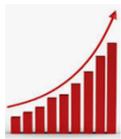


Raleigh & Admirals Academies

Celebrations & Farewells – A Principal's view

The summer holidays are here, and it's time to reflect on the final half-term and celebrate the many events and achievements that have kept our children so busy.

Alongside the joyous celebrations that mark the end of the academic year, we've also taken time to review pupil outcomes, particularly our statutory results in Phonics (Year 1), Key Stage 1 (Year 2), and Key Stage 2 (Year 6). I'm pleased to report that our upward trajectory in reportable performance has continued. This year, our Year 2 scores in Reading, Writing and Maths exceeded the national average, and our KS2 results – along with our Phonics outcomes – are now in line with national averages. Congratulations to all the children, staff, and parents who have worked so hard and supported the process so successfully.



As always, we must take a moment to say a heartfelt farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils, who now begin the next exciting phase of their educational journey. This year, our children will move on to Thefford Academy and Old Buckenham High School. They have been outstanding ambassadors for our Academies, embracing their responsibilities at the top of the school with integrity, maturity, and pride. They have truly demonstrated our ARK values, and I want to personally thank each and every one of them for their positive contributions.



We also say goodbye to two highly valued members of staff who are retiring after many years of dedicated service. **Mrs Howell**, who has been a teaching assistant at Raleigh Academy for over 12 years, has seen the Academy evolve greatly and has made a lasting impact on so many children and their families. We thank her deeply for her commitment

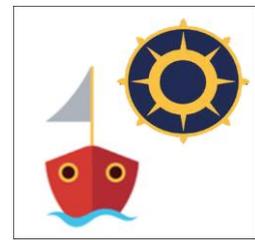
and contribution. **Mr King** is also retiring, having worked with the current team for the past three years. Remarkably, Admirals was both the first and final stop in his teaching career, which began here some 25 years ago. Mr King is an exceptional teacher and will be greatly missed by all who have had the pleasure of working and learning alongside him. We wish him a very happy and well-deserved retirement.



As previously communicated, **Mr Harris** has now begun his new interim role as Acting Principal at Upwell Academy, part of the EMAT family of Academies. This position will span of the next academic year. While we will continue to work closely with Mr Harris, I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing him the very best in this new chapter. We also say a temporary farewell to **Mrs Corbyn** who this week begins her maternity leave. We wish her and her family every happiness on her impending news and arrival.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy, safe, and relaxing summer break. Thank you for the continued support that so many of you have shown to the Academy throughout the year – it is always appreciated. Have a wonderful holiday, everyone. Warm regards,

Greg Sadler, Executive Principal



Upcoming Term Dates 25/26

Wednesday 3rd Sept '25

Autumn term '25/26 begins

Mon 27th – Fri 31st Oct '25

Autumn half term

Friday 19th December '25

Autumn term ends

Tuesday 6th January '26

Spring term '26 begins

Year 6 Cricket Success



After convincingly topping our group in the qualifiers against local schools in the area, our year 6 mixed cricket team was invited to attend the Norfolk County Cricket Final along with 15 other teams from all around the county. After being placed in an extremely tough group - which contained the overall winners of the competition - we unfortunately did not progress to the quarter final. We were however entered into the Plate competition, where we convincingly won our quarter final fixture. The team's talent was on show once again in the semi-final with some very impressive batting, bowling and fielding on display. In the final, we met a team who had previously beaten us in our group stage by a big margin - we knew it was going to be a big ask to beat this formidable opponent. This time however, the team managed to implement their tactics perfectly. After a confident display with the bat leading to many boundaries and superb delivery of the ball whilst bowling, we won a very closely contested final by 11 runs. We are very proud to announce that our triumphant year 6 team returned to school with their medals as Norfolk Plate champions.

Curriculum Time

History & Writing with Reception



Reception have loved their final learning theme this half term, exploring 'Stories from the Past'. The children have enjoyed a range of experiences to help embed their new knowledge. Some of our highlights have included exploring a range of

crime scenes when exploring fairytales, re-enacting 'Prometheus and the Fire' as well as sculpting our own Greek Gods when exploring Greek Myths, and toasting marshmallows around a 'campfire' while exploring West African Folktales! This growing knowledge of stories from around the world and across history, our embedded love of books from across Reception, has inspired us. We have written our own stories, created puppet shows, acted out performances, and more! We are amazing storytellers in the making!



History with Year 1

In History this half term our Year 1's have been learning about parliament and Prime Ministers. The children have really enjoyed this topic. We have held votes and elections and made our classroom into a real parliament! We created our own parties and held a very important vote- 'What will our end of year treat be?' It was a very tight contest and blue party won with a staggering 15 votes. Blue party convinced us the best treat would be to watch a film with our teddy bears. It was good for the children to see democracy in action. Every vote made a difference, and it was great for them to see every voice matters.



Year 2 'Weird Science'

This half term year 2 had a fantastic time on their recent trip to the Exploring Science



Amusement Lab in Norwich. The children explored three exciting rooms filled with lots of opportunities to discover and learn through play. They were able to explore chemistry, physics, astronomy, and the human body through hands-on testing and interactive experiments.

It was an incredible opportunity to see science in action and deepen their understanding in a fun and engaging environment. The adventure continued in the captivating Lights Room, which included the magnificent space-time tunnel, a challenging mirror maze, titled room and laser maze. It was an unforgettable, fun-filled day full of discovery for both the children and adults!

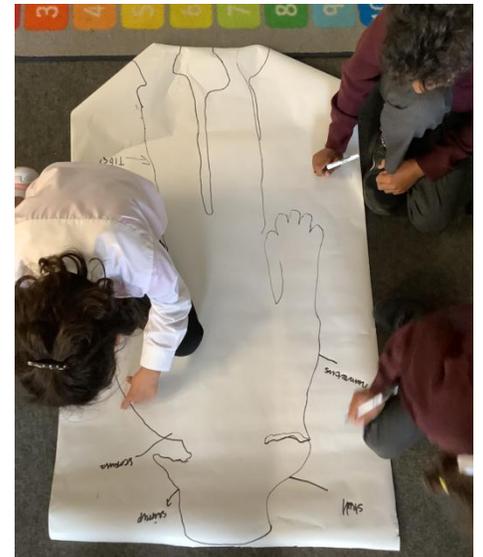


Year 3 Design Technology

This half term year 3 have been extremely busy with a variety of learning taking place. In DT the children explored different cutting techniques to create their own pasta bake, as well as developing kneading skills to make their own bread and butter. It was delicious! The children even tasted and evaluated the flavours, with Mr Sadler also coming to taste the impressive dishes made by Year 3.



The children have also been getting creative in other lessons such as Science, where children have been learning about the human body and have been investigating the body processes that take place to allow us to function each day. In PE lessons we have been lucky enough to take part in Cricket lead sessions with Norfolk country cricket coaches, and we have shown a real skill and passion for this team sport. It has been a jam-packed term but a fantastic finish to what has been a fun-filled year of learning.



Year 4 Design Technology

This half term, Year 4 have truly embraced their creative sides! They've been busy designing some fabulous Binka fabric bookmarks and trying their hands at cross stitching. It's been brilliant to see their imaginations come to life! In addition to this, they've been hard at work in Design Technology, designing and crafting moving miniature playgrounds which including gears and simple circuits to bring them to life.



Tae Kwon-Do World Championship Scotland 2025 – Luke Meth (Year 6)

Tae Kwon-do has been my passion for four years now. When I started taekwondo as a white belt, I felt nervous and didn't know much. However, I kept practicing and listening to my instructors. Each time I earned a new belt, yellow, green, blue-I felt proud and excited. Some moves and patterns were hard, but I never gave up. Reaching my red belt was a milestone, marking how close I am now to my aspired black belt. In order to qualify for the upcoming world championships, I had to compete in four competitions. With each competition, I gained confidence and experience which prepared me for the big event.



The 2025 Taekwondo World Championships took place in Glasgow, Scotland on the 19/20th of July. I travelled with my family for many hours to get there. There was representation from 18 countries at the World championships; Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Northern Ireland, Norway, Poland, The Republic of Ireland, St Martin, Switzerland, Spain, Ukraine, USA, Wales and of course Scotland. The opening ceremony was breathtaking to watch and even more to experience from the line up as a competitor. There were many audiences to support their countries and families. I felt extreme pride as I came and fought for England, for Norfolk and for Thetford. At the same time I was very thankful towards my parents for the support and opportunity they gave me.

My first event in the competition was to present my red belt pattern (Hwa Rang) to the judges who watched closely and scored it. I was very nervous but confident that I can complete my pattern as I have been preparing and working my heart out for this for last few months. I have managed to fully complete my pattern although the pressure of my country, family and judges was immense, I pushed through. Even though I didn't win a medal, taking part was my biggest reward. The second event in this competition was sparring (fighting). My category was boys, red belt ,11-14 years, light weight (meaning 152 cm max). I had just scraped under the limit during the measurements. My next category will be middle weight with the pace of my growth. In total I had three fights in which two I won, but sadly victory was lost during the third fight. When I had won each time, I felt proud and powerful and I thought, "This is the day I've been waiting for,". Unfortunately, the next two minutes showed me how wrong I was, as in the end I had placed fifth out of approximately thirty other competitors that were in my category. I didn't get a medal this time, but it was the closest I have ever been, so it stung a little not to get one, but it was the effort and progress that still counts, and I feel extremely proud that I came this far in my journey, and I know that this is only the beginning of something big.



Luke, congratulations on this remarkable achievement.

Year 5 Geography – visit to Wicken Fen

Year 5 had an enjoyable day at Wicken Fen recently as part of their Geography unit, East Anglia, Yorkshire and the Midlands. Following lessons about how the Fens were drained in the seventeenth century for farming, the children explored the historic Fen Cottage and learnt about the Fen Tigers. They investigated the tools that local people used in the past to



catch eels and dig peat. The children also spent time connecting with nature by listening to the wildlife and looking carefully at the array of colours that can be found in the wild.



Fete Success !!

Once again, our annual fete was blessed with glorious sunshine and proved to be another huge success. Held at the end of the summer term on the Admirals playground all of our stall holders made huge efforts to provide customers with interesting items and fun activities. Organisers, and Academy Councillors, Sharon Azzopardi and Wayne Thomson reported that a total of **£1130** was raised which will support many different aspects of our children's education. Thank you to all those parents and carers who visited the Fete and spent their hard-earned cash !!! It is very much appreciated.



Careers

We have had a really exciting start on our journey into career related learning in school. Not only do the children enjoy watching the weekly Job of the Week film, but all years have had visits from people about their jobs. We would like to thank; Breckland Council, along with Warren



Services, Baxter Pharmaceuticals, Azzotech Ltd, Forestry England and Jon Wright from BBC Suffolk for taking the time to come into school throughout the year to speak to, and hopefully inspire, all the children.

Sports Day 2025

Our annual sports day event took place with every child taking part in sprints, traditional races and field events to score for their house! The overall scores were extremely close



between 1st to 4th place. However, there can only be one winner, and Trafalgar came away victorious for this year. Our Sports day event has becoming increasingly

popular and is always enjoyed by the children, but it was brilliant to have so many parents, staff and Theford Academy students cheering and encouraging each other on throughout an extremely successful day of competitive sport.



Year 6 Residential trip and Activity Days



Year 6 had the opportunity to attend the annual residential at the Norfolk Lakes - Manor Adventures Centre, Norwich. Our children enjoyed a range of activities including archery, axe throwing, darts, climbing wall, kayaking and roasting marshmallows on the campfire. The highlights of the trip included dangerously kayaking under a low bridge, Mrs Winney falling in the lake and losing her shoes, playing UNO with, and beating the teachers, being allowed to eat mountains of sweets and climbing all the way to the top of the steep climbing wall.

Back at base camp Admirals, two days of fun activities were also planned. The children These children engaged in some



cooking with Chef Monk, where they made yummy pizzas and brownies, which they then enjoyed in a picnic. They also had a drum session with Mr Horgan, who taught them some cool rhythms, as well as taking part in activities, such as axe throwing, archery and fire building with a visiting expert from Outdoor Explore.

We felt that this was a lovely way to end what has been a fantastic school year for both staff and students. Thank you to the parents who contributed towards the success of the trip and the activities. We really do appreciate it!



