

Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 27th February 2026

It has been a good first week back in school. The children have all settled back into school and their learning very well. Our value continues to be honesty and we shared the story of "The Truth According to Arthur," which you can watch at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upppyMrSa7c in assembly.

The end of the week saw a new record attendance at Cross Country club. We had 27 children from Year 2 to 6 at the club before school on Friday – which was amazing! It has also been lovely to see the sun if only for 1 day!

Anglian Water Visit – On Friday Richard and Lisa from Anglian Water kindly visited the school. They started the day with an assembly all about saving water and looking after our water supply. They then carried out workshops with Year 3 and 4 all about household waste and water. In the afternoon they lead some work with the Eco-Committee, which will lead to an award for the school.

New half term - This half term is a short one but as usual there is lots to look forward to in school. 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 – There have been lots of super entries for our honesty poetry and poster competition. It will be hard to pick the winners! All the posters will soon go up on display. It will be hard to pick the winners!

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.

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. As previously mentioned, the weekly reading time will carry on this half. The first one took place on Tuesday. Further sessions are as follows (from 8.45am – 9.00am):

Wednesday 4th March

Thursday 12th March

Friday 20th March



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 been enjoying the warmer weather at the beginning of this week and have extended our learning outdoors.

The children have continued exploring our ocean learning while connecting with the school's focus on honesty. Through stories, role play, and everyday conversations, they have been learning about telling the truth, being more aware, and supporting one another during play.

In preparation for the school's upcoming Water Awareness Week, the children have been exploring water through investigation and discussion, discovering why water is important for people, animals, and our oceans. They were also curious about what would sink and float and carried out fun investigations to explore this. We have also been enjoying a variety of shared stories as we look forward to World Book Day, encouraging and continuing a growing love of books and storytelling.

Reception

Welcome back, Reception class! It's been great to see the children back again and enjoying some great learning and play outdoors - the weather has, for the most part, been kind! The wild area was very popular as always, especially the mud kitchen and bug hunting! They have loved our new pirate ship role play area - we've witnessed role play walking the plank, spotting islands, volcanoes and treasure in the distance and pirates who have been swabbing the decks! We have enjoyed the '10 Little Pirates' story together too and it's been great hearing the children join in with the rhymes and getting into their pirate characters!

In maths, the children have enjoyed exploring time - learning about the face and hands on an analogue clock and thinking about o' clock times. Well done, team! In phonics, the children have loved this week's sound 'oo' as in 'poo at the zoo!' Always a favourite with lots of giggles! They loved going to visit 'Rackheath Zoo' where we found lots of

zoo creatures who had unfortunately messed up their enclosures and therefore our phonics sentence this week was, of course, *"I saw poo at the zoo!"*

Our tricky red words this week are: *come, here, one.*

Next week, we are looking forward to another pirate themed story which will help us explore character and even some science & technology objectives!



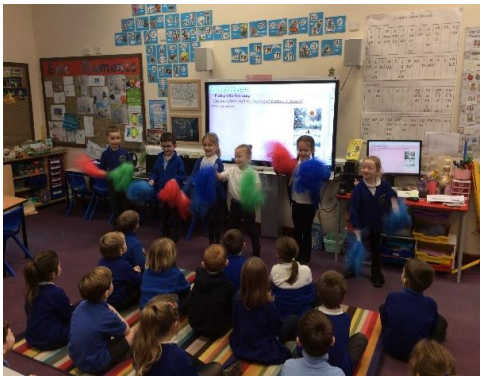




Year 1

What a super first week back after half term and we've thoroughly enjoyed the sunny skies earlier in the week; we even got the water-tray out on Wednesday which the children loved! In topic this week we have been learning all about Admiral Lord Nelson; how he was and why he was famous. The class were asked to make their own Nelson's Column using blocks, Lego and other construction materials and see how tall they could make them. On Tuesday we learned about Grace Darling; the children re-enacted the rescue and we watched each other's performances. At the end of the week, we participated in Water Awareness week where we learnt all about the importance of staying safe around water, found out about water conservation and had a visit from Anglian Water.





In English we have begun our 'Out and About' poetry book by Shirley Hughes. We talked all about what being 'out and about' is like and how it makes them feel. The children then wrote a detailed sentence explaining what they love about being outdoors. We also had a go at performing some poetry this week, practising 'Wind' in groups and performing it to the rest of the class. These were super to watch!

In Maths this week we have been measuring, in centimetres, using a ruler and finding items that are shorter or longer than each other. We have been learning important skills involved in using a ruler and measuring accurately. You could encourage your child to have a go at measuring different objects at home to show off the skills they have gained this week.

Don't forget to bring library books back on a Monday for our class library session. Also please check your child's PE kit and make sure it is fully functioning. And just a little reminder that its Pirate Day next Thursday so don't forget to dress up.

Year 2

The first week back after half term has flown by! The children have returned to school with fantastic attitudes and have settled straight back into their learning routines.

In English, we have begun an exciting new unit based on the book *How to Find Gold*. The children have thoroughly enjoyed being introduced to the two main characters and thinking carefully about their personalities. We started by generating ambitious adjectives to describe them before developing these into expanded noun phrases to add detail and interest to our writing. The children then applied their learning by carefully embedding expanded noun phrases into full sentences. Alongside this, we have been using coordinating conjunctions to extend our ideas and have been

learning how to write consistently in the past tense. We also explored the homophones there, their and they're, practising how to use each one accurately in our writing.

In Maths, we have started a new unit on multiplication and division. The children began by exploring equal and unequal groups through practical activities, where they recognised, created and drew groups. They then represented equal groups using repeated addition number sentences and progressed to writing multiplication sentences independently. For example, there are 3 equal groups of 5. This can be represented as 5 + 5 + 5 = 15, and therefore 3 × 5 = 15. It has been wonderful to see their confidence growing already.

In Science, we have been investigating everyday materials. We discussed the difference between an object and the material it is made from. The children enjoyed carrying out practical investigations around the classroom, identifying the materials used to make different objects and exploring their properties. We tested materials to determine whether they were absorbent or non-absorbent, as well as whether they were transparent or opaque.

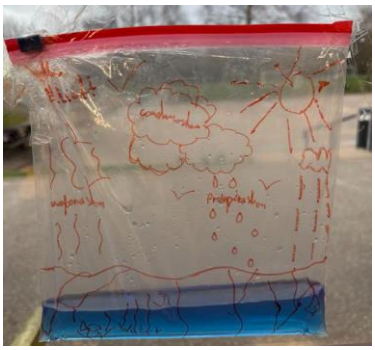
Finally, a reminder that next Thursday (5th March) is Pirate Day, so the children are invited to come to school dressed as pirates!

Year 3

And just like that, we are halfway through the academic year! Year 3 have had a brilliant first week back, returning to school with enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards their learning.

In English, we began our new class text, *Cloud Tea Monkeys*, and the children are already thoroughly enjoying the storyline. This week, we focused on securing our understanding of key word classes, including nouns (the subject of a sentence), verbs, adjectives and conjunctions. The children applied this knowledge to write their own sentences inspired by the theme of the book.

In Maths, the children started their new unit on fractions. They have been learning about the numerator and denominator and using this knowledge to identify unit and non-unit fractions of shapes and amounts. The children have also been comparing and ordering fractions, as well as exploring fractions that represent a whole.





In Science, the children consolidated their understanding of the water cycle, confidently naming the main stages and explaining key vocabulary such as evaporation, condensation and precipitation. To bring their learning to life, the children created their own mini water cycles in a bag to observe the process in action.

In Art, we began an exciting new unit on Pop Art, exploring the work of the famous artist Andy Warhol. The children created their own four-frame artwork featuring either an apple or a strawberry, using bold, contrasting colours to make their images truly 'pop'. Over the coming weeks, they will continue developing their skills to create a final piece inspired by Warhol's iconic style.

Year 4

Welcome back, we have had a very busy week and squeezed lots in to this half term already! In English we have started our new story book 'The Pebble in my Pocket' by Meredith Hooper. We began by making predictions about what this story may be about, initially these predictions included tales of magic and power but once the images were revealed they tailored their predictions to history. We all collected our own pebble to have by our side as we explore this story. This provided some lovely moments in class, or rather shocked faces looking at their pebbles, as we discussed how it was made and where it may have been. The children have made some great story maps of the life of their pebble. To help us understand the concept of deep time the children used post-it notes and their arms with the shoulder showing when Earth was formed and the very tips of their fingers showing when humans appeared on Earth.

In maths we have begun looking at fractions, this is a tricky concept especially when we look at number lines. The children have been great at remaining resilient when it is tricky but also showing confidence when they have grasped

the concept of the lesson. In art we have continued looking at Henri Matisse and have explored colours further to create a background colour for our work next week.

In science we have been looking at the water cycle and learning lots of key words including precipitation, evaporation and condensation. Our learning about the water cycle linked well to our visit from Anglian Water on Friday. During the visit the children created 'sewage' by adding wipes, wee (apple juice) and tea bags amongst other things. The children were tasked by our visitor to talk to you all about sewage and water this weekend, so don't be surprised if they bring up the topic over dinner!





Year 5

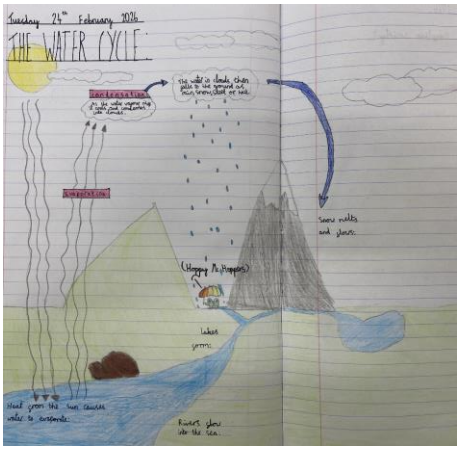
It's been a brilliant start to this half term; the children have all been focused and resilient.

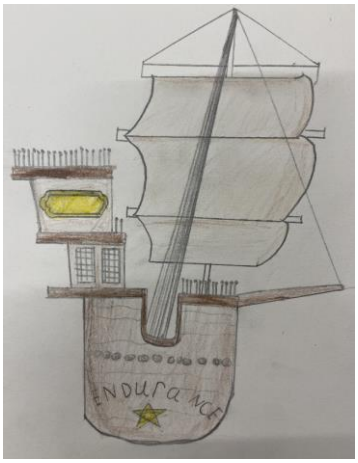
In English lessons, we have completed the final activities linked to Shackleton's Journey. This included learning about the crew travelling to Elephant Island before Shackleton (and five others) sailed to South Georgia in the hope of being rescued. It was during these chapters that the class wrote information about their crew member's thoughts, feelings and emotions. They then used powerful language to describe the current events whilst using speech to demonstrate what the crew members would have said.

During Maths lessons, we learnt about lines of symmetry before moving on to calculating the perimeter of shapes. I was amazed at how quickly the children were able to quickly complete a series of challenges – especially when they had to figure out the measurements of missing sides too.

In History lessons, the children selected a job role from the Ancient Egyptian era and had to research what this would involve. They also learnt about the mummification process and why this was so important to Ancient Egyptians. In Geography lessons, the children recapped their knowledge of the water cycle before completing their own drawings with accompanying labels. The end results were amazing! On Thursday, we had a draw-along art lesson to produce a ship. However, the children got to be creative and alter parts from the video so it ended up looking like Endurance!

Please note that we have our Ancient Egyptian dress-up day in school next Thursday (5th March)





Year 6

A great week back in year 6!

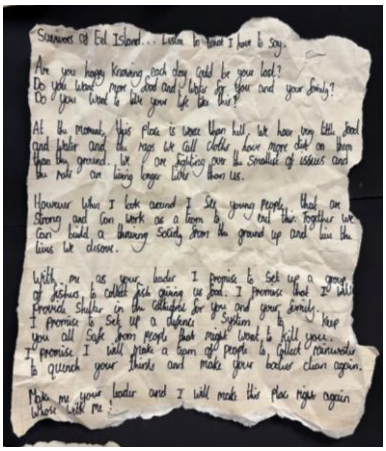
In maths, we have started our work linked to decimal numbers. Our focus has been on partitioning and rounding these types of numbers. Our new word of the week was integer which means whole number!

In English, we have been writing persuasive speeches linked to our book. We were imagining that we were Dooby, a boy from the book, who wanted to be the leader of Eel Island.

In topic, we learnt about the features of a river in the upper course such as rapids and waterfalls. In history, we looked at Ancient Egyptian society by selecting roles for the class. Some children were very happy, such as Madi who is a Pharaoh although Emily, Xander, Nathan and Emily are not impressed as they have been given the role of a slave! In art, the children completed their work of patterns based on Ancient Egyptian headwear!

Finally, a reminder that we have our Ancient Egyptian day on Thursday – for this we have asked children to dress up in some way linked to Ancient Egypt!





Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 who had **19 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **25 out of 29**

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

Well done to Year 3 for

97%

attendance before half term. Attendance Bear will spend next week with them!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Sophia, Alife, Theo
Year 1	Jacob, Ashfia, Allie
Year 2	Eden, Jacob, Joshua
Year 3	Charlotte, Emmy, Jasmine
Year 4	Harriet, Oakley, All of Year 4
Year 5	George, Edie, Jack
Year 6	Nathan, Nicola, Ayla

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman