

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

FRIDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2025

Bombers Manager News – We are pleased to let you know that we have appointed a new Bombers Manager, Teresa De Freitas. Teresa will be starting after Christmas. For the first few weeks she will be working alongside Denise, to ensure a smooth transition. Teresa brings a wealth of experience and a passion for Early Years.

Attendance Termly Print Out



This year we are again sharing attendance records with you each term. Next week all the children will bring their attendance herringbone home with them. We now look at attendance in terms of days missed rather than percentages as this makes more sense for children, parents and staff than percentages.

So far, our attendance has been better this year than last. Many of the children haven't missed a day or just a few days, which is great. We know that sometimes children do get ill and can't be in school but if you aren't sure whether to send them in, we can make adjustments to keep them in school.

Looking forward, a really important figure to think about is 19 days. There are 190 school days a year so if a child is absent for more than 19 days across a school year they would be classed by the government as being persistently absent as their attendance can now not be higher than 90%. We have been in school for roughly a third of the year so it is worth looking to see if your child has been away for 6 or more days so far. If they have been and this was repeated over the next 2 terms, they would then have been off for close to 19 days.

Christmas Performances

I know we have sent this information out for a few weeks now…. But it's worth repeating!!

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.

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.



Christmas Rudolph Run

On Monday we held our annual Rudolph Run. The children enjoyed running around the playground and paths with Christmas music providing a festive backdrop. Thanks to those of you who have donated to Nelson's Journey, who support bereaved children and families. You can still donate your £1 (or whatever you wish) on the Just Giving page below:

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

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.

School Clubs – As mentioned previously there will be no clubs next week. After School Club and Breakfast Club will continue as usual until the end of term.

After School Club Early Finish – On Friday 20th December after school club will finish at 4:30pm. Families this applies to have been contacted already.

SATS Briefing

On Tuesday 3rd February Mr Cavender and I will be holding a briefing for parents of our Year 6 children about the SATS tests the children will sit in May. We very much hope that all Year 6 parents will be able to attend the briefing, which will be in the hall at 6pm.



Spring Term Topic



Although December is a very busy time, we are already planning for the Spring Term 2026! Our whole school topic is entitled, "Epic Elements". Some of the key dates are below:

- Week of the 9th March – Science Week including a Science Fair
- Week of the 23rd March – Rackheath Museum week when Family members will be invited in to the school for each class to present their "Epic Elements" learning.

As part of our work next term we are doing quite a lot of work linked to water, the environment and the oceans. If anyone thinks they could support our curriculum or knows anyone who works in the marine world please do let us know.



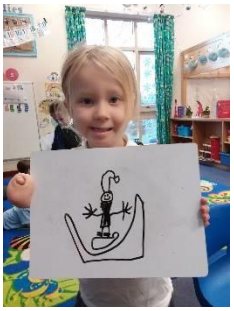
Bombers

Hello from a very festive Bombers. The children have been busy creating lots of lovely Christmas crafts. There have been many activities to encourage self-care discussions (washing babies, tooth brushing activity, PSE stories / reference books and dressing up). The children have been using gross motor skills with climbing, balancing, the trampoline, slide and outdoor vehicles. We will continue with Physical Development for our focus area next week. We have had some parents / grandparents come in for stay and play and the children have sung a couple of their practised Christmas songs to them. Everyone is getting very excited but also very tired and it is such a shame that there seems to be quite a lot of illness about. Funding forms are being distributed for the next term and thank you for the swift return once completed. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Reception



We have had a busy week in reception adding the final touches to our Nativity performance. The children adored trying their costumes on and seeing each other in character! They said, "I felt very shiny!" and, "My outfit made me giggle!"



We have been revising all our sounds this week and learned one new sound: 'wh' as in whizz! In maths, the children have loved learning about weight, mass and measuring these. They were brilliant at predicting heavier / lighter and explaining their reasoning. We learned that bigger objects are not necessarily heavier! We used our bodies (arms) to make imaginary balance scales – we "weighed" a tiny, baby sleeping mouse versus 1000 candy canes. You can imagine what happened to our scales!



We have again loved working in very small groups to look at pictures of traditional toys, choose one and write to Santa about it – it's been great seeing the children apply their phonic knowledge more independently.

It is still so important for our little ones to practise and refine their fine motor skills and they have loved our Christmas themed activities this week such as snowflake pegs and decorating the Christmas jumpers with tiny stickers!

We look forward to seeing you next week for our Nativity performances!

Year 1

What a super penultimate week we've had in Year 1 this week. We've been doing our daily nativity practise and even had a dress rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon. All is going very well so far and we can't wait to show you all next week (Tuesday morning 10am and Wednesday afternoon 1.50pm).

We had a great time on Monday doing our yearly Rudolph Run where the children enjoyed running, jogging and walking around the playground to Christmas music.

In Maths this week we have been completing a 'Christmas booklet' which includes lots of Christmas themed maths tasks; the children have been really enjoying counting elves and subtracting Santa's. We've even had a go at some Christmas counting songs on YouTube.



In English this week we have been learning the Christmas story. The children have been working hard to use full stops, capital letters, fingers spaces and 'and' to write the Christmas story.

Please continue to read with your child over Christmas because it will benefit them ready for January!!

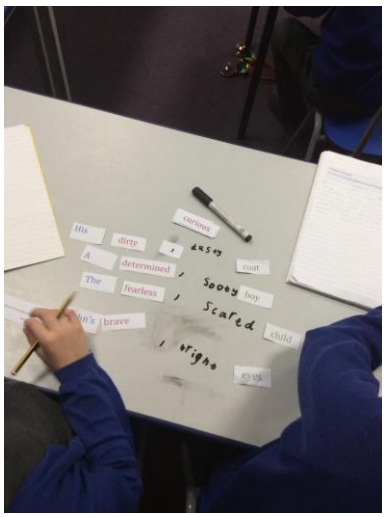
Year 2

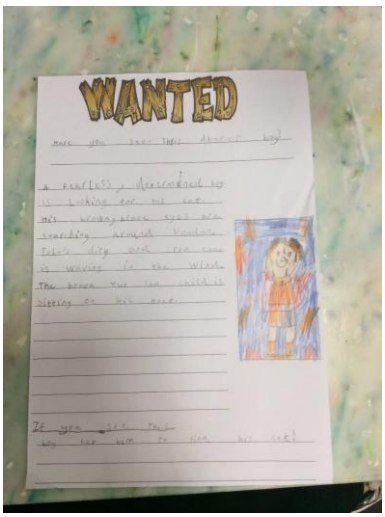
On Monday, the children took part in the Rudolph Run. They had a wonderful time running around the playground in their Christmas headwear while listening to Christmas songs.

In English, we have been focusing on building expanded noun phrases. The children learned that these phrases include two adjectives and a noun. They explored how adjectives can be separated with a comma — *the determined, curious boy* — or with a coordinating conjunction — *the scared but determined boy*. Later in the week, the children applied these skills in their Big Write, creating WANTED posters for the missing boy, John. They worked hard to write a question sentence such as *Have you seen this brave boy?* and a command sentence telling the reader what to do if they find him, as well as a detailed character description.

In Maths, we tackled some tricky concepts, including finding the difference between two numbers, comparing number sentences using the greater than, less than and equals symbols, and solving missing-number problems. We also discussed how it's perfectly okay for Maths to feel challenging and that practising these skills helps us grow as learners.

Our afternoons have been filled with rehearsals for our Christmas performance. The children have put in an incredible amount of effort and can't wait to perform for you all next week. We look forward to seeing you there!





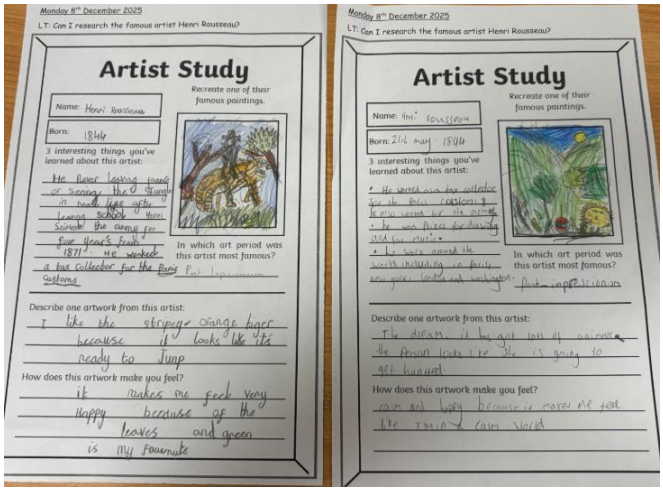
Year 3

In Year 3, the classroom has been full of Christmas joy!

In Maths, we have begun a new unit of work based on statistics. To begin the week, the children interpreted data from pictograms before creating their own themed upon their classmates' favourite type of Christmas present. Following this, they analysed data presented via bar charts and had a go at presenting data on a bar chart of their own.

In English, the children wrote a letter to Mr Ashman to persuade him to buy Noel the reindeer. During the latter part of the week, we recapped a number of grammar skills including the use of a subject and verb in a sentence. The children developed their own complete sentences before moving onto the use of nouns and pronouns for clarity and cohesion in their writing. Next week, we will explore the use of apostrophes for possession and contractions.

In Topic, the children explored a life of a Victorian child. We discovered that children from wealthy families were educated at home until the age of ten. We also found, during the Victorian era, school fees were abolished as education become compulsory. Girls and boys spent time separated whilst studying separate subjects with girls predominantly studying sewing/ textiles work and boys studying additional maths alongside some geography too. We also discovered that teachers were awfully strict; in fact, they used the cane as a method of punishment.



In Art, the children have begun studying the late artist Henri Rousseau who was French post-impressionist painter. Over the next few lessons, we will explore the use of colour, patterns and shapes ready to create our own rainforest/ jungle inspired artwork.

On Tuesday afternoon, the children presented their presentations of learning to the Year 5 children; we thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon and reflected on what we learned from the Year 5s. Overall, we leaned lots about World War II.

Year 4

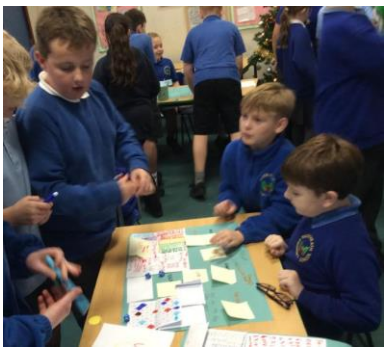
This week in Year 4 we have been very busy as we approach the end of term! Our festive activities have begun with lots of practice for the Christmas Carol concert next week. The children have enjoyed singing together and are showing the early signs of wanting to start a boy band!

As we approach the end of term the children have completed their termly maths assessments this week. Whilst these are never easy the children have shown great resilience and determination working hard throughout! The rest of the week in maths we have continued looking closely at both the 6 and 9-times tables. With each times table focus the children have shown great confidence and tackled tricky questions such as 45x9 and 23x6. When looking at these questions we have talked about using the knowledge we already have to help us! For example with 23x6 we already know 2x6= 12 therefore 20x6 =120 and 3x6 = 18. Therefore 120+18=138 and 23x6=138.

In English we began the week by watching the Wild Robot. Whilst watching the children created story maps of key moments throughout Roz's life. Later in the week we used this knowledge to identify key themes in her story which we later used to create subtitles for our autobiographies (written in first person as Roz). On Friday the children wrote their autobiographies, they were all fantastic. As the children had worked incredibly hard on them, we invited Mr Ashman to come and look. As a result, he awarded 5 class points which has earnt the class a movie afternoon next week.

Finally on Friday afternoon the children presented their work from this half term to Year 6 before we had the opportunity to hear what Year 6 have been learning!







Year 5



The children have continued to impress me and have kept up their high standards of enthusiasm and perseverance. The highlight of the week has to be Wednesday morning where the Year 5s shared their fantastic explanation texts linked to our class book. They paired up with children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and explained how dogs work. It was lovely to see how well they interacted with the younger children of the school – whilst being able to answer a range of questions too. They also did a fantastic job during our Presentation of Learning Day. This is where the children researched a topic, put together a display, and then demonstrated their knowledge to the Year 3s.



In Maths this week, we continued learning about fractions. This started by identifying common fractions, finding equivalent fractions and then finding fractions of amounts. During our English lessons, we began producing a second non-chronological report – this time linking to our class book of 'How Dogs Really Work.' We also completed a range of grammar challenges focusing on adverbs.

In Science lessons, we learnt about conductors and insulators within circuits and used our prior knowledge to draw and label circuits. The children then explained whether or not each circuit would work. In addition to having a 'Rudolph Run' and singing practice for our KS2 Carol Concert, we completed our winter artwork and sketched Winston Churchill to conclude our WW2 topic.

Year 6

We are quickly moving towards the end of term now and we are working our socks off to get everything finished!

In maths, we have been looking at % linked to the Christmas sales. We have been learning how to find 50%, 25%, 75%, 10% and 1% of different amounts of money. To do this we did a little Christmas shopping! The children found items that they would like for Christmas and then worked out how much they would cost in different shops with different sales.

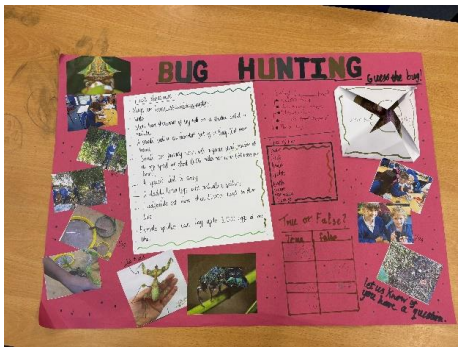
In English, we have finished our newspaper reports linked to Aylmerton, and even copied them up into neat onto a journalistic style sheet.

The children have also completed their art work linked to *agamograph.* Below you can see an example completed by Nathan.

But the highlight of our week has been linked to our presentations of learning for the year 4 children. Our class have worked in groups to create a small presentation linked to an area of learning from this term. We have had work linked to: Rationing, WW2 planes, Aylmerton, 8Billion Ideas, Art and even maths. Below is a photo of a page which was created for our UK habitats work about bugs.









Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 1 who had **20 out of 29** and
Year 5 who had **26 out of 29**

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



Well done to Year 3 who had

98%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Finley, Isaac, Cobie
Year 1	Ethan, Maggie,
Year 2	Luna, Isla C, Isla B, Enid
Year 3	Sonny, Lucy, Eve, All of Year 3
Year 4	Sonny, Leo, Ros
Year 5	Jack, Esme, Jacob G
Year 6	Iris, Emily, Anya

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman