Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 19th December 2025

This week has been an absolute treat to be a part of. We have had six Nativity Performances and a Carol Concert and they have all shown why Rackheath Primary School is a special place. The children were brilliant in all of the events and it was lovely to welcome so many family members to share in the celebrations.

All through the term the children have been superstars from the Bombers pre-school all the way up to Year 6. A special congratulations goes to the Reception Class on a fantastic first term in school.

Goodbye to Denise Coe - As you all know Denise was meant to leave school in the summer. When the manager who was due to join us didn't arrive Denise readily agreed to carry on for another term. This shows the incredible passion and love Denise has for the Bomber's Pre-School. She just wasn't prepared to leave us in trouble and without a manager. Thank you, Denise, for the amazing job you have done over the years and for your passion and dedication to the Pre-School. This carries on even after Christmas as Denise is coming in to work with our new manager Teresa De Freitas for the first 2 weeks of the Spring Term to ensure a smooth transition. We all wish you and your family all the best for the future. We will all miss you!





I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the school staff. They are a fantastic team who work hard every day to make sure our school is a happy place where learning is fun and children make good progress.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the support you give to the school and its events. There is always lots of enthusiasm to attend cafes, assemblies and performances as you showed this week. A lot of you are also active in the FORS, the school governors and in other ways. The voluntary effort you all put in makes a real difference. Thank you!

Christmas Performances

I was lucky enough to spend quite a bit of this week watching the Reception and Year 1 & 2 nativity performances. The children sang, danced and acted superbly and their story telling really captured the spirit of Christmas. In short, they were brilliant!! They all had a lovely time and I know the audience very much enjoyed the performances too.



A Christmas Message from the Governing Board

As we approach the festive season, the Governing Board would like to extend our warmest wishes to everyone in our Rackheath community; our incredible staff, dedicated parents and families, and most importantly, the wonderful children who make our school such a special place.

This term has been full of achievements and moments to celebrate. On November 11th, we held our latest monitoring day, which gave us the privilege of seeing the school in action. We visited every class, spent time in Bombers Pre-School, and met with subject leads. We also saw the fantastic work happening in Breakfast Club and After School Club. One of the highlights was speaking with a number of children who shared their thoughts on the school's values; their enthusiasm and understanding were truly inspiring and a testament to the positive culture at Rackheath.

We would like to give special thanks to Denise in Bombers for her unwavering support and dedication to the preschool. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to FORS (Friends of Rackheath School) for their tireless fundraising efforts. Their hard work has brought to life the incredible new "Bunker", which is already proving to be a fantastic addition for our children.



As we look forward to the holidays, we want to acknowledge the dedication of every member of staff, the support of our families, and the joy and curiosity of our pupils. Together, you make Rackheath a thriving, happy community.

From all of us on the Governing Board, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Celebration Assembly



On Thursday we held our first celebration assembly of the year! All the winners received a special certificate with the reasons why they won the award attached as well as a special badge and pencil.

Well done to them all:

Reception	Mavis And Alfie
Year 1	Emie and Allie
Year 2	Pippa and Austin
Year 3	Klarka and Lucas
Year 4	Harriet and Freddie
Year 5	Izzy and Theodore
Year 6	Millie and Nathan



KS2 Christmas Carols



It was a magical evening on Tuesday when we held our traditional evening of Christmas Carols. This year we changed it up a bit adding in ukuleles, some modern Christmas songs and some poetry. It was amazing to have so many members of the community join us in our celebrations. The singing battle between the parents and children during "The 12 Days of Christmas!" was a particular highlight!

Thanks to the FORS who continued their incredible fund-raising efforts! At the concert they raised £282.76 and overall thanks to your generosity this term they have raised over £3,000





Christmas Dinner

The children and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner on Thursday cooked by our fantastic chefs from VERTAS Richard and Abi. There was a lovely festive atmosphere in the hall as the staff took it in turns to serve the children. All told over 200 children and staff enjoyed a lovely Christmas Dinner.







Lion's Santa Sleigh – It seems a long time ago now but at the start of the week we had a visit from Father Christmas at the end of the day on Monday. It was lovely to see how excited the children were to meet Father Christmas.

Clubs for Spring Term

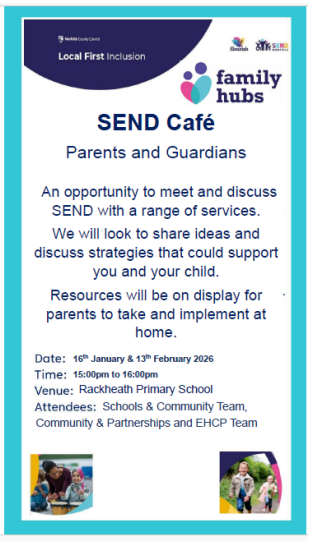
Clubs will re-start in the first full week of the term on Monday 12th January. Football club on Tuesday and Thursday will continue as will Cross Country on Friday mornings. Mr Palmer's clubs will stay the same too. There are spaces in most of these clubs so if your child would like to join then please check with the ladies in the office.

SEND Café for Parents and Carers

We are pleased to share that on Friday 16th January and Friday 13th February we will be hosting two fantastic SEND Cafes in the school hall from 3pm-4pm.

These will be attended by services from across Norfolk who will be sharing advice and support around the theme of emotional regulation.

Children are welcome to attend and there'll be lots of resources and ideas to share at home.



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.

FORS NEWS

Thank you for supporting all of our events since September. It's definitely been busy. We gave every class gifts for Christmas and supplied drinks and Christmas crackers at the Christmas dinner.

Thanks to all of you this is the money we have raised so far since September:

Movie Night - £419
Wreath Making - £180
Christmas Fayre and Raffle £1470
KS2 Carols - £282.76
Disco - £378
Cauliflower Commission - £263.60
Hot chocolate sale - £125.89

Total Fundraising - £3119.25



Bombers

It has been a lovely end of term in Bombers. The children have been very excited and have been busy playing Christmas games, making crafts and singing Christmas songs. We have had some treats for snack and party games. It has been lovely to see some parents and grandparents coming in for stay and play.

We were very lucky on Monday to watch the reception Christmas dress rehearsal. We were very proud how well all the children sat and the reception children were amazing. Well done to all of them and the hard work put in from the dedicated staff.

It is strange for me as I will be retiring soon in the new year once our new manager Teresa has settled in. I am sure I will still pop in sometimes to say hello, or help out if needed, as Bombers has been such a huge part of my life. I know the lovely staff team will carry on creating a calm, caring, learning environment for the children. Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and thank you from us all for the lovely cards, gifts and good wishes. Denise and all Bombers team.

Reception

We are so incredibly proud of our reception Nativity superstars! They really did do so well and we hope you enjoyed the performances. Wonderful memories made.

Though sometimes tired, the children have loved their final week in school - decorating gingerbread biscuits, partying with their Y6 buddies, their first Christmas school lunch and lots of festive provision!

What a wonderful first term it's been - reception class have astounded us with their enthusiasm, kindness and super learning! We are extremely proud of each and every one of our lovely children - we look forward to every day and it's a privilege to spend time with them.

Thank you so much for all the very kind and generous Christmas gifts and lovely cards for all the reception team - we are very grateful. We hope they enjoy their little present bags from us all!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas

Year 1

What a wonderful week we've had in Year 1! It's one of my personal favourite weeks of the school year. The Year 1s made us so super proud of them for their performance earlier in the week, they worked so hard during our rehearsals and did a great job showing off their performance skills. We will forever be singing 'wipe your feet' to the children when they enter the classroom after breaktime!

As you will see from the contents of their book bags, we have had a week filled with Christmas craft and baking. The children have had a fun week baking Christmas cookies with Mrs Spurling. We have all made Christmas cards using our finger-painting skills, which turned out beautifully. The children also got to have a go at weaving their own Christmas tree shaped decoration using wool and card which will go perfectly on your Christmas trees. They have also written a letter to father Christmas and made candy-cane style bracelets.

On Friday we read 'The story of Snow' which is a lovely picture book that explains how snowflakes are made. We then had a go at making our own snowflakes.

We finished the week by enjoying a Christmas film together in class. 'Arthur Christmas' was highly entertaining and I definitely enjoyed it as much as the children!

Thank you to all parents and children who were kind enough to buy the year 1 team a fantastic selection of Christmas gifts, we are all so grateful and feel very spoilt!! We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday; don't forget to KEEP READING (any book will do)! See you all in the new year!

Year 2

The Christmas holidays are finally here! What a fun-filled and busy term we have had in Year 2. This week we have well and truly been in the Christmas spirit.

In Maths, the children tackled Christmas-themed word problems involving addition and subtraction, created their next set of times tables flashcards and made a festive times tables paper chain. In English, we identified Christmas nouns, verbs and adjectives, practised using them in festive sentences, and wrote Christmas acrostic poems using alliteration. In RE, the children learned about the Christian story of the First Christmas and explored why Christmas is celebrated by Christian people.

We were incredibly proud of the children during their fantastic performances of *Babushka*. They were absolutely phenomenal, showing such confidence on stage – true superstars!

To finish the week, we enjoyed Christmas PE games, a pantomime, lots of golden time, and a very special Christmas movie afternoon.

On behalf of all the staff in Year 2, we would like to say a huge thank you for your very generous cards and gifts. We feel incredibly grateful and would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🎄

Year 3

And just like that, our first term is complete!

In Maths, we finished our unit of work based on statistics. This week, the children learned about interpreting data from tables. In addition to this, they presented their own data using a table which involved discussing the use of columns and rows. To conclude the week, the children completed some fun Christmas themed maths tasks.

In English, the children have used the theme of Christmas to explore and create their own acrostic poems.

In Art, the children continued studying the artwork of Henri Rousseau who was French post-impressionist painter. This week the children explored composition, discussion the foreground, middle ground and background of his artwork. The children then completed realistic drawings of plants, trees and leaves since Rousseau's art is based around the theme of the rainforest/ jungle. Finally, each child created their own piece of artwork inspired by Rousseau's.

Take a look at these examples:

In RE, we explored the Christmas story and created our own story sequences to reflect the narrative. Furthermore, the children learned about Christingles and their meaning as 'Christ's light'. The children discovered that Christingles are used to celebrate Jesus as the Light of the World before creating their own.

On Friday, we enjoyed a Christmas fun filled day! In addition to this, the children have thoroughly enjoyed watching the truly wonderful Reception and KS1 nativity performances this week. Alongside this, the children were awesome during our carol service on Tuesday evening!

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas; I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Year 4

Wow! What an amazing term we have had in Year 4, I can't believe we have already spent a whole term together. We have had lots of fun already and this week has been full of festive activities alongside some work. We began the week by finishing our English - typing up our Robot logs on the laptops. In maths we looked at the 9 times-tables and recapped the 3 and 6 times-tables.

On Monday and Tuesday we were treated to watching the amazing Nativity performances by Reception and KS1. The children loved sharing their memories from when they performed previously. On Tuesday evening we had a wonderful time at the carol concert, it was lovely to share the Christmas spirt with you all. The children have continued to sing the songs spontaneously throughout the week.

The children have spent time this week making a Christmas star. We used the hot glue guns to create the initial shapes before picking decorations and attaching those using metal wires. We also spent time looking at the Christmas story and making Christingles. I am sure a few sweets were munched along the way. We finished the week watching The Grinch whilst eating some popcorn!

Myself, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling would like to say a massive thank you for all our thoughtful gifts and cards. Whilst never expected they are very much appreciated and we feel very spoilt! Finally, we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy new year, we hope you all have a lovely time celebrating.

Year 5

What an amazing term it has been! The children have worked incredibly hard since September and Mrs Duckmanton and I are so proud of them all. They have made fantastic progress in their learning and have remained resilient throughout every challenge.

During Maths lessons, we learnt about improper fractions and mixed numbers – whilst also understanding how to convert between the two. In English lessons, we continued our non-chronological reports linked to our class book of 'How Dogs Really Work' and completed a series of grammar challenges. The children had to 'build' their own

sentences with subject and verb cards whilst adding in relative and subordinate clauses. In French lessons, we learnt numbers up to 20 and we recapped the Christmas Story as part of an R.E activity.

On Monday, we watched an online panto of Cinderella via the Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub. We were also fortunate enough to watch the Reception Nativity performance on Tuesday and then the KS1 Nativity on Wednesday. I would like to say a huge well done to those who attended the KS2 Carol Concert on Tuesday night. Each year it seems to get better and it really put everyone into the Christmas spirit. On Thursday, we had our Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day – where the class also got to watch a film, have snacks, and play games in the afternoon.

Finally, **Mrs Duckmaton and I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas. Thank you so much for the cards and gifts we received too… they were very much appreciated!**

Year 6

Well the end of the term is here and we have celebrated in style!

Lots of artwork (hopefully the children have managed to bring them all home in one piece)! Plenty of games and the annual Cavender's Bumper Christmas Quiz – won this year by The Night Before Winmas team (Cara, Lilah and Millie!)

Thank you all so much for our wonderful gifts – you have truly spoilt us! Ms Holmes and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and we will see you next year.

"Over the Christmas holidays I hope you all have a lovely time with those you love and care about. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing all the children again on Tuesday 6th January 2026!"



Best wishes

Chris Ashman