

Drake Primary School Newsletter



8th March 2024

Dear Families,

On Monday, gardening club walked to the cemetery and met David and Katie from the council. They explored the habitats in the cemetery and made bird feeders for the wildlife that lives there. As part of the 'Million Trees for Norfolk' project they planted two cherry trees to increase ecological diversity. Not only were our pupils able to contribute to the local community but also see how our school projects linking to biodiversity extend beyond Drake as a local and national initiative.

We celebrated World Book Day this Thursday. Children and staff dressed up as their favourite book character. Throughout the week, classes took part in various book related activities, this included: 'Bringing books to life dance workshops', drinking chocolate and eating biscuits while listening to stories, making cross stitch bookmarks and learning about a range of authors. A lovely book themed week enjoyed by all.

On Friday, the Reception classes went to Ancient House Museum for a Fairytales morning. They met Postwoman Pat who had lost her sack of post. Other characters joined her and explained that they also had things which had gone missing. The children spent time with the different characters, learning about fairytales and completed activities. At the end of each activity, they received a code word, which, when put together made a sentence for a spell. The spell returned the missing post sack and all the items. The children were 'impeccably' behaved and a brilliant representatives for the school. A great time was had by everyone.



Last week was National offer day for our Year 6 pupils. We have been in touch with destination schools who will be sharing information about information evenings and transition events soon.



Tree Planting

Every Day Matters

It is a statutory requirement for children to attend school every day.

The classes with highest attendance this week are

Tabei and Maathai

100 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
96.89%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Edith-Rose, Charlie, Henry G Ava, Henry D, Matilda, Olivia W, Dylan, Olivia G

Year 1: Ralph, Aria, Athena, Charlie, Eilidh, Emily, Conroy, Molly, Albert

Year 2: Oliver, Matas Charlie, Jude, Adam, Freddie, Millie, Bella

Year 3: Elizabeth, Jaxon, George B, Sophie, Ava, Billy, Isabella, Petra, Caleb

Year 4: Myles, Spencer D, Leya-Mae, Oliver, Ryan, Noah B, Florence, Seren

Year 5: Mason, Alicia, Eva, Ida, Maja, Jensen, Kiko, Shona and Ishani

Year 6: Alfie C, Toby, Nathan, Leonie, Martha, Lily C, Lena, Max

These pupils have demonstrated our school values and learning behaviours, well done.

Parent Assemblies and Cafes

On Tuesday, Year 1 presented their assembly to their families and Year 2. During the assembly, the children talked about our values of courage and love and shared their recipes of courage that we wrote during our Values Day sessions. The children also shared their learning across the curriculum. This included: A performance of our recount "Baby Bear", reading our finding and loosing tales, talking about the Spring Festivals we have been learning about in RE and the history of our class names. The children also showed their mini beasts collages from our art work and talked about their experiences of forest school.

On Thursday, Year 6 held a parent cafe to explore our revised online safety rules. The children and parents were thinking 'smart' when it came to online safety, while exploring emails that are phishing for information. The children explored the given material for clues to determine what is safe and what is not, when it comes to using emails, to ensure they keep safe online. Well led Mr Fox and thank you to all of the parents that attended.



Next week: Tuesday Tereshkova assembly in the main hall
Thursday Andersen assembly in the main hall

Prefect Update

This week, it has been World book day. Many children and adults dressed up or brought in props; everybody looked amazing.



On Thursday, the Year 6's had a parent cafe about online safety. It is very important to make sure you follow the online safety rules - SMART.

Today was National Women's day to celebrate women because women have to be incredibly hard working to achieve their goals. Though luckily, things are fairer now than they used to be but women are still paid less than men.

Merian and Rashford had a class assembly.

Reading

It is important that children read every day. On a Monday, reading diaries are checked and teachers award gold stars for children who have read more than 7 times.

This week 250 children read more than 7 times and achieved their gold star.

This week's award is to:

Turing

Daily run

To support Mental and physical health and well-being, children run every day. We have a weekly distance competition.

This week's award is to:

KS1: Earhart
KS2: Turing

Curriculum Update: Phonics

At Drake Primary School we believe that reading is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum. To this end, we make sure that all children are given daily access to quality phonics teaching from Reception onwards. At Drake Primary School phonics and early reading is taught using the structure of our systematic synthetic scheme Read Write Inc (RWInc).



Children begin by learning the sound each individual letter makes and progress onto identifying the sound a combination of letters make. Children learn to recognise 40+ sounds and to read them effortlessly. The last and also vital skill, is to blend the phonemes (sounds) to create a word. Phonic skills are a necessity throughout a child's school life, assisting them to discover new words, and go on to read any kind of text fluently with the upmost confidence. Activities such as comprehension questions, partner discussion and spelling / writing activities are part of Phonics sessions.

Children are assessed every 6 weeks and they are grouped for their Phonics sessions by their abilities. In June, Year 1 children take a national Phonics Screening Check test which assesses how well the children are able to use their phonics knowledge to read 40 words.

Feature Podcast

Our children contribute to school life and the children's learning through our Drake Radio. You can listen live [here](#).

Have a listen to a feature podcast: [World Book Day](#)

All podcasts are available on the [video centre section of the school website](#).

Dates for your Diary

All scheduled events for classes/year groups are included in year group newsletters and added to the [year group pages](#).

We aim to provide as much notice as possible for school events, but there are sometimes opportunities that arrive at short notice. As new whole school events are created, we will list them here and then add them to the [school website calendar](#) for future reference.

Spring Term dates

11th—15th March: British Science Week
20th March: Prostrike event
26th March: INSET day - school closed
28th March: Last day of Term - 1pm finish

16th April: National offer day for Primary School places

MALLARDS

Our MALLARDS are busy planning events to take place for the rest of this academic year. We are growing and taking on new members to help us to fundraise and support the school.

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