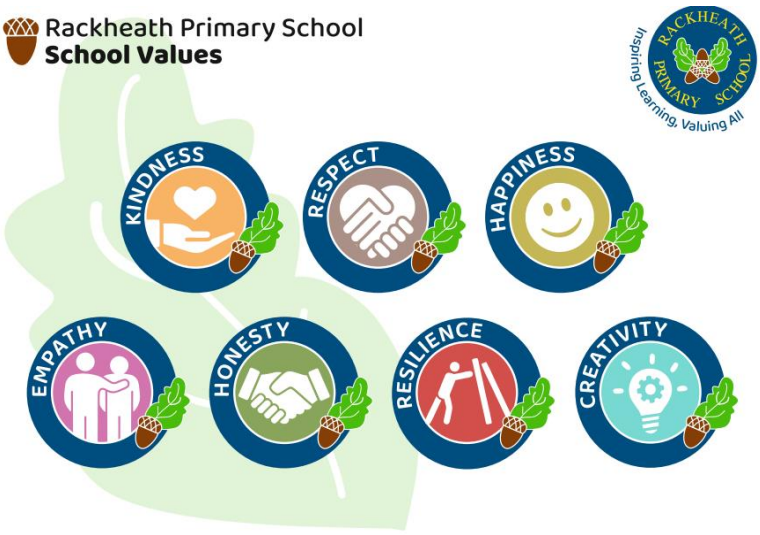
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 16th January 2026

School Values Happiness

For the first 4 weeks of the year we are focussing on Happiness in class and in assemblies. In assemblies we have been using "Action for Happiness" as a stimulus for our work. This week we have been looking at their 10-point plan for happiness, which is useful for children and adults too. We have been looking at the ideas in their posters and the children have been creating their own to display in class and the hall. A few of the posters are below. I will also share these resources on School Ping as an option for use at home.







You can find our Ethos and Values on the school website:
https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/about-us/vision-and-values/



SchoolPing / SCOPAY - From the end of the month we will stop using School Ping and we will start to use SCOPAY as our main communication. This is to streamline the number of Apps you have to access and should simplify and improve our communication with you. SCOPAY will send most communication via email.



As mentioned last week, 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 there!" Emma Milligan

Rackheath Vets Visit – Thanks to Chris from Rackheath Vets who came in to school on Thursday to speak to the children from Year 3 to 6 about the life of a vet. As part of this Chris held a Q & A so children could find out about life as a vet!

The Three R's! - Rackheath Reception Readers

Starting on Tuesday 27th January, Reception are going to be starting a morning shared read for parents and children. One day a week the Reception day will start with parents dropping in for 15 minutes to share a book and read with the class.

The three dates before half term will be:

- Tuesday 27th January 8:45 - 9.00am
- Wednesday 4th February 8:45 – 9.00am
- Thursday 12th February 8:45 – 9.00am

We look forward to seeing lots of you there!



SEND Café for Parents and Carers – Unfortunately, this event was cancelled due to illness within the School and Communities Team. We will keep you posted about the next scheduled café!

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 dates



Monday 19th January	Weekly parent café starts
Monday 26th January	Girls Football at the Nest
Tuesday 27th	Rackheath Reception Readers starts
Tuesday 3rd February	SATS briefing for Year 6
Tues 10th/ Weds 11th Feb	Parent Teacher Evenings
Friday 13th February	School and Communities Team Cafe
Week of 23rd February	Water Awareness Week (including visits from Anglian Water and Marine Biologists)
Week of 9th March	Science Week - including Mad Science and Science Fair
Week of 23rd March	Presentation of Learning to parents



Reception

Due to staff sickness, there is no piece for the newsletter. This will return next week!

Year 1

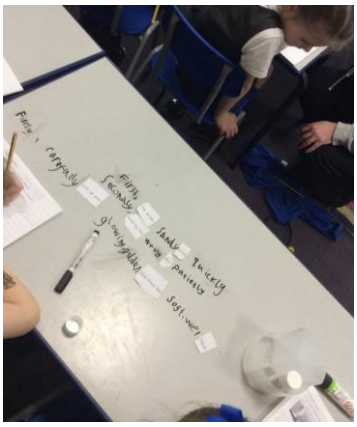
What a fun week we've had in Year 1 this week! We have been learning the 7 Continents and 5 Oceans of the world. We have all loved singing the Continents song and learning where each continent is on a map of the world. We have also loved singing the Oceans song and identifying the 5 oceans on a world map. See if your child can either sing you the song or even show you each continent on a map! The children have watched some short videos on each of the continents to gather information for next week's topic tasks. On Wednesday afternoons (after PE) we have begun our Music unit which is called 'Sun, Sea and Song.' We had a great time exploring tempo and 'rests' within music whilst learning the song 'The Big Ship Sails on the ally ally oh'.

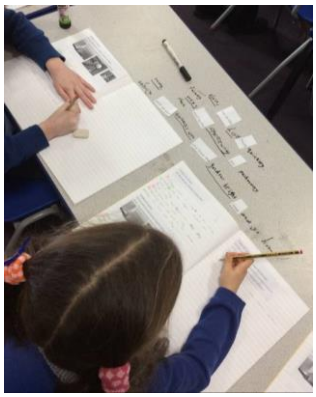
In English this week Bob the Man on the Moon has taken us on an adventure to create our very own aliens, even though Bob insists that "There's no such thing as aliens." The children have been using these to plan and write a story all about their alien hiding on Bob's rocket and sneaking back to Earth with him. We have been making sure that we use full stops, capital letters, finger spaces, 'and' -ed endings and also making sure that our stories have a beginning and ending. The children have worked really hard with their stories and we've seen some great writing!

In Maths this week we have been adding within 20 and learning our number bonds to 20. We kicked off the week by using tens frames to add together sea creatures by answering word problems e.g. There were 5 sea creatures in a reef and 3 more joined them, how many sea creatures are there now? Not only does this allow children to feel more confident with simple addition it also helps them to learn and understand the language often used in maths word problems such as: 'how many more?' We continued the week by recapping our number bonds to 10 and using this knowledge to work out our number bonds to 20. There are lots of games online which can help secure this knowledge too; a brilliant game to play online is 'Hit the Button' where you can practise number bonds to 10 and 20 which is great fun and helps with the children's recall of these.

Year 2

This week in English, the children have continued working towards writing their own set of instructions on 'How to Catch a Star'. They have been practising important writing skills such as using adjectives, adverbs and time adverbials to make their instructions clear and specific. By the end of the week, the children were confidently putting these skills together to write well-structured, skill-filled command sentences. Next week, they will use everything they have learned to write their own full set of instructions.

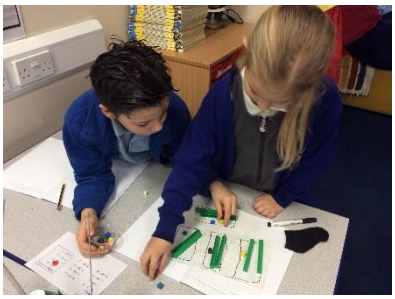




In Maths, we have continued our learning about shape. The children have been practising drawing 2D shapes carefully, finding and drawing vertical lines of symmetry, and using lines of symmetry to complete shapes. Towards the end of the week, we also began exploring 3D shapes, which we will be looking at in more detail next week.

In Geography, we explored seaside towns and cities around the UK and located them on maps. The children then took a closer look at what life is like in Lyme Regis, using maps to discover what can be found there. Finally, we discussed what an island is and located islands within the British Isles on maps, before learning about life on the Isles of Scilly.

Year 3



We have had another a fantastic week in Year 3 full of learning!

In English, the children learned about and implemented alliteration, similes and metaphors in their own writing. They also explored syllables and practised identifying the number of syllables in specific words. During this week's lessons, the children implemented these skills in a range of poetry types including Kennings, Haiku and Tanka poems.

In Maths, we have been busy using the grid method to solve 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication sums in pictorial (drawing base-10) and abstract (number) representations. Alongside this, the children have learned about and practised using the chunking method to divide. On Friday, the children solved division questions with remainders.

In our Geography (topic), the children have been learning about the four layers of the Earth and created their own Earth structure. In addition to this, the children have explored and identify parts of a volcano and learned about the ways in which they're formed as a result of plate boundary movements.





In Computing, we have begun a unit of work based on touch typing. In this week's lesson, the children learned about placing their fingers on the correct home keys and practised using their left and right hands for the appropriate letters depending on their location on the keyboard.

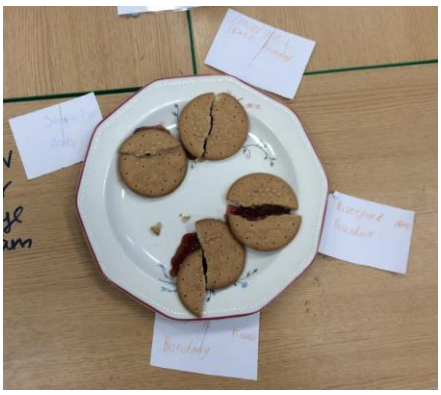
On Thursday, the children were all super in their first swimming lesson. To top it off, they all returned to school with smiles on their faces!

Year 4

This week in Year 4 we have continued looking at multiplication and begun looking at division. The children have spent time practicing both multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. In class we have used counters and place value charts to either move our counters up or down based on the question. Next week we will continue looking at multiplication and begin to use our written method to work out some trickier questions.

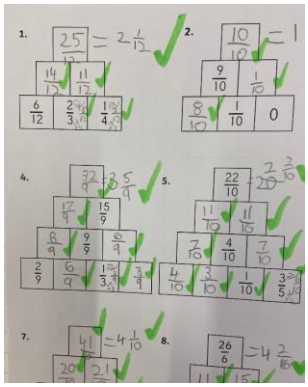
In English we have begun looking at our next big write, which we will be starting next week. For this unit the children will be writing a letter to explain to the father in the story how the stars came to be in the sky. To help us with this we have looked at example letters, created our own checklist and been the teacher to make my (Miss Farrow's example) even better. On top of all of this we have revisited expanded noun phrases and have focused on not letting a verb sneak in between our adjective, noun and preposition.

In gymnastics we recapped our partner balances before looking at jumps. Once we had practiced jumping on the mats, we had ago at jumping from a higher place to a lower place. Initially, this was daunting for some of the class especially on the highest table. However by the end of the lesson everyone was practising working with a partner to jump in time! In topic we have begun looking at volcanoes, at the start of the week we looked at the different layers of the earth and created models to show this. To support our drawings we used atlases to look at the shapes of different countries. On Friday we finished the week looking at how volcanoes are formed. We discussed how tectonic plates move and then worked in groups to demonstrate this with biscuits and jam!



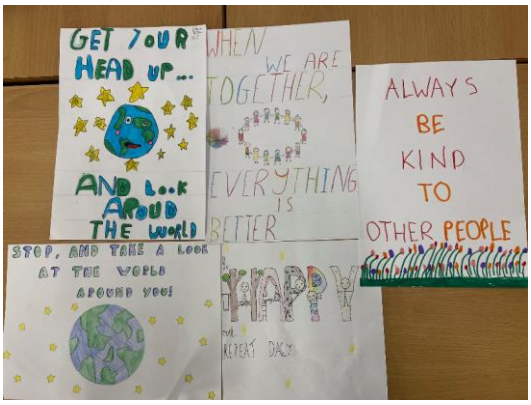


Year 5



It's hard to believe that two weeks of this term have gone already! I have been very impressed with the children's knowledge and understanding in lessons this week – particularly in Maths. We continued our fractions unit of work where the children had to add and subtract fractions (with different denominators) and then had to complete a reasoning puzzle. This is where they had to use their converting skills and then calculate the missing fractions.

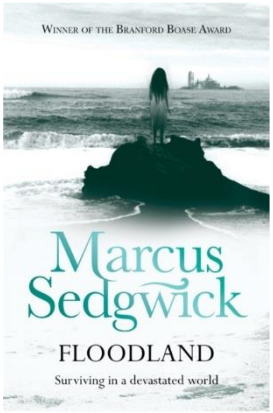
In English, we carried on learning about Ernest Shackleton from our class book 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. After completing their own newspaper advertisement to recruit crew members, they then drew their own person from a hat. One of our lessons involved the class researching their chosen person to discover what their job was on the Endurance Expedition and the skills they must have had. Finally, they had to write to Ernest Shackleton to apply for a job as a crew member.



During Science lessons, the children recapped their understanding of light. This included a challenge linked to natural and man-made light sources. They then drew a picture to demonstrate how light is reflected into our eyes and explained how (and why) the pupils in our eyes change size in sunlight or darkness. On Thursday afternoon we discussed what makes us happy – as this is our current school value focus. The children then produced positivity posters which will go up around the school next week. The end results look amazing!

In topic lessons, we continued our understanding of Ancient Egypt with a focus on why the pyramids were built. The class even got to research what the inside of a pyramid looks like and which items were found in each section/chamber.

Year 6



It has been a bit of an uneventful week in year 6 due to our Spring term tests that we have just completed but I have been incredibly impressed with how the children have got on and worked through them.

With maths, we have just started to look at ratio and how numbers link with each other. An example of this would be with cooking: if for 12 cakes you need 100g of sugar then how many g of sugar would you need for 6 or 9 cakes.

In English, we have continued our book work with Floodland. Our focus has been on adjectives and how to find them. The children have been shown how to find a noun and then see how it has been described.

We have started our unit on light this week and so far, have discovered that light travels in straight lines – we know this as we have day and night, and we also have shadows.



Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 & 2 who had **20 out of 30**
and
Year 5 who had **27 out of 30**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Years 3 & 6 for

100%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will spend time with them both next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Lilly, Olivia, Isaac
Year 1	Jacob, Harry, Isla
Year 2	Luna, Mabel, Thora
Year 3	Freddie, Klarka, Aminah
Year 4	Florence, Luke, Karina
Year 5	Matilda, Oscar, Hazel
Year 6	Olivia W, Aria, Nathan

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman