Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2026

This week the Year 6 children have taken the SATS tests that all Year 6 children in the country take. The children have applied themselves brilliantly all week and all staff involved have been hugely impressed with their determination and resilience. The traditional SATS breakfasts were lots of fun too. The bacon rolls and croissants were the big favourites again this year!

A huge thank you to the Year 6 staff team – Mr Cavender and Ms Holmes for their super work this week and throughout the year. Thank you to all the staff who helped with supporting the children with the tests and to the breakfast café staff! Thank you to all the Year 6 parents too.

Today Year 6 headed out on their post SATS treat trip to Great Yarmouth in the day and then have the option of the school disco in the evening. From then we will be getting into all the usual exciting leaver's events in the second half of the term.

FORS Funday Friday 22nd May – On the last day of half term the FORS and school staff are organising a fun day, as we have done previously. We will have bouncy castles and other inflatables and a picnic lunch at school. A flier went out about the day on Tuesday. Please can you return the consent slips to the FORS box (on the table in school reception) by Monday 18th May.

Year 3 at Eaton Vale – On Wednesday the Year 3's went to Eaton Vale for their activity day. Despite the rain and hail! The children had a super time. Well done to them all for being so resilient! Thanks to Miss Holding, Mrs Penson, Mrs Pilbrow and Mrs Robotham for taking the children.

School Uniform – Unfortunately, our uniform suppliers Dawn and Robert from Retro Alley are closing down their business. You will see a message from them regarding this below:

Our new uniform providers, Brigade, (https://www.brigade.uk.com/) will be up and running ready for the start of June. They are very competitively priced and quality of uniform should be the same. They will also provide free delivery to school. We will let you know when the online shop is available for you to order from.

Retro Alley would like to let you know that after the half term holiday we will no longer be supplying school uniform to Rackheath Primary. After running Retro Alley for nearly 20 years, we have made the difficult decision to close due to health reasons.

Any orders that are currently in with us and all orders taken during the half term break will be completed and delivered. We will be taking time over the coming months to close down, so we will still be available should you need any help.

We would like to thank you all for your support and welcoming us into your school community, something we have enjoyed being a part of for the past 10 years.

Kindest regards

Dawn and Rob

Parent Surveys – The yearly parent survey organised by the governors will be out soon. This year there will be the option to fill it out online. We will let you know when it goes live!

Class Assemblies

Our class assemblies continue next week with Year 1's class assembly. Normally assemblies start at 2:45pm family members should arrive by 2:40pm. **Year 2's assembly on Thursday June 11th will start at 2:30pm (parents arrive by 2:25pm) to allow us to get the hall ready for FORS Father's Day Craft.**

- Wednesday 6th May Year 5
- Thursday 21st May Year 1
- Tuesday 9th June Year 4
- Thursday 11th June Year 2 (2.30pm start)
- Thursday 25th June Reception Class



Cluster Cricket - The cluster cricket tournament is next Wednesday 21st May. We have 1 team taking part – hopefully the weather will be kind!

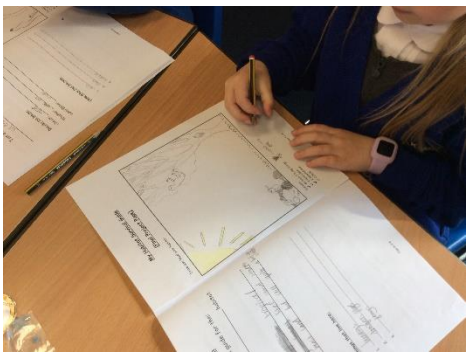
Cricket Taster Day with Chance to Shine Cricket – On Monday Year 1 to 6 will be taking part in a cricket taster day organised by Chance to Shine Cricket. Let's hope the sun shines!!

Clubs After Half Term – Football clubs for year 3 to 6 will stop at the end of this half term. We will run an athletics club instead. Details of all clubs to be sent out soon.

Science Club with Miss Holding



Last week, the children carried out an exciting experiment to investigate how blubber helps animals stay warm in cold environments. To test this, the children first placed one hand in icy water and then repeated the test with their hand inside a "blubber glove" (a plastic bag lined with bubble wrap to represent blubber). After the experiment, the children recorded how it felt and noted which hand stayed warmer. They discovered that the hand insulated by the "blubber" stayed much warmer. We then discussed how this links to animals that live in polar climates, concluding that their thick layer of blubber helps keep them warm in freezing temperatures and is an important adaptation that helps them survive in their habitat.



This week, to conclude this half term's Science Club, the children took part in a creative and thoughtful activity all about animal adaptations. They chose a habitat of their own and described its climate and weather conditions, before considering what animals would need in order to survive there. The children identified three living things that could inhabit their chosen environment and explained the specific adaptations that make them suited to those conditions. They also created an example food chain to show how living things depend on one another within that habitat. It was a fantastic final session, allowing the children to bring together all the knowledge they have developed over the term. Well done to everyone who took part!

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 20th May	Cluster Cricket
Friday 22nd May	FORS Fun Day & Picnic 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



Car Parking – Further to the email sent earlier in the week please can I remind parents that they should not park in the school car park at the start and end of the day this is for safety reasons as well as a question of capacity. The only exception to that is for parents where there is a good reason to park in the car park and where this has been agreed in advance with Mr Ashman.

Year 4 - Horstead Residential

Year 4 had a fantastic few days at Horstead. The children took part in a number of activities including: a vertical challenge, a tower climb with zip line, archery, environmental art, bush craft (where we learned how to clean water, create fire and build a shelter strong enough to survive a storm), a camp fire with popcorn and marshmallows and raft-building (this may need to be renamed as a swim in the river!).

On the first evening we had a campfire outside. Whilst toasting marshmallows we were treated to some karaoke from the children with renditions of songs including sweet Caroline and Ordinary. As it came to night-time the children were excited to share a room with their friends. They all settled quickly and enjoyed spending time in their rooms together (despite the mess they had created!). It was wonderful to see them helping and supporting each amongst all the smiles and giggles. In the morning we had many smiles as they enjoyed the experience. Early morning activities for some included standing outside the adult's rooms loudly discussing if they should 'ding, dong, ditch' or not, thankfully they decided to head back to bed.

Before activities began the children made their own sandwiches for lunch and wrote in their diaries to help them remember things from the trip. Their diaries will come home with the children at the end of half term so that you can enjoy reading them together. Throughout the trip we also enjoyed some down town, during this time the children enjoyed playing shut the box, drawing, making dens, football and playing pool, table tennis and foosball in the games room.

I am incredibly proud of all the children in Year 4, they pushed any fears or worries to one side and attempted every activity with the support of their friends. All the children should be incredibly proud of themselves as they showed all of our school values. Thank you to Mrs Goddard, Mr Ashman and Mrs Culling and all the children for making it such a wonderful experience.

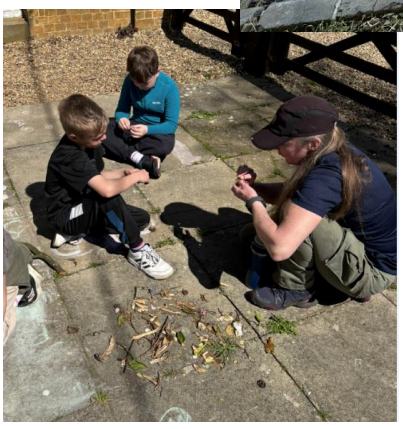
Miss Farrow

(We have lots of photos that will be printed and put into a folder, I will bring this out at the start and end of day once it is ready)



























Bombers

Exploring feelings, emotions, and wellbeing has taken us on a colourful adventure this week. The children delighted in creating their very own Worry Monsters using shapes, sticky materials, googly eyes, and plenty of imagination. There were monsters with enormous eyes, sparkly shapes, funny faces, and many unique designs that made every creation wonderfully different. The children were absolutely thrilled and proudly beamed as they showed off their special masterpieces to friends and teachers. We also shared the much-loved story The Colour Monster and discovered how colours can help us talk about our feelings. Together we explored yellow for happiness, blue for sadness, red for anger, brown for fear, and green for calm. One child spontaneously said, "Well, I want to make mine pink, pink for kindness," and then happily reflected that she was kind too, creating a truly heart-warming moment for us all. Moments such as these made our discussions especially meaningful and memorable.

Our little learners have also been busy exploring sandpaper letters, tracing, and early mark-making activities with growing confidence and excitement. Beginner chess has continued to capture the children's curiosity, and many have eagerly returned to challenge their friends and practise their clever thinking skills.

Outdoors, our young nature explorers discovered some very hungry caterpillars munching away on leaves all day long. "Munch, munch, munch!" quickly became a favourite phrase as the children noticed leaves with holes and curious, uneven edges where the caterpillars had been happily eating. Excited conversations filled the garden as we wondered together, "What do you think happens next?". We cannot wait to continue discovering the magical adventures of the hungry caterpillar in the days ahead.



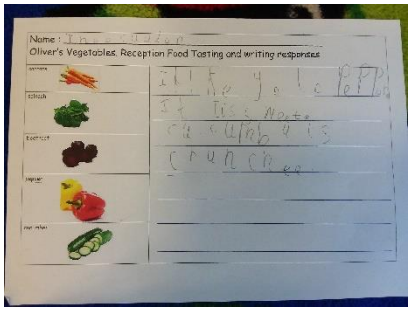
Reception

We have continued reading the Oliver's Vegetables story this week – the children particularly enjoyed the 'Guess My Veg' quiz which really tested their listening and visualising skills – we found out that the clues for beetroot could easily be confused with rhubarb! It's been great to hear that some of the children have been inspired to eat new types of vegetables at home as a result of their classwork. Well done! They have also produced lots of brilliant writing in which we are gradually encouraging more complex sentences, for example, some of the children used the word 'because' (spelt phonetically!) to explain their opinions about the vegetable tasting we did last week.

We have started revising and consolidating previously learned sounds. We go over the tricky red words each day and, this week, the sounds we are focussing on are the digraphs 'ay' and 'ee.' (e.g. 'play' and 'green'). In maths, the children are becoming experts at explaining what it means to share equally and they loved showing us what the division sign looks like! They have practised sharing with all sorts of concrete resources: conkers, pine cones, pebbles - the list goes on! So, we hope this encourages great sharing with siblings/family at home! We can but try! ☺

Next week is music week in reception class! Do let us know if any family members/ friends are musical and would like to come in or send in a video to inspire the children! Thank you.







Year 1

In Year 1 over the last couple of weeks we have been learning about the 'Stages of growth' in humans; noticing that all animals (including humans) have off spring that grow into adults. On Thursday we looked at the life cycle of a butterfly/frog and hen, the children then drew out a life-cycle to show their understanding. On Friday it was Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday so we took this opportunity to mark the occasion by making animal masks.

In English this week we have continued to use 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter' in order to retell the story orally (with actions); the children have loved doing this and they have done such a good job remembering it. The tasks this week have included sequencing the story using pictures and sentences, writing sentences to describe a character from the story and we have also been acting out the key events of the story in groups. For this week's grammar we have focused on apostrophes for contractions! We continued this week by retelling the story in our own words.

In Maths we have been finding a half and a quarter! We started the week by investigating half of different shapes by folding and cutting. Later in the week we have been finding half of different amounts and recording these in our maths books. There are many online games you can play to help your child practise finding a half: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zy4tm39 https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

Don't forget it's our class assembly on Thursday next week!

Year 2

This half term is flying by, and it has been another busy and exciting week in Year 2!

This week in English, we continued exploring the story of *Hansel and Gretel*. At the beginning of the week, the children imagined they were Gretel after hearing a voice from inside the house and wrote thoughtful questions from her perspective. Throughout the rest of the week, we focused on writing in the past progressive tense, using expanded noun phrases, and extending sentences with the subordinating conjunction *because* to explain reasons. We also learned about contractions and practised including them in our writing.

In Maths, we began our new unit on fractions. We started by exploring the concept of wholes and parts before moving on to learning about the fraction *one half* — one of two equal parts. The children recognised one half in shapes and practised finding one half of different numbers.

In Science, we learned about the needs of animals and humans for survival. The children first ordered different needs from most important to least important before learning more about each one. Many then changed their original ideas after discovering that air, water, and food are the most essential for survival. We also discussed the difference between a *need* and a *want*.

In RSE, we learned about our bodies and how they grow and change throughout our lives.

In History, we explored the life of another significant historical figure, *Edith Cavell*. The children placed key events from her life onto a timeline and examined evidence of her bravery. They then discussed whether they would have made the same choice as Edith Cavell by helping soldiers to escape.

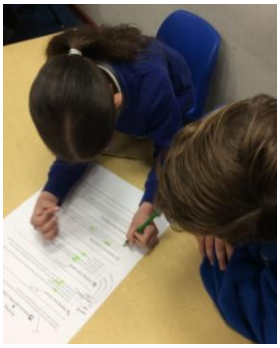
Year 3



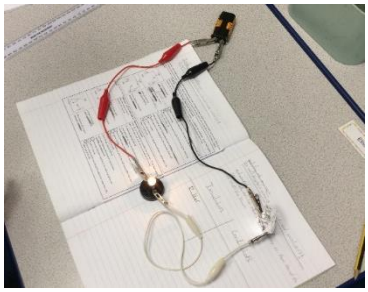
Year 3 have had another incredibly busy and exciting couple of weeks filled with lots of fantastic learning across the curriculum!

In Maths last week, the children completed their learning about money. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a role-play garden centre activity where they practised finding and giving change in real-life scenarios. They also worked hard

to solve a variety of worded and multi-step money problems, applying their understanding in different contexts before completing their end-of-unit assessment. This week, we have moved on to learning about time. So far, the children have recapped telling the time to o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to the hour. In addition, they have explored Roman numerals to 12 and practised telling the time to 5 minutes past and 5 minutes to the hour.



In English last week, the children focused on editing and improving their independent diary entries completed the previous week. They also practised writing in the present tense, using coordinating conjunctions and fronted adverbials to make their writing more detailed and engaging. This week, the children have planned their own instruction texts based on how to care for either a pet dragon or another mythical creature before applying all of these skills in their final piece of writing.



In Science last week, we continued our learning about electricity by exploring electrical circuits. The children investigated complete and incomplete circuits before building their own working circuits. They also tested a range of materials to identify whether they were conductors or insulators. To finish the unit, the children explored how switches work and practised drawing circuits using the correct scientific symbols. We were extremely impressed with the strong results achieved in their end-of-unit retrieval assessment.

This week, the children have begun exploring how different climates affect food production and have investigated how animals, including humans, obtain the nutrition they need by evaluating the Eatwell Guide.

In RSE, the children took part in thoughtful discussions around gender stereotypes, recognising that colours, toys and clothing are for everyone and should not be limited by whether someone is a boy or a girl.

On Wednesday, we had a fantastic trip to Eaton Vale, where the children took part in a range of exciting outdoor activities. Throughout the day, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and encouragement towards one another whilst completing team-building challenges, crate stacking and archery. It was wonderful to see everyone stepping outside of their comfort zones, building confidence and having so much fun. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented Year 3 brilliantly!

Year 4

It has been a very busy few weeks in Year 4! Since our trip to Horstead the children have been working hard in English and using their adventures as a starting point to inspire their writing. We have been building towards writing a newspaper report recounting a small section of the trip. As part of this unit we have been exploring different types of words to help enhance our sentences. Some of the word types we are aiming to include in our news reports are adjectives and adverbs to help the reader imagine what the trip was like.

In maths this week we have squeezed lots in again, to begin with we have completed our work on Money. The children have become confident at exploring word problems using money and showing different ways to make the same amount. We have also been focusing on our timetables as the children will take their ***multiplication check during the first two weeks of June***. If you are aware that your child will not be in school at any point during this time, please let Myself, Mrs Goddard or Mrs Culling know.

Finally in science, as part of unit on Animals including humans, we have been looking at the digestive system. This topic has captured the children's attention especially as we look at the end of the digestive system! On Friday afternoon the children recreated the digestive system using plastic bags full of banana, orange juice, biscuits and water to represent the stomach. After they had churned all the food, they poured the mixture into a tight leg and ultimately created human waste! As you can imagine there were many laughs and equally as many disgusted faces!







Year 5

With only one week left of this half term, the weeks are flying by! As there were no class pages in the newsletter last week, I wanted to start off by praising the Year 5s for their amazing assembly last Thursday. The class spoke with loud, clear voices and ensured it was kept at an appropriate pace. It was also fantastic that they got to show off their brilliant knowledge and work to their family members. Lots of staff commented on the children's impressive Egyptian artwork, hieroglyphics, cartouches, log entries and pack ice sketches too!

During Maths lessons, we moved on to a new topic of 'translation'. In addition to children translating shapes on a grid, they also created their own Maths puzzles. In English lessons, we continued work linked to our class book – 'The Midnight Fox' by Betsy Byers. As well as starting a diary / journal– which will log all of Tom's sightings of the fox, the children also learnt about features of newspaper reports. Later this week, they began writing their own newspaper report – focusing on Tom being interviewed following his discovery of a rare fox.



In Science lessons, we learnt about the circulatory system. Once the children had drawn and labelled parts of the heart, they then had to research the three main components of the circulatory system: blood, blood vessels and the heart. In R.E, the children learnt about the key beliefs of Hinduism. During a Geography lesson, the children chose a city to research in South America. This will lead to a poster being produced – persuading people to visit! Finally, for an art lesson, the children sketched animals that are native to the Amazon Rainforest. The end results look amazing!

Although it's been a slightly shorter week, we have still managed to complete lots of activities! I have to start by praising the Year 5s for their amazing assembly on Thursday. The class spoke with loud, clear voices and ensured it was kept at an appropriate pace. It was also fantastic that they got to show off their brilliant knowledge and work to their family members. Lots of staff also commented on the children's impressive Egyptian artwork, hieroglyphics, cartouches, log entries and pack ice sketches.



During Maths lessons, we concluded our topic of plotting coordinates within a four-quadrant grid. The final activity involved the children having to connect coordinate points together which ended up creating a picture. Towards the end of the week, we moved on to a new topic of 'translation'. In English lessons, we continued work linked to our class book – 'The Midnight Fox' by Betsy Byers. After writing a letter from the perspective of Tom (the main character) to Petie – his best friend, the class began designing a diary. This will include all of Tom's sightings of the fox.

Apart from assembly rehearsals, our other afternoon time has mainly linked to the circulatory system in science. Once the children had drawn and labelled parts of the heart, they then had to research the three main components of the circulatory system: blood, blood vessels and the heart. We had a further swimming lesson at Broadland High School too – where yet again the children showed resilience and a positive attitude!

Well done, Max, Seb, Parker and Stan for being stars. Throughout our assembly rehearsals this week, you showed enthusiasm and confidence. It was no surprised that during the actual class assembly you spoke loudly, clearly and with expression. This was noticed by several adults who were all very impressed! Also, you have demonstrated a solid understanding of our recent Maths topics: coordinates and translation. Keep up the excellent work!

Year 6

It has been a busy week for us in year 6 as we have had our SATs but each and every one of our children have been absolutely fantastic! They have been incredibly focused and worked incredibly hard…I could not have been prouder of them! Each day was started by the traditional SATs breakfasts of bacon rolls, croissants, toast and cereal…my favourite part of the tests! A massive thank you to Ms Holmes for organising and preparing everything for this!

To finish year 6, we are attempting to hold a whole class game of The Traitors! On Monday, each child will be assigned a roll of either Traitor or Faithful with the traitors trying to work together to get the faithful children voted out. Secrecy is the aim of the game!

However, the most exciting part of the week (and the bit I really want to talk about) has to be our SATs treat! On Friday, we took a trip to Yarmouth to celebrate the end of the week! We started with some bowling which included far too many strikes for me to count! Some brilliant scores of over 100 by the children! This was followed by fish and chips by the sea front (and luckily, we dodged the rain and the gulls) and an ice-cream for dessert. We finished the day by going to the arcade where most of the children attempted to win Jelly Cat teddies from the grabber machines! For me, the highlight of the day was when Mr Ashman was approached by the lady in the ticket booth who said she couldn't believe how polite and friendly of children were! What a fantastic bunch they are!







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 **30 out of 30**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 6 for

98%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Novalie, Marlowe, Lilly
Year 1	Azlan, Theo P, Oakley
Year 2	Austin, Jacob, Delilan
Year 3	All of Year 3, Cian, Ivy
Year 4	Myla, Leo, Oakley
Year 5	Jacob P, Theodore, Alfie
Year 6	All of Year 6

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman