly and the FORS organised disco. Time to get the dancing shoes on!

Farewell Message from Mrs Cookson

Yesterday was my last day at school, and what a wonderful final day it has been. After nearly eight years as part of the Rackheath Family, the time has come for me to set off on some new adventures - ones that will take me beyond the NR13 postcode area!

The special assembly and the many farewell wishes I've received from children, staff, and parents have truly meant the world to me. I've been so touched by the kind words, thoughtful cards, and generous presents shared today. It's reminded me of something I knew from the moment of my interview - that our school is a truly special place, filled with warmth, community, and positivity in every classroom and corridor.

I'm already looking forward to popping back into school to listen to the children read, help with times tables practice, and, of course, join in with all the festive fun - Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch are firmly in my diary!



Rackheath will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I feel so lucky to have been part of such a wonderful school community. Wishing you all the very best for the future.

With love, Claire Cookson xxx

Breakfast Club Dropping Off Procedures



This week we changed the way children come into Breakfast Club to mirror our procedures at the end of the day at After School Club. Children now enter Breakfast Club via the main black gates near to the hall. Breakfast Club staff will open the gates at 7:45am when the children arrive. Parents can ring the bell if no one lets them in straight away.

Playground Build



There has been lots of excitement linked to the building of "the bunker." It has been amazing to watch the way the way it is taking shape and it looks even more impressive than I was expecting. If the weather holds the main build will be completed by next Tuesday. The floor surface will then be covered in rubber crumb. All being well the children will be able to use it from early on in the week of the 17th November.



A busy week ahead - On Monday the football team take part in the Norwich City League at the Nest. Tuesday is a very busy day. It is our annual governor day, when our team of super governors come in to school for the day. It is also Remembrance Day with our special lunch and we have a visit from a touring theatre company performing "Beauty and The Beast."

On Wednesday it is Cluster Cross Country and then on Thursday Years 5 and 6 are visiting the nuclear bunker at RAF Neatishead!

Finally on Friday it is non-school uniform day for Children in Need. As usual we ask that the children bring in £1 and then some 20ps to take part in the fun games over lunchtime!

School Calendar – Autumn 2

Class Assemblies

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

Thursday 13th November	Year 2
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



Bombers

Hi to all our families. What a busy week that has flown by.

The children have been working together on craft and game activities. We have been looking at a variety of touchy-feely books to develop their communication skills and discussing fireworks and Divali. Some lovely words they said were "bang", "it was really loud", "go moon", "boom" and "it was big and loud". There has been the bugs and magnifiers, threading and the shop role-play. A polite reminder that at collection, could parents / carers either gather in the lobby or line up nearer the door so that we can see which parents are next. We are trying to speed up our handover to enable smooth collection and not too much waiting about for the children once they see that their friends are starting to go home. In addition, a reminder that children who have been with us all day leave at 2.50pm and it is only the afternoon children that wait until 3pm as they come in at 12pm.

Next week we will continue to focus on communication and language and hopefully use our sand timer and the radio with the children to respect the 2-minute silence on Remembrance Day on Tuesday.

Reception



Welcome back to reception class - it has been lovely hearing about the children's Halloween & Firework celebrations! They have settled back in very well and it has been great to see the more confident way they've engaged with each other compared with September.

We have thought about fire safety this week and also made some beautiful firework pictures. Today we enjoyed some music together when we sang the 'I'm a Firefighter' song and used the claves percussion instruments to tap out the beat.

In phonics, we have learned l, h, sh and r. 'sh' is a digraph which means two letters work as a 'team' to make just one sound. They're the best of friends! (shop, ship, etc.) In maths, we have explored finding one/ two, or sometimes three more, of a given number. We used lots of hands-on counting equipment and number lines too.



A big thank you to Mrs Rivett who has again created a lovely role play area for us – our new Post Office! The children have loved using the cash register to take money for stamps, writing letters and weighing parcels. Our favourite observation so far was when a child approached the counter and her friend welcomed her by saying, *"Ello my darlin, what can I get you?!"*



Next week, in class, we are joining the international festival: World Nursery Rhyme week!

Year 1



A super first week back in Year 1; we hope everyone had a fantastic half term break. The children have begun their 'Great Fire of London' topic. We began our week by finding out what London looked like before the Great Fire of London and using this to draw our own Tudor houses. The children used their pictures to create their own Tudor house using cereal boxes and stripes of paper to make the beams. We finished the week by making our very own version of Pudding Lane in the classroom and watching a 'Magic Grandad Fire of London' episode.

In English this week we have been continuing Beegu; focusing primarily on writing sentences to describe Beegu using adjectives and 'and'. We finally introduced the book 'Beegu' to the children, on Thursday, so that we could read the first few pages together and discover more about our friendly alien

visitor. The children then thought about how Beegu would be feeling when she landed on our planet and also what she might be saying to the objects she meets. We used these ideas to write speech bubbles as if we were Beegu.

This week in Maths we have continued with addition and subtraction. The children have been using number lines to count backwards to solve number sentences e.g. 10 - 3 = 7, 8 – 5 = 5. We have also been problem solving with word problems linked to adding and subtracting. Great work by all of Year 1, we've been really impressed with their maths skills this week!

Year 2



Our first week back after half term has whizzed by!

In English, we began our new unit based on the book *Fire Cat*. We started by exploring the front cover and making predictions about what the story might be about. We also looked at the homophones see/sea and here/hear, which will be important in our writing about the book. Later in the week, we focused on statement sentences — sorting examples into two groups (statement sentences and not statement sentences) before having a go at writing our own based on the story.

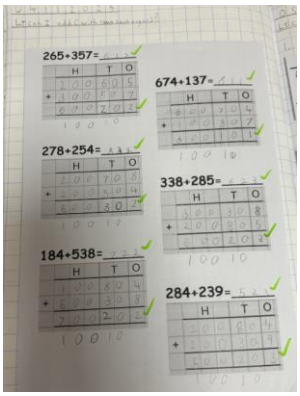


In Maths, we continued our work on addition and subtraction. We practised using number lines to add by counting on and to subtract by counting back. We also learned how to add three one-digit numbers, spotting number bonds to 10 to help with our mental maths.

In History, we learned about the story behind Bonfire Night and discussed the different ways it is celebrated. We then explored a timeline through history, travelling from the present day (2025) back over 350 years to 1666! After that, we compared past and present London, noticing how houses in 1666 were often made of wood, while today they are mostly built with bricks.

Throughout the week, the children made their own 1666-style houses. The finished results looked fantastic — complete with flames (a little clue about what we'll be learning next week!).

Year 3



It has been a busy yet brilliant first week back at school.

In Maths, we have continued learning around adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers with 2 exchanges. This is not an easy concept to understand, however the children have worked super hard and have been very successful. Take a look at this wonderful example:

In English, we have begun our next whole-class book titled The Great Kapok Tree. As part of this unit, we will be completing persuasive writing aimed at ceasing deforestation. On Monday the children learned about what it means to write in third person and how this is different to first and second person. Then we explored persuasive language and subordinating conjunctions to provide reason. Finally, to end the week, we learnt about the use of fronted adverbials to link sentences via words that provide addition (Alongside this, additionally, furthermore etc.).



In Art/DT, we have been learning about sculptures. This week, the children have explored a range of sculptures including the Statue of Library, 000 and 000. Following this, they designed and made their own safari animals from clay. Next week, we will finalise the statues by painting the design and plotting them on a map of the school to create our own *Rackheath-Go Go Safari Trail*.

Year 4

We have settled back into a busy week in Year 4! On Monday as a class we talked about all the learning we have done so far this year; from this we picked some parts to talk about in our class assembly. We then spent some time

putting our script together. I must say it was a lovely way to finish the week, especially to see so many of you! When we got back to class there were lots of big smiles in the room.

In class this week we have started our new story for this half term 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown. Our grammar focus for the next few weeks is all about what makes a sentence, this week we have been looking at verbs. The children have also started writing in their robot logs, in which they write a diary entry in the role of Roz the Robot. Throughout the unit the children will spend time writing in their logs.

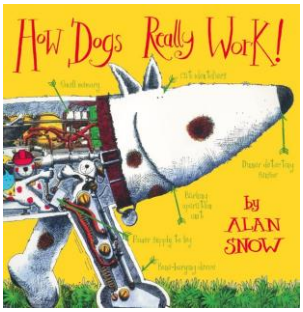
In maths we continued our addition unit looking at column addition. The children are showing great confidence with this and were quick to spot the errors that can be made when we need to think about exchanging. The maths homework this week is full of addition questions, I have asked the children to complete at least 8 questions. Many of them were eager for more questions so I have included 16 and some challenge questions.

In our topic work we have begun looking at sculptures and sculpture trails. We began by looking at what a sculpture is before thinking about sculptures around the world. This conversation led us to the GoGo Safari Trail that was in Norwich this summer. On Monday we used a map of school and marked the location of any sculptures we found. Next week we will be will making our own sculptures before setting up a trail in school for others to follow.

Finally, as I mentioned briefly at the end of our class assembly the children will be coming home next week with their letters regarding the Horsted trip. If you have any questions once you have received the letters, we will be available on the door at the start and end of day as normal.

Year 5

It's been a brilliant first week back and the children have continued their positive attitudes for learning. Throughout this week, some of the class completed their Bikeability training and it was lovely to hear the instructors' positive comments about the children.

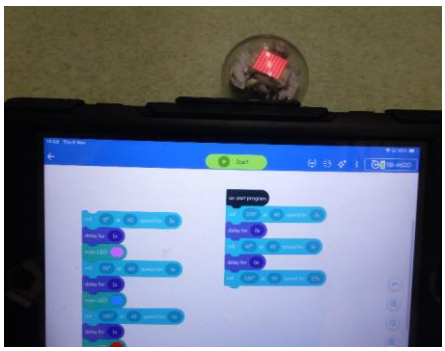


In Maths lessons, we continued our multiplication topic and used our skills to calculate multiples and factors. In English, we started a new class book – 'How Dogs Really Work' by Alan Snow. This will be used to plan an explanation text (linked to dogs) to be shown to the children in Reception and KS1. In Science lessons, we learnt about food chains. The children demonstrated an excellent understanding of this unit and were able to create a variety of food chains using cards. We also got to use Spheros (spherical robots) during two lessons. Using an iPad and block coding, they were able to program their Spheros to perform a variety of tasks.

In a Geography challenge, the children learnt the symbols of an OS map and then created their own using the correct symbols. This knowledge was then used to learn the 8 compass points and use them to state where one place is in relation to another. Finally, the class seemed to really enjoy our art lesson linked to fireworks. Using chalks, they drew fireworks and then created a water reflection for each one.

Please note that on Wednesday 26th November, Year 5 and 6 will be having a WW2 dress-up day in school. If possible, they could wear the same evacuee outfit that they wore for Gressenhall.







Year 6

It has been a rather dull and boring week in year 6 – we have been completing our first set of tests to see how we are getting on. We have completed a SPAG test, Reading test, and then three maths tests. But do you know

what…the class have been fantastic! To help them, we have had free time for games or art in between the tests just to keep them motivated.

In Science, we have been looking at how to classify animals through flow charts using their characteristics to help them. In art, Kieran Williamson has been our artist that we have studied – he is a young Norfolk artist who focusses on landscape. Below, you can see some of our finished pieces.

Date for the Diary – Wednesday 26th November will be our WW2 evacuee day in school! Children will be able to wear their outfits that they wore for the Gressenhall trip.







Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 who had

97%

before half term. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Marlow, Alesha, Alfie
Year 1	Hugo, Ruby-Mae, Kiera
Year 2	Isla, Thora, Harrison
Year 3	Arthur, Ivy, Ada
Year 4	Landon, Rosie, Archie
Year 5	Ella, Teddy, Jacob P
Year 6	Erin, Whole Class, Ayla, Amelie

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman