Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026

It has been another good week in school with lots going on. On Tuesday we had the parent support market place event, which was well attended. Also on Tuesday we held our mini-marathon event. On Wednesday two of our netball teams took part in Cluster Netball. On Wednesday Year 4 set off on their residential to Horstead. Whilst on Thursday it was Year 3's class assembly.



Goodbye to Muna – Today we said goodbye to Muna in Year 1 ahead of him starting at a new school from Tuesday 5th May. We wish Muna and his family all the best for the future.

Parking at the Church – Next Thursday, 7th May, the church is being used as a Polling Station for the local elections. We have been told that we are still able to use the car park at the start and end of the school day but could parking be contained to just the shingle area and not on the tarmac part.



Mini London Marathon

On Tuesday 28th April every class took part in the TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools! We ran, jogged, walked and wheeled around a two-mile course around our field and playground. We had so much fun, and some children were super speedy! Maybe we've got some future London Marathon runners here? We received a trophy for the school for taking part.







Cluster Netball Tournament



On Wednesday 29th April, some of our Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the Cluster Netball Tournament at St Johns Primary School. Both teams performed brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork both on and off the court.

Rackheath 1 finished in an impressive 2nd place with 17 points, while Rackheath 2 finished in 8th place with 7 points. A huge well done and congratulations to everyone involved!

Class Assemblies

We were treated to our first, class assembly of the term this week – and year 3 didn't disappoint. We had fantastic writing based on their class book 'The boy who grew dragons', examples of fractions, drama lined to science as well as worked linked to grammar! It was a fun-filled assembly enjoyed by all. Well done year 3… you were amazing!

Our assemblies for the rest of the term are as below. Assemblies start at 2:45pm and family members should arrive by 2:40pm.

- 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

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!

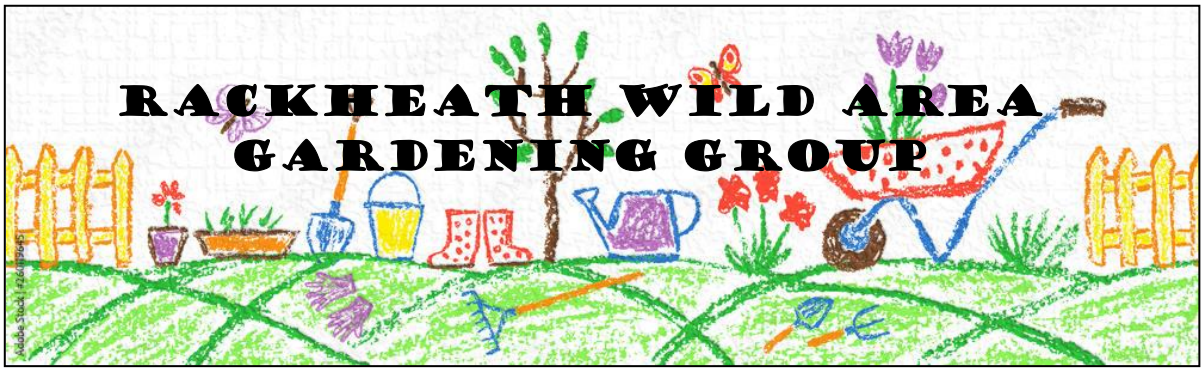


First Half of term

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
	(Monday 15th Fun Sports morning / Tuesday 16th Reception & Bombers morning / Wednesday 17th KS2 morning and KS1 afternoon / Thurs & Fri are reserve days)
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



The Gardening Group were treated to a trip to Home Bargains Garden Centre this week so that they could spend some money for the Wild area! They came back with flowers, plants, soil, compost and much more. Thank you to the FORs who donated the money and helped to organise the trip. We also received £100 worth of donations from B&Q which Mrs Duckmanton collected at the weekend.

This week, the team have been busy preparing the area by planting some saplings, veg and plants.





Science Club with Miss Holding

During our second summer term Science Club session, the children took part in a range of discussion-based activities all about food chains. To begin, we reflected on the minibeasts we discovered during our exploration of the school's Wild Area in last week's session. The children then researched and discussed what some of these common minibeasts eat. Discovering that tadpoles commonly eat alga, making our small, plant-covered pond the perfect place for them to thrive. The children then created their own simple food chains linked to some of the creatures they found living there. Along the way, the children were introduced to important scientific vocabulary, including producer, consumer and predator.



To conclude the session, the children went outside to search for 'caterpillars' (pipe cleaners) hidden in the hedge. They discovered that the brown and green caterpillars were the most difficult to find because they camouflaged well among the leaves. Whilst outside, we decided that we'd definitely not want to be a pink caterpillar at this time of year because they were really easy to spot. Next week, the children will carry out an experiment exploring adaptations that help animals survive in their natural habitat.

SEN Market Place

It was so lovely to welcome so many families to our SEN Market Place on Tuesday. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We will be booking in another date very soon so keep your eyes peeled for updates!



Bombers

Building on our 'Healthy Me' curriculum, the children have been exploring healthy food choices, leading to some lovely discussions and growing awareness during daily routines.

During mealtimes, it has been particularly interesting to observe many children beginning to question their food, often asking whether what they are eating is healthy. This has created meaningful conversations around balanced choices, helping the children to develop early understanding of how we look after our bodies.

We have also introduced the children to sandpaper letters and numbers, which provide a sensory approach to early phonics and mathematical development. These resources allow children to feel the shape of letters and numbers through touch, supporting memory and recognition in a hands-on and engaging way. The children were very keen to take part, exploring different textures such as rough and smooth, and showing great curiosity and focus during these activities.

Groups of children also enjoyed working together with the sandpaper numbers, engaging in a playful learning experience around the table. These moments support not only early number recognition but also turn-taking, concentration, and shared learning.

Our approach continues to follow a work cycle, where children are supported to begin, engage in, and complete their chosen activities. This process encourages independence, sustained focus, and a sense of achievement, all guided by the children's own interests.

Physical development remains a strong focus, and we have been making the most of our wider school environment. The children have enjoyed visits to the primary school grounds, where they have taken part in activities such as climbing the pirate ship, completing obstacle courses, and playing football together. These experiences are supp



Reception

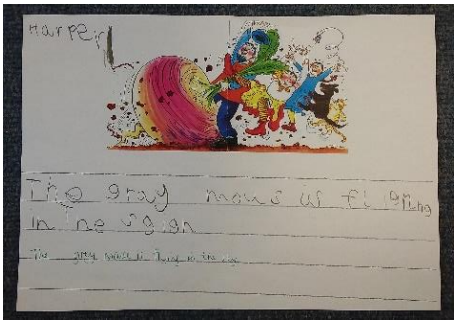
The children have been drama superstars this week acting out their version of The Enormous Turnip story. They have suggested facial expressions for when the turnips heaved out of the ground and remembered so many actions for all the different characters! Well done, reception class! We have also seen lots of beautiful, independent writing from the children when describing one of their favourite scenes from the story. It is wonderful to see and hear them telling you what they need to include such as capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop! They then continue to put

in full effort as they sound out each and every word or identify a 'red word' that they want to use. We are really proud of them and their emerging and developing skills!

The children were fantastic when taking part in their first mini marathon! They put in huge effort and cheered and supported each other really well but it was great to see their emerging competitive spirits too!

In phonics, we have learned the 'ou' sound (shout/ loud) so we had to get the percussion instruments out so that we could practise making and hearing loud sounds before we wrote our sentences. In maths, the children were brilliant at constructing subtraction number sentences and showing us how they could use their resources to solve the problems. We used lots of concrete resources (playdoh, bean bags, etc) so that we could make 'real life' problems to solve.

Next week, we will explore a new story linked to growing food!





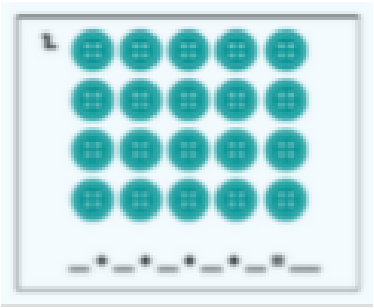
Year 1

What a super, sunny week we've had in year 1! In topic this week we have been identifying, naming, drawing and labelling the basic parts of the human body and we discussed which parts are used for which sense. On Thursday and Friday we learnt about each of our senses. We have also begun our PSHE this week where we have been learning about different body parts.

This week in English we have been using the sentences, that we wrote about Peter Rabbit last week, to create a character description about Peter Rabbit. At the end of the week the children created posters warning other farmers about Peter Rabbit. We have continued to practice writing expanded noun phrases to help us with our writing. Our main focus is still using full stops, capital letters, fingers spaces and joining information using 'and'. Any practice at home can be really beneficial and also a fun task to do together.

In Maths this week we have been making arrays and finding doubles. We have had great fun using different items to create arrays and it is really helping us to understand the meaning behind our times tables.

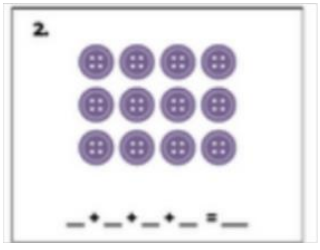
This is an array it represents:



4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 20

And this one…..

3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12



We have also been playing lots of 'Hit the Button' which can be found online. It's a great way of your child practising their number bonds, doubles and times tables.

Please READ with your children at home! Even if it's just for 5 minutes a day. Teaching your child to read is a partnership between school and home, we need your help to enable your child to progress with their reading, by practising at home!

Year 2

We have had a wonderful week of learning in Year 2.

On Tuesday, we took part in the mini-marathon. After lots of encouragement and determination—followed by a well-earned drink and rest—the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A special mention goes to Austin, who showed great perseverance by running the entire course and crossing the finish line first!

This week in English, we discovered that Hansel is lost in the forest! We learned how to use possessive apostrophes to show that something belongs to someone and used this skill to write about Hansel's belongings. We also practised using the coordinating conjunction *'or'* to suggest different places he might be, before applying all our skills to write detailed missing person reports at the end of the week.



In Maths, we explored kilograms and when they are used instead of grams, before tackling some challenging problem-solving questions involving the four operations. Later in the week, we learned the difference between volume and capacity and practised measuring both in millilitres.

In Science, we investigated life cycles, learning how animals grow and develop over time. The children each created a life cycle spinner and compared the similarities and differences between different animals' life cycles.



In History, we were introduced to our first significant historical figure, Florence Nightingale. We explored the important changes she made to nursing and hospitals, and discussed why these made her a significant person. The children then ranked her contributions from most to least important and explained their reasoning.

On Thursday afternoon, we spent some time on Times Tables Rock Stars. It would be great if you could continue practising times tables at home, as many of the children would really benefit from further work on their 2- and 5-times tables.

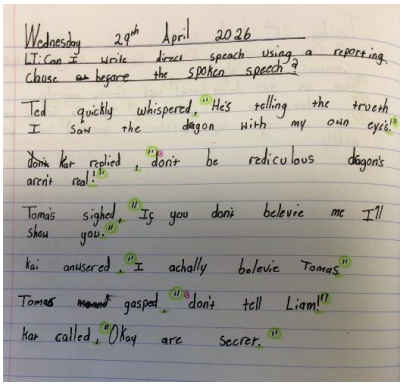
Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy and productive week full of fantastic learning!



In Maths, we began our new unit on money. The children have been developing their understanding of pounds and pence, practising counting in both and converting between them (for example, £3.65 = 365p). They have also worked hard on adding and subtracting amounts of money, as well as finding the difference between two values – all of which are skills that are already growing in confidence and accuracy.

In English, our focus has been on direct speech. The children explored how inverted commas are used and practised writing sentences with reporting clauses both before and after the spoken words. To finish the week, the children used these skills to plan and write thoughtful diary entries from the perspective of Tomas, the main character in our class text.


Wednesday 29th April 2026
LT: Can I write direct speech using a reporting clause before the spoken speech?
Ted quickly whispered, "He's telling the truth I saw the dragon with my own eyes!"
Dani Kat replied, "don't be ridiculous dragons arn't real!"
Tomas sighed, "If you don't believe me I'll show you."
Kai answered, "I achally believe Tomas."
Tomas ~~mound~~ gasped, "don't tell Liam!!"
Kat called, "Okay are secret."

In RSE, we explored different types of relationships, from family members to friendships. The children discussed and identified the qualities of positive, healthy relationships, showing maturity and respect during these important conversations. During the lesson, the children spent time thinking about how it feels to know that we are all connected during some similarities.

We have also been especially busy preparing for our class assembly, which the children performed beautifully on Thursday afternoon. Their confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm truly shone through—making me a very proud teacher!

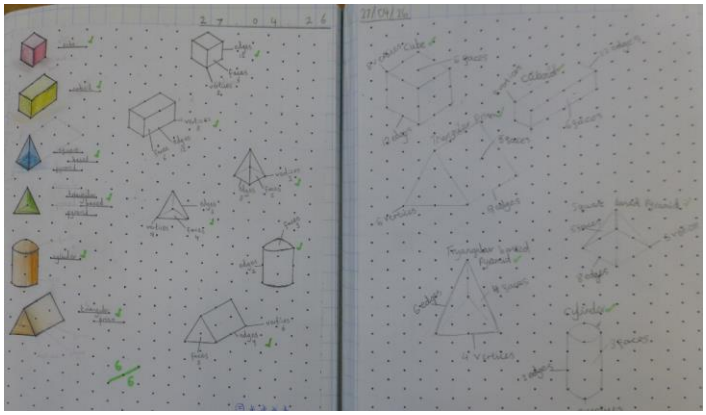
Year 4

The children had an amazing trip to Horstead this week and a full report will follow in next week's letter.

Year 5

It's been another fantastic week in Year 5, with a variety of activities taking place!

In Maths lessons, we continued our Geometry unit and learnt about 3D shapes – including their properties. After writing the names of a range of shapes, the children then wrote the number of vertices, faces and edges for each one. Towards the end of the week, we moved on to coordinates. This mainly focused on plotting coordinates within a four-quadrant grid.



In English lessons, the next few chapters of The Midnight Fox were read to the class. Ideas were then gathered for a letter to be written in the perspective of Tom – who is the main character.



On Tuesday afternoon, we took part in the *'TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools'* event. It was great fun and the children put a lot of effort into completing the course as quickly as they could! To link to our focus of South America, the class chose a country's flag to design and paint. These will be put up around the classroom for the rest of the academic year. The class also researched all of the countries within South America to find key information, including: population, capital cities, currency and famous landmarks. Finally, the class have been busy preparing for our class assembly – **which is at 2:30pm next Wednesday (6th May)**.

Year 6

In maths this week we have been looking at how to measure angles and find missing angles in different shapes. We also looked at some key vocabulary around circles!

In English, we have continued our suspense writing linked to the short clip 'Alma'…and the children have absolutely loved it! Our focus has been on fronted adverbials, subordinate clauses and varying sentence length build suspense.

We finished our coastal work by looking at sea defences – the children first created their own stretch of coastline by deciding what they would want to see. Some children went for arcades, fish and chip shops and piers but others went for campsites and sand dunes. They were then asked to defend these areas from erosion but they had to think about the environmental impact that it may have!

In art, the children have been practising with print as they prepare to use artwork from Beatriz Milhazes – an artist from Brazil.



Finally, we spent some time working on our ideas for the Year 6 Enterprise 'Grow your £5'. For this, the FORs have given each child £5 (to be paid back!) so that they can start a small business and sell products. The money raised would then go towards an end of term party. The children are incredibly excited about this so hopefully lots of you will be able to support their businesses by attending the Enterprise fayre on the 5th June where all of these items will be on sale!

Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Years 1 who had **22 out of 30** and
Years 5 who had **27 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 next week with them!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Lola, Charlie, Owen
Year 1	Isla, Oakley, Teddy H-J
Year 2	Grace, Archer, George
Year 3	Phoebe, All of Year 3, Harley
Year 4	All of Year 4
Year 5	Jack, Charlie, Jayden
Year 6	Madi, Harley, Millie

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and see you on Tuesday.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman