

Drake Primary School Newsletter

9th February 2024



Year 4 Art— sketching

Dear Families,

This week has been assessment week at school. The children in Years 2-5 undertook standardised assessments in English, maths and science so that teachers can assess their progress. Year 6 completed their last week. Reception and Year 1 assessment is more play and task based, but their progress has still been assessed. Information will be shared within parents meetings next half term.

Key Stage 1 have started their Create and Dance project with the Royal Opera House (ROH). This is part of the award-winning ROH National Schools Programme. It offers an inclusive approach to leading dance and storytelling that helps pupils develop creative collaboration, physical learning, spatial awareness and general health and well-being. The children will be using the ballet 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' as a stimulus with each class creating their own dance which will be shared in front of some of the ROH dancers at the Carnegie rooms in April.

We have said goodbye to our trainee teachers Miss Dunsmore and Miss Hawksworth today as they move on to their new placements after half term. We wish them well with the next part of their training.

We have shared an invitation this week for volunteers to support our school library. There are a range of volunteering opportunities within school and often, this can provide valuable experience for those looking for a career in school or other childcare settings. Opportunities can involve forest school, running club and reading with children. You might also have other ideas of a way that you can support the school. Please do get in touch and complete a volunteer application if you are interested.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is

Rashford

99 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
92.36%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Florence, Malakai, Pennie, Molly, Ivy, Freddie, Maddison, Matilda

Year 1: Noah, Zuzanna, Eliza, Blake, Tom, Matilde, Archibald, Amanda

Year 2: David, Pippa, Millie George, Milena George, Olivia

Year 3: Freddie, Ava, Ruth, Frank, Petra, Eloise, Virujan, George B, Olive

Year 4: Archie, Harry, Sophie, Theo, Miley, Noah T, Teddie S, Melaniia, Domas, Matilda

Year 5: Ruby, Leo, Maja, Dolce, Jack P, Jakub, Ella

Year 6: Emily, Caspian, Jack, Betsy, Amber, Eloise, Dylan R

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

Parent Assemblies and Cafes

This week, Kahlo created their class assembly to share with parents, Y3 and Y4. Each child had a speaking part and the children chose to speak about a variety of subjects. We heard about some children's aspirations from values day, how animals have adapted to polar climates through our work in Geography, variables in scratch project through computing, weird and wonderful animals and plants in science and the children shared a prayer and a song to close. The children wrote most of the script and were proud to share their hard work with others.



On Thursday, Year 1 had their Online Safety Parent Cafe led by Mr Fox. During the cafe, the children talked about the internet and created mindmaps about the different devices that would connect to the internet. The children showed fantastic knowledge of the different devices and some even drew lines to connect them all together to show how the devices and internet were interconnected. We then discussed about what information would be safe and unsafe to share online with others.



Next week: Tuesday Turing assembly in the main hall
Thursday Maathai in the main hall

Prefect Update

This week all years have had their assessments apart from year 6 who had theirs last week. Kahlo class had an experiment to see how quickly bread would mould. Year 6 received their test results; everyone has done extremely well.

Thursday was so rainy this week we had some years doing 'Jump Start Jonny' again.

Kahlo class had a class assembly and year 1 had a parent cafe.

Sadly Miss Hawksworth and Miss Dunsmore are leaving our school. Good luck in your next school.

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 244 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. The children have a weekly distance competition.

This week's award is to:

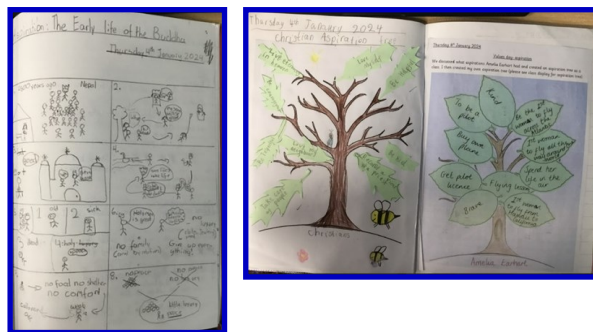
KS1: Earhart

KS2: Turing

Curriculum Update: RE

We continue to follow the Norfolk Agreed Syllabus for R.E. This stipulates that we spend the most time investigating Christianity, though our curriculum is planned to ensure children experience a wide coverage of other religions and worldviews throughout their time at Drake. For example, this half term, Year 2 have investigated the question, 'Why are there special places of worship?', exploring both Christianity and Judaism; Year 1 are exploring important Spring festivals in Christianity and Judaism across the term, and Year 4 have taken a multi-faith approach to exploring the role of sacred texts.

As a school, we are working hard to raise the profile of R.E. This has included changes such as dedicating more in-class assembly times to R.E teaching and creating explicit links to R.E through our half-termly 'Values Day'. For example, our focus value for Spring 1 has been 'Aspiration' - Year 2 looked at what Christians aspire to be like and Year 6 linked Aspiration to their learning about the early life of the Buddha.



We also continue to build links with St Cuthbert's Church, who hosted us for our Christmas carol service and have also welcomed visits from Year 3 in support of their learning about Advent, and most recently Year 5, who visited as part of their learning on how Christians express their faith.

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: [Mia's guide to cats](#)

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

16th Feb: Last day of Half term

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

MALLARDS

We have recently recovered some funds from our previous PTA—FAD charity. This money has funded books, resources and projects within the school.

Next Event:

Valentine Disco - 14th February

mallards91rv@nsix.org.uk

