

Drake Primary School Newsletter

16th February 2024



Drake Rugby Team

Dear Families,



On Monday some year 3's and 4's had visited Thetford Academy for a dance workshop. We were joined with other primary schools in the Thetford area and came together to create a dance routine. They learnt some key dance moves and had the opportunity to choreograph their own movements. They even learnt some break dancing skills!

This week Drake attended a cluster sport rugby competition. We competed against 5 other schools from Thetford. The children had a phenomenal time. During the tournament Drake won all of their matches scoring over 25 tries and conceding 0. It was a tactical master class of pressing the ball and then finding team mates in space. An elite performance by every child on the supporting the children. Mr Cooper delivers our after school rugby club and it was great to have him accompany the team and see their success.

This week saw further developments in the Mosaic project that the school is undertaking in partnership with the Guildhall under the supervision of Education Officer, Amber Pullen. In the sessions this week, the children painted the draft copy of the school design. The next step is to create the final design. All the children selected for this, worked very hard and meticulously on this project.

This week we said goodbye to another of our teacher trainees, Mrs Szymanska who is returning to her main placement school after half term.

We wish you all a happy half term break, see you back on 26th February.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is

Maathai

99 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
91.41%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Ella, Marin, Oliver L, Quinn, Sophia, Eli, Adam, Matilda, Armandas

Year 1: Bonnie, Isabelle, Harry, Charlie, Winnie, Piper, Harley, Olivia, Kamaari

Year 2: Benny, Darta, Natalia, Harrison, Charlie D, Milena, Matas, Finn

Year 3: Bella, Amelia Z, Francesca, Jackson, Igor, Bentley, Sem, Bella, Laura

Year 4: Amelia, Maddie, Katrina, Zayn, Jacob, Alfie, Florence, Charley, Domas

Year 5: Roman, Hope, Isla, Lily, Andrew, Adriana, Noah, Jakub, Harry, Damianas

Year 6: Caspian, Scarlett, Alisha, Nathan, Leonie, Lena, Oscar, Dylan

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

Parent Assemblies

On Tuesday, Turing Class presented their Spring assembly this week to their parents. The children enthusiastically talked about their compositional drawing project, their programming skills in computing and what they had learned about the sacred texts in RE. In addition to this they confidently shared some of their writing that had been developed from the class text 'Adventure at Sandy Cove'.



On Thursday, Maathai had their class assembly. They were fantastic from start to finish. The children really enjoyed showcasing their work from this term. Children shared: English, maths, art and geography work. Throughout the assembly, the children were: loud, clear and confident. At the end of the assembly the children sang beautifully.

Next cafe: Thursday 29th February Year 3 cafe in the main hall

Prefect Update



We hope everyone has a good half term.

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 206 children read more than 7 times and achieved their gold star.

This week's award is to:

Maathai and Kamkwamba

Daily run

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

This week's award is to:

KS1: Merian

KS2: Maathai

Curriculum Update: Science



Science is divided into Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. At the beginning of every science unit, we co-create a spider diagram to elicit children's prior understanding. We can then support further knowledge development and address misconceptions.

We develop children's scientific vocabulary by teaching new words with pictures and actions to make the definitions memorable. Alongside new vocabulary, we ask three questions at the start of every science lesson to help remember learning from last week, last term and last year. This refreshes scientific knowledge and ensures key concepts are revisited regularly. Scientific knowledge is taught alongside practical experiments. We have been working hard on children's understanding by encouraging them to ask questions, make predictions, plan and perform experiments, record data, communicate their findings and evaluate their enquiries.

Our focus this year has been drawing out children's scientific thinking. This means we are encouraging children to explain their thinking, both verbally and in written form. We have started to make connections between the science curriculum and other curriculum areas. For example, the children are learning additional chemistry in D&T when exploring materials and also in geography, when exploring the water cycle.

We are looking forward to celebrating British Science Week in March with whole school STEM workshops and scientists from the John Innes Centre visiting. If you are in Norwich over half term, [Norwich Science Festival](#) is running and [Primary Science Teaching Trust](#) has lots of science activities to try at home!

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 podcast: [Harry's amazing flag knowledge](#)

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

MALLARDS

The children had a fantastic evening at their Valentines Disco. MALLARDS raised £292.50 for the school. At the next meeting, MALLARDS will be deciding how the funds will be used to support the school.

Thank you to all who helped make this such a successful event.

mallards9lrv@nsix.org.uk

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

27th and 28th February: Bring Books to Life workshops

4th - 8th March: World Book Week

w/c 11th March: Parents meetings

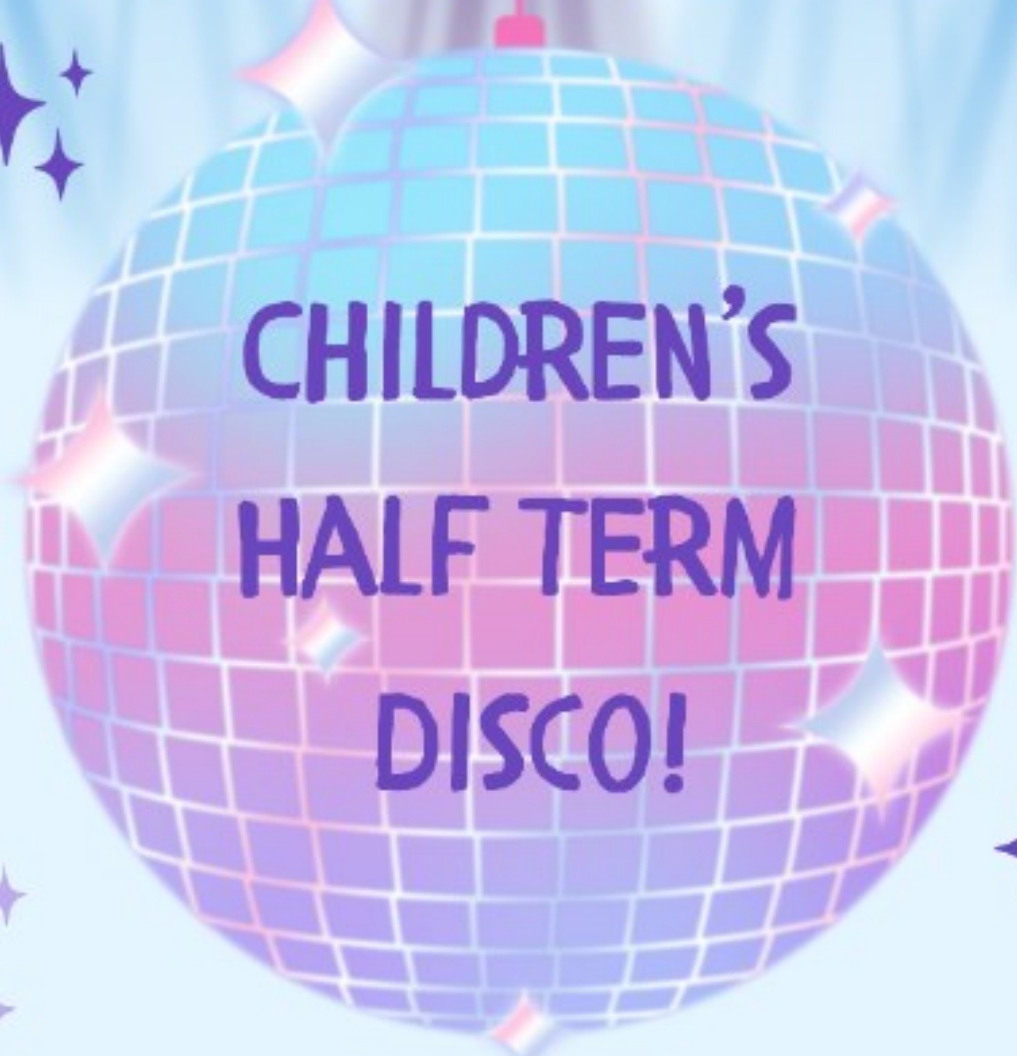
11th - 15th March: British Science Week

26th March: INSET day - school closed

28th March: Last day of Term - 1pm finish

TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

5-7PM THE CARNEGIE



**CHILDREN'S
HALF TERM
DISCO!**

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF DANCING GAMES AND FUN!

TICKETS £2 PER CHILD AND FREE FOR ACCOMPANYING ADULTS

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-carnegie-thetford/t-rpgxaxj>

