

Drake Primary School Newsletter



19th January 2024

Dear Families,

This week Little Pirates, Reception and Year 1 had an exciting visit from the Norwich Puppet Theatre who showed us a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. Children enjoyed being able to interact with the show and it was noted by the theatre staff how much of an encouraging audience they were. All of the children were very brave when Boris the giant made his appearance. Reception children will be extending their learning by using puppets as a form of story telling. Through Design and Technology, they will also be learning and trying different puppet making techniques.



KS1 and LKS2 watched the Olly Day Road Safety Magic Show! They enjoyed magic tricks alongside some important messages about road safety. They learnt how to 'Stop, Look, Listen and Think' when crossing roads, explored safe places to cross the road and thought about how to be seen in the dark. We can use hi-vis jackets and reflectors to be seen in the dark. We also learnt about the importance of always wearing a helmet when cycling on our bikes.



Following Tabei's visit last week, Earhart class visited King's House on Thursday. We learnt about the current and past mayors of Thetford, we sat around Thetford Town Councils meeting table and were able to say what changes we would make in Thetford, we learnt the importance of the mayoral chain and robes and then we had a surprise visit from our current mayor Stuart Wright.



Year 2 at King's House

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with highest attendance this week are

**Attenborough and
Kamkwamba**

100 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
95.9%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Cienna, Mila, Quinn, Freddie, Bonnie, Teddy, Adeline, Olivia W, Dylan

Year 1: Conroy, Freya, Cayce, Mabel, Julita, Jensen, Xavier, Charlie, Blake

Year 2: Ava, Piper, Aryan, Pippa, Freddie, Helen,

Year 3: Sam, Leo, Connor, Everlyn, Henry, Harry, Olive, Eloise, Vanesa, LC

Year 4: Tieragh, Harry, Jane, Maddie, Faustina, Domas, Lee, Polly

Year 5: Lily, Dolce, Maja, Gabriela, Igor, Harry

Year 6: Emily, Alfie, Scarlett, Millie S, Amber, Lucy

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

Parent Assemblies and Cafes

On Tuesday, Hadid class presented their assembly on our value, aspiration. Hadid class thought that aspiration is "a dream you are trying to accomplish and you never give up and you push your mind and body to do it." They explored Zaha Hadid and her aspirations. Zaha was a creative architect - she imagined new ways buildings could look and her designs were inspired by nature. Hadid class shared their personal aspirations for the future- these ranged from long term goals to be a midwife, a gymnast or a vet, to shorter term goals such as getting the next belt in Karate and being able to swim a length of the pool.



Children in Reception enjoyed welcoming their parents for our online safety cafe. They talked about when technology should be used and the rules surrounding this. After listening to the story 'Chicken Clicking', children worked with their parents to colour in a character and create a speech bubble with advice of how we can stay safe when online and using other devices.



Next week: Tuesday: Kamkwamba assembly in the main hall

Prefect Update

This week, it has been too icy to do daily mile so we had to decide what time to do it. We have still been doing our running and PE when its been safe.

Today we were doing a quiz in assembly; it was about newsround. Our year 6s have been doing SATs practices every Friday morning.

Every class has been practising their talk for writing story.



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:

Kamkwamba and Turing

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

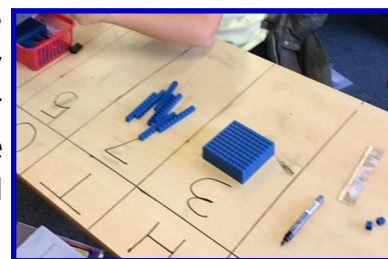
KS2: Curie

Curriculum Update: Maths

There has been lots going on in maths this year at Drake. Thank you to everyone who attended our maths Parent Cafés in the Autumn Term. These will have given you the opportunity to experience some of the maths, resources and manipulatives we use to teach maths in school.



At Drake, teachers focus on the children understanding concepts in maths rather than learning procedures. To support this learning, we have recently updated our calculation policy, which intricately links to the concrete, pictorial and abstract approach. Some of the methods the children use are different to the more 'traditional' methods most of us would have learnt when we were at school. Please avoid showing these to your children at home as this is more likely to create misconceptions in their understanding of number. Whilst it is significant life skill that children can calculate efficiently and accurately, it is also important, if not more important, that pupils are able to recognise the calculation(s) they need to solve a problem in real life situations. You can support your child at home with this. [NRICH \(University of Cambridge\)](#) have some great problems you can try and [National Numeracy](#) have ideas and advice to help create a positive attitude towards maths.



Feature Podcast

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

Have a watch of a video: [Earhart class—retelling our story](#)

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: Wold Book Week

11th—15th March: British Science Week

26th March: INSET day - school closed

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