Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 3rd July 2026

It has been a lovely week in school. We have enjoyed a guitar concert. Year 1 and 2 have visited Amazona. Year 5 have spent the Day at Broadland Academy taking part in an art and science day. Whilst Year 6 started their week with a water fight and finish it tonight with the Camp Out!

It has also been a week of transitions. We held our transition morning on Thursday when we were joined by Miss wicks and four new pupils who will be starting in September. The vast majority of Year 6 attended transition days at Broadland or at other schools.

We also welcomed our new reception class and their families to the school with two stay and play sessions after school and time in school on Thursday morning for the children and their families. Thanks to the amazing FORS for spending time with the new parents on Thursday.

Next week we have the Broadland Cluster Oracy Festival to look forward to on Monday and then Key Stage 2 Cluster Sports on Tuesday.

Class Staff 2026-27

As mentioned last week we are very pleased to say that after interviews we have appointed Miss Lucy Wicks to join our teaching team. Miss Wicks will be teaching Year 3 next year. Our full team is:

- **Reception – Miss Brannan and Mrs Pulford, Mrs Rivett and Mrs Tunmore / Mrs Coull**
- **Year 1 – Mrs Pallant and Mrs Cavender and Mrs Spurling**
- **Year 2 – Miss Shorten and Mrs Crook**
- **Year 3 – Miss Wicks, Mrs Penson and Mrs Goddard**
- **Year 4 – Miss Farrow and Mrs Howes / Mrs Culling**
- **Year 5 – Mr Edwards, Mrs Duckmanton and Mrs Watts / Mrs Robotham**
- **Year 6 – Mr Cavender and Ms Holmes**

Mrs Watson will be working for two days as SENDCo. Our nurture team is Mrs Milligan, Mrs Leeming, Mrs Robotham and Mrs Tunmore.

Annual Reports

Our annual reports will go out on Monday 13th July. They will be sent out as a paper copy. Within the report there will be results from statutory assessment. This will cover Early Learning Goals for Reception, Phonics screening for Year 1 and some Year 2's and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.



Normally, the reports would also include results from the Key Stage 2 SATS. Unfortunately, it was announced yesterday by the DFE that the results will not be available to download by schools until Thursday 16th July – the day before the end of school. As such we will have to send these results out separately then.

Guitar News



On Monday, Mrs Brown and our school guitarists put on a lovely concert for family members and the children in Years 2, 3 and 4. It was great to hear all the children perform so confidently.

Congratulations to Izzy, who was part of the performance, for passing her Trinity Guildhall Classical Guitar Initial Grade exam with a Distinction! A fantastic result and a well-earned reward for all your hard work.



Parent Survey 2025-26

There is still time to complete a parent survey either online or as a paper copy. Please return any surveys by Friday 10th July.

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

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

- 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)

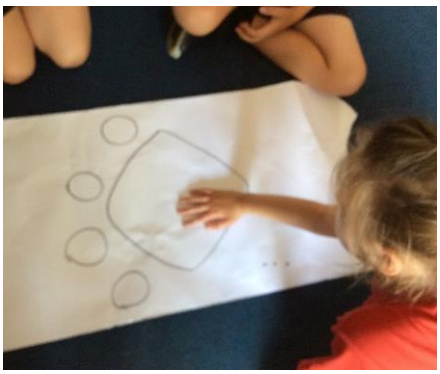
General Dates

- 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

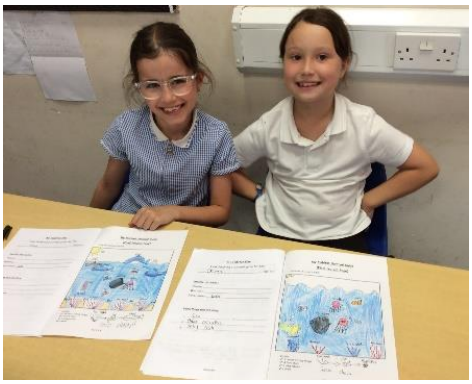




Science Club with Miss Holding



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. Some of the children challenged themselves to create a food chain linked to the living creatures in their habitat to show how animals depend on one another within that habitat. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Bombers

The children have enjoyed a wonderful range of hands-on experiences centred around curiosity, exploration, and discovery. Through meaningful play, they have been encouraged to investigate, ask questions, make observations, and use their senses to deepen their understanding of the world around them.

Among the activities, the sensory texture matching activity encouraged the children to explore a variety of fabrics using only their sense of touch. Without looking, they carefully felt each material before searching for its matching pair. This encouraged them to concentrate on the different qualities of each texture while developing sensory awareness, problem-solving skills, and confidence as they explored through touch.

The children also became young explorers as they investigated a variety of natural objects using magnifying glasses and transparent coloured blocks. They carefully examined bugs, leaves, and pieces of wood, making exciting discoveries as they observed colours, patterns, and shapes. Their enthusiasm shone through as they excitedly shared comments such as, *"It's giant!"*, *"Leaf, there's different patterns,"* and *"Wow, I see yellow and green."* These opportunities encouraged the children to think critically, communicate their ideas, and develop a growing curiosity about the natural world.

The children were equally proud to harvest the cress they had previously grown from seed. Using scissors carefully and with increasing confidence, they harvested their crop before tasting it together during snack time. Comments included, *"I like it, I'll probably buy some!"*, *"It tastes a little bit sweet,"* and *"It's disgusting!"* It was wonderful to see every child feeling confident to express their own preferences while trying something new.

Our learning also extended beyond the classroom as the children explored different countries, flags, and places around the world. Their curiosity sparked thoughtful questions including, *"Where is Barcelona?"*, *"Where is Liverpool?"*, and *"Do you have to fly there?"* During one discussion, Mr Ashman visited the classroom and explained that the White House is where President Trump of the United States lives. The children quickly made connections with their own experiences, with one child proudly announcing, *"That is Donald Trump from Kevin! He lives in the White House. He's from Home Alone!"* It was wonderful to see the children making links between new knowledge and familiar experiences while developing an interest in the wider world.



Reception

We've had a great week in reception class! We have enjoyed a science theme this time, linked to the classic tale, *The Hungry Caterpillar*. The children have really demonstrated a brilliant understanding of the repetitive language, the days of the week and the lifecycle of the butterfly. We have uploaded their lifecycle craft projects onto Tapestry so they should be able to tell you about each stage of the butterfly's lifecycle; from egg to caterpillar to cocoon to butterfly!

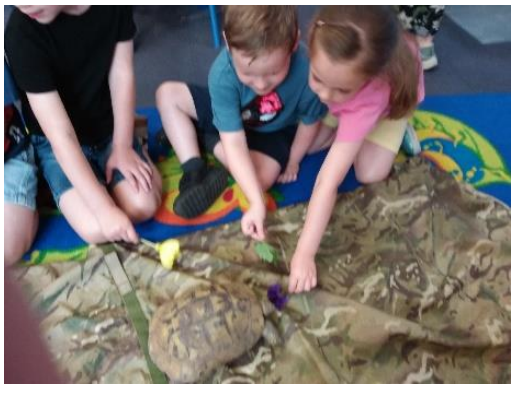
On Tuesday morning, we were visited by the 'Road Safety Team' and their bears who helped us learn about crossing the road safely and ensuring we always wear our seatbelts. The children listened very well, answered lots of the questions thoughtfully and asked some of their own very insightful questions! Well done, all!

We are incredibly proud of the children for their excitement, independence and courage on Thursday for their 'move up' morning. None of the children displayed any wobbles prior to going and they all came back beaming! We asked everybody about what they did and all reported very positively about their experience! The Year One toys and resources will be well used in September as the children informed us what they loved doing so we could let their new teachers know! We are really lucky to know that our class already love their new trumpet-playing, football (NCFC!)-loving staff!

We had a lovely end to the week today with a visit from Cheryl, a lovely grandparent of some of our pupils who lives in Rackheath and has a lot of passion for and experience with tortoises! Cheryl brought in three tortoises of varying sizes and ages for us to get to know. We learned about their natural habitats, what they like to eat and that they lay eggs. We even saw some of the eggs. All the children either stroked or held the baby tortoise. We want to say a huge thank you to Cheryl and her tortoise family! We loved our morning with you and we learned a great deal about such a fascinating creature!







Year 1

Another super couple of weeks in Year 1! It's been a warm one but the children have all coped well and loved making the most of the water-tray in our outside area. Last week in RE we learnt all about Mosques and then created our own Mosques out of Lego, bricks or paper; they were all rather impressive! In Topic we have been looking at Geography and using simple compass directions to draw a map of our school. This week we had an excellent trip to Amazona Zoo on Wednesday with Year 2; the children behaved beautifully and we all had a brilliant time.

In English we have been finding out facts about Peru (where Paddington Bear is from). We have been talking about Peru's culture and landscapes. The children have then had the task of drawing a picture relating to Peru and writing simple sentences to describe what is in their picture. We will be creating a class Peru picture dictionary out of the children's work. We have also been practising our basic sentence writing by creating sentences to give information all about Peru,

In maths last week the children have completed their end of year summer assessment booklets. We have also continued our learning on time by reading Half past times and then moving onto describing and testing how long something takes. E.g. How many smiley faces can you draw in 10 seconds? How many star jumps can you do in 1 minute? This is to so that the children get an idea of how to measure time and how long different amounts of time feel. This week we have continued learning about time.



Last Friday we our had Passport Day which I know the children all thoroughly enjoyed! This afternoon we were lucky enough to have Cheryl in our class to introduce us to her tortoises and what a wonderful time we all had meeting, and learning all about them! We hope you all have a super weekend in the sunshine; make sure to keep reading 3 times a week!





Year 2

The weeks are whizzing by in Year 2, and what a busy and exciting week it has been!

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a Road Safety Day. The children went out in small groups to practise crossing roads safely, remembering the important steps: stop, look, listen and hold an adult's hand.

The highlight of our week was undoubtedly our fantastic trip to Amazona Zoo on Wednesday. The children loved seeing so many amazing animals from South America, with the capybaras, jaguar and caiman proving to be firm favourites (although the playground may have been just as popular!). The children were brilliant, showing excellent behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the day.

Our trip linked perfectly to our Geography learning, where we explored sketch maps. We created our own sketch maps of a zoo, using symbols and a key to represent different features before adding a title and compass points.

In English, we have continued our work on *The Snail and the Whale*. At the beginning of the week, we learned about exclamation sentences and how they are used to express strong emotions such as shock, surprise and excitement. We discovered that they often begin with *what* or *how* and end with an exclamation mark, and we thought about how these could make our newspaper reports even more engaging—for example, *What a shocking sight it is!* Later in the week, we focused on using the subordinating conjunction *when* to explain when something happened. We practised writing complete sentences before making them even more interesting by adding expanded noun phrases.

In Maths, we continued our learning about position and direction by exploring different types of turns, including full, half, quarter and three-quarter turns, as well as clockwise and anticlockwise turns. We then applied this learning in Computing using Purple Mash, where we coded instructions to guide the character Chip around the world.

In DT, we enjoyed creating moving pictures of *The Snail and the Whale* using slider mechanisms. In RSE, we learned about safe and unsafe touch, discussing what to do if someone touches us in a way that makes us feel uncomfortable or unsafe. We reminded ourselves that we should always tell a trusted adult at home or at school if anything ever worries us.







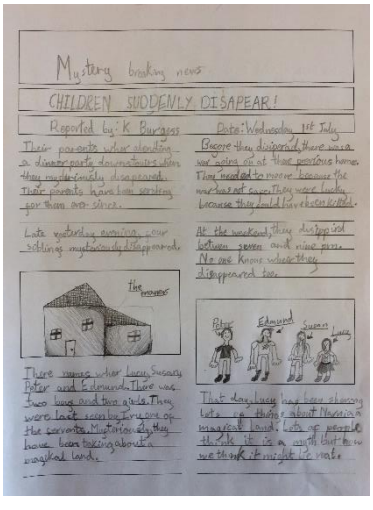
Year 3



It has been another busy and productive couple of weeks in Year 3! In Maths, the children have continued developing their understanding of shape and geometry. They have learned to identify horizontal and vertical lines, as well as recognising and describing parallel lines (lines that never meet) and perpendicular lines (lines that meet at a right angle). Alongside this, the children have identified and described the properties of a range of 2-D and 3-D shapes. In today's lesson, they had great fun working collaboratively in pairs to construct 3-D shapes using playdough and toothpicks to represent the vertices and edges.

In English, the children have worked incredibly hard to write, edit and improve their newspaper reports. They have carefully reviewed their work, making improvements to their vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structure before producing a final published copy.

In History, the children have continued their fascinating learning about the Ancient Greeks. They explored the reasons behind the Greek victory in the Battle of Marathon and learned about the events that took place during the Ancient Greek Games, categorising them into religious events, sporting competitions and social entertainment. The children also investigated three of the most influential Greek philosophers: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. They discovered how their ideas have shaped the way people think and learn, and why their influence can still be seen today. The children then explored the significance of Ancient Greek legacies and their impact on modern life. They categorised these legacies according to the areas they have influenced, including mathematics, science and technology, entertainment, language and culture, politics, architecture and sport. To conclude their learning, each child reflected on how their own life today might be different without one of the many contributions made by the Ancient Greeks.


Mystery breaking news
CHILDREN SUDDENLY DISAPEAR!
Reported by: K Burgess
Date: Wednesday 1st July
Their parents when standing a short while they suddenly disappeared. Their parents have been searching for them ever since.
Once they disappeared there was war going on at their previous home. They needed to move because the workhouse was burnt down. They were lucky because they had survived.
Late yesterday evening, our siblings mysteriously disappeared.
At the weekend they disappeared between seven and nine pm. No one knows where they disappeared too.
The Workhouse
Peter Edmund Queen Lucy
There were other boys called Peter and Edmund. There was two boys and two girls. They were last seen by Lucy one of the servants. Mysteriously they have been talking about a magical land.
That day, Lucy has been playing lots of things about Narnia a magical land. Lots of people think it is a myth but now we think it might be real.

In Art, the children have begun an exciting new unit inspired by the work of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. This week, they researched her life and artistic style before exploring and analysing some of her most famous paintings. We look forward to seeing how the children use her work to inspire their own creations in the coming weeks.

Year 4

We are whizzing through this half term and still squeezing lots in each week! This week the children had their move up morning in Year 5, it was lovely to see them after and hear how much fun they had had. Back in Year 4 we have finished our penultimate maths unit on shape, where the children explored a range of different shapes and their properties as well as how to move them on a grid. Towards the end of the week we also looked at symmetry and how to reflect patterns. Next week we will be looking at position and direction in Maths.

In topic we have continued looking at the ancient Greeks, this week we explored the Olympic Games and how this links to ancient Greece. The children learnt about how it was not just a sporting event but also a religious and social event, we looked at how all the fighting city states would stop their wars in order to send their best competitors to the games. We also looked at Alexander the Great as well as how the Greeks were able to win the battle of marathon despite having far less soldiers than their opponent.

In English we have continued looking at Robin Hood, as part of this we revisited conjunctions. This led to a cheerful morning as we listened to a class favourite song of MC Grammar WISHBONE. We finished off the week in English by writing a retelling of the story once again however this time aiming to include all the news we have learnt this half term.

To finish off the week on Friday afternoon we started our first prep lesson ahead of an online workshop with the Royal Opera House next week. In the lesson we looked at ways of expressing ourselves through dance movements. We had lots of creative ways of showing football skills as well as drawing. In one task the children danced a hope they have for the future, again lots of football moves were included but we also had hairdressing, relaxing more often and earning a handwriting pen amongst other things.





Year 5

We (somehow) only have two weeks left of this academic year. Where has the time gone?!?



The class completed tests on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings – and it was amazing to see how much progress they've made. Their positive attitudes and resilience shone through!

Today, we had our Science and Art Day at Broadland High, where the children got to participate in a range of exciting activities. The class were also at Broadland High yesterday for an additional swimming lesson. During Science lessons, we concluded our James 'Egg' Bond challenge. Out of 12 teams, 9 eggs survived – which I think is a new record! Everyone seemed to have lots of fun building their designs, and possibly even more fun watching their eggs being thrown off the bunker!



Our main lesson this week focused on using scientific vocabulary to describe whether or not their design worked, what they would do differently next time and what their new creation would look like. In addition to a further RSHE lesson linked to changes to the body, the class had their moving up day too. It was great to hear how brilliant they were and I know they will continue to thrive when in Year 6.

Year 6

With the children away at Broadland and their other schools this week, it has been rather uneventful! It sounds like they all had a fantastic time whilst there… hopefully they won't forget my name and call me 'sir' on Monday!

As a result…we don't really have too much to report.

The only non-play teaching has been linked to RSE where we have discussed body image. We looked at a Barbie Doll and worked out its real-life proportions! We also looked at how men and women are seen on social media. It started a very interesting conversation linked to how we look.



Well done to Year 3 for

97%

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

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

