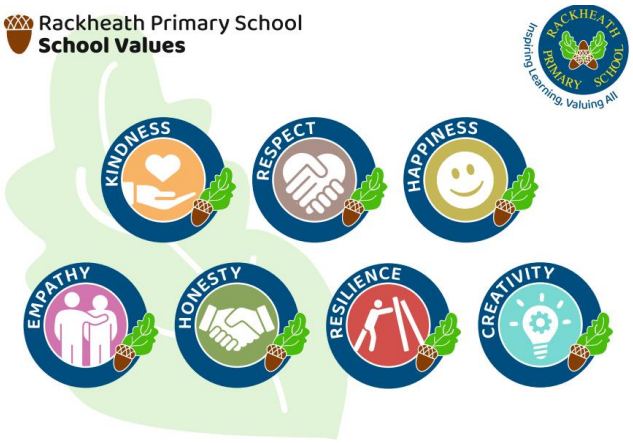
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 23rd January 2026

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

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





Thank you, Denise – On Tuesday an era came to an end as Denise had her last day in Bombers Pre-School. Right to the end of her last day she was looking out for the children and giving them her support. Denise's commitment to the pre-school is very well known and she showed this across her time and especially last term when she agreed to stay on for another term.

After School and Breakfast Clubs – We do have spaces every day in our extended provision both before and after school. If you would like to book a space for your child for an extended period or just as one off for a few days please speak to the school office who can help you set this up.

SchoolPing / SCOPAY

As mentioned last week, from the end of the month we will stop using SchoolPing 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 communication via email and you may get texts occasionally from PupilAsset which will display RACKHEATHP as the sender on your phone.



The Bunker – On Tuesday CAPCO, builders of the bunker, came in to film the school council talking about the impact of our new play area. They also shot some footage of the children playing on the bunker for a feature on the benefits of outdoor adventurous play. They also showed me the piece on their website about the build at Rackheath, which you can find here:



https://wearecapco.com/project/the-bunker-at-rackheath-primary-school/



A reminder that our Parent Café will take place again on Monday. This is a chance to catch up, meet other parents or just have some time before school finishes!

This will be held 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

The Three R's! - Rackheath Reception Readers

A reminder that 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!

SATS Briefing

A reminder that 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 26th January	Parent Café with Mrs Milligan – 2.30pm Girls Football at the Nest
Tuesday 27th January	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

Eco Committee Poster Competition!



We are having a competition for KS1 and KS2 children to design a poster to encourage everyone to be eco-friendly around school. The poster could be a reminder to use re-usable water bottles, put recycling in the recycling bins, remember to turn off the lights or encouraging children to walk to school. If you need any ideas, come and chat to the Eco Committee!

There will be a prize for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in KS1 and KS2 and the winning posters will be displayed around school. The closing date is Monday 9th February.

Please hand your finished posters to Mrs Milligan or any of the Eco Committee members.





Bombers

This week in Bombers we have been settling back into routine and supporting children to feel safe, happy, and confident in their environment. We have been getting to know our new families, supporting parents to join Tapestry, and building strong relationships as we begin the new term together. In line with the school focus on Happiness, we have been talking with the children about what makes them feel happy, sharing kind moments, and creating a calm and positive atmosphere within the setting. We are really looking forward to sharing more of our learning with you over the coming weeks.

Reception

There has been 'Commotion in the Ocean' this week in Reception class as we have enjoyed this fun, rhyming story book. It has been a lovely introduction to simple poetry for our little ones. They have enjoyed thinking about rhyming words, learning facts about sea creatures and writing about them.

In phonics, we have explored the 'ee' sound (beep, sleep) and 'Little Bo Peep' came to visit our class! She had lost her sheep (all named with the 'ee' sound in them and they'd only come back if we sounded out and read their names!) The children found all the sheep and returned them to their pen; reading beautifully. But Bo Peep was worried they would keep running away so the children were really kind and helpful and wrote to the sheep using their phonics knowledge to help them, they wrote, "I love my sheep." So far, all sheep now feel very loved and have stayed put in their pen due to the amazing writing from the children!





In maths, the children have worked hard to understand subtraction/ take away. As Bo Peep popped in, the children counted out clumps of grass (green pomp poms!) for Bo Peep's sheep, the greedy sheep then ate some and we counted what was left.

A popular activity indoors this week was the 'sea creature rescue' - unfortunately, due to the weather, some of the sea creatures from our story were frozen and trapped in ice and so the children had to work together to release them quickly! Outside, the pedal bike (as opposed to the scooters and balance bikes) was the popular choice with lots of children taking turns to give those legs a work out!

Next week, we are exploring a new seaside themed story, but this time, the children will think more about the main character and his thoughts and feelings.

Year 1

It's been a rather wet and grey one this week but that hasn't dampened our spirits and enthusiasm for learning! After finding out all about each of the 7 continents last week we have been working in groups to make artwork for each continent, which we will be displaying during our Presentation of Learning later in the term. The children have really enjoyed creating these and have done a super job! In Topic we have been looking closely at contrasting beach locations (Cromer and Barbados) and have been working in pairs to create travel leaflets giving facts and features of these two very different places. In our music lesson on Wednesday this week the children enjoyed their second lesson on Sun, Sea and Song by singing 'There's a hole at the bottom of the sea'. They were great at clapping the rhythm and talking all about how the music uses pace and a beat.

In English this week we have been exploring the use of exclamation marks and how we can use them in our sentence writing (e.g. for excitement, anger, surprise etc). The children have also been learning about how to write a postcard and have been writing a short recount, in the form of a postcard, to Bob to his parents on Earth. On Thursday the children were given the task of creating labels and persuasive posters for Bobs souvenir stand on the moon. The children used their phonic knowledge to spell out the words for the label and their persuasive techniques to create the posters. We finished the week with an independent writing task where the children had to focus on using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops to describe what they could see in an ocean photo.

In Maths we have been doubling! The class have been making use of the dice to create their own doubling questions e.g. double 2 = 4. We have been playing lots of doubling games using dice, counters, Numicon and 'hit the button' game online to help us get to grips with doubling. Doubling games are really good fun to play at home and are a great way of recalling and understanding numbers better; just grab a dice and have a go. https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button (this link will take you to hit the button maths game online which a brilliant)!

Year 2



It has been a very busy week in Year 2 – it has certainly flown by!

In English, the children practised using commas in a list, focusing on writing a clear "what you will need" section for instructions. After exploring a strong example of instructional writing, we worked together as a class to create our own "Steps to Success", identifying all the key skills we have been practising. By the end of the week, the children planned and then independently wrote their own imaginative instructions for *How to Catch a Star*. Their ideas were wonderfully creative, featuring flying pandas, super-bouncy trampolines and many other exciting inventions. They did an amazing job of including all the skills we have been learning in their writing!

In Maths, we continued our work on 3D shapes. The children counted faces, edges and vertices before finishing the week by sorting shapes into different groups.



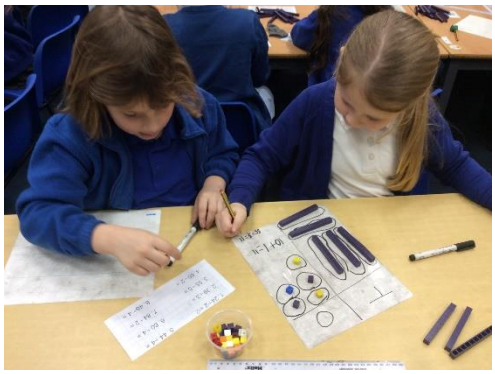
In Geography, we began exploring the environment and discussed how, in order for living things to be happy and healthy, we need to look after our planet. The children talked about ways humans help or harm the planet and learned about reduce, reuse and recycle. They redesigned recycling logos and shared fun ideas for reusing waste materials. Towards the end of the week, we focused on beaches as a habitat, discussing who they are important to and created a whole-class example of a healthy, happy beach. Next week, we will explore what happens when beaches are not looked after and the impact this has on living things.



Year 3

This week in English, Year 3 have been exploring personification and applying this skill to their own narrative poems inspired by the life of Emmeline Pankhurst. Alongside this, they learned about Marie Curie, discussing the challenges she faced throughout her life and the lasting legacy she left behind. The children explored rhyming words and wrote their own free verse poems linked to the impact Marie Curie had on the medical profession.

In Maths, the children have been working hard to develop their division skills. They continued using the chunking method before moving on to dividing through grouping, following our school calculation policy. On Thursday, the children took part in a carousel of maths stations focused on scaling. This lesson was thoroughly enjoyed by all! To round off the week, the children challenged their thinking by solving "how many ways" problems.



As part of our Geography topic, we have been delving deeper into tectonic plate movements and hotspots. The children learned about the Ring of Fire, discovering that 75% of the world's volcanoes are found along this horseshoe-shaped line, and successfully identified it on a world map. They also explored earthquakes, including learning about the different methods used to measure their size.

In Computing, the children continued to develop their touch-typing skills. This week's focus was on typing numbers accurately and learning how to use the shift key to create capital letters, helping to improve both their speed and accuracy.

Yet again, the children all thoroughly enjoyed their weekly swimming lesson - Well done to Year 3 for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 4

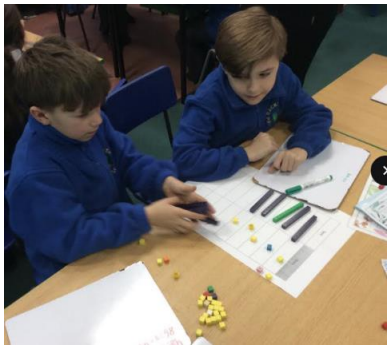
This week as been full on in Year 4. In English we recapped expanded noun phrases, looked adverbial phrases and then planned and wrote our letters. The children have done really well with this task as yet again they were asked to write pretending to be a character from the story rather than themselves. Next week in English we will begin building towards writing our own short narrative linked to the story 'How the stars came to be'.

In Maths we have been looking at multiplication and division. We used all our current knowledge to help us find easier ways to solve multiplication problems. Later in the week, we looked at division first practically and then moved on our written method. We will continue to work through the phases of our school calculation policy to help everyone feel confident when dividing.

In topic we continued to look at volcanoes. We looked in more detail at the Earth's crust and discovered that tectonic plates can also cause earthquakes. Whilst looking at earthquakes the children created posters full of interesting facts and explained the different ways the tectonic plates move. In PE we recapped jumps and balance before looking at rolls. Towards the end of the lesson the children begun creating their own small routines in pairs.

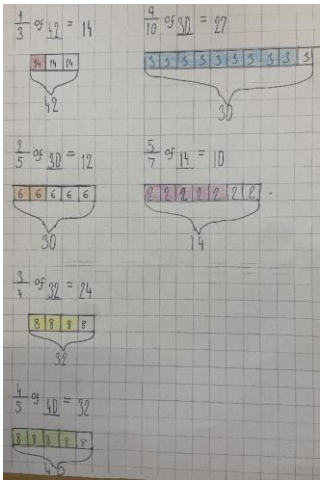
This half term, we have noticed a drop in reading stars and therefore have set the children the challenge. If they reach their threes reads a week, they will have the opportunity to win a selection of prizes we came up with together today. The rewards included the opportunity to teach the class an activity (with support from an adult), Lunch with the Year 4 adults and a friend as well as the chance to spend break with KS1. Additionally, any extra reads will earn them a raffle ticket which will be drawn at the end of term! Finally, spellings will be coming home inside homework books on a Friday to help prevent them from going missing!







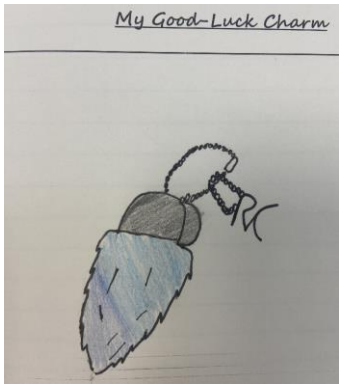
Year 5



Another week has flown by with lots of different lessons and activities taking place. In Maths, the children learnt how to multiply and divide fractions. They then had to solve problems involving missing fractions within whole numbers.

All of our English writing tasks linked to 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill. Firstly, the class had to write down questions that they would like to ask Ernest Shackleton. After a class vote, three questions were put forward. However, the children had to predict what they thought the answers would be before an AI tool was used to interview him! A further task was for the class to write the essential items that they would take (in 2026) if they were asked to join an expedition. They then compared these to the items that were taken onboard the Endurance Expedition in 1914. The final challenge was to design a good-luck charm to take with them in hope that it would keep them safe during the hazardous journey.

In Science lessons, we continued our topic of 'Light' where the class learnt about refraction. This included discussing how refraction bends light as it passes through different materials – causing change in its direction and speed. They then produced an illustration to accompany their research. Yesterday, our science lesson focused on materials that are either transparent, translucent or opaque. During History lessons, we discovered the importance of the River Nile during the Ancient Egyptian era. Finally, we had a draw-along Art lesson where the children sketched and coloured an orca. The end results were very impressive!





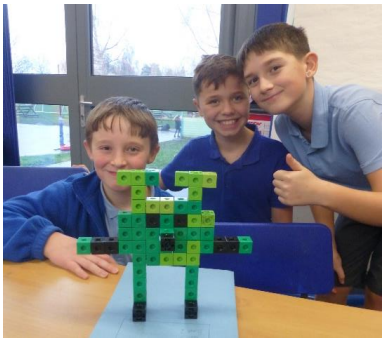
Year 6

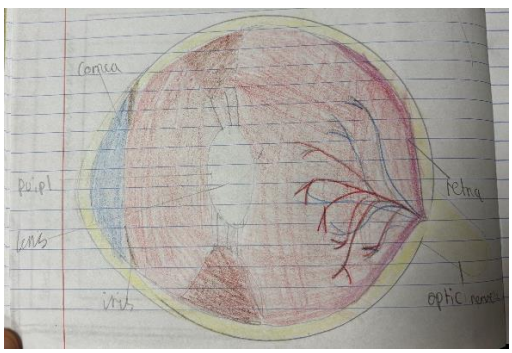
This week in maths we have started our unit on ratio. To begin with, we made creatures using cubes however they had to stick to a cube ratio of 1:3 meaning that for every 1 cube of a colour they had to use 3 cubes of a second colour.

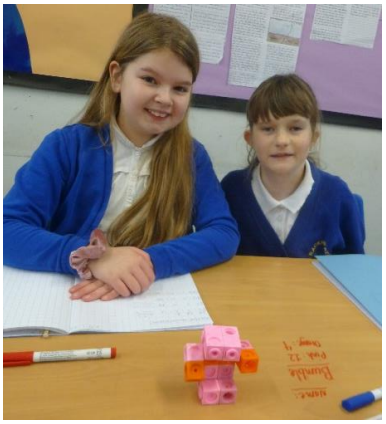
In English, we have been preparing for an assessed piece of writing linked to our book 'Floodland'; the children wrote a diary extract from the main character Zoe, imagining how she is feeling having landed on the Island of the Eels.

In history, we have started to investigate the Ancient Egyptians by creating a fact file linked to some of the more interesting facts of this time period. For example, did you know that camels we not found in Egypt during the time of the Ancient Egyptians…not domesticated ones anyway!

In Science we have started to look at the eye in more detail. First, we sketched an eye and then used this to label different parts. We conducted tests to see the eye at work by keeping them closed for a minute and quickly opening them. This allowed us to see the iris change to make the pupil smaller.







Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 & 2 who had **21 out of 30**
and
Year 6 who had **27 out of 31**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception Class for

99%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Stanley, Marlowe, Charlie
Year 1	Teddy B, Emie, Teddy H-J
Year 2	Austin, Jace, Rocco
Year 3	Jamie, Lochlan, Summer
Year 4	Finley, Elsie, Archie
Year 5	Ava, Mila, Seb
Year 6	Jack, Xander, Madi

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman