Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026

Book Fair – Next week we have a book fair in the hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. It will take place from 3.15pm until 3.45pm each day. Payments will be made via the QR code at the fair, therefore, please bring your mobile phone and a credit or debit card, as you will need to enter your details. Last year's book fair was a huge success and I'm sure this year's event will be too.

Cafes

This week we have had a parent café every morning. It has been lovely to see lots of family members sharing learning with their children and meeting the new class teams at the same time. We just have one café left, which is Year 5's on Wednesday 30th September.



Rackheath Pathfinders Visit

The week started with a lovely visit for our year 6 children alongside our School Council and Eco-Committee to the Rackheath Pathfinders site at Newman Road. What a fantastic opportunity for the children to meet relatives of the American's who were based at Rackheath in the second world war. A lovely example of living History. It was also fantastic to receive two emails from the Rackheath Pathfinders commending the children on their fantastic behaviour, something the American visitors commented on too.

School Values – Sticker Reward Chart

This week the children all started to collect the Rackheath values stickers on a special rewards sheet that they will have. Once they get a sticker, they can either stick it on the sheet or if they want to wear the sticker a teacher will initial their reward sheet. Children who collect all 8 through the year will get a special shiny "Rackheath Values Superstar" sticker!



Girls Football Report – League Fixtures at the Nest

On Thursday our girls team took part in the first round of league fixtures at the Nest. The afternoon turned out to be a fantastic one! The girls played seven games each lasting 12 minutes and they were brilliant from start to finish. We ended up winning five and drawing two of our games - scoring 13 goals whilst at the other end Izzy conceded just one. The goals were shared out with Emily and Matilda scoring 4 each, Ella 3 and Esme and Ava 1 each. The highlight for me was the performance against Firside, who were a very strong team. The girls defended brilliantly with Jayden to the fore in defence. Before Esme our other defender went up for a corner and smashed in the winning goal.



As well as the performances the girls were a joy to coach. Their attitude throughout was brilliant! Thanks to Ms Holmes and our super group of parent supporters. We also got to meet two of the current Norwich City ladies' team.

Next week the girls take on Falcon Junior on Monday before the boys play against Drayton on Wednesday. The Thursday game against Taverham has been postponed and will be re-arranged at a later date.

Year 1 and 2 football next Wednesday – Unfortunately, there will be no Year 1 and 2 football next Wednesday. Mr Palmer is taking the boys football team to a game and all other staff are in a staff meeting.



Upcoming Dates – Class Assemblies

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

Upcoming Dates – Other

- Wednesday 30th September Year 1 and 2 trip to Norwich Castle
- Monday 5th October – School Photographs
- Tuesday 20th October and Wednesday 21st October – Parent's Evening



Bombers

"I like it here in the nursery. I have been here ten years!" - This has to be one of our favourite comments of the term so far! We are not quite sure our records agree, but we are delighted that they feel so at home.

Over the past two weeks, the children have continued to show wonderful enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence in their learning. Our Kings, Queens & Our Kingdom theme first took us into Castles, Homes & Places We Live, where we explored houses, flats, bungalows and castles. The children carried this learning into their own conversations, asking one another questions such as, "Do you live in a bungalow?" to which another child replied, "No, I live in a home!"

Wonderful crowns were created, developing fine motor skills, concentration and independence as the children selected, arranged and stuck different materials. They also worked together to create their own castle using recycled junk-modelling materials, such as cardboard boxes and egg cartons, developing creativity, problem-solving and teamwork as their ideas took shape.



We celebrated a very special Birthday Ring for our twins, giving us the opportunity to talk about growing, changing and what makes each child special.

We had fun as the children became little bakers, making delicious banana and blueberry muffins. They enjoyed scooping, measuring, pouring and mixing. We talked about the importance of hygiene and washing our hands. The children also practised turn-taking, sharing and working together before enjoying their delicious muffins at snack time and taking one home to share with their families.

Reception

We have absolutely loved the last couple of weeks in reception class – they are really working and playing together beautifully. They are becoming more independent in their actions, for example, when an activity is 'full', they are learning to help themselves to a sand timer and wait their turn. We are seeing children help to tidy things they haven't even played with and we are also loving seeing children become more confident to try new things!

Of course, as the weeks go on, we also sometimes see tiredness creeping in – this is completely normal as your child is learning to adapt to all the new routines and longer days. They are doing brilliantly!

Over the last couple of weeks, the activities inside and outside the classroom have largely focused on gross and fine motor skills, teamwork, sharing and kindness. We have also read many, many stories together – favourites so far seem to have been 'The Rainbowsaurus', 'Who's in The Loo?' and 'A Squash and a Squeeze'. We have also noticed that this class seem to love movement, songs, actions and dancing – we have adored getting to know them! We have learned lots of maths / counting songs this week, such as '1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Once I Caught a Fish Alive' and 'Five Little Monkeys Jumping on The Bed!'

We have explored colour mixing too – focusing on making orange. We sang 'I can sing a rainbow' and then focussed on the colours red and yellow. The children had to predict what colour they would make when mixed – the guesses ranged from pink to purple to green … and orange! Some of the children then chose to explore mixing this for themselves and were able to conclude, "*If it's too red, I can fix it by adding more yellow!"* Fantastic experimenting and problem solving! Well done!

Next week, we'll be looking at and sharing more 'All About Me' books and drawing self-portraits. And, very excitingly, we'll start our phonics sounds lessons – so, next Friday, look out for your child's reading record and sound pot in their book bag! Let the wonderful world of your child's reading journey commence!







Year 1

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our Curiosity Café this week; if you have any questions about anything that was covered then please do not hesitate to ask us.

What a super week we've had in Year 1 this week! The children have all worked hard (especially with their writing) and shown us some really super listening, learning and sharing skills. We started the week by travelling back in time and learning all about Knights and Castles, ready for our Norwich Castle Trip next Wednesday. The children had great fun creating Castle pictures using 2D shapes to make a collage. Later this week we all made a knight picture made out of foil.

In Phonics last week we recapped the sounds 'ow' (blow the snow) and 'igh' (fly high). If you fancy having a practise at some sentences at home you could ask your child to write: 'The snow is light.' And 'Look up high and low.' This week we have been recapping 'oo' for moon and 'oo' book.

In English last week we have been continued our work on Little Red Riding Hood focusing on writing lists. Firstly, a list of items that LRRH might carry in her basket and then making a list of the characters in the story ensuring that we don't forget capital letters for the names of characters. This week the children have been writing captions for each picture from the story and using 'and' to join words.



In Maths last week we were counting 1 more and 1 less. The children have been enjoying singing several different counting songs to 20, practicing writing their numbers 0-10 (ensuring that their number formation is correct) and using dice to roll a number before working out what 1 less or 1 more is. This sort of maths practise is really easy to do and a fun game to play at home, if you get the chance. This week in Maths we have been using the numbers 0-20 to investigate which numbers are 'greater than' 'less than' or 'equal to'.

Year 2

Our **Learning Café on Thursday** was a real highlight of the week! The children loved having you join them in the classroom (as proven by some of the tears when it was time to say goodbye!). Thank you so much to everyone who was able to come along — it was lovely to see so many of you there.



This week in **English**, we have been learning about **kennings** — poems that describe something without naming it. We practised identifying nouns and verbs in kennings, performed kennings using actions and expression, and then planned and wrote our own kennings about a topic of our choice. The children have really enjoyed getting creative with their word choices!

In **Maths**, we have been learning how to **partition numbers to 100**, starting with tens and ones before moving on to more flexible partitioning and missing-number problems. We also learnt about writing numbers in **expanded form** (e.g., 56 = 5 tens and 6 ones, or 50 + 6) and practised writing numbers in words.

The children have been particularly enthusiastic about **History** this week! We learnt about the **Spanish Armada** and the challenge it posed for Queen Elizabeth I. We built our own ships using junk modelling before testing them on water. We also learnt about **Queen Victoria and the British Empire,** designing and mapping our own imaginary empires. The children have really impressed me with the fantastic questions they have asked throughout the week!



Year 3

Yet again, we have had a fantastic couple of weeks in Year 3!

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their understanding of place value to 1,000. Last week, they used place value counters to find 1, 10 and 100 more or less than a given number and explored different ways of partitioning numbers. This week, they have been placing and estimating numbers on number lines.

In English, the children planned and wrote diary entries from the perspective of Fern, applying grammatical features such as the present perfect tense, conjunctions and prepositions of time. Later in the week, we explored the setting and characters, using adjectives and expanded noun phrases to create detailed descriptions. We also enjoyed a practical lesson using macaroni to help us place inverted commas correctly in direct speech.

In our Guided Reading lessons, the children have been practising their retrieval and inference skills using our class text.

In Topic, we have begun our new Human Geography unit, learning about different types of settlements and comparing them. We have also explored land use and trade, discussing goods that are traded both locally and internationally.

We have now started our Music lessons every Tuesday, where the children are learning to play the African drum. They thoroughly enjoyed learning an African song and accompanying it with a drumbeat.



Year 4

We have had a busy few weeks in Year 4! Everyone has settled into our new routines so well and has made a great start to the year. Firstly, we loved seeing so many of you at our parent café this morning, I personally enjoyed getting to know you all a bit better. The children loved showcasing some of their in-school tasks with you. Below are some of the links from today. Additionally the children should come home today with a letter listing some more games you could play.

www.timestables.co.uk

www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button

www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/paint-the-squares

In class we have been continuing our work on place value. As part of this we have explored numbers up to 10,000, in many different ways, and have recently begun to look at rounding.

In English we have started building towards our first big write in Year 4 which will be a diary entry, written in first person, from the perspective of a survivor from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. As part of this unit, we have looked at skills such as fronted adverbials, writing in the past tense, the use of adjectives and prepositions as well as using thesauruses to consider our word choices, these are all skills the children will be aiming to include in their big writes.

In topic we have been looking at human geography by considering things such as land use, types of settlements and trade. Next week we will continue looking at this. On top of all our other learning we have also begun music lessons in which we are learning to play djembe drums. I have also had fantastic reports from all the adults who take the children swimming, it sounds like they are having lots of fun whilst at Broadland. Finally, in art we have been looking at botanical art pieces and building our observation skills as a part of this. Today we also looked at different shades and tints to help us create all the colours we observed in some flowers. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.





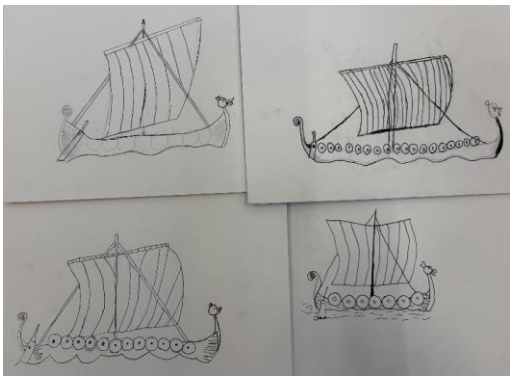
Year 5

The last two weeks have been very busy in Year 5, with lots of activities taking place! The children have been amazing and should be proud of the progress they've already made. In Maths lessons, we've continued our topic of "Place Value," with our recent focus being rounding numbers. I was so impressed by how quickly they could round money to the nearest £1, £10, £100, and even 10p. They decided which items they would like to sell in their shop, what the starting prices would be, and what the new prices would become once rounded up or down.

During English lessons, we've read more of our class book, Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman. Our writing has linked to the book too; we have produced an informal letter to parents and family members (telling them what life has been like in Afghanistan) as well as a formal letter to the government of Afghanistan. Their imagination and creativity have been super!

In Topic, the class ordered key events in the lead-up to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking era. These were then put into a timeline. In Science, our topic has focused on the properties of materials. In addition to stating the differences between solids, liquids, and gases, we've learned key words to differentiate the properties of everyday objects. The children enjoyed finishing their tessellation designs in Art, and we also began sketching a Viking longship. Finally, the class got to use our new Chromebooks for a computing lesson, and I have already planned lots of activities linked to these!





Year 6

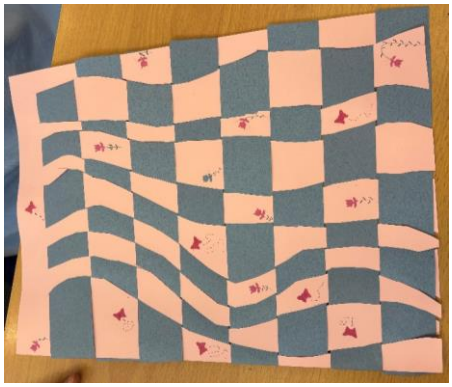
We have had a fantastic week in year 6! It started in Newman Woods, meeting family members of the WW2 American servicemen; these family members had travelled from America to see where their relatives had served / lived. We then got a guided tour from the PathFinder volunteers who have excavated the site and it was fantastic. As well as seeing the buildings, and being told what they were used for, we also got to see some of the items that have been found whilst the work has been taking place! You can see a photograph of our visit earlier on in the newsletter.

On Tuesday, we had our learning cafe where we talked about the expectations of year 6 and what the year will hold. Then we moved on to the fun activities…. making our Anglo-Saxon settlements. It was obvious that some parents really got into this!

Our English work has continued to focus on Goodnight, Mister Tom – this week we have prepared for our short descriptive stories including speech.

We had our first look at our new Chrome books this week. Each Y6 child now has their own login and password to allow them to access their google drive (which can also be accessed at home!). Edie and Neo were great helpers as they already use it!

We finished the week by continuing on with our weaving work. On Friday, we focussed on redesigning the warp sheet and decorating the weft strips!! You can see it made it rather interesting looking.



Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **24 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **30 out of 32**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception who had

100%

attendance last week.
Attendance Bear will be in Reception Class next week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Year 1	Lilly, Harper, Leo
Year 2	Emie, Ethan, Larna
Year 3	Thora, Jace, Eden
Year 4	Jasmine, Arthur, Ivy
Year 5	Leo, Joshua, Karina
Year 6	Edie, Henry, Hunter

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes

Chris Ashman