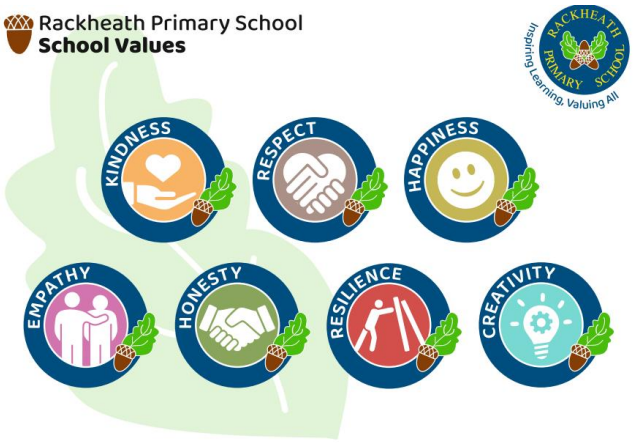
Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 30th January 2026

It has been another busy and enjoyable week at school with lots of excellent learning and teaching taking place. Next week our school values focus turns to honesty. Lots of our assemblies will focus on honesty as will work in class and it will be the main focus for our Star, Angel, Diamond assembly every Friday. I'm sure we will be giving out lots of honesty stickers in the weeks leading up to half term.

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

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



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 previously informed, from next week 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 Pupil Asset which will display RACKHEATHP as the sender on your phone.





Parent Teacher Evenings – Sign up is now open on SCOPAY for Parent's Evenings which take place on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th of February.

The Three R's! - Rackheath Reception Readers

It was great to see lots of family members enjoying sharing a book with their children on Tuesday. Parents attending thought it was great fun and it also gives parents a chance to ask staff any questions you might have about reading at home.



The next 2 dates before half term will be:

- Wednesday 4th February 8:45-9am
- Thursday 12th February 8:45-9am

We look forward to seeing lots of you there on Wednesday!

Girls Football at the Nest



On Monday the girls took part in another afternoon of football fixtures at Norwich City's nest facility. We played 4 games in total narrowly losing 3 and drawing 1. With a bit more luck a few more results could have gone our way as we hit the post with shots on a couple of occasions. Well done to all the girls who took part; Nicola, Jayden, Izzy, Ava, Matilda, Esme and Ella. A particular well done to Freya who put in a great display as captain and never stopped running. Thanks to Ms Holmes and the parents for their support.

Next week it is the turn of the boy's team as they head to the Nest on Monday afternoon.

SATS Briefing

This coming 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



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

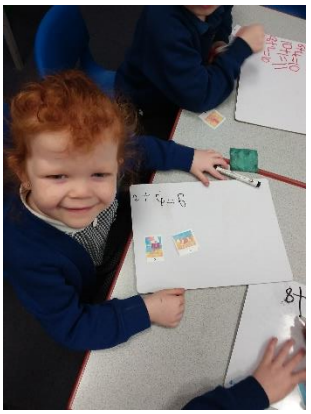
It's been lots of fun this week in reception class reading the story 'Billy's Bucket' together. Billy doesn't want a bicycle or a tablet or a football for his birthday … he just wants a bucket! We're excited to continue the story next week and find out why! The children have loved thinking about the characters and their feelings - excitement, surprise, nerves, etc!

In phonics, we have learned a trigraph this week which is 3 letters working together to make one sound: 'igh.' (Sigh, fright, light, etc). We absolutely loved seeing lots of parents/ family members coming in for our early morning reading session - thank you so much for giving up your time - the children were very excited and it's so important for the children to practise their reading skills with an adult from their home/ family. We're looking forward to seeing you again next week on **Wednesday 8.45am - 9am.** Please keep reading at home and filling in those reading diaries as the number of children reading regularly at home decreased again in our class this week.

We have enjoyed another story in maths called 'One is a snail, Ten is a crab.' It is about different creatures you may find at the beach and the number of 'feet' they may have. It's provides a really simple introduction to algebra (we didn't use that word!) For example, the children can work out what the missing creature might be in a number sentence, e.g. *If my total is 5 and I have a dog (4 feet) what other creature will make the total 5?* (The children knew it was the snail with its single 'foot'!) They also enjoyed creating and solving their own number sentences based on the creatures!







Year 1

What a super week our Year 1s have had! Such positive attitudes to learning from everyone in the class. In topic this week they have completed an art project linked to recycling. The children have been learning all about plastic pollution and how important it is to help keep our oceans looking clean and beautiful. Linked to this we all made an 'Ocean in an Egg box' showing us what an ocean should look like when it is looked after. We then moved on to learning about the importance of recycling and had a go at designing our own new recycling symbol. On Thursday we starting looking at how to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' and talked lots about how these things help our planet. We then used items of rubbish (thank you to all who sent them in from home) to make something else to 'reuse' it. The children had some super ideas and presented their reused items to the rest of the class on Friday!

In English we have begun our work on 'The Smeds and the Smoos' by Julia Donaldson. The children started their learning by looking at the beginning of the book and thinking about the similarities and differences between the 2 alien families. We put together a word bank of adjectives to create labelling pictures of the Smeds and the Smoos. The children also used their writing skills to design a Missing person advert for Janet or Bill. We have focused lots on full stops and capital letters this week, ensuring that the children know how and when to use them in their writing.

In Maths we have been subtracting! We have been using a number line to count backwards completing subtractions sums within 20 e.g. 18 – 7 = 9. We have also been doing some teen subtractions as word problems, using counters to help work out the answer. We finished the week by using part-whole models to answer number family sums: 11 + 4 = 15, 4 + 11=15, 15-4= 11, 15-11=4. Any practise at home goes a long way!

Year 2

This week in Geography, we investigated the question *"*What is plastic pollution?*"* by sorting items that should and should not be found at the beach. We then added plastic pollution to the healthy beach we created last week and discussed the impact it can have on the animals and plants that live there, as well as the people who visit the beach. We ended the week by creating posters showing ways we can help to stop plastic pollution building up on our beaches and in our oceans.

In English, we have been exploring nouns and verbs. Working in groups, we identified nouns linked to a clean beach and a polluted beach. We then thought about the different verbs animals and humans might do in each setting and decided whether these were physical action verbs or mental action verbs. We also discovered that our next independent write will be a non-chronological report to inform other children in the school about plastic pollution, so we began gathering and organising ideas from our Geography learning to prepare for this writing.

In Maths, we started our new unit on money. We explored pence, practised counting amounts in pence, and finished the week by beginning to learn about pounds. I was really impressed with lots of the children's knowledge of this tricky topic. If possible, over the next few weeks, giving your child the opportunity to use physical money (real or pretend!) in a shop or similar setting would really support their learning. We will, of course, be doing lots of role play involving shops and buying within school, as well as exploring with pretend money.

In Music, we have started our unit *Sun, Sea and Song*. We practised singing "The Big Ship Sails on the Ally-Ally-Oh**"** and counted the rests in the song. Following this, the children created their own short musical pieces that included rests, using percussion instruments.

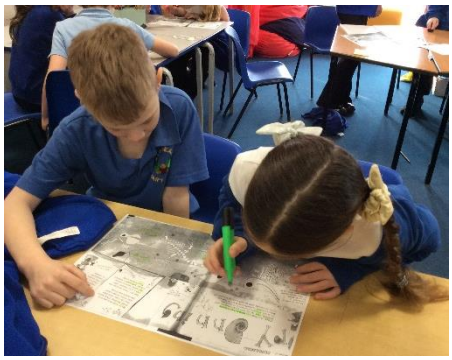






Year 3

This week in **English**, the children focused on editing and improving their poems before producing a final draft, ready to be put on display - showcasing their hard work and creativity. Later in the week, Year 3 began exploring the key features of a **recount**, as their next written piece will be linked to the life of one of the inspirational women featured in this term's text. A particular focus was placed on identifying and using **past tense verbs** accurately.



In **Maths**, the children began their new unit on **length and perimeter**. The children explored measuring in **metres, centimetres, and millimetres**, developing confidence in using different units of measure. They also practised **comparing lengths** and progressed to finding **equivalent lengths**.

To conclude our **Geography** unit, the children learned about how **earthquakes are measured**. They discovered that both the **Richter** and **Mercalli scales** are used to measure seismic activity, with the Richter scale recording the **magnitude (force)** of an earthquake and the Mercalli scale describing the **physical impact and level of destruction** experienced in a location.

In **Computing**, the children continued to develop their **touch-typing skills.** This week, they practised typing **punctuation marks and symbols**, while also building accuracy when typing simple words.

In **Science,** we began an exciting new unit on **States of Matter**. The children learned to recognise the three states - **solid, liquid, and gas**; discussed the **arrangement of particles** and the key properties of each state.

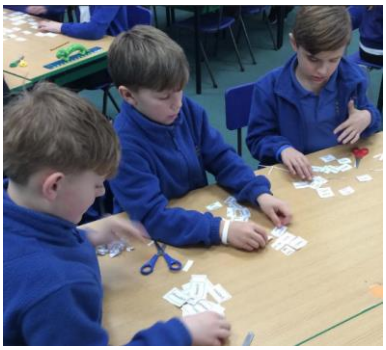
Year 4

Another week has flown by in Year 4! This week in PE we used the big equipment to start developing our gymnastic routines. It is always a very exciting moment when the climbing frame comes out in school and it was lovely to see all the children having a great time. Normally, I end up having to 'rescue' someone who has climbed up and then realised they have to climb back down! However, everyone in class was really brave and helpful if anyone became a little scared. Next week, we will continue to develop our routines and will look to include the ropes as well!

In Maths we have continued looking at multiplication and division. The children have been working really hard and have been answering some tricky questions. On Friday, we worked together to answer a range of word problems that included multiplication and division. We first looked to identify what we already know and then what the question wanted us to do. On top of all of this, as early work, this half term the children have been set daily challenges using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This has really helped them to become more confident and efficient at working out a range of maths questions. In English we have squeezed lots into this week, we have begun looking at the different use of apostrophes as well as beginning to form our initial ideas for a narrative that will be written before half term.

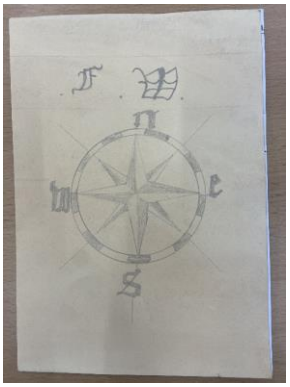
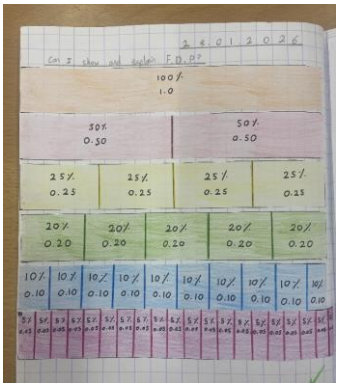
In RE we begun by looking at different religions, the children had lots of amazing thoughts, ideas and questions which created an interesting discussion. After our discussion we will be focusing on Christianity this half term and therefore looked at beliefs around Jesus. Finally, in science we have begun looking at states of matter. In our first lesson we discussed solids, liquids and gases, whilst looking at how the particles move in each state.



Year 5

It's been a busy and creative week in Year 5, with lots of imaginative ideas taking place. In Maths lessons, the children learnt how fractions, decimals and percentages are linked and how they can represent the same value. One of our activities included dividing bars equally and then calculating what they would be worth as fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, the children thought carefully about what their character's feelings must have been like during the Endurance Expedition. They planned ideas linked to what their character would have been worried about, excited about, as well as who (or what) they would have missed back home. This information was put into a diary/journal booklet and will be continued next week. They seemed to enjoy designing their front covers of the journal too! In Science lessons, the children discussed how light works in relation to the Sun and Earth. This included understanding why only part of the Earth is illuminated. In History lessons, the children began designing their own Ancient Egyptian menus including the name of their restaurant. Just some of these included: 'Waga-Mummies' and 'Hungry Camel.' They then researched popular foods and drinks from this era. As well as this, they looked at five images of Ancient Egyptian artefacts to predict what they were. **One of these images is below…can you guess what it is?** In R.E, we learnt about the key beliefs of Christianity as well as having further French lessons focusing on the days of the week and months of the year.



Year 6

We have had a cracking week in year 6!

In maths, we have continued to work on our ratio knowledge with the use of cubes, drawings and scaling to help us solve a range of different questions that will help us in later life. For example:

If 7 pencils cost £3.71 then how much would 4 pencils cost? To do this we had to scale down the price from 7 lots to 1 lot which equals 53p. We can then x by 4 to get 4 lots at a price of £2.12.

In English, we are preparing to write a nightmare linked to our class book Floodland. We have been talking about figurative language and the use of metaphors to give our descriptions a more 'nightmarish' feel. We are hoping to have these completed by next week so that the children can bring them home if they wish.

In History, we learnt about the location of Egypt and why an ancient civilisation was able to thrive there. In Geography, we looked at the importance of the water cycle and the role that it plays with our rivers.





Finally, in science, we looked at white light and the colours that make it up. We came up with catchy mnemonics to help us remember them. Here is Madi's:

Remember Only Your Greatest Bestie Is Vegan

Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 who had **21 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **28 out of 31**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 3 for

100%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Willow, Libby, Marlowe
Year 1	Ruby, Ellis, Louis
Year 2	Archer, Isla B, Riley
Year 3	Lucas, Arthur, Yanna
Year 4	Myla, Emily, Ben
Year 5	Charlie, Seb, Esme
Year 6	Emil, Amelia, Freya

Have a lovely weekend