Rackheath Primary School Newsletter



Friday 13th November

It has been the sportiest of sporty weeks for me this week. On Monday the boys took part in a tournament at the Nest, on Tuesday and Thursday the girls took over with two league games whilst sandwiched in between it was the Cluster Cross Country. It has brilliant to be there to support fifty or more of our children across the four events. They have all acquitted themselves incredibly well. They can all be proud of the determination, team work and sportsmanship they have shown. Making it extra special has been the support of lots of family members at all of the fixtures. Reports on all of these events are in this letter.

Class Assemblies

We held two class assemblies this week. Both have been super showcases for what the children in Year 3 and 5 have been learning. Well done to all the children and staff involved. A special mention to Miss Wicks on completing her first class assembly with us. As always it was great to share with lots of family members. A full list of the remaining assembly dates is below. Please note the change of time for Year 6.

- Wednesday 18th November – Year 4
- Thursday 19th November – Reception
- Thursday 26th November – Year 6 (assembly will be at 2.30pm arrival for 2.25pm)

Remembrance Day – On Wednesday Mr Cavender led our Remembrance Day assembly, whilst at cluster cross country we all paused to remember those who sacrificed so much for this country. At both events it was important to see the respect our children all showed.





Children in Need

We finished the week with our traditional fund raising and fun games with the children to raise money for children in need. In total we raised an amazing £294.30

Food tasting with LunchtimeCo – We have been so pleased and happy with our new caterers. Now you have a chance to try some of the lovely food that the children get to eat every day. On Tuesday 24th November from 2:45pm there will be a food tasting session for parents. This will be in the hall. Please do drop in – I know they are keen to showcase their food to all parents and especially to parents of children who don't currently have a school dinner.

LUNCH TIME CO



Aylmerton Residential

Next week Year 6 are off to Aylmerton field studies centre for what I'm sure will be a fun packed and exciting 5 days. A huge thank you to Mrs Roe, Mrs Goddard and Mr Cavender for giving up their time to take the children. It is greatly appreciated.

With Mrs Goddard away with Year 6 Ms Holmes will be working with Year 3 next week.

A busy week of sport!!

Cluster Cross Country – On Wednesday we took part in the Cluster Cross Country at Coltishall. In all 40 children across Year 3 to 6 ran in one of the four races. The standard across the schools was very good and I was hugely impressed with the efforts and attitude of everyone who took part. Wherever the children finished in their race they can be proud of their efforts as they all ran through the pain barrier to achieve their best. We did have some standout performances. Five of our children came in the top three of their races and won a medal. Jamie won the year 3 and 4 boy's race, whilst Eve came second in the Year 3 and 4 girl's race. Ava came second and Emily third in the Year 5 and 6 girl's race and Archie came third in the Year 5 and 6 boy's race.

Other top ten finishes came from Austin who came 4th, Leo who came 5th and Lucas who came 6th. No matter where they finished all the children ran to the best of their ability and they can all be very pleased with their efforts.



Overall we came second in the school competition. Our team was:

Year 3 Enid, Delilah, Aubrey, Austin, Thora, Harrison, George and Harry

Year 4 Eve, Ella, Elliott, Chester, Freddie, Ivy, Jamie, Yanna, Lucas, Summer, Harley and Charlotte

Year 5 Archie, Emily, Henry, Leo, William, Finley, Luke, Ben, Elliot, Marcelino, Willow, Harriet and Karina

Year 6 Ava, Edie, Esme, Jack, Louis and Mila

Thanks to Ms Holmes, Mrs Watts and Mr Palmer for coming along with the team and to the parents for their support.

Having had such a busy week of sport our numbers were down for cross country club this morning, so a big well done to the eleven children who made it in for a run this morning.





Boys Football at the Nest

On Monday the boys team continued their excellent run of form, winning five and drawing one of the six games they played. On the way we scored 12 and only conceded one. Combined with our results from day one this meant we finished second in our league of 11 schools. Meaning we go through to finals day. Well done to all the boys; Jack, Alfie, Max, Sis, Louis, Stan, Jackson, Ben and Archie.

Girls Football – Home vs St William's Way and Away vs Hillside

On Tuesday the girls played a lovely game against St William's Way. In a competitive game the score was close at half time before the girls accelerated in the second half to run out 5-1 winners. Izzy made some super saves, whilst Esme, Jayden and Hazel were strong in defence. Ava, Ella, Emily and Florence were super in midfield and Matilda showed lots of skill in attack. Our goals came from Matilda (2) Emily (2) and Ava who curled a lovely effort into the top corner.

On Thursday we took on Hillside Avenue in an away game. Full of confidence from their win on Tuesday the girls continued to play some super football. This time Willow joined the girls and played her part in a super 10-0 win! Our goals came from Matilda with one, Ava with one and Emily who had a sensational game and scored a staggering eight goals!

Upcoming Dates



- Week of the 16th November — Year 6 to Aylmerton
- Friday 4th December — Christmas Fair
- Tuesday 15th December — Year 1 & 2 Nativity - AM
Reception Nativity – PM
- Tuesday 15th December — Key Stage 2 Carol Service
- Weds 16th December — Reception Nativity - AM
Year 1 & 2 Nativity - PM
- Thursday 17th December — Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day



Bombers

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed a lovely half-term break. The children have certainly returned full of enthusiasm, and our days at Bombers have been wonderfully busy!

We began November with plenty of colour and sparkle as the children explored Bonfire Night, creating beautiful firework paintings using paint and glitter, followed by bonfire pictures made with sticks and tissue paper. There was much excitement as they described the colours lighting up the night sky, although not everyone was quite so enthusiastic about the loud bangs! This gave us a lovely opportunity to talk about keeping safe and protecting our ears.

As we moved into Remembrance Day, the children created their own poppy paintings using red and black. We talked gently about why we wear poppies and the importance of remembering and respecting others.

Our conversations about helping and caring for others flowed naturally into People Who Help Us. The dressing-up clothes have been particularly popular, with plenty of police officers, nurses and other community helpers appearing around Bombers! Imaginative play has encouraged some wonderful conversations about the important people in our communities.

Construction and sensory play have also been firm favourites. It has been particularly pleasing to see the children building together, sharing resources, exchanging ideas and learning that teamwork often produces the most impressive creations! We have continued exploring letters and numbers through our Montessori sandpaper materials, with the children eagerly practising their formations in the sand tray. Alongside this, colour exploration and creative activities have offered plenty of opportunities for discovery.

One of our favourite developments has been the children's enthusiasm for helping to prepare snack. They are taking such pride in their responsibilities, developing independence and practical skills, and thoroughly enjoying being part of the process. We may soon have a whole team of little kitchen assistants!





Reception



Reception class has been a busy, happy and purposeful place over the last couple of weeks. We really enjoyed being creative last week thinking about fireworks – we looked at their colours and shapes and listened to videos of their sounds, the children worked hard to describe them. Avaia gave a beautiful description saying a firework was like, “a fountain of colours!” We also thought about being careful on bonfire night and talked about lots of tips to keep us safe. For example, the children discussed what they could do if they got lost, being careful with sparklers and not picking up used fireworks if they saw them in parks/ gardens, etc. We hope all our families had a wonderful time if you did choose to venture out to see any fireworks!



This week has had more of an international theme as we’ve celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week. Each year, the organisers produce new versions of traditional songs so that children all over the world can share them together. The songs we’ve listened to and sung this time are: *Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat, Row Your Boat, Dr Foster and Hickory Dickory Dock*. Lots of our provision activities have linked to these songs so we’ve had weather pictures, crowns made for Kings and Queens, and pirate ship small world play. We also explored character with different voices – we made our voices sound like queens, cats … and ogres!

In phonics, we have learned 8 new sounds over the past two weeks: u (umbrella), b (boot), f (flower), e (egg), l (leg), h (horse), sh (shop) and r (robot). We have learned out first digraph, which is ‘sh’ – a digraph is two letters making ONE sound and we encourage the children to spot these first in words by looking for them and saying, “special friends!” (The letters are like a team of ‘special friends’ working together to make one sound! So, if your child spots these in their reading, encourage them to call out ‘special friends’ and then sound them out as their one sound, e.g. the word ‘ship’ would be sounded out as, “sh-i-p.”

In maths, the children explored the concept of 'one more' last week and, if confident, they investigated finding two or three more – we used practical play to explore this but also looked at how number lines and ten frames can help us count and 'see' one more. This week, the children have loved learning about 2D shapes – a highlight was the school-wide shape hunt! Could the children find 2D shapes in the school hall? In the corridor? In the office?! Could they tell us how they knew what shape it was by describing its properties? WELL DONE RECEPTION CLASS! What a great way to start back after the half term!



Year 1

The children have all settled back into school very well after the half term holiday. We hope you all had a lovely break. We are continuing our whole school topic 'Under Attack' and last week focused on Geography (learning about the 7 continents and 5 oceans of the world). We spent Thursday's topic lesson learning all about the Guy Fawkes night and the children made some fantastic firework art work which is currently up on our WOW wall. On Friday we learnt all about the Hindu festival of Diwali and had a go at practising our cutting skills by cutting out a Diwali decoration. This week we have been focusing on science; looking at all different types of materials, describing them and using them. We even had a go at an Andy Goldworthy inspired piece of nature artwork, which turned out beautifully. On Friday this week we learned all about Children in Need and the importance of raising money for charity.

In English this week we have been reading further on in our story of Beegu and learning a bit more about our friendly alien visitor. The children have been using their writing skills to create a Lost Poster all about Beegu, concentrating on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. We have also introduced using noun phrases and the word 'and' within their sentences. We finished the week by editing and improving their work for our class WOW wall!

In Maths we have been focusing on subtraction by using objects to create subtraction sentences. E.g.



We have also been using number lines to count backwards and recording what we have done as a subtraction sentence. The children finished the week by having a go at some maths word problems which they completed in pairs. Great work everyone!

Year 2

Over the last two weeks in English, we have been exploring our new text, *Fire Cat*, set during the Great Fire of London. The children have been developing their sentence-writing skills in preparation for writing their own setting descriptions of the streets of London next week. We have focused on writing statement sentences in the first person and present progressive tense, as well as remembering that every sentence needs a subject and a verb. We have also explored how to extend our sentences by adding a what and a where.

In Maths, we have started our new unit on addition and subtraction. We have explored number bonds to 10 and 100 and learned about fact families, discovering how one calculation can help us work out three related facts. This week, we have been practising adding and subtracting ones using a number line, as well as solving word problems and missing number calculations.

In RE, we learned about Diwali, exploring how it is celebrated and listening to the story of Rama and Sita. To bring the story to life, the children created their own diva lamps using clay, decorating them with bright colours and beautiful patterns. These lamps symbolise the lights that guided Rama and Sita home. We also learned about the Gunpowder Plot and the history behind Bonfire Night, creating colourful artwork and discussing how to stay safe around fireworks and bonfires.

In Geography, we have been exploring the world! We learned to name and locate the seven continents on a map, using compass points to describe their positions. We then zoomed in on the continent we live in, Europe. Using atlases, the children enjoyed a challenge to find countries in Europe beginning with each letter of the alphabet. We have also been exploring the four countries of the United Kingdom, their capital cities and national flags.

In Computing, we have been getting to know some of the digital tools we will be using this year. Last week, the children were introduced to Times Tables Rock Stars, and this week we learned how to log in and out of Purple Mash and create our own avatars.





Year 3

It has been a busy yet brilliant couple weeks back at school.

In Maths, we have continued learning around adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers with 2 exchanges. This is not an easy concept to understand, however the children have worked super hard and have been very successful. Take a look at this wonderful example:

In English, we have begun our next whole-class book titled The Great Kapok Tree. As part of this unit, we will be completing persuasive writing aimed at ceasing deforestation. We have learned about what it means to write in third person and how this is different to first and second person. Then we explored persuasive language and subordinating conjunctions to provide reason. Finally, we learnt about the use of fronted adverbials to link sentences via words that provide addition (Alongside this, additionally, furthermore etc.).

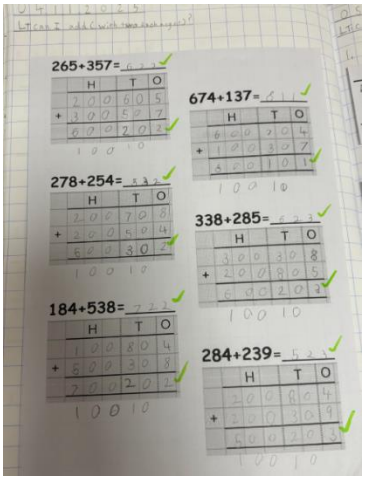
In Topic we have continued our learning on Romans. We began by discussing the different activities we enjoy in our free time before comparing them to how Romans spent their leisure time. To bring our learning to life, we took part in our own Roman bathhouse experience! We split into the four different rooms of a bathhouse and acted out what Romans would have done in each one. We exercised in the palaestra, relaxed in the tepidarium, and explored how bathhouses were important social and leisure centres for people living in Roman Britain.

A special well done to the entire class for their excellent performance in our class assembly. It was lovely to see everyone speaking with confidence and showcasing all the fantastic learning that has taken place last half term. We couldn't be prouder of you all!







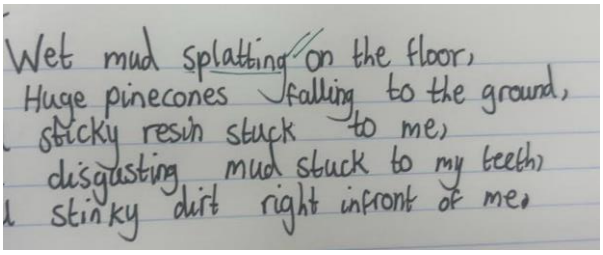


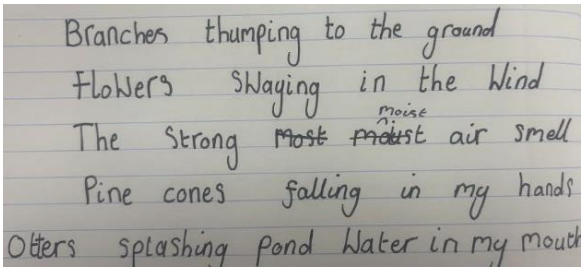
Year 4

We have had a wonderful start to half term, that has been super busy! In English we have started our new story book 'The Wild Robot', each day we read a small section of the story to help our learning. As part of this unit, we have been writing in our Robot Logs, in these logs we become Roz and write as though we are writing in a diary at end of a day revisiting parts of the story we have read. We have also explored Roz by considering what she may notice through her senses.

In Maths we have continued looking at addition and subtraction. In Year 4 we focus on 4-digit numbers and make sure we know what to do when exchanging! A skill that can be challenging at first in subtraction but we slowly become masters of. We have also explored playing lots of games in maths to help improve our mental maths, one such game is Yahtzee. The class our determined to beat the online character Bill, and therefore are developing some tactics to consider how they can get more points than their opponent.

In DT we have begun looking at Christmas Stockings, deciding what features are functional and/or decorative. In guided reading we have looked at some new texts. As part of guided reading, we have been working on our fluency, the children have taken on lots of responsibility to ensure they are rereading parts to ensure they are clear. Finally, we have begun practicing our class assembly, as we are looking forward to sharing our learning with you next week.



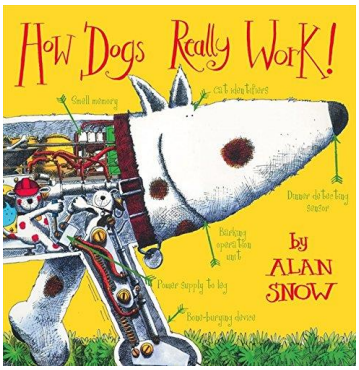


Year 5



What a brilliant start it's been to the new half term! I have been so proud of how hard the children have worked in their first two weeks back. Last week, we had our 8 Billion Ideas In-School Final! Eight chosen groups (four from Year 5 and four from Year 6) presented to both classes. Everyone did an amazing job, and a special mention needs to go to Jackson and Freddie, who were selected as the overall winners! They will now go through to the next round, which is the national final. In addition to this, the class has also been busy practising for their class assembly. It was great to see how loudly and clearly the children read their lines yesterday to inform parents about their recent units of work. On Wednesday, we had a Remembrance Day assembly, and during the afternoon, we completed some poppy artwork. Today, there were races and other activities to help raise awareness for Children in Need.

In amongst all of the above, we have been working hard in our morning lessons too! In Maths, we have been using the expanded method for multiplication, as well as learning about square numbers. During English, we began our new class book, 'How Dogs Really Work' by Alan Snow. Firstly, the children made predictions about what the book would be about. Then, after finding out it is an explanation text, they were excited to learn that they will design and write their own explanation texts to share with Reception and KS1. Finally, I know this may be mentioned in the main part of the newsletter, but I wanted to say a huge well done to everyone who participated in the cluster cross-country tournament - as well as various football matches in recent weeks!



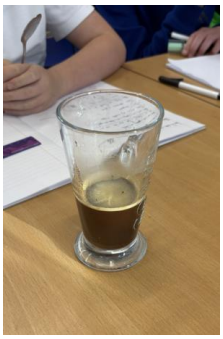
Year 6

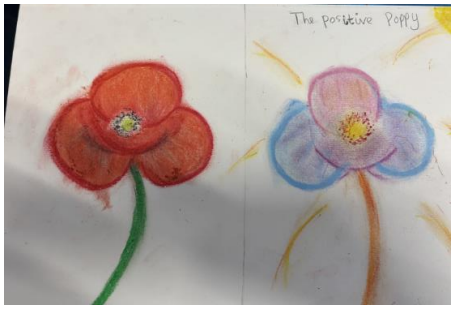
It has been a busy 2 weeks back in year 6! IN maths, we have moved onto fractions. So far, we have looked at equivalent fractions, mixed number fractions and using fractions to add and subtract. It has really highlighted to us how important our times tables are!

We stared back with me dropping the bombshell that the government were considering a ban on chocolate for all under 16s…and they were not happy! Eventually they found out that I was pulling their leg and it was just to get them thinking about writing a balanced argument!

In science, we have been looking at soluble materials and to do this we took different materials and experimented to see if they would dissolve in water! For some strange reason, they were all keen to be the person to test the gravy granules! We also started our computing unit using the Microbits which are tiny computers that can be programmed! This was very exciting! Oscar managed to create a mini Geometry Dash scene – rather impressive.

Finally, to continue our work around Remembrance, we used pastels to draw real poppy flowers. I then challenged them to be creative and show a poppy in a certain style or mood – below you can see 'The Positive Poppy' and 'The Supporting Poppy'!







Read at Home for a Star

Reading Bear will spend time with:

Year 2 who had **20 out of 30** and
Year 6 who had **28 out of 32**

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

Attendance Bear

Well done to Reception and Y6 who both had

98%

attendance last week!

	STARS, ANGELS AND DIAMONDS
Reception	Gracie, Maisie T, Hunter
Year 1	Harlee, Theo M, Oakley
Year 2	Gracie-Lou, Isla, Teddy B
Year 3	Mabel, Caspar, All of Year 3
Year 4	Lochlan, Eve, Summer
Year 5	Luke, Archie, Emily
Year 6	Hazel, Oscar, Matilda

Best wishes

Chris Ashman