Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026

The first half of the term has flown by and we find ourselves half way through February. This week in assemblies we have continued looking at the value of Honesty and shared the story of Lin and the Emperor:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zgn26g8

We have also been showing the children clips from the incredible Winter Olympics and linking what we have seen to our values.

Next half term – As usual there is lots to look forward to in school after the half term. We have trips out and visitors coming in that link to our topic, Epic Elements. Miss Holding is planning a science week with a visit from Mad Science, and a science fair involving children and families, two of the highlights of that week. In the last week we have the Rackheath Museum Presentation of Learning to parents and also a celebratory concert with the Sheringham Shantymen.

Honesty Competition

Do you think you could write a better poem about honesty than Mr Cavender and Mr Edwards?

H – Hold our hands up to mistakes

O – Own our actions

N – Never let someone else take the blame

E – Earn trust through telling the truth

S – Share our feelings

T – Tell the whole story

Y – You will feel better by telling the truth



By Mr Edwards and Mr Cavender

Your poem can be an acrostic or it can be written in any form you would like. Alternatively, you could draw a picture or design a poster to show what being honest is all about.

Entries to be in to Mr Ashman by Friday 27th February. There will be prizes for the best entries. Good luck!

After School and Breakfast Clubs

As previously mentioned, 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.



Parent Teacher Evenings

It was lovely to see lots of you over the course of Tuesday and Wednesday's parents' evenings. It is always lovely to share with you all news about how well the children are doing.

The Three R's! Rackheath Reception Readers – Rackheath Reception Readers has been a great success so far. It was great to see lots of family members enjoying sharing a book again with their children. The weekly reading time will carry on after half term on the following dates from 8.45am – 9.00am:

Tuesday 24th February

Wednesday 4th March

Thursday 12th March

Friday 20th March



Year 1 & 2 Football at the Nest

On Monday 9th February, some of our Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to play at the Norwich City training ground. The team played four matches during the event, winning three convincingly and scoring lots of goals along the way.

All of the children were a real credit to the school, impressing both on and off the pitch with their enthusiasm, excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the morning.

A huge well done and congratulations to Ethan, Hugo, Oakley and Raife in Year 1, and Austin, Harrison, Jace and Max in Year 2, for representing the school so brilliantly.

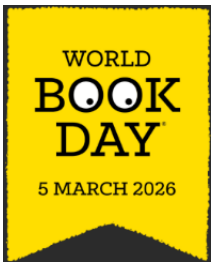






FORS Bake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who both donated and bought today. We had such a huge choice on offer and all of your efforts raised a grand total of £240.45.



World Book Day Competition

As you may be aware, it is World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. During the day, each class will be taking part in a variety of exciting activities. These range from: quizzes, online author Q&As and draw-alongs. However, I've arranged some additional activities for the children to participate in…

The first one is a Reading Poster competition. Using any equipment / resources of your choice, I would like the children to design a poster focusing on the theme of reading. Just some ideas… it could be an acrostic poem linked to the word 'READING' with the reasons why we love reading (or the benefits from reading). It may be a drawing that promotes a key message or favourite author etc. There will be a prize for the best entry in EYFS / KS1 and a further prize for the winner from KS2. **The entries can be brought into school on World Book Day.**

The second request is for your child to bring in ***your*** own favourite childhood book. Parts of the book could either be read in class by your child or your child's teacher. Another option is for your child to bring in ***their*** own favourite book to recommend to other children. **All of the above are entirely optional**, but it would be great to see as many entries (and books) as possible!

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to let me know.

Many thanks,

Mr Edwards



Spring Term dates

Week of 23rd February	Water Awareness Week (including visits from Anglian Water and Marine Biologists)
Week of 9th March	Science Week – includes Mad Science on Tuesday and Science Fair on Friday
Week of 23rd March	Presentation of Learning to parents
Weds 25th March	Sheringham Shantymen and RNLI Fundraiser





Bombers

We have continued building on our Spring term learning through our ocean theme. The children have been exploring sea life creatures, sharing what they know, and talking about where these animals live and their experiences in the ocean. This has supported communication, curiosity, and early environmental awareness.

