Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 17th July 2026

At the end of the year I would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone in our community. The list of people to thank is just too long so instead I'd like to say thank you to all facets of the school community; all of you, the FORS, the Governors, the staff and the amazing children.
It is far from a complete list but during the year we have:

- Welcomed a new class and lots of new children to Rackheath
- Held lots of special curriculum days like Passport Day, Geography and DT days
- Been visited by the Circus for a week and taken part in circus workshops
- Re-written our vision and values and used them as a focus in class and in assemblies
- Built The Bunker and had lots and lots of fun playing on it!
- Expanded our nurture provision in terms of space and staff
- Children have been Buddies, House Captains, Heads for the Day, School Councillors, Eco Committee members, librarians and play leaders
- Taken part in the first Broadland Cluster Oracy Festival
- Presented our Epic Elements Learning to families on our museum days
- Performed two nativity plays at Christmas and Scheherazade at the end of the year
- Enjoyed sports taster sessions in cricket, glow in the dark dodgeball, judo and tennis
- Developed our wild area with our gardening club
- Been visited by marine biologists and a beekeeper
- Been on residential trips to Aylmerton and Horstead in Year 4 and 6
- Been on lots of trips including day trips to Amazona, How Hill and Eaton Vale
- Enjoyed a summer fair, whole school fun day and 2 school discos (thanks FORS)
- Been visited by Mad Science and held a Science Fair
- Been on local walks and visits to museums and other places of interest
- Raised money for EACH, Comic Relief and Children in Need
- Been visited by Father Christmas and held an open-air Christmas Concert Carol Concert
- Had school musicians perform at live events and take music exams
- Taken part in competitions like the 8 billion ideas project
- Enjoyed lots of different sports and special sports days including Sports Week
- Taken part in different cluster tournaments and won the Norwich City Year 4 Football World Cup
- Enjoyed a visit from a theatre company performing Beauty and the Beast
- Taken part in projects linked to the Second World War, the Neatishead bunker and the Rackheath airbase
- Run lots of clubs after school including sports clubs, craft clubs and gardening club
- Involved families in cafes and book looks and held class assemblies
- Year 6 Camped Out on the School Field, Filmed the Leavers DVD, enjoyed a trip to Yarmouth

On top of all this on a day-to-day basis the staff teach exciting and stimulating lessons. Once again, our school performance data in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 was very pleasing. This is really important as it shows that the staff manage to combine exciting extra opportunities with academic progress and achievement and I thank them all for it.



Goodbye!

Today we said goodbye to Year 6, Sienna, Sonny and Ebenezer. We wish them all the best of luck for the future! We are also saying goodbye to Miss Holding, Mrs Redgrave and Mrs McDougall.

Miss Holding joined the school in January 2024. Since then she has been a fantastic teacher in Year 3. She has also led the school's science provision and run a much-enjoyed science club. Miss Holding has always gone the extra mile for all her children and we will really miss her excellent teaching and kind and friendly personality. We wish her all the best in her new role at City College.

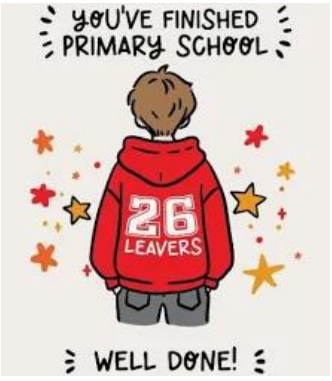
Mrs Redgrave joined the school in October 2023 initially as a 1:1 working with a pupil in Year 5. This year Mrs Redgrave has been an integral part of our expanded nurture provision where she has worked with groups of children to develop their communication, emotional regulation, motor skills and socialisation. Mrs Redgrave is a very kind, caring and thoughtful member of the team and we will miss her. We wish her luck as she starts a degree in fine art.

Cluster Swimming Gala

On Monday 13th we took part in the Cluster Swimming Gala. The Rackheath team took part in the cluster swimming gala. The tram performed very well with wins for Ayla in the breaststroke, Amelie in the freestyle and Jackson in the butterfly. With the overall outcome looking close after the individual events we then dominated the relays. We won 3 of the 4 races thanks to great swimming from Ayla, Amelie, Ali, Iris, Jackson, Stanley, Jack and Jenson. As a result the school won the swimming gala! A great effort from the team. Thanks to Mrs Pilbrow and Mrs McDougall for taking the team.



Goodbye Year 6



Our Year 6 children have had an incredible year and we are so proud of them all. They finished the year in style putting on a fantastic performance of Scheherazade on Tuesday and Wednesday before sharing their amazing memories in the leaver's assembly. They have been fantastic role models for the rest of the school and great buddies for Reception class. Through their kindness they have made such a positive impact at the start of the Reception children's time in school. I know they will all go on to do great things at high school and look forward to hearing about all their future success. We will miss them all very much.

The assembly today was a fantastic way to say goodbye to the class. There was a real feeling of communal celebration as staff and families gathered together to celebrate 32 amazing children and their school journeys.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Cavender and Ms Holmes for the fantastic work they have done this year.

Leaver's Trophies

All children in Year 6 received an award this week. After much deliberation we also chose the children to win our special awards. They have their name engraved on a shield kept in school as well as receiving a trophy, which were presented in assembly today:



- **Mathematics Award** – Emil Keshavarz
- **English Award** – Cara Rayner
- **Sportsman Award** – Alexander Hough
- **Sportswoman Award** – Ayla Morgan
- **Outstanding Contribution Award** – Nicola Lukaszewicz

Celebration Assembly

On Tuesday we held our Summer Celebration assembly, where each class team picks 2 children who have performed exceptionally well this term (never an easy task given the fantastic children in every class). This term's winners were:

- Reception Novalie and Lola
- Year 1 Teddy and Maggie
- Year 2 Harry and Ruby
- Year 3 Arthur and Lucy
- Year 4 Landon and Jackson
- Year 5 Matilda and Alicja
- Year 6 Hugo and Olivia





"As we reach the end of another school year, I wanted to take a moment, on behalf of the Governing Board, to thank everyone who makes our school such a special place.

To our wonderful staff - thank you for your dedication, care and hard work throughout the year. Your commitment to helping every child learn, grow and thrive is hugely appreciated and so very impactful.

To our parents and carers - thank you for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Working together makes such a positive difference to the children's experience and success.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our incredible ***FORS.*** *Your enthusiasm, time and energy in organising events, raising funds and bringing our school community together enriches the experiences we are able to offer our children. We are so grateful for everything you do.*

And most importantly, to all of our children - thank you for everything you have brought to school this year. It's been a privilege to see how you bring the schools values to life, whether you've shown kindness to a friend, worked hard in lessons, represented the school, taken on a new challenge or simply shown resilience and tried your very best, you should be incredibly proud of yourselves. We hope you all have a fantastic summer filled with fun, adventure, happiness and plenty of time to relax.

A special message to our Year 6 pupils: as you prepare to leave Rackheath Primary School and begin the next exciting chapter at high school, we wish you every success. You leave with wonderful memories, friendships and the skills to achieve great things. Be proud of how far you've come, embrace new opportunities, be kind, be curious and always believe in yourselves. Wherever your journey takes you, you will always be a valued part of the Rackheath family.

On behalf of the Governing Board, thank you once again for a fantastic year. We wish everyone a safe, happy and restful summer break and look forward to welcoming many of you back in September."

FORS

Well done to these 13 children who got their treat last week for taking part in our Easter reading bingo and raising over £500 between them.

You will see alongside a breakdown of how much you have helped us to raise this year! Thank you so much for your support.







Bombers

As another wonderful preschool year comes to an end, we have been reflecting on the many happy memories, friendships and achievements we have shared together. It has been a joy to watch every child grow in confidence, independence and curiosity throughout the year.

This week, we loved welcoming our parents and carers into preschool for our Play & Stay sessions. It was wonderful to see families sharing in their children's learning and watching the children proudly show their loved ones all the things they enjoy at preschool. Thank you to everyone who joined us.

To our school leavers, we are so proud of all you have achieved and wish you every happiness as you begin your exciting new adventure at school. You will always be a special part of our preschool family. To the children returning in September, we cannot wait to welcome you back for another year of learning, laughter and fun together.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible preschool team for their unwavering dedication, kindness and commitment throughout the year. Your passion, patience and enthusiasm have helped create a nurturing, inspiring environment where every child has felt valued, supported and encouraged to flourish.

To all of our wonderful parents and carers, thank you for your continued support, encouragement and trust throughout the year. Working together has made each child's preschool journey so special, and it has been a privilege to share these precious early years with your families.

We wish all of our families a happy, safe and relaxing summer. We hope you enjoy making wonderful memories together, and we look forward to seeing many of you again in September for another fantastic year at preschool.

Reception

Congratulations to our AMAZING reception class of 2026! Each and every one of you has been a complete joy to get to know and teach. You are the most fantastic bunch of little people and you blend together beautifully to make an excellent class - we will miss you all so much! Thank you to all the wonderful families too – we loved the exceptionally kind, thoughtful and very generous presents and beautiful cards. Have the best Summer everyone and we look forward to hearing from you all in September when we chat over the fence whilst you play in the neighbouring Year One outside area!



Year 1

We've had a really lovely final week in Year 1! On Thursday afternoon Mrs Spurling took the children outside in groups of 7 and they had lots of 'bubble' fun; meanwhile the rest of us watched several episodes of Paddington and enjoyed lots of free playing time. Today the children got together with Year 2 and we had our very own talent show! The children had a super time

We would all like to say a huge thank you for our fantastic end of year gifts; they were so generous and we are so grateful! We have had such a wonderful year teaching your children and we hope you all have a really lovely summer holiday!



Year 2

It has been an absolute pleasure to teach this wonderful group of children this year. They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year and filled our classroom with smiles, laughter, enthusiasm, and a love of learning.

We had a fantastic end to the year, enjoying Golden Time, a movie afternoon, dancing, playing on the bunker, and a wonderful talent show. It was the perfect way to celebrate everything the children have achieved together during their time in Year 2.

I am going to miss them all very much next year, but I have reminded them that I'll only be next door, so they must pop in to say hello and tell me all about what they've been up to!

On behalf of the Year 2 team, we would like to say a huge thank you for your incredibly generous gifts. We are so grateful for your kindness and thoughtfulness, and we are really looking forward to enjoying our lovely afternoon tea together.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. You have all been fantastic, and it has been a pleasure working with both you and your children. Have a truly wonderful, restful summer, and we look forward to seeing you all again in September!

Year 3



What a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious year it has been! As we reach the end of the school year, we have been reflecting on what an incredible journey it has been. Year 3 have worked so hard, shown tremendous resilience and kindness, and should all be extremely proud of everything they have achieved.

In Maths, the children spent time practising their multiplication facts on Times Tables Rock Stars before creating their own times table quiz cards to take home and use over the summer holidays. We hope these will help them keep their multiplication knowledge fresh as they prepare for the exciting move into Year 4.

In English, we continued developing our understanding of using inverted commas to punctuate direct speech, with the reporting clause appearing both before and after the spoken words. I am incredibly pleased with how secure the children's understanding of this skill has become. They also enjoyed writing their own version of Chapter 15 of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* before reading on to discover what really happened. We then finished the book together, and it has certainly become one of our favourite texts this year!

On Wednesday, we spent most of the day taking part in an exciting DT project, where the children designed and made their own pull-along toys inspired by our Ancient Greek topic. We learned that, because the Ancient Greek civilisation existed so long ago, children's toys were much simpler than the colourful and imaginative toys we enjoy today. Our designs, however, included a modern twist! The children decorated their creations with pom-poms, pipe cleaners, gems and other craft materials, resulting in some wonderfully creative and unique pull-along toys.

In Music, our learning centred around *Three Little Birds* by Bob Marley. The children began by moving their bodies to the pulse of the music before comparing *Three Little Birds* with *Jamming*, discussing the similarities and differences between the two songs. They also learned to play *Three Little Birds* on the glockenspiel while singing along. The children worked incredibly hard to keep in time with the backing track, and their final performance was fantastic.



