

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Seasonal Celebrations – A Principal's view



Welcome to Bulletin 6



Over recent weeks, it has become very evident to many parents, pupils, and staff that this term has been one of the longest that many of us can remember. A 14-week term is a first for many children, and our youngest children have had to quickly grow their learning stamina to 'keep going' to the very end of term. However, all our children have done brilliantly and have continued to throw themselves into their curriculum studies, as well as the seasonal celebrations that have been running over the past three weeks or so.



We were thrilled to see so many parents, wider relations and carers attend our classroom Arts and Crafts afternoon at the beginning of the month. Across all classrooms, over 240 visitors participated in the session, highlighting the supportive partnership we are developing. The children were very excited to welcome family members into their learning spaces to work together, make decorations, show off some of their books, and discuss what a typical day in the classroom looks like. As a staff, we really appreciate you all taking the time to visit.

Since my arrival at the Academy in September 2022, I have felt it important to recognise and celebrate our pupil's achievements; this is very evident in our Friday celebration assemblies, where we award badges and certificates. In addition to this, an end-of-term special activity has already become a new tradition. Whilst at times expensive, it is very important that the children get to experience something new and exciting. This week, we continued the tradition and hosted a 'Glow in the Dark' Dodgeball Day, where 340 pupils experienced a new version of the already very popular curriculum team game, engaging with a coach who ensured the mayhem of playing a game in total darkness was a success. Many pupils have already requested that this becomes a weekly activity!

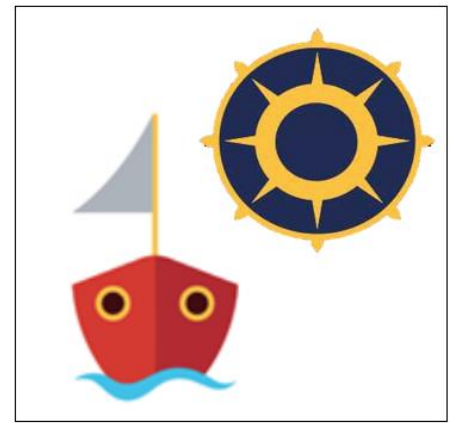
Our Christmas performances this year were a huge success! There were many hours spent learning lines and lyrics that had to be remembered for the day of the big performances! Once again, our parent community gathered and packed our halls, proving to be the perfect audience who cheered, clapped, laughed, and smiled. The children from our Nursery through to Year 4 were a delight, gaining confidence as they performed their lines and sang with their classmates. Amongst all those who took part, there are certainly some future stars in the making. We now look forward to seeing our Year 5 pupils, who will perform their Spring show in March '24, and our Year 6 cohort, who will present their end-of-year review in July '24.

The annual celebration disco was enjoyed by the children from Year 1 through to Year 6. The autumn term ended with some lovely class-based fun activities with pupils enjoying the relaxation of wearing their own clothes, with some taking full advantage of Christmas jumper day. To round off the festivities, both academies enjoyed a tasty Christmas lunch.

Merry Christmas to all of you and thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2023/24

Thursday 4th January '24

Spring Term begins for pupils

19th to 23rd February '24

Spring Half Term '24

27th March '24

End of Spring term '24

Our Academy Improvement Priorities for 2023/24

*Leadership within the Academy
secures sustained improvement in all
areas*

*Across the Academy, pupil outcomes
demonstrate a sustainable improving
trend*

*Improve teaching, learning and
assessment in order to secure good
and better rates of progress for all
pupils*

*Embed a high standard of personal
development, behaviour and welfare*

Welcome!!!



We are pleased to welcome both Mrs. Lawrence & Mr. Holden to our staff team. Mrs. Lawrence joins Year 3 as teaching assistant and comes to us with Pre-School experience and has two children in our Academies. Mr. Holden also takes up the role of a teaching assistant, in Year 5, and assists in the running of our All-Aboard after school provision.

We have a plan...

Earlier this term we were thrilled to hear that we have successfully secured £10,000 of funding from Thetford Education Foundation Trust, and a further £2,500 from the Brecks Fen Edge Rivers Landscape Partnership Scheme. In addition to this, £1,800 raised at last year's summer fete will all go towards our project to transform our disused playground area into a Breckland green scape. The project called 'Bringing the Brecks in' will see the children take ownership of the transformation, creating wildlife areas, therapeutic islands, dipping ponds, calm seating zones, a dry heathland area, high banks, and a shady woodland. Once created, the green scape will be accessible to 360 children, the parent community and academy staff. The first draft of the plan can be seen below.



Project mobilisation will begin when the weather allows through mid-January '24, with much of the groundwork being completed during February. It is envisaged that all protective fencing will be removed by 12th April '24 for an official opening, allowing all stakeholders to access this new, wonderful and natural space fully. Our children will be relieved and delighted to know that their beloved tyre track will remain in place!

If any parents out there feel that you have skills that may benefit the project then please do get in touch. We really do want to get the local community involved in this project, and we are obviously in the market for resources and would benefit from any organisations that can offer us soil, compost, sleepers, boulders, bark mulch, wildflower seeds, upright tall posts, and large felled trees.

Curriculum time

Year 6 Geography

This half term, Year 6 has been studying issues such as global warming, flooding and the impact of litter. As part of our Geography curriculum, we also have to consider how such issues can impact our local community.

We invited councillor Mac Macdonald to visit us and discuss the problems caused by litter in our local area. The children thoroughly enjoyed discussing these issues and are very knowledgeable about how they can be proactive in looking after our neighbourhoods.

The children asked if there was a way in which we could go out as a year group and take part in a litter pick. The teachers were thrilled that the pupils showed such enthusiasm that we, of course, had to make this happen. With the help of Mac and many of our staff, we spent some time working our way around the Admirals estate collecting several bags full of litter! Going forward, we are hoping this is something that our pro-active year group will continue - well done and thank you to Year 6!



Year 2 History

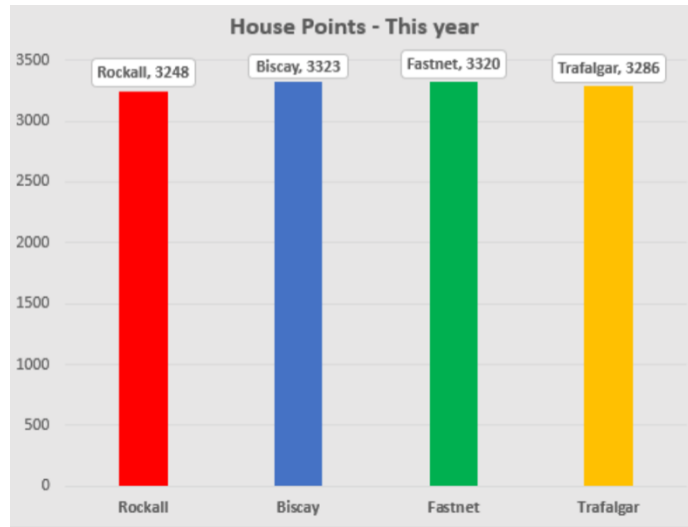
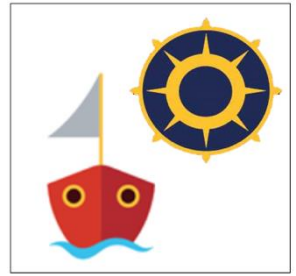
Towards the end of the term, our Year 2 pupils visited Norwich Castle to experience a day with the Romans and Iceni. During the visit, the children met a Roman soldier and learned about Roman armour and weapons. They could handle real and replica Roman objects and artefacts; they explored the life of Boudica, enjoyed the Romans gallery with a museum curator, and made their own torcs (Celtic necklaces) with an archaeologist.





House Points – The Grand totals after Autumn 2

Raleigh & Admirals



December Gallery

