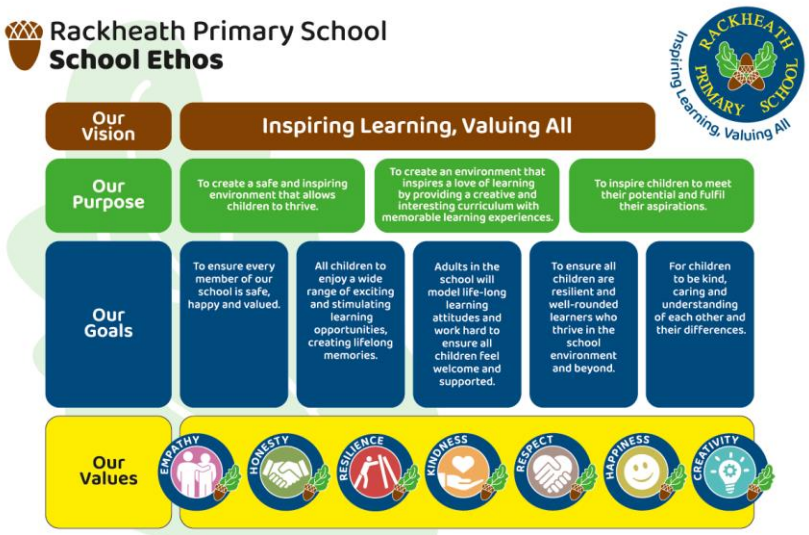
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 9th January 2026

Firstly, welcome back, we wish you all a happy new year and hope you all had a lovely festive break. It certainly was a snowy start to the new term.

Our school ethos and values – over the last term children, staff, parents and governors have been working on creating our School Ethos and School Values. These are vital documents as they set out our purpose, our goals and our values. They set out what the school stands for and what we believe our school should be about. They set a benchmark against which we can measure whether we are successful in achieving our purpose, our goals and our values. Our Rackheath School Ethos and Our Rackheath School Values will be at the front and centre of all we do in the school and as a community.

We also know that our children will achieve their best when school and families work closely together which we have captured in our working in partnership to achieve our goals.





You can also find our Ethos and Values on the school website:

https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/about-us/vision-and-values/



A warm welcome - This week we welcomed Teresa to our team as our new Bombers manager. I know she has already met lots of you and your children. We are very pleased and excited to welcome her to Rackheath!

SEND Café for Parents and Carers

As mentioned before Christmas, 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.





"I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas and New Year!

It has been so lovely to be back at Rackheath, getting to know the children and hear all the things they have been up to.

I thought it would be a lovely idea to start a Parent Café. A chance to catch up, meet other parents or just have some time before school finishes!

Parent Café will be every Monday from 2.30pm - 3.15pm in the school hall, starting on Monday 19th January.

Hope to see some of you then!"

Emma Milligan

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.



Epic Elements

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 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.



Reception

Welcome back reception class! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year to all our families. Thank you all once more for your very lovely cards and gifts – that was very kind and generous!

What a way to start back at school – the most snow lots of the children have seen in a long time! They loved exploring outside and investigating with all their senses! We have been exploring our new 'Epic Elements' topic anyway, which is about our Earth, so investigating North Pole weather was a real bonus!

In phonics, we have been revising all the previously learned sounds and practising blending. (Blending is when a child firstly sounds out a word, e.g. "s-i-t" and then blends the word together to make and say it: "sit." You may find your child needs to sound out a good few times and you may also need to step in and help them blend if they are finding it tricky to work out what the word is). Almost all the children have been given new home reading resources to go alongside their sound pots. Please ensure your child is practising with these, with an adult at home, at least **3 times per week**. We are seeing some confident blending amongst some of our class but lots of children find this a huge next step and really need extra practise at home so that they don't fall behind.

In maths, the children have been really enthusiastic thinking about pairs of numbers which add to make 10 ('number bonds' to 10, e.g. 6 + 4 = 10). We have used lots of different practical resources for this and even learned a new song – it starts "*10 counters on my frame"* and it is sung to the tune of 'Heads, Shoulder, Knees and Toes!' So, you never know, if you prompt your child, they may sing it to you!

Finally, please could you ensure all uniform is named – we have had lots of missing items this week which were not named so this makes it really hard to find them and reunite them with their owners! Many thanks.

We are looking forward to exploring another geography theme '*Under the Sea*' next week! Have a super weekend!







Year 1

Welcome back Year 1 parents. We hope you've all had a super couple of weeks off the school run and that your children are raring to get back into their learning! We have sent home our half termly spelling sheets along with our knowledge organisers for the Spring Term.

We have kicked of this week's Epic Elements Topic with some exciting Geography learning all about key coastal features. The children have been talking about who enjoys going to the beach and what they like to do at the beach. We have been using the following coastal vocabulary: beach, cliff, coast, sea, ocean and river. We are very lucky to have the coastline so close to use here in Norfolk so if you get the opportunity to visit it during our current topic and point out all the different features then we're sure your child would love it! On Thursday we introduced the children to fossils and how lots of different fossils are found on our beaches; Mrs Duckmanton let us borrow some of her huge collection of fossils to hold and look closely at. Thank you also to Ellis and Louis who bought in their very own fossils from home for us to see!

This week in Maths we have kicked off the half term with ordering and comparing numbers to 20. The children have been filling in empty number lines to 20 and using them to answer 1 more and 1 less than questions. We have been having a go at ordering 4 numbers between 10 – 30 from smallest to biggest and thinking of number that are greater than or less than a random 2-digit number.

In English we have begun our work using one of our favourite books 'Bob the Man on the Moon'. The children have been introduced to Bob and have begun by creating their own maps of Bob's route to work and back every day. They have also been inventing some very exciting sandwich fillings for Bob and his friends to enjoy when they're on the moon. We are continuing to practise writing simple sentences focusing this week on using 'I' at the start of the sentence e.g. I like eating ice cream. I am a fast runner.

Please remember to hear your child READ at home; it is paramount to their progression!

Year 2

It has been a wonderful first week back after the Christmas break. Despite the snowy weather, the children have settled straight back into school life and shown a fantastic attitude to learning. They have been extremely keen to get started and there have been lots of happy faces, clearly reflecting our school value of happiness this week.

In English, we have begun our new unit based on the book *How to Catch a Star*. At the end of this unit, the children will be writing their own set of instructions. We started the week by learning what makes good instructions, focusing on the importance of being clear, specific and in the correct order. We have also begun developing key writing skills, including using command sentences with imperative verbs and adding adverbs to describe how actions are carried out, for example, *"Look for a star in the sky carefully."*

In Maths, we have started our new unit on Shape. This week the children have been exploring 2D shapes by naming them, counting their sides and vertices, and sorting them into groups.

We have also launched our new topic, Epic Elements. We are beginning this topic with Geography, where the children are learning about the seaside. This week they explored different seaside features and then identified whether these were human or physical features.

Year 3



As we enter our second term, we have dived in to lots of learning!

To begin the week, we spent time reflecting on the four zones of regulation and thinking about our own emotions linked to the New Year and the return to school. It was wonderful to see the number of children excited for the term ahead.

In English, the children made their own acrostic poems related to the New Year. Alongside this, we spent time revisiting the components of a complete sentence. The children were brilliant at identifying the subject and verb of a variety of sentences. We recapped the formation of 'complete' sentences and wrote sentences using the three types of verbs: physical action, mental action and state of being words. Alongside this, the children made their own acrostic poems related to the New Year.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their knowledge of multiplication and division. This week we explored multiples of 10 and recalled a number of related multiplication and division facts. On Friday, we introduced using the grid method to solve 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication sums using place values counters and base-10

resources to help them. Next week, they will learn about how to use pictorial representations (drawing 10s and 2s) and apply their knowledge abstractly (using numerals).



The children have also been busy developing artwork to celebrate the New Year. Prior to this, their explored the colour wheel and enjoyed learning about mixing primary colours to create secondary colours which they could then apply to their final piece.

Finally, on behalf of myself and Mrs Penson, we would like to say a big thank you for our generous Christmas gifts! I hope you all have a lovely, restful (and cosy!) weekend.

Year 4



I hope you all had a lovely holiday and Christmas; it has been lovely to hear from the children about all the wonderful things they have been up to. In school we have jumped straight into the New Year squeezing in lots of learning. In maths we have continued looking at each of the times tables this week (7x, 11x and 12x). We began the week making 7 times tables spinners so the children can practice and test themselves. On Thursday and Friday we spent time in pairs answering word problems linked to the 11x and 12x times tables. In class we talked about looking for clues in the question and that sometimes questions need us to do more than one thing to find the answer.

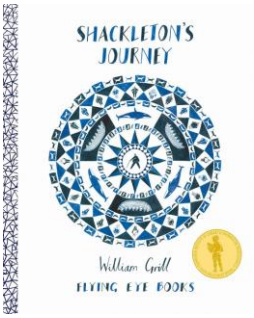
In English we have started looking at our new story 'How the Stars Came to be' by Poonam Mistry. On Tuesday the children made predictions about the story based on the title and cover. This highlighted their amazing creativity. We had predictions including sacrifices and others based around Greek Gods. Our second big write of this book will be a narrative and I am already excited to read them.



This term our PE will be on Tuesday we will be doing gymnastics. This week we talked about tensing different muscles to help us balance better, the children even tested each other's strength with some small challenges. Once we were warmed up the children worked in pairs to create partner balances, as we move through our gymnastics work this will become a part of routine. Finally, in art this week we have done lots of painting, we began the week thinking about proportion in our drawings before drawing a shape and our water bottles side by side. Once drawn the children used water colours to bring their drawings to life. On Friday in art the children used primary colours to create new colours allowing them to create a painting with both warm and cool colours in.

Year 5

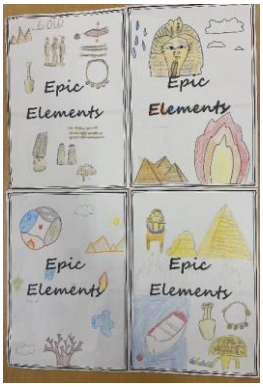
First of all…Happy New Year! It's been a fantastic first week back in school and the children have all shown a positive attitude for learning.

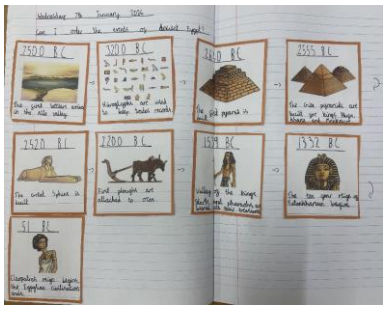


In Maths lessons, we began learning about equivalent fractions and then used these skills to order fractions from smallest to largest. During English activities, we started a new class book: 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. Initially, the class had to make predictions about what the book will be about (including how it may end) just by studying the front cover. They then learnt about Ernest Shackleton and suggested their own opinions/ideas about his character.

On Tuesday, we also began our new whole-school topic of 'Epic Elements' with a particular focus on Ancient Egypt. The children learnt about key dates from this era and put them in chronological order within a timeline. They also learnt about the importance of the pyramids.

Our science topic for the beginning of this half term is 'Light'. This week, our lesson included learning what light is and understanding the difference between natural and man-made light sources. Finally, for an art activity, the class designed their own Epic Elements title page to link to our whole-school topic and History topic.

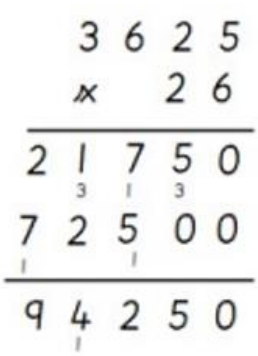


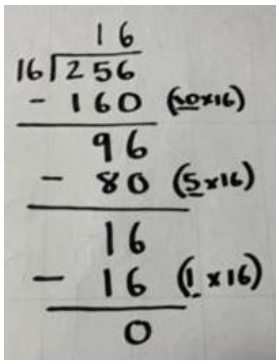


Year 6

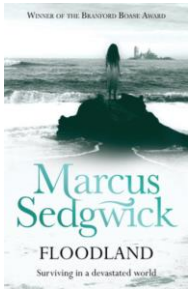
It has been a great start back to school this week!

In maths, we have started with reminding ourselves how we use formal multiplication and division. It looks like this:





In English we have started our new class text 'Floodland' which follows a girl from Norwich as she attempts to find safety in a flooded world. This week, we have looked at 'past progressive' and 'present progressive' sentences. E.g.

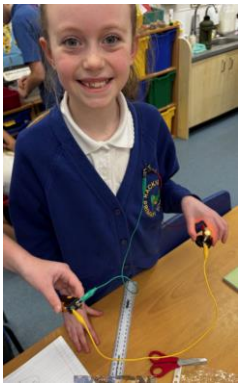


Zoe was running towards her boat. (Past progressive)

Zoe is running towards her boat. (Present progressive)

In topic, we have been finishing off our circuit's unit from last term. We have created circuits and have then used them to find which materials are conductors and which are insulators.





Attendance Bear

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 3 who had

99%

attendance before Christmas.
Attendance Bear will be in
Year 3 next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Harlee, Chester, Olivia
Year 1	Maggie, Hugo, Gracie-Lou
Year 2	Pippa, Harrison, Isla C
Year 3	Henry, Lucy, William
Year 4	Ivy, Elliot. Freddie
Year 5	Ella, Isla, Louis
Year 6	Nicola, Poppy, Emil

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman



