Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 12th June 2026



Saying Goodbye to Staff – Miss Holding and Mrs Redgrave are both leaving school at the end of the school year. Miss Holding is going to work as a lecturer at City College whilst Mrs Redgrave is going to be studying fine art at university. We are going to miss them both a great deal. They have both been fantastic members of staff and we wish them both all the best for the future.

Beekeeper Visit - We were lucky enough to enjoy a visit from local beekeeper, Tom, from 'Swarm and Fuzzy' today. He gave a brilliant talk to all the children about what beekeeping entails and how important it is to protect our native bee populations. The children listened incredibly well and answered so many of the questions! However, we also learned a great deal – Ethan from Year 1 remembered: *"Bees make honey and get pollen from flowers. The female bees are called workers and the male bees are drones. It takes 2 million flowers to make 1 jar of honey!"* Superb listening, Ethan! Tom explained how we can help protect our bees, we could:

- Plant pollinator friendly flowers, e.g. lavender and cornflowers
- Let grass grow – bees love dandelions!
- Put pebbles/ stones in bird baths so bees can stop by for a drink!

Sending a big thank you to Tom, it really was an engaging, informative talk about a beautiful creature that it is vital it our eco-system. Report by Mrs Pulford





DT Day

There has been a real buzz around school today as each class has been busy making marble runs. The day begun by looking at some examples to help inspire their creations, this was followed by some careful planning and ultimately on to the best bit, the making. Children have worked through problems and found creative ways to speed up and slow down their marble on its journey. The day finished with the opportunity to explore and play with others marble runs. You will see some photographs on the class pages.

Heads for the Day



"Today was great. We were the first ever to have lunch in the staff room! We answered emails and had biscuits and cakes. We planned for the school world cup draw and checked book bags for the new Reception Parent's Evening. Mr C kept asking us for a coffee machine in his office (understandable).

We helped in reception and led multiple surveys. Our favourite part of the day was all of it. It was lots of fun. Although we didn't get to put anyone in detention!!

We also helped with year 4 assembly. Overall it was a super day!"

By Aria and Joey

World Cup School Draw

In preparation for the World Cup we held our pre-tournament draw in assembly on Wednesday. With 48 teams it took a while! Let's hope Year 4 are celebrating at the end of the tournament!

- **Bombers Pre-School** – Portugal, Uruguay, Iran, Tunisia, Haiti, USA
- **Reception** – Brazil, Japan, Norway, Uzbekistan, Jordan, Sweden
- **Year 1** – Spain, Morocco, South Korea, Paraguay, Ghana, Congo DR
- **Year 2** – France, Columbia, Egypt, Algeria, Cape Verde, Turkey
- **Year 3** – Argentina, Switzerland, Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Curacao, Czechia
- **Year 4** – England, Croatia, Austria, Ivory Coast, New Zealand, Canada
- **Year 5** – Germany, Senegal, Australia, Scotland, Iraq, Mexico
- **Year 6** – Netherlands, Belgium, Panama, Qatar, South Africa, Bosnia

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES - CANADA - MEXICO

Year 4 World Cup Football Tournament

On Thursday the Year 4 mixed team took part in the Norwich City 4 a-side "World Cup" event. At the start there was a random draw which saw Rackheath become Ivory Coast for the day. The format of the day was that the girls played the first half and the boys played the second. Both the boys and girls played some great football. Emily led the girls really well and scored some cracking goals. She was ably supported by Florence, Ivy, Willow and Charlotte who all performed better and better as the day went on. Meanwhile, the Year 4 boys showed what a strong group they are. It was lovely to watch Archie, Ben, Finley, Henry, Jackson and Leo play so well together.



The passing, movement, dribbling, work rate and finishing led to some fantastic football and goal after goal. Over the course of 6 games the boys and girls scored an incredible 70 goals and only conceded 3 on the way to 6 wins out of 6. If this were the World Cup Africa would have had its first ever win! Thanks to all the parents who helped with transport and braved the miserable weather. Thanks also to Mrs Goddard for taking the team with me.

Cluster Rugby

Last Friday, 23 of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a lovely day of rugby organised by North Walsham Rugby Club. In the morning we took part in some skills drills before playing some tag rugby matches against the other schools. It was good to see a real improvement in the children's technique and team work as the day went on. Thanks to Mrs Duckmanton for taking the team with me.





Crazy Hair Day / Non-Uniform Day



The School Council have asked if we could hold a crazy hair and non-uniform day to raise money to buy comics for the school library. The date for crazy hair is Friday 10th July



New Parent Meeting

On Tuesday night we held our meeting for new parents of our Reception Intake for September 2026. It was lovely to meet lots of families there. Thanks to the FORS, staff and Year 6 pupils for supporting the event. A big well done to William, Joey, Amelia, Nicola, Cara and Anya who all wrote lovely speeches and read them clearly and well.

Class Assemblies – This week we had 2 great class assemblies from Year 2 and 4. The last assembly is Reception's which is on the 25th June.

Transition Morning – Our children will have a move up morning on Thursday 2nd July. New Reception children will also come in for a visit on that day.

Sports Week Information



The week of 15th June is sports week which I'm sure will be very exciting! We have sporting events taking place over 3 days starting on Monday details below:

Monday 15th June – Fun Sports Day - 9:15am - 11:45am

All children from Reception to Year 5 will compete in teams in a fun sports event. Parents can stay at school from the start of the day and then follow their children round, cheer them on and even join in too! This year it will our Year 6 children who will run the sports stations, which will be a brilliant change!

Tuesday 16th June – Reception Sports Day – 10:30am -11:30am

Our youngest children will compete in a special sports day with the leavers from the Bombers. Those leavers in the Bombers on Tuesday will be brought over by the staff, while any other leavers not in on the Tuesday can come with their parents. Parents to arrive from 10.20am.

Wednesday 17th June AM – KS2 Sports Day – 9:15am - 11:45am

Year 3 to 6 will compete in a series of races in the morning. Parents to arrive from 9:00am

Wednesday 17th June PM – KS1 Sports Day – 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Year 1 and 2 will compete in a series of races in the afternoon. Parents can arrive from 1:15pm

Information on Sports Day Kit:

- On the days the children are taking part in sports days they should come into school in their PE kit and can wear it all day. Hopefully as many of the children as possible will be in their team colours.
- This means that on Monday all the children will wear their PE kit to school for fun sports. Reception will wear PE kit on Tuesday and all the children from Year 1 to 6 will need to wear their PE kit on Wednesday.
- Please ensure children bring plenty to drink and have sun cream and a hat.
- Should the British weather intervene in any way we will let you know the reserve date as soon as possible. Friday 19th June is the scheduled reserve date.

Other information for parents:

- You can take photographs but please do not post any to social media unless the photo is just of your child as not all parents want pictures of their children on social media. This could be down to personal preference or there could be a reason linked to safeguarding why a parent would not want their picture posted on social media. For example where a child's location needs to be protected.
- Spectators will have seats set out for them on the opposite side of the track to the children. Parents and other spectators should stay sat on the other side of the track to the children
- Parents needing shade can bring umbrellas and use them or set up a pop-up gazebo as long as you aren't obstructing the view of others

Summer Term Dates

Year 6

- Wednesday 1st / Thursday 2nd July — Broadland Transition Days
- Friday July 3rd – — Year 6 Camp Out
- Tuesday 14th / Wednesday 15th July — End of term performances – 6.00pm
- Thursday 16th July — Leavers Assembly Awards (children only)
- Friday 17th July — Leaver's Assembly for children and parents (AM)

General Dates

- 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
- Thursday 2nd July — Moving up morning
- Friday 3rd July — Year 5 Art & Science Day at Broadland
- Friday 17th July — Last day of term





Science Club with Miss Holding

Tuesday saw the first of our Science Club sessions for the final term of the year! During this week's session, the children recapped their understanding of living and non-living things before learning about the seven life processes that all living things require: movement, respiration, sensitivity, growth, reproduction, excretion and nutrition – known as **MRS GREN**.

Thankfully, the rain cleared, allowing us to spend some time exploring our school's Wild Area. The children carefully observed the different habitats around them and searched for evidence of living things. Although many of the minibeasts seemed to be hiding away this week, we still had a wonderful time exploring and investigating the natural environment.



Back in the classroom, the children drew some of the creatures they had spotted in their Science Club booklets. These booklets will be added to over the next four weeks and taken home after our final session as a record of all their fantastic learning and discoveries.

It was a wonderful start to the term, and we are already looking forward to our next Science Club adventure!



Bombers

Our little learners have thoroughly enjoyed taking their learning outdoors, observing the natural environment, and discussing how living things grow and thrive, as well as taking part in exercise and yoga.

The children took part in a nature walk around the school grounds, where they collected natural materials that birds might use to build their nests. Thoughtful discussions followed as the children shared their ideas about why birds

build nests. Some explained that nests are used “for their babies,” “to lay eggs,” and to make them “nice and comfortable.” One child confidently explained that birds carry nest materials “in their beak.” It was wonderful to see the children using their knowledge and curiosity to explore the natural world around them.

Back in the classroom, the children drew pictures inspired by their observations before becoming little gardeners. They carefully planted seeds and eagerly discussed what plants need to grow. There were lots of wonderful conversations as children explained, “It starts with a seed,” “Loads of compost,” and “Seeds and water make them grow.” The children carefully watered their seeds and discussed how sunshine, water, soil, and time all help plants grow strong and healthy. As part of our focus on keeping healthy, the children also took part in physical exercise sessions and yoga, following instructions, engaging in movement-based challenges, and developing coordination and wellbeing.

Our School Leavers Group have continued developing their confidence and excitement about moving on to Reception. During phonics activities, one child proudly announced, “I can go to big school and read their books!” It has been lovely to see the children’s growing enthusiasm as they prepare for their next adventure.

There was also plenty of imaginative role play taking place outdoors this week. One child confidently took on the role of a petrol attendant, carefully directing the other children to stop and refuel their vehicles. Business was clearly booming, with a steady stream of customers throughout the day! With the rising cost of petrol, we were pleased to see that payments could be made with leaves, smiles, and plenty of imagination.

It has been a joyful week full of exploration, discovery, laughter, and learning in nature. We are incredibly proud of the curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm the children have shown as they continue to explore the world around them.



Reception

This week, in between the rain and showers, we have continued our exploration of the Handa’s Surprise story. The children have used their developing writing skills to produce words and sentences about the animals from the story - there was a cheeky monkey, a long-necked giraffe and … can your child remember any more of the animals Handa met on her journey? You could also ask them what those animals naughtily pinched from Handa’s basket!

In maths, we have explored coin recognition. We always find this a fascinating one to address as children today are seeing far less coin use than in previous years. They did a super job of gradually recognising the different coins and are beginning to understand that they have different values.

In phonics, we revisited the ar (car) and or (fork) sounds. The children are loving practising their tricky red words on a game online. We use the ‘phonics play’ website and it has a number of games which are free that your children could use to practise their sound recognition and blending skills to read whole words. Unfortunately the ‘tricky words trucks’ game we play in school is not free (a few have asked about it) but there are a few other games that anybody can access at home for free. We have, of course, reminded the children that any home use of technology (phones / tablets / internet) must only ever be with adult permission / supervision.

Next week, we have a super busy week with the whole school sports week and our Thrigby Zoo visit Wednesday! We look forward to seeing you at our Fun Sports morning on Monday and our reception sports morning on Tuesday.

Year 1

We have had such a fun DT week this week. The children have been using their creative skills to make Moving Mechanisms. On Monday we started by making ‘sliders’, on Tuesday we made ‘Levers’ and on Thursday we made a ‘wheel mechanism’ based on the Little Red Riding Hood fairy-tale. Friday’s DT Day took us into the realm of designing and making Marble Runs. We had so much fun in year 1 doing this; with so many different designs and ideas!

In English this week we have been practising retelling the story of Paddington orally, using a story map and actions. The children then had a chance to perform these to the class. Later in the week we wrote sentences about the Paddington story using 'and' to join clauses. We have also been focusing on -ed endings in grammar and how adding -ed to a verb makes it past tense.

This week in Maths we have been learning all about place value within 100. The children have been comparing and ordering numbers ensuring that they understand which number is biggest and which is smallest. They have been taught to look at the tens digit before the ones digit to order to understand its value. We have also been working on one less than and one more than, by playing the dice game to create a 2-digit number and then work out what 1 more and 1 less of that number is. Next week we are moving on to learning all about time; any help at home with this is greatly beneficial.

Well done to all the children for completing their Phonics Screening Test this week; they did an amazing job and we are very proud of everyone! Well done, and thank you to those who encouraged their child to practise at home. Great job!!

Year 2

Another busy week has flown by in Year 2!

In Maths, we completed our learning on fractions. The children began by recognising the fraction three-quarters before moving on to finding three-quarters of different numbers. We also practised counting in fractions up to a whole. Later in the week, the children completed their Summer Arithmetic assessment and absolutely amazed us with their progress. They demonstrated fantastic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills, and we were incredibly proud of their efforts. Well done, Year 2! Towards the end of the week, we began our new topic on time, practising o'clock and half-past times.

In English, we started our new class text, *The Snail and the Whale*, which is already proving to be a firm favourite. We were introduced to the whale and used expanded noun phrases to write detailed descriptive sentences.

Many of our afternoons this week have been dedicated to preparing and rehearsing for our class assembly, which we performed yesterday. The children were incredibly excited and did a wonderful job, speaking clearly and confidently throughout the performance. We were so proud of them all!

Today, we enjoyed our whole-school DT Day, where the children were challenged to design and build their own marble runs. They approached the task with enthusiasm, creativity and determination, producing some fantastic designs. It was great fun testing the marble runs, making improvements and adding decorations to their finished creations.





Year 3



Year 3 have had another fantastic week of learning across the curriculum! In Maths, we continued our learning about time by using and comparing different units of time. The children practised distinguishing between minutes and seconds and enjoyed using stopwatches to measure how long it took them to complete a range of activities, including 10 star jumps, running a lap of the playground and writing their names backwards. They also applied their knowledge to solve a variety of time-based word problems. During the latter part of the week, we began our final Maths unit of the academic year, where the children explored turns and angles, learning how to identify and describe different types of turns.

In English, the children have thoroughly enjoyed starting our new class text, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. We recapped the use of fronted adverbials and the children applied these to show when, where and how events occurred within their own independent writing. They also used prepositions to describe the position of nouns.



During Topic lessons, the children began their exciting new learning about the Ancient Greeks. They discovered where and when the Ancient Greeks lived and used historical images and sources to infer information about life in the past.



Today, the children had a wonderful day taking part in DT Day, where they designed and constructed their own marble runs using a range of materials. Working collaboratively with the Year 4 children, they demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills as they planned, built and tested their designs. At the end of the day, the children enjoyed sharing their finished marble runs with their peers and celebrating the successes of their hard work. It was fantastic to see so much enthusiasm and innovation throughout the day!

Year 4

The children spent the start of the week eagerly practicing their class assembly, it was lovely to see so many of you coming along to enjoy it. Our performance practices did not stop once the assembly was done as we have begun practicing a class dance for sports day, this year the children will be performing a Haka.

In Maths we finished our work on time and begun looking at shape. Our shape unit has begun by looking at, understanding and describing turns. This has included moving objects clockwise and anticlockwise as well as using our fraction knowledge to explain turns, for example 'three quarter turn anticlockwise'. In science we have continued out experiment looking into the impact of different liquids on our teeth. It is safe to say there have been some big changes the children have been particularly horrified by both the orange juice and vinegar which have drastically changed the condition of the eggs. Next week we will conclude the experiment and write our final conclusions.

In English we have continued looking at Robin Hood, the children have written setting descriptions about some key settings in the story. Additionally, we have explored many of the key characters and looked at how we can describe them to help the reader picture them. Finally on Friday the children enjoyed DT Day, it was lovely to see them working so well together and to solve lots of problems to create a final marble run that worked well.

Year 5

It's been another great week in Year 5 with lots of activities taking place. In Maths lessons (for the past 2 weeks) we have recapped our understanding of formal methods as well as learning 'tricks and short cuts to calculate mentally. We are coming to the end of our writing unit linked to The Midnight Fox and we will soon be starting a new class book. The children produced a balanced argument discussing whether or not the fox (from the story) should be hunted. Their reasons were very creative and emotive!

Towards the end of last week, we began our James 'Egg' Bond Challenge. This is where the children get into pairs – or small groups – and come up with a design that prevents an egg from breaking when it's thrown off the bunker! The children have already drawn and labelled their designs, thought carefully about air resistance and planned which materials it will be made from. The building stage starts next week, so more news to follow!

In R.E, the children learnt the importance of Holi to link to our study of Hinduism and we've also been busy practising for our Sports Day dance next week. Following on from our bee keeper visit last week, we had an art lesson where the children sketched honeycomb and a bee before colouring it. The end results look fantastic! We also had our first RSHE lesson, which focused on hormones and puberty.

To conclude our busy week, we had a DT Day today, where the aim was to create a marble-run from a variety of materials. The children had lots of fun and seemed to really enjoy being creative!





Year 6

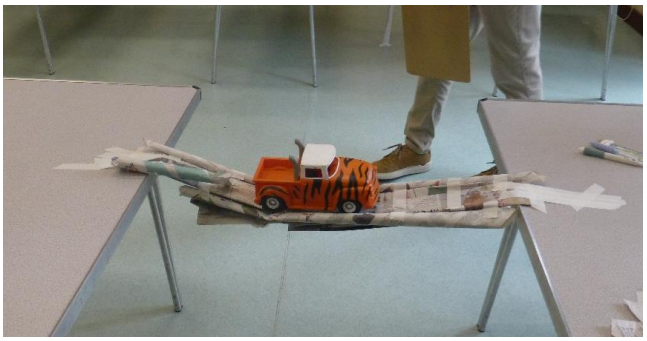
What a brilliant first two weeks back… strange to think that this is the last half term for our amazing year 6 children!

I am just going to focus on the highlights of the past two weeks!

1) **Bridge building** - The children were given the task of using just 10 sheets of newspaper to construct a bridge that could make it across a 70cm gap and then hold the weight of a large model car! We had some superb ideas / designs but the winners were Nathan, Harley and Erin!
2) **The Year 6 Enterprise** - What an event this was! I could not believe the turn out from the local community… and the year 6 children were amazing. I was blown away by some of their small businesses that they created in order to grow their £5… and I think it is safe to say that the event was a huge success. Soon we will be able to share the total amount of money that the children have managed to raise!
3) **The Play** - We have been working hard to bring this together with extra singing sessions, prop making and run throughs in the hall. The stage is now up so from next week it will be full steam ahead!
4) **DT Day** - Today, the children have been busy creating marble runs using recycled materials with an aim of trying to make a course that would take a marble 60 seconds to complete… what a difficult task!

We are now getting ready for the end of year events. We have booked in the Water Fight for Monday 29th June. For this, children will need a change of clothing and a pair of trainers. Children will also need a water gun of some description and a towel! I will send out a reminder letter closer to the date…fingers crossed for good weather!





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 **22 out of 32**

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!

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman