# Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 6th February 2026

This week we have started focusing on honesty as one of our core values. We have been looking at some famous stories where honesty is the focus. I also shared an acrostic poem written by Mr Edwards and Mr Cavender, which is now on display in the hall. Classes have talked about what being honest is and our SAD assembly certificates in the next few weeks will mainly link to honesty.

## Head for the Day – Emily and Xander

*"On Tuesday 3rd February, we got to school early as we were going to be head for the day. We started the day by having a staff meeting with the staff discussing what the day was going to include. We rang the bell and began by having a look at what the school was up to. After that, we led an assembly and talked about our school values and gave out stickers to two people from each class.*



*We then went outside for break and caught up with our friends. We then came in and had hot chocolate to warm us up. Next, we talked to children about maths and filled in a survey. We even answered Mr A's emails. After that it was lunch time. We had a look at what reception and bombers were doing. Lastly, we did an English survey and our school values survey.*

*And that was just a taster of all the fun things we got up to."*

Emily and Xander (Miss Smith and Mr Hough)

## 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 – We look forward to sharing news about the children's progress and achievement at Parents Evening next Tuesday and Wednesday. If you haven't booked a slot, there is still time. Mrs Milligan, Pastoral Support, will also be available if anyone would like to book or pop in and see her. You can call the school office if you would like to book in advance. Additionally, if you would like to speak to me about anything please do ask in the office or just grab me as I walk around school.**

## The Three R's! - Rackheath Reception Readers

It was great to see lots of family members enjoying sharing a book again with their children on Wednesday. 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 last date before half term will be:

- Thursday 12th February 8:45-9am

We look forward to seeing lots of you there next Thursday!

## Boys Football at the Nest

**On Monday the mixed team took part in another afternoon of football fixtures at Norwich City's Nest facility. We played 5 games in total winning 1 drawing 2 and losing 2. We maybe could have done better but just couldn't score in a couple of the games where we dominated. Sid and Jack A-B scored our goals. Well done to all the team; Freya, Jenson, Xander, Harley, William, Jack N, Hugo, Sid and Jack AB. Thanks to the parents for their support.**

**Next week it is the turn of the Year 1 and 2 boys' team, who are playing in an event at Colney, Norwich's main training ground.**

## Eco Committee Poster Competition!

A reminder that 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.




**SATS Briefing** – It was good to see lots of Year 6 families at the SATS briefing on Tuesday. It was good to be able to share with you our plans leading up to SATS. As well as what happens during the week itself and once SATS are completed.

## Spring Term dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Tues 10th/ Weds 11th Feb | Parent Teacher Evenings |
| 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 |






**Bombers**

Over the past few weeks, we have been gently settling into our shared routines, strengthening relationships, and supporting each child as they grow in confidence and independence. We have been encouraging social skills such as turn taking, using kind words, tidying shared spaces, and learning the rhythm of our day together. Building consistency has been an important focus, helping children feel secure, valued, and ready to grow as individuals within our preschool community.

Alongside this, we are beginning our learning theme *A Drop in the Ocean*. Through play, stories, exploration, and hands on experiences, children will explore oceans, sea animals, water, and how we can care for our environment. We will also be noticing seasonal changes as we move from Winter into Spring, alongside celebrations such as Mother's Day and Easter. You should have all received an email today to help you understand what transitions look like in our setting, as we support children in preparing for their future move into school. There is also an overview of what your child will be learning this term.

**Reception**

It's been 'snowing' in reception class this week! We have been learning the 'ow' (snow / blow) sound and so we and headed off to the school hall only to discover there had been a 'snow shower' of real or fake 'ow' sounds for us to read and write! The children loved working in pairs to 'melt' the 'snowballs' in order to read them, 'freeze them up again' and 'blow the snow' away ready for the next pair to find the word hidden inside the 'snowball!' Lots of fun and lots of keen readers and writers! Well done team!

In maths, we have explored 3D shape – the children have been superstars at firstly trying to remember those tricky shape names but also use the language of their properties, such as: faces, edges and corners. They loved going around the school and outside with Mrs Rivett to find real life 3D objects! We focused on cubes, cuboids, spheres, cylinders, cones and pyramids.

We finished the Billy's Bucket story and really enjoyed being like Billy and imagining what could be inside our own 'magic' buckets. The children worked hard to speak with more description and this is something they could work on at home - can they describe an item for you to find around the house without sayings its name? Can they describe a place that you visit? An animal? We also looked at pairs of rhyming words today and I set the children a challenge – can they find a pair of rhyming words over the weekend and tell me next week – maybe even write them down?!

Next week, we are looking forward to welcoming a visitor who will help us think about being safe. Find out more next week!







## Year 1

Another super science-based week in Year 1! This week the children worked on identifying and naming a variety of animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We kicked off the week by completing a coding task on Purple Mash called 'Fun with Fish'. We then moved on to learning all about animals being in different groups and how animals differ. After making separate large posters with pictures of creatures from each group the children used polystyrene tiles to draw a fish, paint it and then used it as a print onto paper. We then moved onto completing some great Polar Bear art using newspaper and we finished the week by using feathers to create different birds.

In English the children have been working hard to create a new planet that Bill and Janet might have visited and used these ideas to write sentences to describe the planet. We then moved on to looking at what is including on an invitation and the children set to work designing and producing a wedding invitation for Janet and Bills wedding. Today we acted out the wedding of Bill and Janet (thank you to Mia and Teddy B for being such brilliant participants)!

In Maths we have been looking at place value (within 50). We have been practising lots of counting to 50, both forwards and backwards. The children have been making lots of 2-digit numbers using Dienes and Numicon to show the tens and the ones. We finished the week by playing a game in pairs where one child makes a number to 50 (with tens and ones), hides it from their partner and tells them how many tens and ones they have used. Their partner then writes the number down and see if they match. https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/paint-the-squares This link takes you to a great online game to help your child get a firmer grasp of 2-digit numbers and place value to 100.

## Year 2

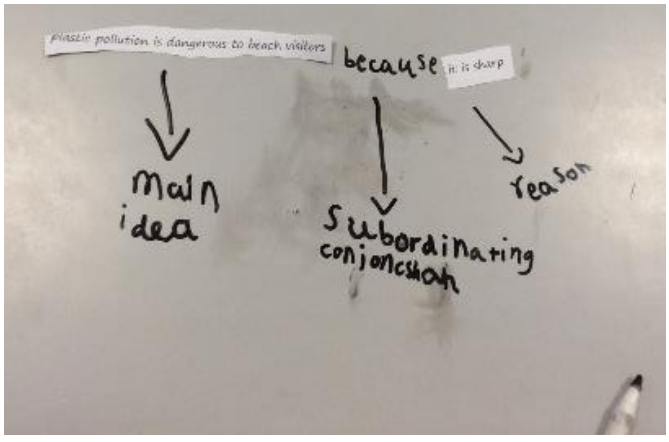
This week in English, we focused on developing our sentence skills. At the start of the week, we learned that every complete sentence needs a subject and a verb. Using this knowledge, the children wrote their own statement sentences linked to our theme of plastic pollution in the oceans.

We then moved on to using commas in a list, making sure to include 'and' before the final item. The children practised placing lists into sentences and experimented with moving them to different positions within a sentence. Towards the end of the week, we introduced the subordinating conjunction 'because'. We discussed how sentences using *because* need a main idea, followed by *because*, and then a reason. The children had a go at building these sentences, and next week they will practise writing their own independently.

In Maths, we continued our learning about money. The children practised choosing the correct notes and coins to make a given amount by playing a shopkeepers and customers game. Customers had to pay the correct amount, while shopkeepers checked their totals. We also explored how the same amount of money can be made in different ways.

In Geography, we learned the names of the seven continents and the five oceans, and labelled them on a map. We also learned about the equator, an imaginary line that runs around the centre of the Earth, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We discussed the North and South Poles and discovered that penguins and polar bears do not live together!

In Music, we continued our unit *Sun, Sea and Song* and learned the song "There's a Hole in the Bottom of the Sea." The children noticed how the phrase gets longer each time it is repeated. We then worked with a partner using percussion instruments, where one child clapped a rhythm and the other played it back using a shorter or longer phrase.

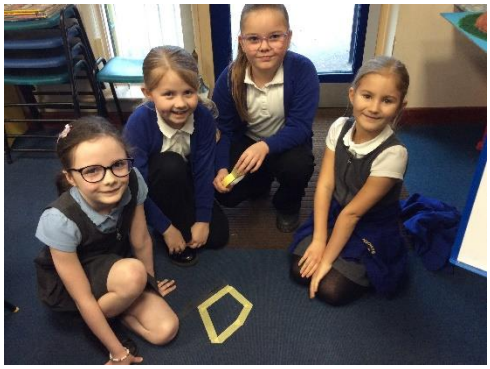





## Year 3

In English, the children practised extending their sentences by writing multi-clause sentences using the conjunctions *because, when, if,* and *although*. Alongside this, each child planned and wrote a recount about a *Fantastically Great Woman* of their choice. On Friday, the children edited and improved their work, ready to be typed up and published next week.

In Maths, the children continued their learning on length and perimeter. This week, they focused on adding and subtracting lengths before moving on to exploring and measuring the perimeter of different 2D shapes. The lessons included a range of practical activities, such as cutting a specific length from string to represent subtraction and using masking tape to create shapes with a perimeter.



In Computing, the children practised typing full sentences, focusing on using capital letters, spaces, and full stops accurately. This work will support them next week when they type up their recounts as part of the publishing process in English.

In Science, the children learned about the particle arrangement of different states of matter and even had the opportunity to pretend to be particles in a solid, liquid, and gas. On Tuesday, the children carried out an experiment investigating how a solid (chocolate) can change into a liquid through heating. They tested white, milk, and dark chocolate to explore which melted the fastest. Many children predicted that dark chocolate would take the longest to melt due to its higher cocoa content. To conclude the week, the children used fizzy drinks to discover that gas does have weight—once the drinks became flat, they weighed less than when freshly poured.

## Year 4

Another week has flown by in Year 4! This week we have been focusing on our handwriting. As part of this we have looked at the size of our letters and making sure our tall letters are tall and that we don't add a really tiny or giant letter in the middle of our word. In English we have continued to link our writing to our developing story ideas. We have revisited conjunctions and started to look at the differences between co-ordinating conjunction and subordinating conjunctions. On Friday we had a very creative English lesson were the children developed their initial story ideas by drawing a story map. I am very excited about reading all these stories when we write them next week!

In Maths we have begun looking at length and perimeter. As part of this we have been busy drawing shapes and working out the perimeter of these. We have looked at both irregular and regular shapes as part of this. Earlier in the week we converted between measurements such as km, m, cm and mm. As part of this we went outside and walked 1km around the playground.

In PE we have continued creating our gymnastic routines! Again there was great excitement in the hall as the children worked to incorporate the ropes into their routines. Finally in Science we have been busy with a few experiments this week linked to looking at the states of matter. Our first experiment was focused around the melting time of white, milk and dark chocolate and our second experiment looked at the carbon dioxide in fizzy drinks!

## Year 5

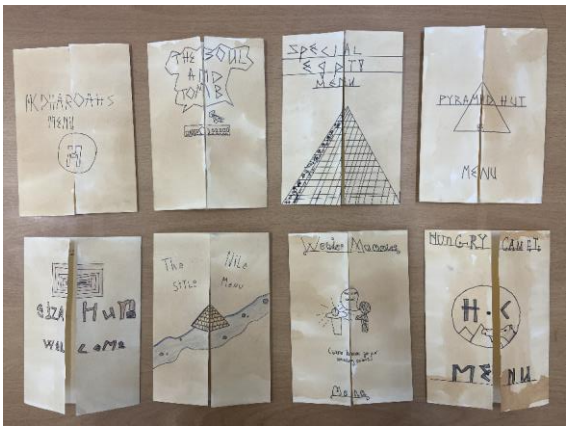
Only one more week until half term….. where has the time gone? As always, the children have worked incredibly hard – particularly with their handwriting/presentation.

In Maths lessons, we have continued our topic of percentages. In addition to finding 5%, 10%, 20%, 30% and 40% of numbers, they then used these answers to calculate further percentages such as 15% and 35% etc. Towards the end of the week, we calculated price reductions. This is where the children had to subtract the percentage / money off the original price.

In English, everyone has continued putting in lots of effort with their Shackleton's Journey 'Log Books'. Last week, each child wrote what their character must have been feeling like (including who / what they are going to miss) before they set sail for Buenos Aires. We have now written Log Book Entry 2 – where Endurance is currently stuck in pack ice. As well as this, the children have completed a series of grammar activities linked to our class book.

In French lessons, we learnt the weather conditions and in R.E we labelled the key features of a church. The class enjoyed their Art lesson on Thursday too - where they used a photograph to turn themselves into Pharaohs! Colouring with oil pastels can be tricky, but everyone persevered and did a brilliant job! Finally, we continued designing our Ancient Egyptian menus and the end results look great!





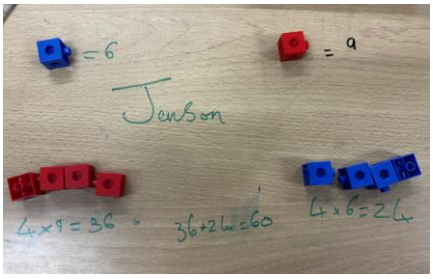
**Year 6**

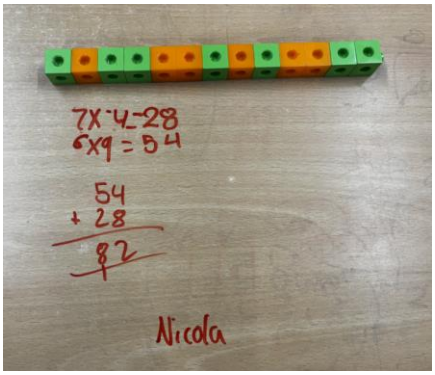
In maths this week we have started our work on algebra! We have introduced this using cubes to help us visualise how to give a value to an object and then we have moved onto using letters to show algebraic expressions. You can see the calculations that Jenson and Nicola created using cubes.

In English, we finished our draft work based on our nightmares and then wrote them up, making sure we edited our work to include present progressive and powerful vocabulary. We have also started to write a letter to Zoe (the main character) to give her advice linked to her problems.

In Science, we looked at how we see different colours. In Circle time, we talked about what it means to be honest and what they may look like. The children shared times when they had been honest and how it made them feel.

In history, we became archaeologists as we looked at images from Ancient Egyptian tombs and tried to learn about their society and way of life. Below, you can see the picture that we used.






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 **29 out of 30**

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

# Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 3 for

**99%**

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

| | STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS |
|---|---|
| Reception | Lola, Oakley, Alesha |
| Year 1 | Keira, Mia, Oakley |
| Year 2 | Caspar, Enid, Jesy |
| Year 3 | Zachery, Ada, Harley |
| Year 4 | Sonny, Reggie, Lily |
| Year 5 | Alfie, Mila, Sid S |
| Year 6 | Harley, Jack, Millie |

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

*Chris Ashman*