Rackheath Primary School Newsletter





It has been a lovely first full week in school. The children have all started the year fantastically well both in and out of the classroom. In assemblies our focus has been on our Kindness Value. We have been looking at stories, posters and ideas linked to kindness. Lots of these can be found at https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/

We have looked at the poster:

https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/printables#25_ways_to_be_kind_poster which I really liked as it looked at ways to be kind to others, our environment and also to ourselves which is really important. Mr Cavender also launched a "passing on a smile" challenge, which the children have been really enjoying and will last for the next 2 weeks.



Reception Class 2025-26 – It has been great to see how well the new Reception class have gelled together and settled into the school. Today the children had their first school lunch and also met their year 6 buddies. I look forward to seeing the buddies' friendships develop over the next few weeks. Thanks also to the Reception Team for all their hard work in making the children's first week so successful. Next week the class will be in all day!

Clubs



We are looking forward to clubs starting again next week. As always, we want to ensure that the clubs run as smoothly and safely as possible. To help us with that if on the day your child is not going to be at a club, please do let the office know so they can mark this on the register. This will mean that staff running the clubs know why someone down to attend the club isn't there.

If we have to postpone a club on the day, we will let you know. For children from Reception to Year 4 we know that normally parents then pick their children up at the end of the day. However, we do know that some parents may not be able to pick up at short notice so we will make provision for those children to stay in school until the clubs scheduled end.

Thanks to Year 5 and 6 parents who have completed their preferences for whether their children can walk or not after school, after clubs and when a club is cancelled.

Swimming – Year 4 start swimming next Thursday at Broadland. A permission letter went out this earlier in the week.

Parent Cafes – Our first cafes of the year take place from Friday 18th September. As usual they will run from 9am until 10am. The focus for these cafes is to give you the opportunity to take part in some exciting learning whilst seeing the children with their new teachers. Before the café parents can wait in the hall before being collected and taken to the classroom. The reception café will be based in the hall.

- Friday 18th – Reception Phonics and Early Reading Café
- Monday 21st – Year 3
- Tuesday 22nd – Year 6
- Wednesday 23rd – Year 1
- Thursday 24th – Year 2
- Friday 25th – Year 4
- Wednesday 30th – Year 5



Music Curriculum - This academic year, Years 3, 4 and 5 have the exciting opportunity to learn music through the help of a specialist music teacher. The children will have the opportunity to learn about music using Djembe drums each week with our lessons beginning on Tuesday 15th September. Throughout the school, music lessons will also continue with children learning songs and playing a range of instruments.

Norfolk Book Centre – I heard this week that the amazing Norfolk Book Centre has moved from North Norfolk to a new home at Wroxham Barns. This is a great place to visit with your children and help develop a love of reading. Find out more here:

https://www.wroxhambarns.co.uk/shopping-village/discover-the-studios/norfolk-childrens-book-centre/



Parent Volunteers

We really value the support we get from parents who volunteer to spend time in the classrooms. We are always looking to add to our volunteers. If you would like to spend some time in school doing things like hearing children read or helping them learn their times tables, please do let me know at head@rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk

Lunchtime.Co New Caterers – Our new caterers started this week and already they have impressed children and staff with the quality and amount of food that is served. I have had a lunch every day and it has been lovely. If your children haven't tried a school dinner for a while, I would definitely encourage them to.

School Website – Our website can be found at https://www.rackheath.norfolk.sch.uk/ . This is a useful place to find out more about the school. You will find lots of information about the school's curriculum as well as our weekly newsletters and lots more.

SCOPAY – Our main method of communication and how lunches are booked is through the Scopay app. Please let the office know if you are having any issues with the app.

Asthma / Medical Conditions – If your child has asthma or any other condition that requires for them to have medication permanently in school could you please ensure that this is brought in to the school office next week along with any relevant paperwork.



This year the class teachers will be updating their class news fortnightly!

Bombers

Our children have settled into preschool well. It has been lovely to see them arriving happy and confident, making new friendships and becoming familiar with our routines.

This week, as part of our Kings, Queens & Our Kingdom theme, we will begin exploring castles, homes and the different places people live. Through stories, building, role play and creative activities, the children will be talking about their own homes, looking at castles, exploring shapes and learning lots of new vocabulary.

Last week we celebrated our first birthday of the new school year. As part of each child's birthday celebration, we will have a Birthday Ring and create a simple timeline to help the children understand how they have grown and changed over time. Just before your child's birthday, we will invite you to send photographs, if available, of your child in Mummy's tummy, as a new-born, and at one, two, three and four years old, depending on their age. Please do not worry if you do not have a photograph from every stage. During their Birthday Ring, we will use the photographs to talk about what they were like when they were younger, what they can do now and how they have grown and changed.

We are very proud of how well the children have settled and are looking forward to another lovely week together.

Reception

Welcome to our amazing reception class – you have been a pleasure to get to know this week! We began quietly with half the class on Tuesday morning and the other half on Wednesday morning. They amazed us on Thursday when, for the first time, all 30 children were in – they played beautifully together and there was lots of good sharing and talking … and huge amounts of giggling, running around and ladder swing playing! Friday saw us try our first school lunch or eat our packed lunch from home – yum! They really have started to settle well and show us their passions, strengths and characters. Next week, we are looking forward to sharing some wonderful stories together, looking at some 'All About Me' books and working on our tidying up skills!

Year 1

Welcome to Year 1! What a fantastic week and a half we've had getting to know our wonderful new Year 1s! The children have really impressed us with their positive attitudes to school and learning. We have also seen many of the children demonstrating our school core values which include; kindness, empathy, honesty, resilience, respect, happiness, creativity and hardworking (these will be recognised in class each day and relating stickers will be handed out). We will encourage the children to try to collect the entire set of stickers!

We have kicked of our first term with our whole school topic 'Under Attack.' Our focus has been history, learning all about significant people and events in Victorians times. The children have been having fun making crowns, finding out all about Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria. They have also had a go at creating their own portraits of Queen Elizabeth and thinking about facts about each queen.

In **English** this week we have been reading Little Red Riding Hood. The children have then been retelling the story using actions and words. They have also been practicing their writing skills to label a Wanted Poster for the wolf. Perhaps you could see if your child remembers the story and the actions that go with it; they did a super job in class! We have begun our phonics lessons this week, which we do every morning before English. This week we have been recapping on sounds learnt in Reception focusing primarily on 'ay and ee'. If you fancy practicing some sentence writing at home you could ask your child to write: 'I want to play in a tree.' Or 'I have seen a bee.' Making sure that they use full stops, capital letters and fingers spaces. Any practise at home is brilliant and we LOVE to see it, and hear about it, in class.

In **Maths** this week we have learning all about Place Value. The class have wowed us with their counting skills and recognising the order of numbers 0-20. We have been counting backwards and forwards whilst making sure we understand each and every number. There are lots of videos on YouTube that you could watch with your child to practise counting forwards and backwards within 20 at home.

PLEASE hear your child read at **least 3 times a week** and record it in their reading records. Hearing your child read at this stage in their learning journey is key to making progress and developing a real love for enjoying books. Just 5 minutes a day will make a difference! Plus, they will then earn their reading stars in class, which they can spend in our class shop at the end of every half term.

Year 2

We have had a wonderful first 7 days of Year 2! What a fantastic bunch of hardworking, kind and fabulous children they are. It has been such a pleasure seeing them settle into their new year and begin their learning with such enthusiasm.

In English, we have been thinking about two different types of words: nouns and verbs**.** At the start of the week, we learned that nouns are naming words for a person, place or thing. We looked around our classroom and searched for nouns, sorted words into *nouns* and *not nouns*, and then challenged ourselves to find nouns within sentences. Towards the end of the week, we learned about verbs. We discovered that *if you can do it, or you are it, the word is a verb!* We learned that there are different types of verbs, and our first focus was on physical action verbs. We had lots of fun acting out different actions for our friends to guess and then had a go at spotting physical action verbs in sentences.

In Maths, we have been focusing on numbers to 20. At the beginning of the week, we concentrated on the correct formation of our numbers to 20, making sure our number shapes were clear and correctly formed. Throughout the week, we have been representing numbers to 20 in different ways, including using ten frames and Base 10.

In History, we learned about what a monarch is and thought carefully about some of the important roles and responsibilities that monarchs have. We made our very own crowns and asked ourselves: “Is a monarch’s only job to wear a crown?” We were then given different scenarios and imagined that we were monarchs. We thought carefully about what we might need to do, decide and think about in each situation. Finally, we took off our crowns and discussed the question: “Is being a monarch easy or hard? Why?” We discovered that being a monarch is about much more than simply wearing a crown!



Year 3

As this has been my first week at Rackheath school, it has been lovely getting to know the children and seeing how well they have settled into Year 3. It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year, and I am excited to support your child as they begin their Key Stage 2 journey.

In English, we have begun our first unit of work based on Charlotte’s Web. The children have learnt and practised using subordinating conjunctions, the present perfect form and prepositions to express time and place in their writing. Next week, they will write a diary entry from Fern’s point of view.

During guided reading, the children have been developing their fluency by focusing on pauses, expression and changes in tone. They have also used dictionaries to explore new vocabulary, including devour, aimless, scamper, peculiar and chaotic.

In Maths, the children have continued developing their understanding of place value to 1,000. They have used Base 10 resources to represent hundreds, tens and ones, helping to strengthen their understanding of the value of each digit within a number.

In Science, we started our new topic, Forces and Magnets. We identified forces acting on objects, investigated how friction affects a toy car moving over different surfaces, sorted magnetic and non-magnetic materials, and explored magnetic poles, discovering that opposite poles attract while the same poles repel.

Miss Wicks 😊

Year 4

Wow, we have had an amazing and busy start to Year 4! The children have all settled in to our new routines really well and should all be very proud of themselves. We started last week with some activities to get used to being in a new classroom, one of these activities was a camouflage challenge. During the challenge children were given a butterfly to colour and camouflage into our classroom, they have been up for a whole week now and I'm still spotting new ones around the room!

In English we have jumped straight in, looking at our new book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Balit. As a class we already have lots of knowledge about Pompeii and have been busy filling any gaps by investigating the images from the story. Through this we have started to build an idea of what life may have been like in Pompeii before the eruption. Next week we will be reading more of the story to explore what it was like on the day of the eruption.

In maths we have started our place value unit, this lays the foundations for lots of our maths this year. We began by revisiting knowledge of hundreds from Year 3 and have begun exploring numbers up to 10,000. We will continue with this work next week. In topic we have been looking at forces and magnets, where we have searched the classroom for anything magnetic!

Finally, I would like to finish by reinforcing what a fantastic start everyone has had to Year 4! Myself, Mrs Howes and Mrs Culling are all very excited for the year ahead. I hope you all have a lovely weekend!







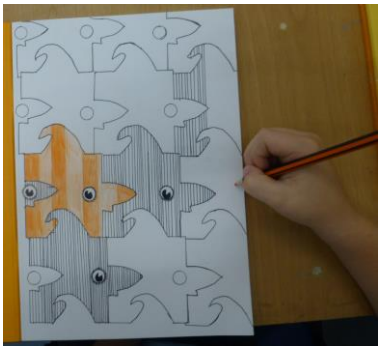
Year 5

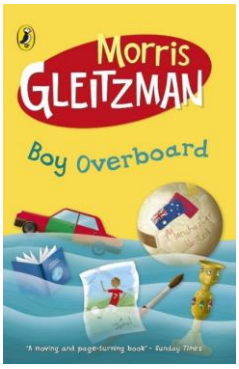
What a fantastic start it has been to the new academic year! The Year 5s should be really proud of their behaviour, work rate and resilience. Already, it seems as though we have completed so many activities! During Maths lessons, our main area of learning has been 'Place Value'. This began with the children being able to read and write numbers up to a million and then being able to write down the value of each digit. They all seemed to enjoy our dice game – where they had to make either the biggest or smallest numbers based on the ones I had rolled. It got very competitive! This then moved on to looking at decimal numbers in the tenths, hundredths and thousandths.

In English lessons, we began our new class book: 'Boy Overboard' by Morris Gleitzman. In addition to showing an excellent understanding of the storyline, the children are beginning to plan an informal letter to a friend or family member back home – telling them what life is like in Afghanistan.

To link to our whole school topic of 'Under Attack', we have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. So far, this has involved putting key dates into a timeline and understanding which parts of Europe they travelled from before invading Britain. In a recent Art lesson, we learnt about tessellating shapes / patterns before creating our own. The end results are amazing! Finally, in science, we discussed the different properties of materials and understood the key differences between solids, liquids and gases.







Year 6

What a great first full week we have had in year 6! The class might be loud at times…but they have fantastic ideas and love to share them!

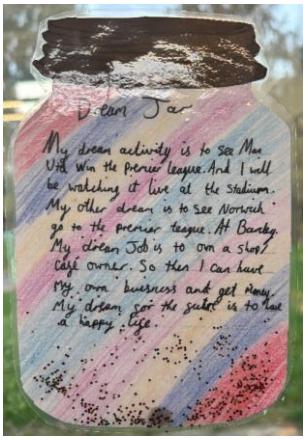
In maths, we have started with place value. We have been looking at how to read and order large numbers. As with lots of our work, we have done this through the use of games and challenges!

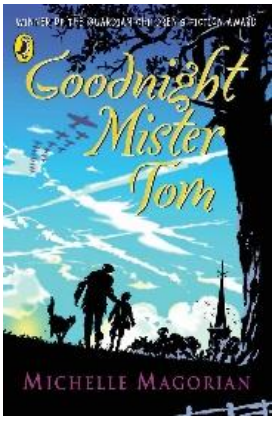
In English, we have started our class book Goodnight, Mister Tom. It is a WW2 based book about a boy who is evacuated to the countryside. It has some hard-hitting and powerful topics, but it is fantastic in terms of how it describes and explains life during WW2.

We have also been thinking about our life goals and dreams by making our won dream jars…below you can see a dream jar from someone who wishes to see Manchester United win the league!! As well as this, we have started our Anglo-Saxon artwork by looking at weaving. The children used paper strips to create patterns and start to understand how to do it.

However, the highlight of the week for the class has to be FINALLY getting to meet their buddies in Reception…they have been bugging me about it all week! I was incredibly impressed with their kind and caring nature with the little ones and I can already see that some wonderful relationships have begun!









Well done to Year 2 who had

100%

attendance for the first 3 days of term last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Year 2 next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Year 1	Olivia, Rocco, Chester
Year 2	Theo P, Allie, Isabelle
Year 3	Sophia, Austin, Ruby
Year 4	Chester, Alexa, Whole Class
Year 5	Willow, Marcelino, Whole Class
Year 6	Whole Class, Neo, Arlo

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes *Chris Ashman*

DIARY DATES – 2026 to 2027



Term Dates

Autumn 1 – Thursday 3rd September until Thursday 22nd October
Autumn 2 – Monday 2nd November until Friday 18th December

Spring 1 – Tuesday 5th January until Friday 12th February
Spring 2 – Monday 22nd February until Friday 25th March

Summer 1 – Tuesday 13th April until Friday 28th May
Summer 2 – Monday 7th June until Wednesday 21st July

Class Show and Tell Assemblies

These take place in the hall, parents to arrive for 2:45pm start:

Year 1	Thursday 15th October
Year 2	Thursday 22nd October
Year 3	Wednesday 11th November
Year 5	Thursday 12th November
Year 4	Wednesday 18th November
Reception	Thursday 19th November
Year 6	Thursday 26th November

There will be another class assembly in the summer term

Christmas

Mon 14th December	Reception Dress Rehearsal – AM Year 1&2 Dress rehearsal - PM
Tues 15th December	Year 1&2 Performance – AM Reception Performance – PM
Weds 16th December	Reception Performance – AM Year 1&2 Performance – PM
Tues 15th December	KS2 Performance – 6pm
Thurs 17th December	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Year 6 Events

Week of 16th Nov	Aylmerton Residential
Week 10th May	SATS Week
Friday 14th May	Post SATS treat
Friday 2rd July	Camp out
Tues 13th/Weds 14th	End of term performances – 6.00pm

Parent's Evening

Autumn Term	Tues 20th / Weds 21st October
Spring Term	Weds 10th / Thurs 11th February