

# Reception Newsletter



## Spring 1

### Dear Families,

This term we will be starting our new theme Stories, Rhymes and Morals. Through this theme, children will learn about the world through a range of stories, they will unpick the difference between fiction and non-fiction and start to explore what can be learned through the power of stories. This will include learning about the past, present and lives of others. The children will be reading and listening to a range of traditional tales and rhymes, including those from different cultures.

As a focus within this theme, children will investigate a variety of ways to tell stories through use of pictures, oral retelling and role play. Children will also have the opportunity to design, make and use their own puppets in story telling.

We will also have a focus on morals and rules. Children will continue to learn how to work alongside their peers respectfully and ensure they are demonstrating the school values.

Our class focus story will be The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Andersen. This will support us in finding out more about the author that Andersen class is named after.

Our model text this half term is Billy Goats Gruff; this is the text we will need to learn fluently. This will be taught through the use of story maps and actions.

To enhance our learning, we will be walking into Thetford town to visit our local Library.



## Curriculum Theme: Stories, Rhymes and morals

### Literacy:

- \*Plot: Defeating a monster.
- \*Information: Trolls
- \*Writing simple sentences

### Maths:

- \*Counting and cardinality
- \*Composition
- \*Spatial reasoning

### DT:

- \*Puppets and pop ups

### PE:

- \*Strength balance and coordination
- \*Ball skills

### Understanding the world:

- \*Using and drawing simple maps
- \*making comparisons between continents & countries
- \*investigating Seasons and the changes around us.
- \*Hibernation, adaptations and animals around the world.

## School Value

This half term, our value focus is aspiration. We will champion the belief that everyone can become happy and productive citizens, and will encourage all to dream big and achieve great things.

## P.E

This half term we will continue with PE on Monday afternoons. The children need to come into school on this day wearing their PE kit:

- Coloured P.E t-shirt with Drake Primary School badge
- Black shorts/ jogging trousers
- Plain black plimsolls/ trainers
- Grey or white ankle socks

## Forest School

Forest school will continue for Andersen Class on a Tuesday and Attenborough Class on a Thursday. This will start on the week beginning 7th January. Please come prepared for cold and wet weather. We will go outside whatever the weather.

## Home Learning

We will continue practising how to say and write sounds in school. Letters and sounds will continue to be sent home and videos will be added to Tapestry. These should be practised at home with your child.

Your child will continue to bring a library book home from school. Please read with your child as often as possible and record this in the school reading diaries. Children will receive a star in their diary every Monday if they have read at least 7 times.

### Suggested reading

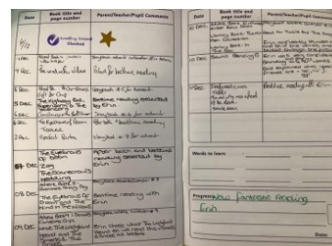
Any traditional tales and rhymes. Please share them with us.  
Information books.

### Suggested websites

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

## Reading Diaries

Reading is a fundamental part of our school. Children must read every day, this supports learning across the curriculum. The reading diary should be completed every time the children read, go through their sounds, have a story read to them etc. A new double page is started every Monday.  
Star example:



## Important Dates

**4th Jan:** Return to school  
**15th Jan:** Zones of regulation cafe  
**18th Jan:** Reception Parent Café—Online Safety  
**18th Jan:** Norwich Puppet Theatre visitor  
**19th—23rd Feb:** Half Term  
**26th Feb:** Return to School  
**8th March** - Educational Visit: Ancient House Museum  
**14th March** - Attenborough Class Assembly  
**14th March** - Andersen Class Assembly

## A look at our learning so far...

Look at our school website to find out more about some of our learning

Reception learning



School radio podcasts



Secret Student



## School Councils

Throughout the Autumn term the school council has been focusing on supporting others in our community and fundraising. We have collected and delivered donations for the local food bank. We then worked hard to plan a fundraising event for Children in Need and raised £1866. In Spring we will be doing a project linked to school values and behaviour.

## Behaviour

In school, we earn merits for demonstrating our learning powers, positive behaviours and outstanding effort and achievement.

We can also earn a class marble when we work well as a class to achieve something.

Secret students are picked randomly daily. The class staff will observe the secret student throughout the day. When the secret student has made good choices throughout the day. We share these on our school website.

**Reception's total merits so far this year is 7156**  
**Total class marbles stand at 150**

To see the secret students for last half term, visit <https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/reception-secret-student-1/>

## Attendance

The attendance expectation at Drake Primary School is 100%.

We look forward to working together to ensure high attendance across the year.

**Andersen attendance is 97%**  
**Attenborough attendance is 97%**

## Pupil voice

I have been learning to tell stories with actions. I can remember lots of different stories.

I have started to read books by myself. I like reading and hunting for different sounds.

## Safeguarding Notice

We have been made aware of the increase of vaping in children and would like families to be aware of the risks. These risks may also affect children who access vapes left around or found.

School is a non-smoking and non-vaping site. Please ensure that you do not use vapes whilst on school grounds.



Information links

[NHS—Young people and vaping](#)

[Kidshealth—e-cigarettes](#)

The website is a fantastic window into learning at our school. Reception information including photos, curriculum and timetables can be found at :

<https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/2023-2024-1/>

If you have any questions about the classroom or any other school related issue, please do not hesitate to email the school office:, we will either email you or arrange a time to call you.

Mrs Claydon-Kerslake and Mrs Goff

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