Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026

Parent Support Market Place Event - Tuesday 28th April 2pm-5pm

We are pleased to be hosting a Parent Support and SEN market place event for families who would like to seek further support from professionals for their children with any concerns they may have. This is being help on Tuesday 28th April 2.00pm – 5.00pm in the school hall. This could be anything from eating, sleeping, toileting, behaviour management, well-being, attention, routine setting, transition into school or to high school… anything at all!

We will be welcoming team members from early help, the schools and communities' teams and our specialist support teachers and they will be available to speak to families throughout the afternoon. Both Mrs Watson and Mrs Milligan will also be available to speak to as well.

Class Assemblies

Our class assemblies start next week. Year 3's assembly is first on Thursday 30th April. Assemblies start at 2:45pm family members should arrive by 2:40pm.

- Thursday 30th April Year 3
- Wednesday 6th May Year 5
- Thursday 21st May Year 1
- Tuesday 9th June Year 4
- Thursday 11th June Year 2
- Thursday 25th June Reception Class

Football at the Nest – The Year 5 & 6 team took part in the third and final league day at the Nest on Monday. We started well drawing 0-0 with eventual winners Avenue Junior but unfortunately couldn't keep at that level for the rest of our games. Despite playing some good football in parts we lost our other 4 games. Well done to the team; William, Freya, Hugo, Sid, Jack N, Jenson, Xander, Harley and Jack AB. Thanks to the parents who attended and gave their support.

Year 4 Residential



Next week Year 4 are off to Horstead for 3 days and 2 nights. We always have a great time at Horstead and I am looking forward to going there with them. A huge thank you to Miss Farrow, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling for giving up their time to take the class.

E-Safety Videos for parents – The group that produce our monthly E-Safety newsletter - Knowsley CLC – have started producing short videos for parents. The first one is about staying safe whilst playing games online. The video is only 2 minutes long and it is a useful watch. You can find it here:

https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Online-Gaming.mp4



London Mini-Marathon – Next Tuesday (28th April) we are very excited to be taking part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools. More than one million children have taken on the challenge since 2020 and our school will receive a trophy for taking part. Your child will run, jog, walk, wheel or be guided around a two-mile course within our school setting. Please make sure your child has footwear suitable for running in at school on that day.

Cluster Netball – Next Wednesday we have two teams taking part in the Year 5 & 6 Cluster netball. Good luck to all taking part. Thanks to Mr Palmer and Mrs Pilbrow who are taking the teams.



Reception and Year 6 Photos

The class photos for Reception and Year 6 are being taken on Monday 27th April.

Summer Term Dates

The summer is always a busy term. As per the diary sheet you were sent out in September here is a reminder plus some extras!



First Half of term

Thursday 16th April	Year 5 start swimming
Weds 29th April to Fri 1st May	Year 4 Horstead Residential
Wednesday 6th May	Year 2 Multi-skills event at Hoveton St Johns
Week of Monday 11th May	Year 6 SATS week
Wednesday 13th May	Year 3 to Eaton Vale Activity Day
Friday 15th May	Year 6 Post SATS treat
Friday 22nd May	Half term ends

Second Half of the term

Monday 1st June	New half term starts
Thursday 4th June	Year 6 start swimming
Tuesday 9th June	New Intake Parents Evening
Friday 12th June	Whole School DT Day
Week of the 15th June	Sports Week
Wednesday 17th June	Reception Trip to Thrigby Hall
Friday 26th June	Whole School Passport Day
Wednesday 1st July	Year 1 & 2 trip to Amazona Zoo
Weds 1st & Thurs 2nd July	Broadland Transition Days
Thursday 2nd July	Class Moving up morning
Friday 3rd July	Year 5 Art and Science Day at Broadland
Friday 3rd July	Year 6 Camp Out
Tues 14th & Weds 15th July	Year 6 Leavers Performances
Friday 17th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly Last Day of Term

FORS NEWS

Easter Reading Challenge – In assembly today the children who took part in our Bingo Reading Challenge were presented with their certificates. Well, done to the 13 children who took part and a huge thank you as they managed to raise an amazing £534 between them. Congratulations to Leo in Reception for raising the largest amount. Those that took part will receive a special treat very soon.



Science Club with Miss Holding

What a fabulous afternoon we had during our first Science Club session of the summer term! This week, the children had lots of fun recapping their knowledge of living and non-living things, as well as learning about the seven life processes that all living things require: movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion and nutrition.

After some time in the classroom, we headed outside to explore the minibeasts and microhabitats in our school's Wild Area. The children carefully observed what they could find and recorded their discoveries using tally charts. We were especially excited to find lots of tadpoles swimming around in our little 'pond'.



When we returned to the classroom, the children selected a few of the minibeasts they had spotted and created detailed sketches of each in their own Science Club booklet, which they will take home after the final session.



Bombers

We have had a fantastic and exciting start to the new term at Bombers Pre-School, filled with curiosity, exploration, and a real sense of joy from the children.

The children recently began talking about volcanoes and lava during their play, which led us to follow their interests with a hands-on science experience. They were fascinated to see how "lava" erupts and were eager to explore what happens inside a volcano. This sparked rich discussion, thoughtful questions, and great excitement, supporting their early understanding of the world around them.

As part of our Healthy Me curriculum, the children have been exploring their understanding of themselves. They thoroughly enjoyed drawing their own faces, carefully noticing their features and beginning to talk about what makes them unique. These experiences are supporting growing confidence, self-awareness, and a strong sense of identity.

We have also been making the most of our wider school environment, with visits to the primary school garden. The children have loved exploring this space, developing their physical skills through climbing, balancing, and moving with increasing confidence, while enjoying the freedom and fresh air of outdoor play.



We are especially pleased to share that our School Leavers Group has now begun. There has been a noticeable sense of pride and excitement among the children as they step into this new role. They have been keen to talk about what they will be doing in Reception, listening closely, smiling, and showing a growing sense of responsibility. It is clear that they are beginning to see themselves as ready for the next step.

During these sessions, we are gently introducing conversations about the transition, helping the children to feel confident, prepared, and excited about their move to school. We are also focusing on important communication and social skills, such as putting up our hands, waiting for our turn to speak, listening carefully to others, and sharing ideas with confidence. The children are already showing wonderful engagement and maturity in these moments.

Reception

It's good to be back! Reception class settled in very well again - it was great to hear about their Easter adventures! We hope all our families had a lovely time.



This week and last, we have been exploring our new whole school topic 'Let's Get Moving!' so we have been doing some short exercise routines in class to keep our brains and bodies fit and healthy! We have also thought about healthy eating and learned about the different types of food our bodies need for a balanced diet. We looked at carbohydrates, protein, dairy, fruits and vegetables, fats and sugars and water. The children might be able to show you actions that we used to help us remember all these tricky words! They all loved planting our potatoes and have been helping to ensure they have all they need to grow – soil, sunlight and water. We have enjoyed the traditional tale 'The Enormous Turnip' and lots of the children have chosen to act out the story in their choosing time interacting brilliantly with their friends!

In phonics, we have learned the 'ir' sound (as in bird and chirp) and in maths we have enjoyed exploring number bonds to 10, such as 6 + 4 = 10 and 8 + 2 = 10. We learned a song - your child might sing it to you if you prompt them: *"Ten counters on my frame...!"*



Please do read at home with your child at <u>least 3 times using their book or phonics games/ sound cards</u> - we have never won 'Reading Bear' as a class this year and the children would love to! Once your child has practised with you, please record it in their yellow reading record. We have one final term in reception class and often it's this term in which we can see really rapid reading progress as everything 'clicks into place' for the children because they are practising frequently at home. *Reading really is the foundation of all learning for the vast majority of children.*

Next week, we are looking forward to enjoying another story which will help us think about exploring healthy foods!

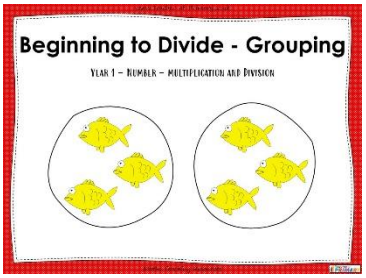
Year 1

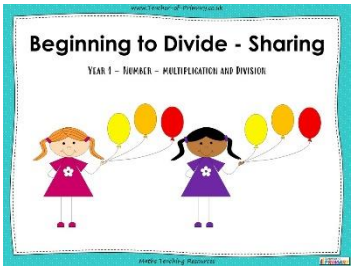
Welcome back after the Easter Holidays, we hope you all had a lovely couple of weeks off. We've got straight back into our learning this half term, focusing lots on preparation for our Phonics Screening test, which will take place after May half term. The children have been having great fun reading, and sorting, our 'alien' and 'real' word cards, using our Obb and Bob boxes! Any practise that you do at home will also be greatly beneficial to your child; if you have any queries about practising at home then please feel free to ask! (We have also put an information sheet about the Phonics Screening Check in your child's book-bag).

We have started our new whole-school topic 'Let's Get Moving' and we have begun our learning focusing on Science – Animals including humans. This week the children have been discussing the importance for humans of eating the right amounts of different foods and also describing the importance of exercise and hygiene. We started the week learning all about healthy eating and how to make good choices when it comes to what we should put of our plates. On Thursday we talked about the importance of exercise and the positive impact that it has on our hearts, mind and bodies. We also watched a workout video and then had a go at making our own exercise routine (which was great fun)!! We finished the week with an experiment called: 'Why Soap Works' where the children put glitter on their hands and got to see how long it took to watch the glitter off with and without soap!

In English we have started one of our favourite books 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' by Beatrix Potter. This week we have been using adjectives to write sentences describing Peter Rabbits appearance, behaviour, friends and favourite foods, using 'and' to join clauses. We then moved on to writing questions for Peter Rabbit using question marks e.g. What is your favourite vegetable?

In Maths this week the children have been dividing by grouping and sharing. They have also been practising their 2 x tables and counting in 5s.





Year 2

It has been a busy week in Year 2.

In English, we continued exploring our new book for the summer term, *Hansel and Gretel*. We have been gradually reading the story and writing back to our "chief detectives," who are keen to learn more about Hansel. This week, we focused on joining two ideas using coordinating conjunctions, using "and" to add information and "but" to show contrasting ideas. We also explored past tense verbs and wrote sentences describing Hansel's clothing, using commas to separate items in a list.



In Maths, we have been learning about mass. We began by using balance scales to compare the mass of objects in the classroom using non-standard units (for example, "the pencil has a mass of 7 cubes") before moving on to measuring the mass of objects in grams.

In Science, we looked at animal offspring. We matched adult animals to their young and grouped them into those where the young look similar to the adult and those where they look different.



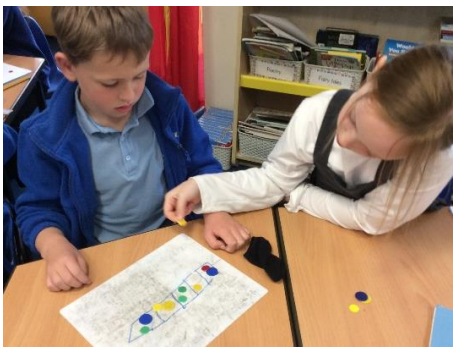
In History, we thought about the people who are important to us. Then, we explored the difference between people who are important to us personally and those who are significant in history, and looked at some examples together.

In RSE, we learned about self-esteem. We explored ways to boost our own self-esteem through positive self-talk and supported one another by writing and sharing thoughtful compliments with our classmates.

Year 3

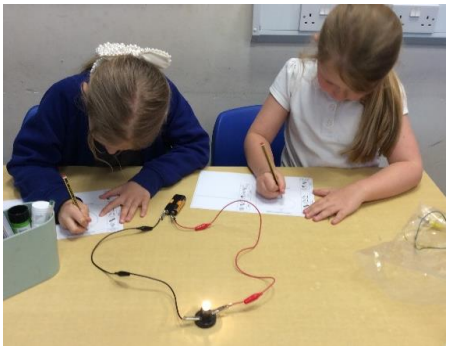
What a brilliant start to the new term for Year 3!

In English, we began our new class text, *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*, and have already read the first fifteen chapters. To begin the term, the children recapped the use of subjects and verbs in sentences before identifying and using powerful adjectives. They then developed their own expanded noun phrases, which they applied to detailed dragon character descriptions. Alongside this, the children have been learning to use a range of adverbs, time connectives and inverted commas to enhance their writing.



In Maths, the children have completed the next phase of learning on fractions. They have impressed me with their strong prior knowledge, confidently tackling adding, subtracting and partitioning the whole. The children also worked hard to find both unit and non-unit fractions of a set of objects, showing determination and resilience throughout.

In Science, we have been learning about electricity. The children began by identifying electrical and non-electrical items and explored a range of appliances, discussing which require mains power and which use batteries, as well as why some require both. They also identified electrical items around the school and explored the history of electricity, learning about key figures such as Thales and Thomas Edison. Most recently, the children constructed a simple series circuit, learning about its components and understanding how electricity flows through a complete loop.



We have also begun our RSE lessons, where the children discussed the importance of a working agreement and showing respect during these sessions. They also reflected on their own strengths and set aspirational goals for themselves. The children have also explored how all bodies are different and how humans change as they grow and develop.

In addition to all of this, we have been very busy preparing for our class assembly. We will continue rehearsing at the beginning of next week and are very excited to share it with you on Thursday 30th April.

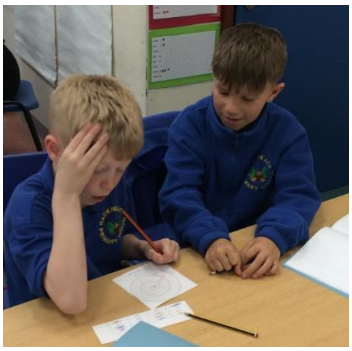
Year 4

On Monday Year 4 were lucky enough to be left in the capable hands of Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling whilst I was away from school. Both Mrs Goddard and Mrs Culling reported back how amazing the class had been. In the afternoon they had created some incredible art pieces inspired by Paul Klee.

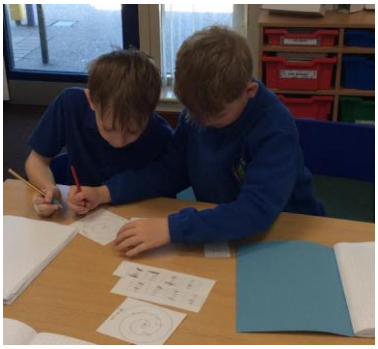
Now for the rest of the week! In English we have been busying creating out classroom vault. The children all used their artefacts to inspire a story and create a museum label. Once the vault / museum was ready the children wrote letters thinking back to our work on persuasive writing, to adults and classes, around school inviting them in to come and see their work. All this work led to the opening of the classroom vault on Friday were visitors from around school came to listen to the children retelling their items story. They were all very busy sharing their writing and retelling their stories.

In maths we have been exploring decimals further. As part of this we have looked at comparing decimals such as 4.34 and 4.37 by looking at the ones column then the tenths and finally the hundredths. We played a few different games to help secure our knowledge such as 3 in a row, where children took it in turn to pick a number and place it between one and zero! It was lovely to see them use their knowledge and apply their tactics.

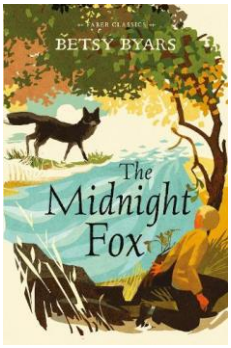
In science we have begun looking at electricity. We started by exploring what items use electricity and discussing that some items need mains power and others use battery. Next, we took a brief look at the history of electricity by looking at a few key scientists. Finally, on Friday we created our own circuits using wires, a cell (battery), buzzer and light bulb.







