

Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Welcome to Bulletin 8

Mrs Lund – A lifetime of dedicated service

After 25 years of dedicated service, Mrs Lund our beloved Academy Teaching Assistant has announced her retirement. Throughout her time spent working in Admirals Academy, and more recently Raleigh Academy, she has touched the lives of countless children and their families with her unwavering support, kindness, and compassionate approach.



It is true to say that numerous colleagues and pupils alike have benefitted from her nurturing care and guidance. As well as supporting with learning in the classroom, Mrs Lund has worked tirelessly in our 'All Aboard' Breakfast club, where she has ensured that children have been fed, and prepared for the school day ahead.



Mrs Lund has also been a strong supporter of our charitable events and fundraising activities. Over the years, she has helped raise significant sums of money that have either been donated or reinvested into supporting the education and development of our children.

Mrs Lund began her career in education at the neighbouring Redcastle Primary School before joining Admirals in February 1999. It is true to say that some of our current younger teachers and support staff hadn't even been born when Mrs Lund began her career defining journey at our Academies.



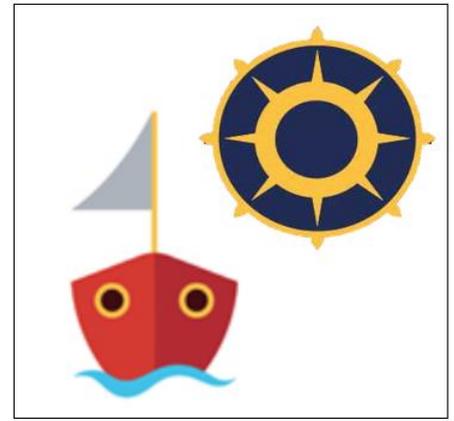
To show our appreciation and to bid her a fond farewell, the current staff of Raleigh and Admirals organised a surprise tea party on her last day where she enjoyed a fine spread of homemade treats, a dedicated Mrs Lund style quiz and received many gifts for her to enjoy.



Her absence will be keenly felt, and she will be greatly missed. As she embarks on this new chapter in her life, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

Thankyou Mrs Lund x

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 2023/24

Mon 27th to Fri 31st May

Summer Half Term '24

Friday 19th July '24

End of Summer Term '24

Wed 4th September '24

Autumn term '24 begins for pupils

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

Congratulations



We are thrilled to offer our congratulations to Mrs Pleszko on achieving her Diploma in Special Educational Needs teaching. Congratulations also goes to Mr Collins who has continued his studies to achieve the Level 5 diploma for the Early Years Senior Practitioner. It just goes to show that 'lifelong learning' for our adults supports the education and development of our children.



Curriculum Time...

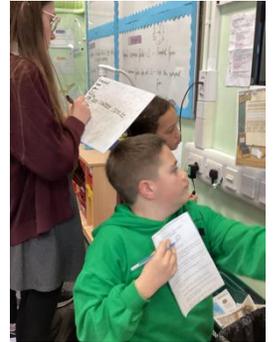


World War 2 - Escape Room Challenge

In our Year 6 History enrichment lesson on World War II, the children embarked on an exhilarating and exciting journey as war codebreakers, delving into the captivating world of cryptography in an attempt to understand Alan Turing's endeavours at Bletchley Park.

Whilst immersed in an 'escape room' challenge, the children were tasked with unravelling the intricate workings of the Enigma machine, a pivotal cryptographic device used by the Axis powers during the war.

Through teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, they deciphered complex codes, pieced together clues, and ultimately cracked the Enigma, experiencing first-hand the skills and perseverance during wartime secrecy.



Theatre Company Visit

Once again, M&M theatre productions visited our Academies, transforming our hall into a magical stage for their production of *The Hobbit*. The show was fantastic, recreating a comedy version of the classic children's novel by J.R.R. Tolkien. The children were totally mesmerised by the wonderful costumes and props... especially the spider and the dragon!





Curriculum time...

Roman Life in Year 4

Year 4 visited The Ancient House Museum to enrich their knowledge, skills and understanding of life as a Roman Soldier. We became part of a Roman Century in their army. Our Centurion was a tough leader barking orders at us in Latin. We learnt how to march and fight alongside our fellow legionaries. We felt grateful for our daily meals and knowing we would receive a piece of land upon our retirement made it all worth it.



In the footsteps of Thomas Paine



Our Academy was recently invited to visit the Thomas Paine Museum in Theford. A group of year 6 pupils were asked to evaluate the displays and tasked to see how suitable they were for primary-school aged children, before the museum fully opens to other schools. The children provided the museum with some valuable feedback. To show their gratitude, the museum provided the children with squash and cakes. Thank you to the owners of the Thomas Paine Hotel, Mr and Mrs Chetal, for their hospitality and for making the visit very special for our pupils.

Year 6 SATS preparation

Some of our year six children have been using Third Space Learning, an innovative online platform offering 1-to-1 mathematics tutoring. Each child follows a personalised program of study to build upon their knowledge and increase their confidence in mathematics. The fun learning environment is engaging, and the children use specialised headphones to talk with their tutor. This program has improved the children's confidence and is preparing them well for their SATs in May. Access to the Third Space Learning has been fully funded by Eastern Multi Academy Trust.



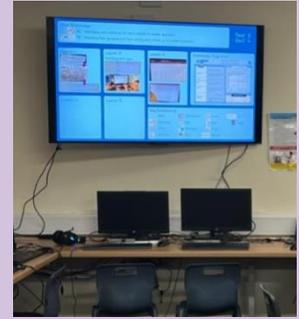
THIRD SPACE LEARNING

Our new Digital Learning Wall

In every classroom throughout both academies, the children have subject-specific learning walls to show the learning journey for the current unit of work and to provide a resource for new vocabulary and a reminder of prior knowledge.



Ten classes from Year 2 to Year 6 use our computer room during a working week, but we don't have the space for ten working walls. Instead, we have opted for a 21st-century solution befitting a computer room. We have invested in a large digital screen that can be instantly updated for each class with their working wall whenever they use the computer room.



Year 2 Science Investigation

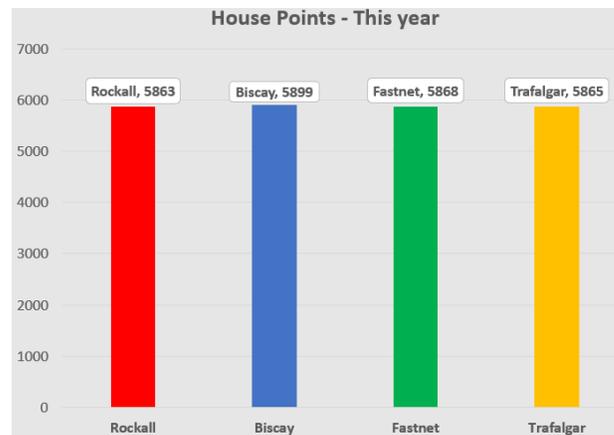
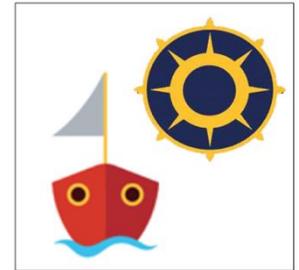
This half term, year 2 have been studying and investigating plants. The children had the opportunity to plant their own broad bean and cress seeds. They were able to observe the changes happening to their own plants over the term. It was fascinating to watch the growth of the different parts of the plant.



We became scientists and conducted a 'cress comparative test' which involved placing 4 cress pots in different conditions to investigate what is required for healthy plants to grow. We predicted, observed, recorded, and drew conclusions using our knowledge and findings. One of our highlights was during our cress observation and realising how smelly some of our cress pots had become – however, it was a slightly unpleasant experience for our noses!



House Points – The Grand totals after Spring 2



Growing and Changing in Reception class

As part of Reception's exploration of 'Growing and Changing' in PKC, they ventured to South Angle Farm. The children had a fantastic day growing their knowledge with so many memorable experiences, including holding, stroking and feeding a variety of different animals, as well as learning facts from a farmer guide along the way. They were even lucky enough to meet and bottle-feed some newly born lambs with our perfect spring timing! The children made us proud and were recognised at the farm for their amazing listening and learning skills.



Year 5 Poetry Presentation

Our Year 5 cohort were fabulous in our recent Poetry Presentation. The presentation included a range of poems. For example, Daffodils, by William Wordsworth, If, by Rudyard Kipling and a number of poems based on topics children have learned about during their reading and writing lessons. Throughout the performance, the children remembered their lines, actions and expression, making an enjoyable performance for the school community.



The year 5 children had a thrilling experience during their visit to Thetford Academy, where they were captivated by the Sixth Form performance of "Return to the Forbidden Planet". The show, set in a spaceship and based on the theme of space, featured acting, singing, and a live band. The children's enthusiasm was palpable, especially during the songs that they found particularly fascinating. The trip also included a space-themed drawing competition, where several Admirals Academy children were recognised for their drawing efforts. Our classes thoroughly enjoyed the theatre show and are already eager for a return visit!

Beach Field Trip for Year 1



Year 1 really enjoyed a trip to the beach this half term! The trip complemented their Primary Knowledge Curriculum unit in Geography, learning specifically about the UK and different landscapes. Fortunately, the sun shone brightly when the children arrived in Wells. They had a lot of fun exploring the beach, looking for natural treasures to make some natural art. We learnt a lot about Wells and its landscape. We also ventured into the pinewoods to participate in team-building games. Year 1 was fabulous, and all day, they demonstrated the academy's values, being complimented many times for their exemplary behaviour.



Well done year 1. We are very proud of you!

We are Vikings!!!

On the last day of term, year 3 took part in some team-building games when they were surprised by two Viking visitors. Over the half term, the children had been learning about Viking life and where they had settled. The Viking visitors brought the children's curriculum studies alive as they shared some local stories and answered many of the children's questions. They were dressed in Viking costumes and ensured that the children could visualize life as when the Vikings settled in Britain after the first invasion of 793 CE.



History Club: Mosaic Project



As part of the Heritage Heroes Scheme, Amber Pullen (Heritage Education Officer) has been working with our children who took part in the Academy History Club. The pupils have been working hard to create a Mosaic of Convict Couple Holmes and Kable that will be laid on the floor of the Guildhall alongside three other mosaics of historical figures completed by other Thetford Schools.

The students began the project with a workshop with local artist Mark Harper, who taught them the techniques needed to complete the mosaic designs' watercolour painting. Following this, they worked with Amber to design drafts before moving on to the final piece. The final pieces will be laid on the floor of the Guildhall in the summer and the students will be invited to an unveiling to view their work. They just have the last finishing touches of the border to complete at the start of next term. I have been really impressed with the focus and care that the students have taken and the effort they have put in is clearly reflected in the high level of work they have created.

Since the Guildhall project started in 2021, the Heritage team has worked closely with Admirals and Raleigh Academies on a variety of projects, and our education packs teach about the local history of Thetford. We are looking forward to continuing to work closely together on future projects, bringing Thetford's rich history to life.



A Sporting Spring term



Over the last half term, we have been extremely busy participating in several sporting events and competitions. Some of our Year 3 and 4 children participated in a Football and Netball engagement event to encourage sports participation,

followed by a competition event involving other Thetford schools. The children showed skill and excellent teamwork to engage in what was an excellent event for our pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our entire year 5 cohort also enjoyed a morning of Tag Rugby, Multi-sports and Rounders, which Sports Leaders from Thetford Academy ran. The children all participated with resilience and eagerness as they



learnt new skills with support from older children and different teachers.

In all of the events, our children were recognised for their passion for sport and for their kind and respectful behaviour towards their peers and other participants. Well done to all who took part.