Alongside our curriculum learning, we have been focusing on our school value of honesty. We listened to the story *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and had thoughtful discussions about telling the truth, trust, and how our choices affect others. The children shared their ideas with great enthusiasm and showed growing understanding of why honesty is important in our classroom and community.

We wish all our families a wonderful and restful half term break, and we look forward to diving straight back into our ocean of learning when we return.

Reception

It has been an epic week in reception class! It began with learning about road safety - unfortunately our visitor was unable to attend at the last minute but we worked together to think about what we already knew and what we needed to learn - the children could talk to you about what we practised: "Stop, Look and Listen!" We talked about looking properly and not just shaking your head and not stepping out, or leaning out into the road, until you're sure. We looked at photographs of safe and unsafe places to cross the road, such as not crossing near parked cars or big vehicles that could block our view. The children knew they should only ever be near the roads with an adult too. We were absolutely amazed when Oakley said he knew a road safety song and he volunteered to sing it to all the class! What a star! We hope the children will talk to you about being safe near the road over the half term holiday.

Next, Mrs Rivett worked with the children on Wednesday to think about Valentine's Day. The children thought about all the people that are special to them and who they love! They designed cards and experimented with wax crayon resist heart art. Yesterday, Marlowe and her family kindly treated all the children to a Valentines heart lollypop - we can show kindness and love to our friends in so many ways. Thank you, Marlowe!

Thank you to all the family members who came to one or more of our early morning reading sessions this term – reading with an adult (at home!) is so important to help the children to continue to make progress this year and reading is the key to accessing so much more of the curriculum… and everyday life outside of school. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible when this starts again after the break. The dates are listed earlier in the newsletter.

In phonics we revised all of our sounds and red words, and in maths we looked at money / coins - very tricky for lots of the children as cash / coins are something that young children are seeing quite rarely nowadays! Maybe they will see coins being used over the break if they help you with any shopping?

Finally, to end the busiest of weeks, we looked at Chinese New Year which will be happening in the break. We looked at where China is, how they might celebrate and even the 'Great Race' zodiac story which tells us all about the animals that each lunar new year is named after. 2026 is the year of the... well, ask your child and see if they can remember! Also, can they remember what many people do to their houses before the new year? (Clue, it involves mops and dusters) And, what colour is very lucky and used in lots of the decorations around the houses when Chinese New Year is celebrated?

Phew. Busy but brilliant! Have a super, safe break reception class.







Year 1

A super end to a great half term! This week the children have been exploring the Winter Olympics and learning all about the different events. They also had a go at designing and making a mini bobsleigh which they thoroughly

enjoyed racing. We enjoyed another music lesson on Wednesday singing and playing 'A sailor went to sea sea sea!' To finish the week, we returned to our work on animal groups by learning all about amphibians and reptiles. On Thursday the children got to draw and paint a frog and on Friday we made our own giant class snake.

In English this week the children have been writing a letter from Janet to Bill explaining how she felt when she and Bill ran away together. We have been reminding the children that our sentences need to include noun phrases full stops, capital letters, finger spaces and exclamation marks. These have been done brilliantly, so the children were given an opportunity on Thursday to read their letters out to the class, in order to show off their great work and also practise their speaking! We finished the week with an independent cold writing task where the children get to show off their writing skills.

In Maths this week we've had great fun learning about length and height! We have been lining objects up to see which is 'longer' or 'shorter' or 'taller', the children have then been using cubes to measure the length of the objects. After half term we shall be starting to use a ruler to measure objects and learning the skills needed to do so accurately.

We hope you have a wonderful half term Please try to get your child to read with you every day, even if it's for 5 minutes. Sitting down with them and doing some simple sentence writing or some maths games is a great way to pass a cold and wet February day!

Reminder for our Pirate dress-up day on Thursday 5th March!

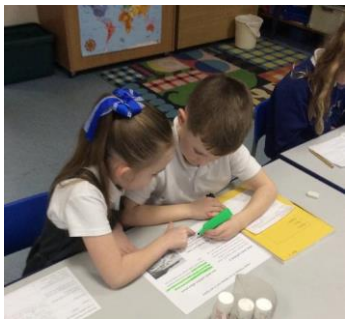
Year 2

We have reached the end of another busy half term!



In English this week, we practised writing sentences using *because*, following our structure of main idea – because – reason. We then explored an example of a non-chronological report before independently writing our own non-chronological reports about plastic pollution on our beaches and in our oceans. The children included clear statement sentences, used the subordinating conjunction *because*, and created lists within sentences, using commas to separate the items correctly.

In Maths, we concluded our unit on money. We explored different ways to make £1, compared amounts using the greater than, less than and equals symbols, and practised calculating with money. We also worked out how much change we would receive when buying different items before finishing the week by solving two-step word problems.



In Geography, we continued learning about the Poles and discovered famous explorers who set out to reach the South Pole. We thought carefully about what we would pack for such an expedition! We then turned our focus to the continent we live in, Europe. The children took on an alphabet challenge, using an atlas to find a country in Europe for as many letters of the alphabet as possible.

In Music, we completed the third lesson in our unit, *Sun, Sea and Song*. This week, we practised singing high and low notes before transferring this learning onto the glockenspiels, where we played both higher and lower pitches.

Year 3

What a brilliant end to the half term for Year 3!



In **English**, the children worked incredibly hard typing up their final draft **past-tense biographies**, which have been compiled into a wonderful **class book** that will be displayed in the school library. Alongside this, the children explored the story of **Frida Kahlo** and practised using **apostrophes to show plural possession.** To conclude the week, the children read about the remaining women featured in our class book before writing thoughtful **book reviews**.

In **Maths**, the children completed their **length and measurement** unit. They recapped **converting measurements,** answered worded problems involving length, and completed their **end-of-unit assessment**. The children also spent time practising their **times table recall**, both in and out of order, building confidence and fluency.



In **Science**, the children explored how **states of matter can change** through practical experiments. They investigated liquids changing to gas through **evaporation**, observing how a wet handprint disappeared from a paper towel over time. The children also explored liquids changing to solids through **freezing**, examining a range of liquids—including water, squash, olive oil, soap, and honey—after leaving them in the freezer overnight.

To end the week on a high note, the children enjoyed our fantastic **volcano explosion activity** on Friday afternoon, erupting their creations with great excitement!

Year 4

Wow what an amazing end to half term we have had. This week has just flown by just like the whole half term! I cannot quite believe we are half way through the school year.



In English this week the children have written their stories, checked, published and illustrated them. I have loved seeing all their creative ideas come together! In maths we have continued working through our unit looking at length and perimeter. This week we have explored how to identify missing lengths. Once we had mastered this, we then looked at using this knowledge to find the perimeter of shapes. We finished the week looking at some trickier questions that had multiple steps to find the answer. On Friday morning, 10 children battled Mr Ashman with their timetables, we had several close battles with Mr Ashman just catching the win. Three children were super speedy and were able to win the battle, a great achievement!

In science we completed some more experiments looking at how different liquids react when frozen. Interestingly some change colour from a bright pink / orange to a pastel pink! On Friday afternoon we then spent time outside erupting our volcanoes! This was great fun and very messy I am sure many of the children came home smelling of vinegar.

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening, it is always a really nice opportunity to catch up with you all and to share how amazing they are all doing. Finally, I hope you all have a lovely half term, I can't wait to hear about what you have been up to when we are back in school.

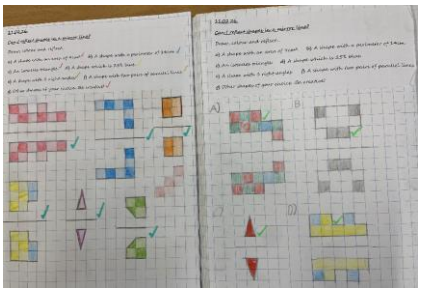


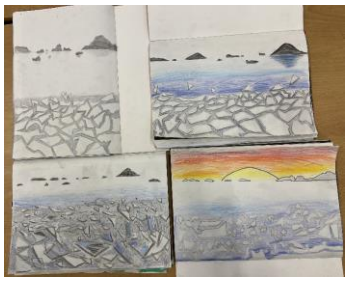


Year 5

What a brilliant half term it has been! Mrs Duckmanton and I are (yet again) so impressed by the children's achievements and resilience! In Maths lessons this week, we looked at reflection. It began by the children identifying whether or not shapes had been reflected correctly in a mirror line. This led to them reflecting shapes in a mirror line independently before designing their own shapes to reflect. They even used squared paper to colour their shapes and had to reflect the colours too! In English, we continued reading our class book – Shackleton's Journey by William Grill. Within the next few chapters, Endurance was stuck in the ice and the morale of the crew was low. Therefore, the children were asked to use powerful (and direct) vocabulary to lift the spirits of the crew – ensuring everyone on board believed in themselves! To inspire the class, we watched some famous speeches, including 'I Have a Dream' by

Martin Luther King Jr. The writing that the children produced was absolutely fantastic and certainly made me believe that everyone on board will go the extra mile to survive! In French lessons, we wrote the words for a variety of animals and we also became archaeologists in a recent History lesson. Some ancient Egyptian images were given to the class and they had to write what could be seen / what they may represent. During a science lesson, we looked at parts of the eye and described their function. Finally, our art lesson focused on 'pack ice' to link in with our class book. The children sketched a horizon with pack ice (in the foreground) before using colouring pencils to blend and shade.





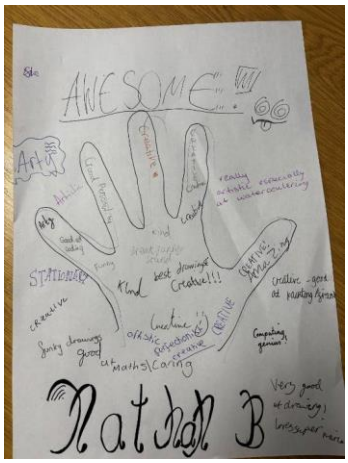
Year 6

A lovely final week of the half term in year 6!



In maths, we completed our work linked to algebra before moving on to using coordinates whilst reflecting shapes. In English, we continued to look at the use of formal language by writing a letter to Zoe (from Floodland) to offer her advice linked to the problems she is facing on Eel Island.

In History, we have been studying the importance of the Nile to the Ancient Egyptians. We discovered they used it for fishing, water, crop irrigation, building and transportation. In Geography, we have looked at the process of erosion – to do this I used a tray full of sand and poured water from the top to see what would happen. We also used this to show transportation and deposition – key words for our geography unit. We have also been treated to so many different sweet treats these past few weeks – thank you so much for the time and effort you have put in with these!



The highlight of our week though was in circle time. For this, we drew around our hand onto a piece of paper and then put our name on it. This was then passed along the circle and everyone had to write something about whoever's hand it was; it could be a single word, a memory, something they are good at or something that springs to mind when you think of them. Below you can see Nathan's finished hand…with my favourite comment being stationary!

Finally, could we please have large cereal and egg boxes for a project after half term!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 2 who had **22 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **28 out of 30**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 2 for

99%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will spend the week after half term with them!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Henry, Harlee, Harper
Year 1	Raife, Aria, Freya
Year 2	Tyler, Delilah, Grace
Year 3	Alexa, Sonny, Cian
Year 4	Jackson, Sienna, Kory
Year 5	All of Year 5, Ella, Jacob P
Year 6	Olivia C, Lilah, Sidney

We wish you all a happy half term! Let's hope the weather improves!!

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