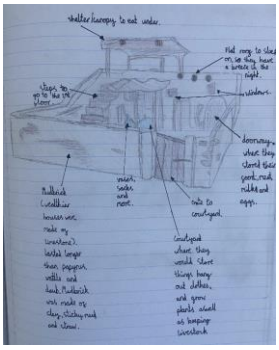
Year 5



Two weeks have already flown by and the children have started the summer term with positive attitudes for learning. In Maths lessons, we have moved onto a Geometry unit – which focuses on drawing, measuring and labelling angles. I was very impressed at how confidently (and accurately) the children could use a protractor! They then had to calculate missing angles which were either: in a triangle, on a straight line or around a point.

In English lessons, we finished our topic of biographies. This included looking at example biographies and then highlighting/describing the key features. Towards the end of last week, the children researched the life of British archaeologist Howard Carter and wrote a biography about his fascinating life. Since then, the Year 5s have been introduced to their new class book – The Midnight Fox by Betsy Byars. Firstly, the children made predictions about what they thought the story would be about and then they found key information from the first two chapters.

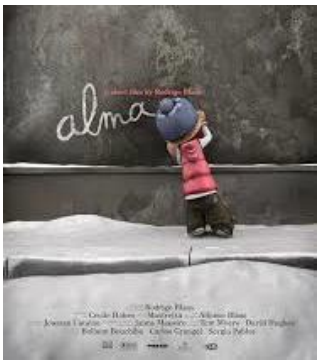
In Science lessons, we researched air resistance and the children were put into groups to see whether changing the shapes of objects can affect the rate in which they fall. This experiment will conclude next week! On Thursday, we had our second swimming lesson at Broadland High School and the teacher again commented on the children's impressive perseverance.



In a history lesson, we researched Ancient Egyptian homes. As well as sketching them and labelling the key features, the children found out about the key materials which were used. In Geography, the class were introduced to our focus continent of South America. This included plotting the countries of South America and then learning about the cities, human features and physical features of Brazil.



Year 6

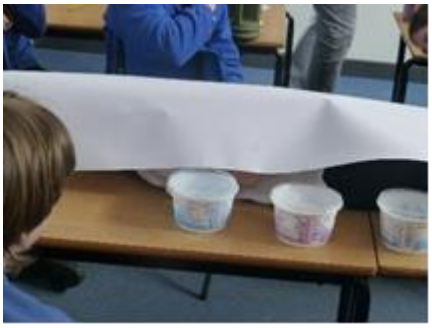


It has been a lovely few weeks back into year 6 for us – it is hard to believe that these children only have 1 term left of their primary school lives!! We will be working hard to make sure it is the best term it can be! This has already started as the children are preparing the Year 6 Enterprise activity 'Grow your £5' – it is lovely to see how enthusiastic they are already.

In maths, we have started the term by recapping our work on statistics with line and bar graphs. We also explored how to use pie charts. Finally, we have moved on to Shape and Space – we have had to remind ourselves of different 2d shapes that we had forgotten about!

In English, we have begun our suspense writing linked to the short clip 'Alma'. We will be using this as the basis of our story writing for the next week.

In topic, we have been finishing off our work from last half term as there were not enough weeks to cram it all in! We finished our Ancient Egyptian topic by turning one of our class pharaohs (Madi) into a mummy! First, we took



out her brain and her organs followed by stuffing her body with linen and flowers. Next, we covered her in her favourite trinkets before wrapping her in cloth. Finally, we placed her in a sarcophagus with a death mask covering her face! We have a photo of her wrapped up and covered!

In geography, we designed towns along a river and then looked at how humans manage these to protect land from flooding – the children were then given £10million to build defences to defend areas of choice before I flooded the river! We used this knowledge to write a balanced argument linked to this subject.

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 who had **21 out of 30** and
Years 5 who had **26 out of 30**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 5 for

98%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Mavis, Marcia, Sissy
Year 1	Maggie, Theodore K, Kiera
Year 2	Ruby, Tyler, Enid
Year 3	Ada, Arya, Jamie
Year 4	Kory, Mia, Lily
Year 5	Jack, Ella, Max
Year 6	Aria, Amelia, Jenson

Best wishes

Chris Ashman