Rackheath Primary School Newsletter

Thursday 22nd October 2026

It has been a super first half term in school. We have certainly packed in a lot in a short space of time. As always it has been brilliant to see lots of super learning and teaching going on from Reception to Year 6. Our reception class have settled brilliantly, which has lovely to see. We've been on trips, had visitors into school, taken part in lots of football fixtures, held parent cafes and class assemblies, welcomed new caterers and held House Captain, School Council and Eco-Committee elections.

It has also been great to welcome Miss Wicks to the school and the children outside of reception who have joined us.

Meet Our New School Council and Eco-Committee – After elections this week the classes all voted for their school council and eco-committee representatives. Well done to all the children who were voted in. Thank you to Mrs Goddard and Mrs Milligan for running the groups.

School Council

- Year 6 – Ella and Louis
- Year 5 – Willow and Leo
- Year 4 – Emmy and Jamie
- Year 3 – Isla B and Max
- Year 2 – Larna and Elijah
- Year 1 – Willow and Leo

Eco-Committee

- Year 6 – Jayden and Stanley
- Year 5 – Harriet and Finley
- Year 4 – Niamh and Lochlan
- Year 3 – Aubrey and Mabel

Cluster Football

On Wednesday we took two teams to the cluster football at St Johns.

Rackheath 1 started in brilliant form beating St Johns 2 5-0, Coltishall 3-0 and Tunstead 4-0, which meant the team came top of their group. In the other group Rackheath 2 started equally well with 2 wins over Salhouse 1-0 and then Neatishead 3-1 before losing 2-0 to St Johns 1.

This meant both teams went through to the semi-finals where they played each other!! Rackheath 2 put up a great fight with Leighrye making lots of super saves but in the end Rackheath 1 ran out 1-0 winners. This put the team in the final, where they played Coltishall again. This game was a lot closer and it stayed

0-0 into extra time. With a few minutes to go Ben was put through by a lovely pass from Archie and he scored to spark wild celebrations and then even wilder ones a minute later when the game finished.

Rackheath 1 played some lovely football throughout and went the whole tournament without conceding a goal. Rackheath 2 had 4 children - Leighrye, Neo, Charlie and Landon - making their debuts for the school and all did well. It was a lovely morning and all the boys can be proud of their performances.

Rackheath 1 – Max, Jack, Alfie, Stanley, Sid, Louis, Jackson, Ben and Archie

Rackheath 2 – Leighrye, Arlo, Seb, Neo, Parker, Charlie, Harry, Leo, Landon and Finley

Thank you to Ms Holmes and Mr Palmer for coaching the teams and helping organise the tournament. Thanks to all our supporters too!

We end a busy half term of football tonight with our girls' team playing White Woman Lane.







Class Assemblies

We finished the half term with Year 2's class assembly. A full list of the remaining assembly dates is below (if we have to change any of the dates, we will let you know as soon as possible). Parents should arrive for 2:40.

- Wednesday 11th November – Year 3
- Thursday 12th November – Year 5
- Wednesday 18th November – Year 4
- Thursday 19th November – Reception
- Thursday 26th November – Year 6

Parent's Evening –It was lovely to share the work and achievements of all the children so far this year at the first parent's evening of the year on Tuesday and Wednesday this year.



New Intake 2027

It has been lovely to start showing families round the school who are looking for their children to start in Rackheath Reception Class in September 2027! If you know anyone who would like a look round ask them to contact the office to make an appointment.



Upcoming Dates – Class Assemblies

- 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

- Week of the 16th November Year 6 to Aylmerton
- Friday 4th December Christmas Fair
- Monday 14th December Dress Rehearsals for Reception and Y1 / 2 Nativity
- Tues 15th / Weds 16th December Reception Nativity and Year 1 / 2 Nativity
- Tuesday 15th December Key Stage 2 Carol Service
- Thursday 17th December Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



Bombers

"There's a ghost in my house!" announced one of our little Bombers during our Halloween conversations. Another confidently declared, "I'm going to be a mermaid!" Clearly, Halloween has everyone thinking creatively, and we may have some rather unexpected visitors this year!

With Halloween just around the corner, the children have been busy exploring and carving pumpkins, discovering the seeds hidden inside, and creating their own cotton-wool ghosts. There were plenty of enthusiastic cries of "Whoo, whoo, ghost!" as their little creations came to life!

Our learning adventures have continued through playful exploration of letters and sounds. From magnetic fishing games, matching letters and sharing sounds, to mark-making and tracing letters, the children have shown wonderful curiosity and enthusiasm. It has been particularly rewarding to see them choosing their own challenges, persevering when something feels tricky and finding ways to succeed independently.

Construction has also been a firm favourite, with some fantastic creations emerging through teamwork, imagination and problem-solving. Along the way, we have witnessed lovely moments of kindness, cooperation and children helping one another.

We have also celebrated several birthdays with our special birthday rings, sharing those precious moments together as our little Bombers grow another year older!



Perhaps one of the greatest pleasures this fortnight has been watching the children's growing confidence and independence. There is something rather wonderful about hearing a child ask for a challenge and then seeing the determination on their face as they work it out for themselves.

As we finish today for our week-long half-term break, we would like to wish all our Bombers families a lovely, restful holiday. Enjoy the autumn colours, the adventures and perhaps a little Halloween magic! We look forward to welcoming everyone back for more exciting discoveries.

Reception

Wow, our first half term has flown by, and the reception children have been absolutely fantastic!

Last week, we dove into the story of The Little Red Hen. The children had a wonderful time acting out the tale and even made and tasted their very own bread. In phonics, we introduced four new sounds - ‘g’, ‘o’, ‘c’, and ‘k’ - while in maths, we continued practicing how to recognise, count, and order numbers up to 10.

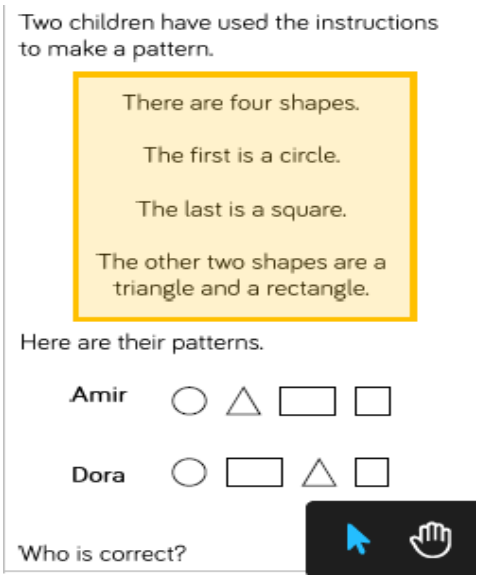
This week has been all about consolidation. We have been revisiting all the sounds learned so far, blending them together to read both real and nonsense words. The children have also put a lot of effort into their number formation, using helpful rhymes to guide their writing. During our afternoon sessions, we explored the book Funnybones, learned about the bones in our bodies, and enjoyed a variety of autumn and spooky-themed activities.

We are all looking forward to our break and can't wait to see everyone back in a week's time!

Year 1

We’ve had a busy last couple of weeks in Year 1. We have been continuing our ‘Kingdoms and Conquerors’ topic by learning all about the four countries of the UK. We have been using atlases and maps to locate the different countries and finding out some key facts about each one. This week we have had lots of fun singing songs, creating our own tartan and trying out some Irish dancing. We have also spent a lot of our time, over the last couple of weeks, practising for our Year 1 assembly. We were extremely proud of the class and would like the say to huge thank you to everyone who made it along to watch. We had lots of fun!

In English we have finished our work on Little Red Riding Hood and concluded by writing instructions for the woodcutter to get to granny’s house. The children have been making sure that they use full stops, capital letters, finger spaces and bossy verbs. We have also introduced using exclamation marks; the class have really enjoyed creating some great phases to use these with! This week the children were introduced to our new topic for English and they met our friendly alien ‘Beegu’. They worked hard to find out all about our new discovery and have labelled a picture of him using adjectives.



In Maths last week we used ordinal numbers (first, second, third etc.). We set the children a challenge to make a pattern of shapes giving them 4 simple instructions as to the shapes position in the pattern. Not only was this lots of fun but class did a great job at creating their own too. Here is an example of one, maybe have a go at your own one at home with your child. In the second half of the week, we moved onto practising using a number-line to find out the position of different numbers. We asked the children lots of questions about the numbers 0-20 e.g. If I start on 7 and make 2 hops forward, which number will I land on? If I start on 5 and make 4 hops back, which number will I land on? etc. All the children were getting the hang of using the number line to solve problems, by the end of the week.

This week we have returned to using our adding and subtracting skills to complete part-part-whole models.

We hope you all have a super half term! **Please do not forget to read at least 3 times a week as it is imperative to your child's reading, writing and phonics progress.**

Year 2

And just like that, we have reached the end of our first half term!



Last week in English, we learned that *and* is a coordinating conjunction used to add information. We practised building and writing sentences using *and*, as well as including time adverbials to help sequence events in our recounts. This week, we planned and wrote our own recounts about our trip to the castle. Once we had finished writing, we revisited our work and made improvements in response to our *Think Pink* feedback.

Last week in Maths, we consolidated our place value knowledge by practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. This week, we extended our learning by exploring how to count in 3s. Throughout the rest of the week, we took part in a fun Halloween Maths Investigation! Each day, the children used a different place value skill to solve a clue. By working through the clues, they successfully discovered who had won the prize for the best costume at the Halloween disco!



Last week in the afternoons, we continued our art project inspired by Paul Klee's *Castle and Sun*. First, we created our own pieces of artwork inspired by Paul Klee's style, choosing a subject of our choice. We then explored different textures by creating texture rubbings. Using these, we cut out a variety of shapes and combined them to create our own versions of *Castle and Sun*. Once our artwork was complete, we evaluated our creations by thinking about what we had done well and what we might change or improve next time.

This week, our afternoons have been busy with rehearsals for our class assembly. The children did a fantastic job performing today, and we are so proud of all their hard work and confidence. We hope you enjoyed the performance, and it was lovely to see so many of you there!

We also had an exciting first session using the new Chromebooks! The children logged on and created their own rockstar avatars on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). They should have brought their login details home today, and we would love for them to spend a little time exploring TTRS over half term. After the break, the children will begin to receive times tables to practise regularly.

Year 3

What great couple of weeks we have had in Year 3!



In Maths, the children have been building on their knowledge of adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers. They have been solving questions that require exchanges from 10s to 1s and 100s to 10s in order to solve more complicated questions.

In English, the children have edited and published their narrative writing, taking great pride in presenting their work neatly. We have also completed our Charlotte's Web unit, exploring the features of poetry before creating character poems based on some of the story's memorable characters.



In Topic, we have started our new unit on Roman mosaics. The children have learned about Roman homes, explored what mosaics are, designed their own patterns and begun creating their mosaic artwork. We finished by holding a gallery walk, celebrating and sharing each other's fantastic designs.

In Music, the children have continued developing their drumming skills on the African drums. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning and performing rhythms to Thriller, which has been a great way to get into the Halloween spirit.

Have a brilliant, restful half term!

Year 4

Wow, this half term has flown by! Everyone has had an amazing first half term in Year 4 and it was so lovely to catch up with you all at parents evening to share how fantastic they are. In school we have squeezed lots into the last few weeks. As part of our Roman work, we have looked at different homes and how they were designed and decorated. This then inspired our own mosaics. The children used the chrome books to create their designs, this allowed them to play around with the position of each colour. Once designs were created, they copied them on to a template that matched the size of the tesserae we were using and finally they created their designs. They were very creative with their designs some children did the initial of their name whilst others created pictures like a strawberry.

In English we have been looking at the poem 'I am a Roman Soldier'. As part of this we have looked at word choices and the emotions / meaning of each stanza. The children finished the week by writing their own version of the poem, these were full of wonderful ideas and knowledge of the romans (which they have picked up already!). In Maths we continued looking at adding and subtracting by 1, 10, 100 and 1000 before moving on to area. The children looked at how area is measured and created shapes with a specific area such as 4 squares. After half term we will return to looking at addition and subtraction, focusing on 4-digit numbers and exchanging.

In Art we have continued our plant-based work. The children drew their own flower templates before using them to cut and shape clay into small flower-based pots. After half term we will be painting these. Finally, next half term Year 4 will continue to swim on a Thursday and will have an additional PE lesson on a Tuesday. I hope you all have a lovely holiday!





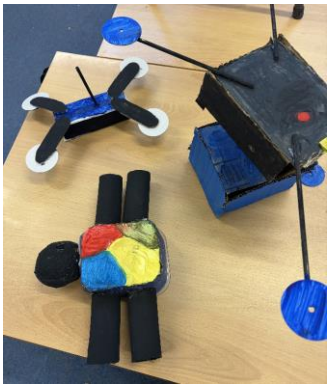
Year 5

What a fantastic half term it has been! All of the children have made excellent progress and have consistently shown a positive attitude to learning. They should be very proud of themselves. During Maths lessons, we have concluded our units of work linked to addition and subtraction. As well as learning formal methods, we learnt a variety of 'tricks' to calculate mentally, solved word problems, and used the inverse to check our answers.

In recent English lessons, we focused on a new text type: balanced arguments. The children had to give their 'for' and 'against' reasons to Jamal (from *Boy Overboard*) about travelling to Australia. In Science lessons, we learnt the meanings of 'soluble' and 'insoluble'. After half term, the children will select a variety of substances and predict

whether they will be soluble or not when mixed with water. In Art, the children began drawing in a one-point perspective and understood how the size and spacing of objects can give the illusion that they are either closer or further away.

Today, we also finished building our inventions for the 8 Billion Ideas project, where small groups had to come up with an idea to 'change the world'. We will be presenting these amazing ideas to the rest of the class during the first week back. I wanted to include a photo of our recent 'Wall of Fame' display too – featuring Art, Topic and Homework tasks from this half term.





Year 6

Mr C will email his Class Report during the week!



Well done to Reception, Y4 and Y6 who all had

99%

attendance last week! That hasn't happened for a long time.

Have a lovely half term and see you all back on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes

Chris Ashman

