

Drake Primary School Newsletter



26th January 2024



To the moon and back show

Dear Families,

This week, Year 1 have visited the Ancient House Museum. During the trip, we had an exciting opportunity to visit key places in Thetford such as the Thetford Priory and Button Island whilst considering the Heritage behind the places. Our main task was to apply our map skills to find the location of these places from the Museum and then find the famous people behind these places. The children were then provided with the opportunity to meet these people in character at the museum.

As part of their 'Movement' theme, Year 3 went on a local walk to see the confluence of the river Thet and the Little Ouse in town. The children drew some field sketches and thought about the journey of a river from source to mouth. They saw the effects of flooding in Button Island and looked for signs of erosion and deposition along the river bank.



On Thursday, KS1 and KS2 watched a science play called 'To the moon and back' by Ben Langley. The play was about a character called Tom who decided to build a rocket to fly to the moon - alongside his AI friend, Squiffy! We learnt about the Apollo mission to the moon and the physics of launching a rocket - the rocket needs to exceed 'escape velocity' (25 000 miles per hour) to escape Earth's gravity. Year 5 continued to work with Ben and took part in a science workshop, all about forces, Earth and space in line with their theme 'Beyond' and science unit of 'Space'.

This play is part of Norwich Science Festival - which runs in half term 17-24th February. Visitors to Norwich Science Festival can explore the wonders of the universe, discover cutting edge research, and meet local scientists. More details here: <https://norwichsciencefestival.co.uk/>

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is

Earhart

99 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
94.94%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Isabella, Ava-Rose, Vincent, Quinn, Edith-Rose, Ella, Amelia, Maisy

Year 1: Noah, Bonnie, Athena, Kian, Aria, George Re, carter, Thukan, Cayce, Conroy

Year 2: Adam, Isla, Harley, Christian, Charlie. E, Emilie B, Piper, Samuel J

Year 3: Amelie, Rachel, Max, Caleb, Phoebe, Georgia, Laura, Julian, Jaxon, Faye

Year 4: jane, Theo, Adna, Lucy, Amanda, Ryan, Matilda, Jacob, Sullivan

Year 5: Jack P, Jakub, Deighton, Bella, Jack B, Thomas, Amelija, Darragh

Year 6: Alisha, Liyana, Alfie C, Skyla, Kai, Ekaterina, Thomas, Henry

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

Parent Assemblies and Cafes

On Tuesday Kamkwamba class presented their class assembly on our school value - aspiration. They shared their thoughts about what is an aspiration and how this value links to William Kamkwamba's journey becoming an innovator and engineer. The children shared the facts from Kamkwamba's biography and what inspired him to achieve his goal. They highlighted that Kamkwamba proved that there is no age limit to achieve your goals. He was just 14 years old when he built a windmill from scrap metal and it produced electricity for his family home. From William Kamkwamba we learnt: not to give up, to stay curious and to keep learning, to take little steps towards your goal and to keep going even when nobody believes in you. The children also showed their artwork, oil pastel drawings of windmills and shared their own aspirations.



Next week: Tuesday: King assembly in the main hall
Thursday: Year 2 cafe

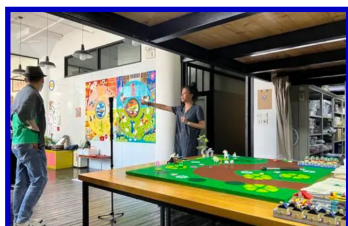
Prefect Update

This week, our Year 3s and 1s went on a trip. The Y3 children went to the river.

All the year groups have been competing against each other in Daily Mile. Our classes are getting better with improving their reading stars number over the past couple of weeks.

The whole school had a fun, interactive assembly based on science. This was called to the moon and back and it was very aspirational.

We have also been on a live Lyfta lesson this week, learning about a woman who uses Lego to create huge structures. There is a competition running to make Lego mandalas.



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

This week's award is to:

Maathai

Daily run

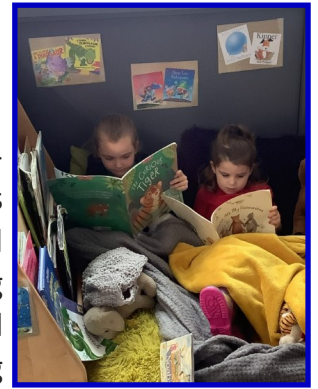
To support Mental and physical health and well-being, children run every day. KS2 have a weekly distance competition.

This week's award is to:

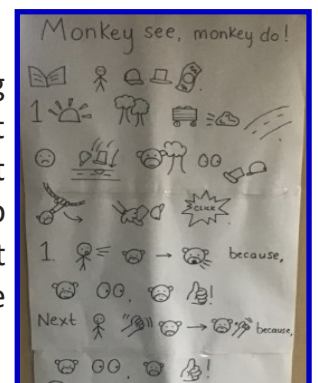
KS1: Earhart
KS2: Tereshkova

Curriculum Update: English

At Drake, reading continues to be the heart of our curriculum. Reading allows us to be transported from our world into another. Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. Our focus in reading is to engage in a book so that links can be made, connections developed and refined in the light of new information, gradually building and shaping a mental model.



We continue to use our new schemes (introduced last year) Talk for Writing and Talk for Reading. Our focus during writing is to orally learn a model text each half term. This enables a child to internalise a narrative pattern so that it is added to their linguistic repertoire. Children are then able to 'magpie' (re-use) learnt sentence structures within their own independent writing. Please look at your child's class page on our school website to see them re-telling their model text.



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: [Festival of Thetford and Punjab](#)

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

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.

Next Event: Valentine Disco - 14th February
Thank you to Tesco for recent donations to support this 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

16th Feb: Last day of Half term

1st March: National offer day for Secondary School places

4th—8th March: World Book Week

11th—15th March: British Science Week

26th March: INSET day - school closed

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