Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 5th December 2025

Christmas Performances

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



- 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)
- Weds 17th December Reception Performance (10.00am)
- Weds 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.

To allow everyone to enjoy the performances we would also remind parents that:

- Everyone should stay sat quietly in their seats throughout the performance.
- During the performances we do use the back of the hall and the sides so these need to be kept clear.
- Younger children can attend but it is important that they sit quietly. If they get distressed, they can go outside to calm down.
- There isn't space for buggies given the size of the audience - buggies can be left outside.
- Sometimes the children do get stage fright. Staff will support them in the first instance and decide what to do next.





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.

Key Stage 2 Carol Concert



Our special Key Stage 2 Carol Concert is at 6:30pm on Tuesday 16th December. This will be held outside on the school playground. As well as the carols and readings refreshments will be available too. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to join our festive celebrations.

We would like the children to arrive no earlier than 6:10pm at which time refreshments will be available. Other members of the community are also invited to join us from 6:20pm in time for the start at 6:30pm. This year the FORS are fundraising for the playground project.

Should any of you be able to bring in some cakes, mince pies, biscuits or savoury snacks such as sausage rolls for the night that would be great. If you are able to please bring them in during the day of the concert.

Year 6 Assembly – On Monday Year 6 showcased their amazing week-long trip to Aylmerton in their class assembly. It was lovely to find out all about their super week.



Christmas Rudolph Run

On Monday 8th, weather permitting, we are taking part in the Rudolph Run, which is something we have done for the last few years. The Rudolph Run raises money for Nelson's Journey, which supports bereaved children and families. This year instead of the children bringing in £1 on the day, Mrs Pallant has set up a Just Giving page so that donations can be made.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/jo-pallant-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

School Clubs – There will be no clubs during the week beginning the 15th December. After School Club and Breakfast Club will continue as usual until the end of term.

Lion's Santa Sleigh – On Monday 15th December we will have a special visitor with Father Christmas joining us at the end of the day on his sleigh. Children will have a chance to meet Father Christmas once school finishes. Any donations to the Lions Charity would be gratefully appreciated.

Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day

This will be on Thursday 18th December. Lunch will be booked via SCOPAY as usual. Please can you make sure you book this soon so that we can give the kitchen numbers in advance for ordering purposes.





Bombers

Hello to all our families. The children have had a lovely week exploring lots of festive activities and using their fine motor skills to create lovely crafts. They have also been using pegboards, implements in the dough and tweezers and pompoms. We have been singing Christmas songs and hopefully they will be able to sing to parents for our stay and play. We would like to invite any parents to come in and stay at drop off or come back 30 minutes early prior to collection from next Thursday 11th December to Wednesday 17th December. Next week we will be continuing our focus with physical development and in particular exploring self-care with a variety of activities and books.

We are starting to issue funding forms for next term. Once received please return as soon as possible as we need them back for the start of next term. Many thanks.

Reception



Rehearsals are in full swing this week for the Reception Nativity. They amazed us even last week when we just sang a few of songs how quickly they picked them up. They have loved devising actions/ dances to go with them & it's so lovely when they teach us what they've learned before if it's been our days off. Well done, reception class - we can't wait for our special audiences to see it!



We have also been practising our speaking, listening and writing skills this week. We have been choosing toys from 'Santa's workshop' and writing letters about which we like. Whilst we have often scribed longer sentences for them, lots of the children have been brilliant at sounding out words or writing short captions/ sentences! It's so exciting seeing this emergent writing - it makes the children feel so proud too!

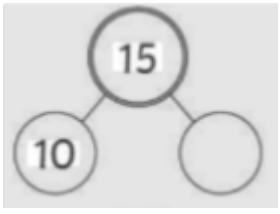
In phonics we have learned double consonants this week: ss, ll, zz, ff (as in: mess, doll, buzz and sniff!) The children loved hunting outside for the Gruffalos, designing their own ice lollies and playing with the wooden house and dolls!

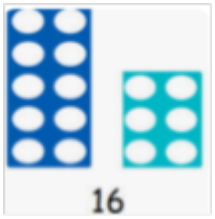
Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been having lots of fun practising for our Christmas performance! All the children have been learning their parts, positions, lines, and dance routines. They've made a super start so far and look forward to more practising next week.

In English we have completed our last week on Beegu; we have all loved having our friendly alien come to visit and hope she comes back again next year. The children have been successfully retelling the story as if they are Beegu e.g. I crash landed on Earth… These have been a joy to read; the children have shown us their super writing skills. We finished the week by performing our retelling of the story (with actions) to Reception class. The children thoroughly enjoyed showing off some of the work that we do in Year 1.

In Maths this week we have been focusing on 'place value within 20'. The children have been hard at work discovering how many tens and ones are in each of our teen numbers. We have been using part-whole models, Numicon and Dienes equipment to help us with this. We have also been practising writing out our teen numbers in words and numerals.







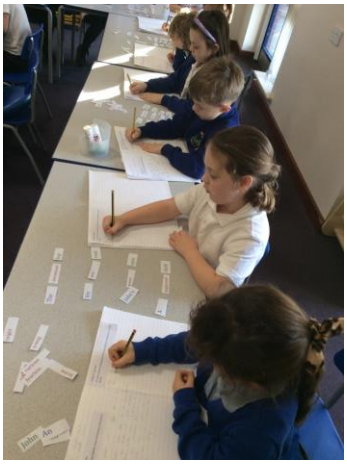
Our sound this week has been u_e Huge brute. Any phonics practise that can be done at home is a great help with your child's reading, writing and spelling progress.





Year 2

It's really starting to feel festive in Year 2 now! We've been practising our Christmas performance, *Babushka*, every day and it is really coming together nicely.



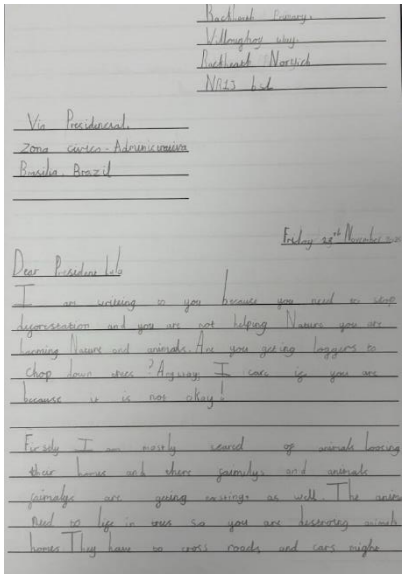
In English, we continued reading *Fire Cat*, where John decided to go out on the boat on his own without his parents knowing. As a result, we will be creating a WANTED poster for John to help the people of London find him. This week, we went on an adjective hunt around the classroom and discussed whether the words we found described John's personality or his appearance. We then practised using these adjectives in sentences with coordinating conjunctions. Towards the end of the week, we began writing expanded noun phrases about John by adding adjectives to noun phrases—for example, "the boy" became "the determined boy".

In Maths, we have been learning how to subtract two 2-digit numbers, both with and without an exchange. This is another tricky concept, but the children are showing great confidence and are really enjoying practising this new skill.

In Computing, we used 2Code on Purple Mash and completed coding challenges linked to the Great Fire of London—which involved plenty of trial and error and resilience!

Year 3

In Year 3, it's beginning to look and sound a lot like Christmas as we have been practising our Christmas carols!



Via Presidencial,
Zona cuatro - Administrativa
Brasilia - Brazil

Friday 22nd November

Dear President Lula

I am writing to you because you need to stop deforestation and you are not helping Nature you are harming Nature and animals. Are you going loggers to chop down trees? Anyway I care if you are because it is not okay.

Firstly I am really scared of animals losing their homes and there families and animals families are going missing as well. The animals need to live in trees so you are destroying animals homes. They have no trees roads and cars right

In Maths, the children have been extremely busy with completing worded questions and exploring how multiples of 2, 4 and 8 link with one another. Alongside this, they have each completed an arithmetic and a problem solving and reasoning end of term maths assessment.

In English, the children completed their first draft letter to President Lula (President of Brazil) with the aim of persuade him to cease the act of deforestation. Following this, they edited and improved their writing before writing a final draft ready to send in the post.

In Topic, the children explored a number of typical leisure activities from the Victorian era. During the lesson, we considered similarities and differences between leisure activities back in the 1800s and leisure activities on offer to us today. The children were surprised by the fact that people used to enjoy visiting the beach, circus, zoo and parks just like we do today. As a class, we agreed that two of the biggest changes has been the abolishment of using animals in circus acts and the introduction of technologies and devices such as iPads and mobile phones.

In RE, we explored commitments made by Sikhs. The children learned about the 5 Ks: Kesh (uncut hair), Kara (a steel bangle) Kanga (a wooden comb), Kaccha (cotton garments worn under clothes) and a Kirpan (small sword to represent protection). All representing a commitment to the Sikh faith and identity.

Alongside all of this learning, the children have been working hard with preparing their presentations for learning which they will share with the Year 5 children next week.

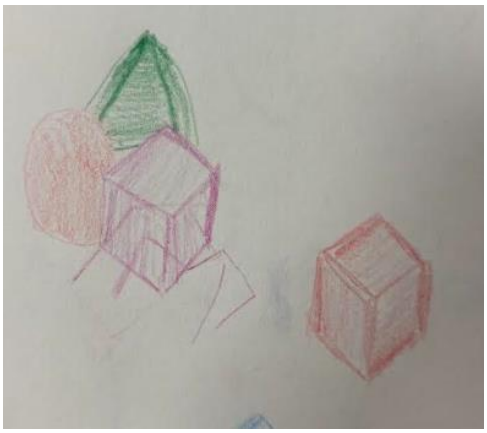
Year 4

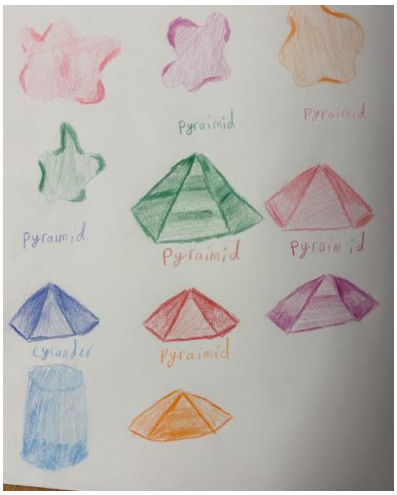
The children have worked really hard this week! As we near the end of term we have been completing our end of term assessments before we can truly get into the Christmas spirt in the final couple of weeks. On Wednesday we finished our area unit in maths and on Thursday we completed our reading paper. The children all showed great resilience throughout this especially as lots of them are feeling a little under the weather.

We have begun creating our presentations to show Year 6 next week. Already the children have worked really hard on their posters and presentation plans. We have groups presenting sculptures, English topics - including the Wild Robot and I am a Roman Soldier, Maths groups showing knowledge of timetables and subtractions and topic groups sharing their knowledge of science and Victorians. The children have worked in small groups on a topic of their choice and are looking forward to sharing them next week.

In topic we have continued looking at the Victorians, this week we discussed what Victorians did in their leisure time. We also looked at the changes that occurred during the Victorian period linked to health, disease and medicine. There were lots of shocked faces when we discussed how doctors didn't wash their hands. The children were also shocked to find out that if you needed an operation there was no pain medication to help you.

We are nearing the end of our time swimming in Year 4, this week the children were treated to playing a team game in the pool. They were spilt into teams and had to work together to score goals. Finally in art this week we looked at creating tone with the pressure of colour. The class then used this knowledge to help them draw some 3D shapes.







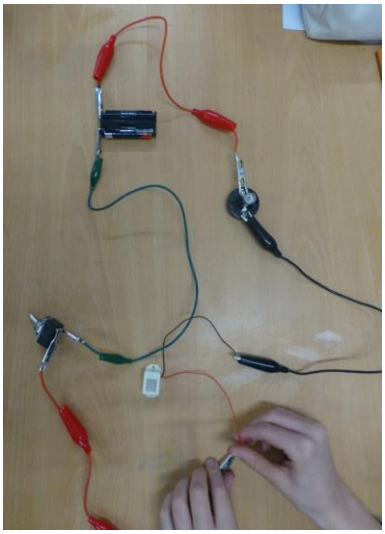
Year 5

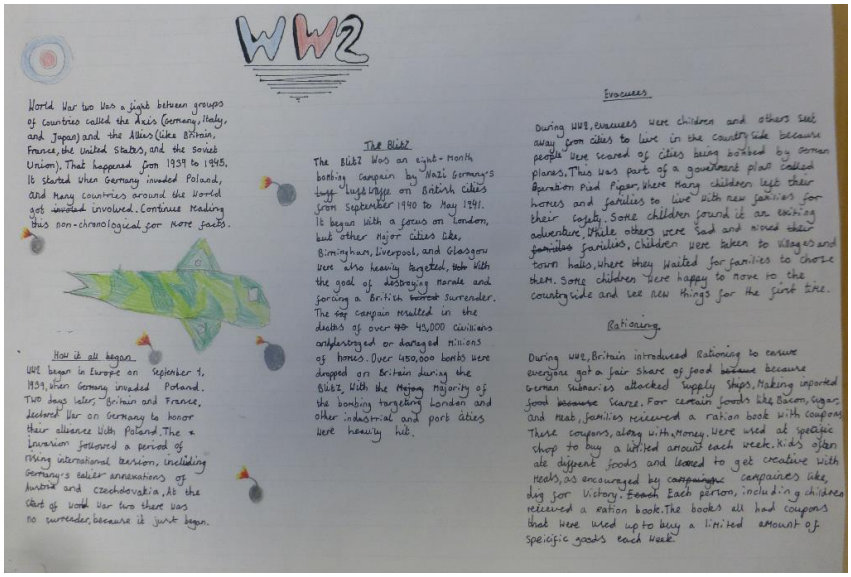
The Year 5s have been super this week and their work rate has continued to impress me! In Maths lessons, we began a new topic – division. After understanding what division means, we learnt the short division (bus stop) method. Within one of our lessons, the children became teachers as they had to decide if a variety of division questions had been answered correctly or incorrectly. It was great to see so many detailed explanations! In recent Maths lessons, the children looked at multi-step word problems linked to division.

During our English lessons, we had a grammar focus where the children had to spot mistakes which focused on apostrophes for contractions and for possession. We then continued our non-chronological reports linked to WW2. The class had further sessions to prepare for their Presentation of Learning Day next week. This is where the Year 5s will present a topic (of their choice) to the children in Year 3.

In Science lessons, we concluded our topic of living things and their habitats by completing a mouldy bread challenge! The children received a slice of bread and decided on a range of criteria to see which piece of bread will grow the most mould. Recently, we began our new topic of electricity. As well as understanding what protons and electrons are, the children labelled symbols within a circuit and researched the purpose of each component. They then built circuits using batteries, wires, buttons, switches, bulbs and buzzers.

In an art activity, the children created a winter wonderland piece of artwork using water colours, paint and masking tape. I will show the end results next week when everyone has finished. This afternoon, the class said goodbye to Teddy - who will be missed by everyone at Rackheath Primary. We wish him the best of luck at his new school!





Year 6

How can it already be December?!

In maths, we have been looking at fractions with a focus on how to find fractions of amounts. Here is an example of what we've been working on:

Freya has a bag of Haribo. She eats 2/5 on the first day and there is 60g left. What was the weight of the bag to begin with?

This is how we have been looking to solve these questions:

Whole bag				
20g	20g	20g	20g	20g
Eaten		Left in the bag = 60g		

In English, we have been writing as a journalist to report about Aylmerton. So far, we have looked at how to write an introduction, how to write using facts and relative clauses and how to include quotes from people about their experience. The plan is to get the first draft written up, and then turn this into a complete newspaper report about Aylmerton.

The highlight of the week has to be our class assembly all about our trip to Aylmerton, written completely by the children! It was fantastic and really showcased the fun that was had on our residential.

During the week we have also been preparing for our 'Presentations of Learning' where we will be sharing what we have studied with the year 3 children – look out for photographs linked to this in next week's newsletter.



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **22 out of 30** and
Year 3 who had **29 out of 31**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 4 who had

96%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Sissy, Harper, Stanley
Year 1	Owen, Allie, Aria
Year 2	Joshua, Ava, Harry
Year 3	Ivy, Lucas, Chester
Year 4	Myla, William, Tristan
Year 5	Edie, Teddy, Alfie
Year 6	Sid, Olivia C, Harley

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman