Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 12th June 2026

Sports Week – What a week of sport (and weather) it has been. All the children have given their all and tried really hard for their teams. The children showed super team spirit and great sportsmanship. It was a joy to watch the children support and cheer for each other and encourage everyone over the four days. It has also been lovely to share sports week with so many family members too!

A big thank you to everyone involved, especially the Year 6 children for running fun sports. They did such a great job and to Mrs Pallant and Mr Cavender, who organised fun sports as well as KS2 and KS1 sports.



All teams performed really well:

- Sportsmanship award – Yellow and Red
- EYFS Winners - Green
- KS1 Winners – Blue
- KS2 Winners – Blue

In a very close contest overall it was the Blues who won the overall prize!



Parent Survey 2025-26

We would very much welcome your views on the school. Please follow the link to complete our annual parent survey. This year it can be filled in online or on paper. The paper survey will go out on Monday.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/tJ4xFKE81y?origin=lprLink

Passport Day

We are very excited about passport day, which is on Friday 26th June. The children should have brought home tickets for the country they are visiting today. On the day the children can come into school in their own clothes. There is no expectation that they dress in clothes linked to their country but if they want to and they can then that would be great. A few years ago some children brought in artefacts linked to the country they are visiting or a suitcase and that is fine too.



On the day all the children will have a chance to visit duty free for a snack before taking off on special flights captained by Captain Edwards before they disembark at their destinations. They don't need to bring any money in to school.

Reception 2026 Stay and Play sessions – Our transition plan for reception class 2026-27 continues with two stay and play sessions on Monday 29th June and Thursday 2nd July. Both sessions run from 3:30pm - 4:15pm. This is a great chance for children to spend time in the classroom and outside area of Reception with their parents before they start in September.

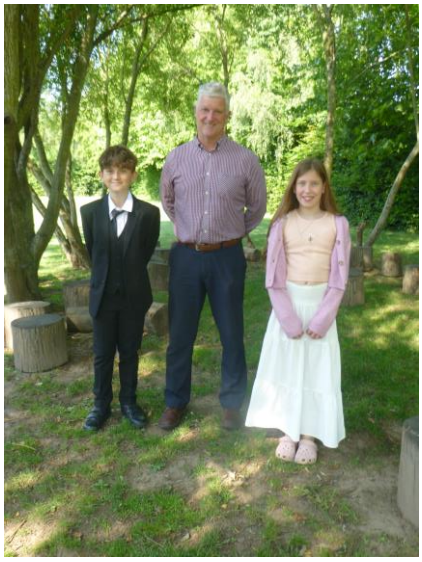
Transition Day – Our school transition morning will be on Thursday 2nd July. On the morning the children will move up to meet their teachers for the year ahead. Reception Class 2026-27 are also coming in for the morning in 3 groups of 10. Each group will spend an hour in the school.

Year 6 Transition Days - Year 6 are off to Broadland on Wednesday 1st July and Thursday 2nd July for their transition days.

Year 5 Broadland Visit – Meanwhile our Year 5 class are visiting Broadland by coach for an art and science day on Friday 3rd July.

Head for the Day

"We started the day by dropping off our belongings and having a teacher meeting. Then we went outside to ring the bell and greeted everyone as they went in to class. Next, we did a walk around the school seeing what each class was learning about and gave out some kindness stickers to two pupils from each class. After that it was break time and we helped get set up and ready for EYFS sports day. During the sports day we helped give out all the stickers at the finish line. Then it was lunch time and we had to get changed into our school uniform because we had our filming for our year 6 leavers DVD. As our final task we asked two children from each class to complete a survey about fun sports this year and if they enjoyed it. Overall we had a great day helping out at sports day and being head teacher for the day!"



Ayla and Sid

World Cup School Draw

Here's a reminder of the teams the classes are supporting this year. 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



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

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.

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

- Friday 26th June — Whole School Passport Day
- Mon 29th / Thurs 2nd — Stay & Play Sessions for New Intake
- 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
- Monday 6th July — Cluster Oracy Festival at Broadland
- Tuesday 7th July — Cluster KS2 Sports at Broadland
- Monday 13th July — Cluster Swimming Gala at Broadland
- Friday 17th July — Last day of term





Science Club with Miss Holding

During our second Science Club session, the children took part in a range of discussion-based activities all about food chains. Together, we researched and discussed what different types of British wildlife eat, discovering some fascinating facts along the way. The children were particularly interested to learn that adult badgers have very few natural predators due to their aggressive nature, tough skin and powerful claws.

Using their new knowledge, the children created simple food chains linked to animals commonly found in the Norfolk countryside. During discussions, the children were introduced to important scientific vocabulary, including producer, consumer and predator.

To conclude the session, we headed outside to search for 'caterpillars' (pipe cleaners) hidden within the hedge. The children quickly discovered that the brown caterpillars were the most difficult to find because they were well camouflaged amongst the branches. In contrast, the bright pink caterpillars stood out clearly and were found almost immediately. We agreed that if we were birds searching for food, we would probably have eaten lots of bright pink caterpillars! This fun activity helped the children understand how camouflage can help animals survive in their natural habitats. We are looking forward to next week's session, where the children will carry out an exciting experiment exploring adaptations that help animals survive in the wild.



Hot Weather

With the weather expected to be very hot for the first few days of next week children can come to school in their PE Kit. **However, this must be plain school PE kit only and not football tops / t-shirts / shorts, etc.**

Blue Peter Sport Badge



As we've just had a brilliant Sports Week at school, would your child like to get a Blue Peter Sport badge? It's really easy to achieve. Sign up on the Blue Peter website (see link below). Try a new sport, practice it three times for at least ten minutes and tell Blue Peter all about it. Let Blue Peter know why sport is important to you and which sporting heroes you'd love to see on Blue Peter. Upload a photo or video of yourself taking part in your new sport, or create some artwork of yourself doing the activity. Please bring your badge into school to share with us if you do achieve one!

https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/blue-peter-apply-for-the-leah-williamson-sport-badge



Bombers

This week, the children have been exploring the theme of Healthy Me through water play, discussions about keeping our bodies healthy, and opportunities to build independence and confidence.

One of the highlights of the week was our School Leavers Sports Event with Reception. The children were full of excitement and anticipation as they prepared for their races. As the children gathered beneath the tree before the races, there was a real sense of excitement in the air. All around us, children could be heard calling, *"Hello Mr Ashman!"* and one child enthusiastically asked, *"Do you remember me?"* When Mr Ashman invited the children to move to where they would be sitting, they confidently followed without hesitation, demonstrating just how comfortable and familiar they have become within the wider school community. It was wonderful to see their growing confidence as they prepare for their transition to Reception.

Before one of the races had even begun, one child could be heard confidently reassuring a friend while standing in their lane, *"We have got this!"* which certainly brought smiles to our faces.

The children followed the routines and processes they had been practising, eagerly waiting for their turn to race. They showed determination, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout the event and were incredibly proud of their achievements. What made the day even more special was seeing many of the children choose to stay and watch the remaining races after completing their own heats, cheering on their friends and celebrating each other's successes. A well-earned lolly at the end was the perfect way to round off a wonderful morning.

The children also enjoyed creating cards for someone special in their lives. Through painting, drawing, and thoughtful conversations, they reflected on the people who make them feel loved and cared for. Some of the children's comments included, *"He loves me,"* *"He makes me laugh,"* and *"They take me to Nannie and Grandad's."* Of course, one child summed it up perfectly with, *"They give me sweeties and chocolate,"* which was met with a few knowing smiles from the adults! It was heart-warming to hear the children's reflections and a lovely reminder that the smallest acts of kindness, laughter, and love often mean the most.

Reception

The children absolutely loved going to Thrigby Zoo this week. We were incredibly lucky to dodge the heavy showers and had a wonderful day. The children enjoyed the coach journey and many were excited to see the routes they often travel from up high! One of the children's favourite animals that they saw on the day was a horse… which they observed from the coach window on the way there. They reported afterwards that the gibbons and monkeys were very loud! They loved seeing the variety of creatures – the most popular was probably the meercats. They also said they liked the colourful, talking parrot. Another highlight was picnic time and, of course, the playground. We were so proud of them all, especially as another guest visiting the zoo that day approached Mrs Rivett to compliment her on how wonderfully polite and well behaved the children were – WELL DONE, RECEPTION CLASS!



Further congratulations are in order as the children took part in their first ever primary school sports day! They are such stars for giving it their all and smiling through most of it. We loved it when we heard them cheering each other on during the events and congratulating each other afterwards. Rest up this weekend – it's been another very busy (and hot) one!



Year 1

Gosh, what a busy week we've had in Year 1! We were so proud, and impressed, by the attitude and effort of all the children during our Sports Day afternoon on Wednesday. It was so lovely to see everyone joining in beautifully and encouraging others during their races.

In Topic this week we have focusing on RE. We started the week by discussing what a 'place of worship' is and who would go to a place of worship. So far, we have learnt about a Jewish Synagogue, a Hindu Mandir and a Christian Church. Next week we shall be learning about Muslim Mosques.

In English this week we have been continuing Paddington; focusing our writing on creating a Paddington fact file. As well as writing travelling postcards, pretending that we are Paddington Bear and we have also written instructions on how to make a marmalade sandwich!

In Maths we have been learning all about time! Now is a great age to start pointing out what time it is on an analogue clock or even wearing a watch. We have been reminding ourselves of the days of the week and months of the year. The children have then had a go at reading o'clock and half past times of our classroom clocks. They have been brilliant at it so far!

Year 2

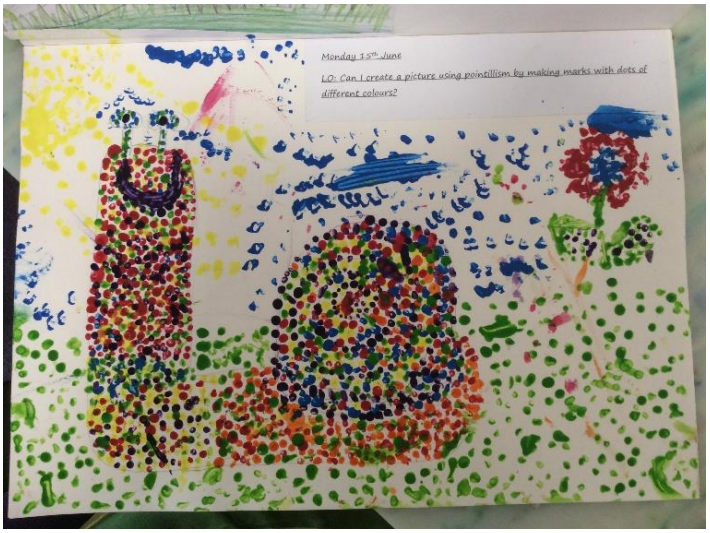
What a wonderful week we have had in Year 2!

We started our week on Monday morning with Fun Sports, where the children were amazing as they moved around the different activities. They showed fantastic resilience, enthusiasm and happiness, as well as great respect towards our Year 6 helpers.

On Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed our Sports Day. Once again, the children did a fantastic job taking part in all the different races, cheering on their friends and showing how proud they were of themselves, no matter where they finished.

In Maths this week, we have been learning to tell the time. We began by recognising quarter past and quarter to times before moving on to telling the time to the nearest 5 minutes. We have been using the language of minutes past and minutes to — a tricky area of Maths — but the children have shown great perseverance and determination.

In English, we continued exploring our story *The Snail and the Whale*. We recapped that every sentence needs a subject and a verb before writing statement sentences about the whale's travels, trying our best to include expanded noun phrases. At the end of the week, we practised writing question sentences about the sighting of the whale washed up on the shore, using the 5 Ws as our question words.

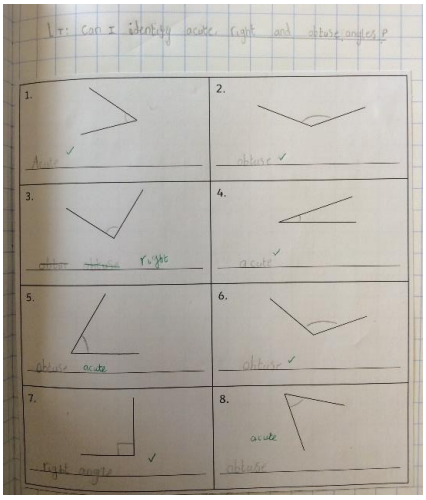


In Art, we created beautiful paintings using the pointillism technique. These required lots of patience, focus and careful attention to detail. We also enjoyed paper weaving, creating woven paper bags. The children thought carefully about who they would like to make their bag for and which colours worked well together. They are excited for next week, when they can add handles and sequins to decorate their designs before taking them home.

Year 3

It has been another brilliant week in Year 3!

In Maths, we continued our learning about shape and were introduced to angles as the point where two lines meet. The children enjoyed identifying right angles around the classroom before drawing around a range of 2-D shapes and using the corner of a post-it note to determine whether the shapes contained right angles or not. We then moved on to learning about acute, right and obtuse angles. The children worked hard to identify each type and had a go at drawing them independently.



Due to a week packed full of sporting events and exciting activities, we will be completing our newspaper report plans and first drafts next week. Instead, this week we focused on improving our handwriting, paying particular attention to letter formation, consistency and presentation.

In Topic, the children continued their Ancient Greeks learning by exploring the differences between modern-day and Ancient Greek architecture. They also discovered what life was like in Athens and Sparta, comparing the lifestyles, values and opportunities available in each city-state. To conclude the week, the children learned about Alexander the Great, the King of Macedon, who ruled for 13 years and expanded his empire by conquering the vast Persian Empire. The children recorded facts onto their own mind map about the King.



Monday's Fun Sports event was a fantastic success, with the children showing great enthusiasm throughout the activities. To conclude the week, Sports Day was superb! The children worked incredibly hard on their dance rehearsals and delivered a brilliant performance during the opening ceremony. I am extremely proud of the confidence, effort and sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout the day. Well done, Year 3, for another wonderful week of learning and achievement!

Year 4



It has been a rather strange week in Year 4 but still filled with lots of learning and activities. Sports week is always one of my faviroute weeks of the school year, a little because I love sports myself but mostly because of the pride I feel when seeing our class cheering for each other and trying their best. Today the children should all be very proud of themselves as they all took part and showed great sportsmanship. As part of sports day the children performed the Haka unfortuantly I have no pictures as I was to busy enjoying the dance! They have worked really hard to learn this in a short amount of time and I'm sure they get louder and louder, one practice they could be heard in Year 2 all the way from receptions outside space.

Aside from sports the work continued in class. This week the children have completed their maths assessments, they have all shown great progress this year and demonstrated resilience when faced with some challengeing questions in their problem solving and reasoning paper. We have also had a quick relook at addtion to make sure we don't forget any important skills.

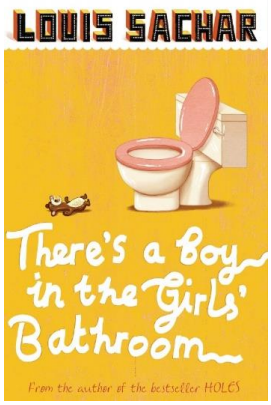


In English we have been looking at how to use apostrophes for both contraction and possession. One of our focuses has been on where to place our punctuation as well as making sure it is needed! The children have been busy using apostrophes in sentence all about the story of Robin Hood. We also looked into some news articles this week that told us all about the death of the Robin Hood Oak tree in Sherwood Forest.

In Scienece we concluded our egg experiment and cracked them open to see if the liquids had made changes on the inside as well, its safe to say there were a few shocked and horrified reactions from the children. Finally, In topic we have begun looking at the ancient greeks following on from our learning on Greek day at the start of half term.

Year 5

What a busy week it has been! Everyone seemed to have a lovely time during our Fun Sports Day on Monday, where the children got to participate in a wide variety of activities! Despite the boiling hot weather today, we also had a fantastic KS2 Sports Day. In addition to our opening ceremony/parade, the Year 5s were brilliant during their dance and definitely gave their all during every event. It was also lovely to see so much encouragement and team work. Keeping with the sports theme, the Year 5s also got to watch the majority of the Bombers/EYFS Sports Day and the KS1 Sports Day too!



During Maths, we had our final recap sessions of the four operations – the most recent being short division. It concluded with the class being able to use this knowledge to tackle worded problems. In English, we started our new class book – There's A Boy in the Girls' Bathroom, by Louis Sachar. As well as making predictions about what the story might be about, we also analysed the main character (Bradley). We had a further R.S.H.E lesson linked to changes to the body during puberty and (in science) continued our James 'Egg' Bond Challenge. The children have now built their designs, ready for them to be tested next week. Finally, the Year 5s began learning all of the songs for Scheherazade – the Year 6 production.

Year 6

What an incredibly busy week for us in year 6…even though it doesn't feel that way!

I want to start by saying how amazing they all were on Monday for Fun Sports! We changed it up this year and they each led and activity to run with the rest of the school…and they were amazing! I had so many parents come up to me to say how confident some of them were and how lovely they were with the younger children!

We then had our filming session on Tuesday afternoon as we prepare for the end of year DVD. Brian Gardener kindly came in and film the children doing all sorts of weird and funny poses…I am already looking forward to watching it!

We have then been finally practising for the end of year play at every opportunity…it is coming along nicely!

Finally, we had their last ever Rackheath Sports Day! I am still tired! They were all amazing and tried their best…well done to Barton Blues!





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 **26 out of 32**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Year 5 for

99%

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

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Harper, Isaac, Marcia
Year 1	Ethan, Jacob, Aria
Year 2	Ava, Jesy, Amelia
Year 3	Zachery, Kipp, Noah
Year 4	Myla, Harriet, Tristan
Year 5	Max, Isla, Arlo
Year 6	Olivia C, Emil, All of Year 6

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

Rackheath Primary School
School Values

KINDNESS · RESPECT · HAPPINESS · HARDWORKING
EMPATHY · HONESTY · RESILIENCE · CREATIVITY