Friday was the perfect way to end the year, filled with fun activities, games, quizzes and an exciting outdoor parachute session. It was wonderful to spend our final day together celebrating everything we have achieved as a class.

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you, from both Mrs Penson and myself, for your incredibly thoughtful and generous gifts. Your kindness and support throughout the year have meant so much to us. It has been an absolute privilege to teach your children this year. They have made us laugh every day, amazed us with their determination and filled our classroom with enthusiasm and kindness. We have made so many wonderful memories together that I will treasure for years to come.

I wish you all a relaxing, safe and adventure-filled summer holiday. Good luck to all of Year 3 as they begin their exciting journey into Year 4 – I know each and every one of you will continue to shine!

Year 4



This is always a tricky newsletter to write and it feels somewhat impossible to get my words out as I am holding back the tears! Each year as teachers we will welcome your children and have the pleasure of getting to know them, the tricky bit is that our job is to get them ready for the next step and that that time comes around rather quickly. Year 4 you have been a real pleasure to teach and I can honestly say you have brought a smile to my face every single day! You are all officially ready to be in Year 5 (after a fun filled summer of course!) although I do hope you will come and visit us in Year 4 from time to time.

Amongst everything sentimental I will include a little bit about our final week in school together. It has been busy as always, early in the week we finished our final maths unit having a look at roman numerals. We then spent some time on TTRS as this has been a class favourite activity this year! In English we finished our work on Robin Hood by having a verbal balanced argument round the question 'should Robin Hood steal or not?' everyone stood up and shared their ideas with the class which was lovely to see. In topic we completed our work on Ancient Greeks by working together to make a pull along toy (as this was much preferred when compared with animal bladder balls and animal bone games), the children then had some time to play with these. The rest of the week we finished off our final bits of work before settling into some end of term tasks. On our final day we spent time watching Robin Hood before enjoying our final few ours together in Year 4.

All of the adults in Year 4 would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents and children alike for all the cards and gifts we received – it is incredibly kind of you and very much appreciated. Personally, I have been very touched by the thoughtful nature of my gifts, I am really excited to meet a giraffe and have a sports massage! I will come and let the children know all about it next school year. Finally just I want to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of the children for being so amazing this year. They truly are a special group of children that have been a pleasure to teach every day and to watch grow and develop over the year. I hope you all have an amazing summer!

Year 5

What a brilliant year it has been! Mrs Duckmanton and I are incredibly proud of the work rate, resilience, and creativity of all of the children. Since September, they have made fantastic progress and shown a positive attitude towards learning. We know that they are ready for Year 6 and will continue to thrive! Lessons aside, during this week we have had a cinema afternoon with snacks, an end-of-year quiz, a name-the-flag competition, kick rounders and a raffle with lots of prizes!

Finally, Mrs Duckmanton and I would like to say a massive thank you for all of the cards, vouchers, and gifts that we were fortunate enough to receive. They are very much appreciated. We will miss this class a lot, but we are only next door! I hope you all have a wonderful summer and thank you so much once again…

Mr Edwards and Mrs Duckmanton

Year 6

Where to start!!! I need to say such a heartfelt thank you for all of the kind words and messages that I've received this week… it honestly means so much! I said it in the assembly this morning but when you have had a class for two years, they become more than just children in my class… they almost become family. I will definitely miss them as they have been the most amazing class!

On to the performance… What a performance the children put on this week with Scheherazade! I honestly cannot believe how amazing it was…all of their incredible hard work paid off! Every single one of them were confident and loud meaning that the show was such a success… Mr A was right as we could have charged for the tickets to watch it. Thank you to the children for their effort and hard work.

You will have received the SATs results this week…and as a school we are really happy with them. But these are just a small snapshot of school life and doesn't reflect other areas where the children may have excelled.

Now we come to the end of year 6 and we send them off to the next steps in their learning journey! We all wish them the very best and will miss them lots. I will leave you with these words for the children as they go… "You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." Christopher Robin (A.A. Milne)

Mr C and Ms Holmes

On behalf of all the staff I wish you all a fantastic summer break. We will see you all on Thursday 3rd September for the start of another exciting year.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman



