

Drake Primary School Newsletter

8th December 2023



**Guildhall Mosaic Project—
Working with an artist**

Dear Families,

This week, school has been full of Christmas cheer starting with our annual 'Decoration Day' which involves all children making festive decorations for their classroom and Christmas tree. On Friday, we were joined by Father Christmas who helped Mrs Mulford judge the Christmas trees against specific criteria. Every class was very competitive this year, we will share the winners with the classes next week.



This week, we have also had the first of our Christmas performances showcasing singing and musicality. It was lovely to see the children having their time to shine for families who came to watch.

Our Christmas dinners have also taken place this week, lots of smiles all round with festive music playing in the background. The children helped to create some festive table cloths, hats and placemats making their Christmas lunches extra special. A big thank you to our Kitchen team and MSAs.

Thank you to MALLARDS for their efforts in organising the Christmas fayre and staff team who contributed with their classroom based activities. It was lovely to see so many of you there accessing our stalls and activities. We love to welcome families in to school and it gives you the opportunity to see inside the school, see work on display and be part of the school community. As always, thank you for your ongoing support to make these events memorable for your children.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week are

Tablei

97 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance
is 94.06%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Ava-Rose, Pennie, Darcey, Ahria, Amelia M, Quinn, Amelia P, Henry D

Year 1: Olivia, Tom, Thukan, Jack W, Kamaari, Laura, Teddy, Indie, Ralph, Scarlett

Year 2: Zahra, George, Oskar, Piper, Christian, Olly, Tommy, Freddie

Year 3: Poppie, Karina, Virujan, Julian, Anabelle, Della, Amelia L, Petra, Victor, Freddie

Year 4: Spencer D, Theo, Harry, Myles, Katrina, Domas, Sullivan, Ruby, Teddie M

Year 5: Dolcey, Valentina, Chloe, Isla, Dominik, Connie, Amelia, Shona, Noah

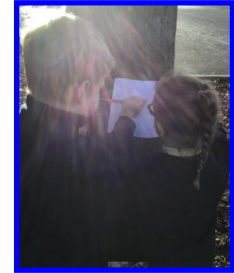
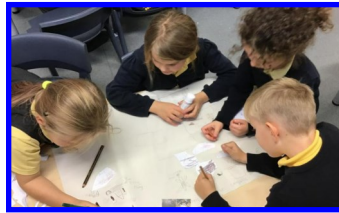
Year 6: Betsy, Scarlett, Martha, Nathan, Viktor, Dexter, Ayva, Isaac, Oscar, Lily

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

Cafes and Assemblies

On Tuesday, Tabei class led an amazing class assembly. They shared all of the great work they have been doing so far in Year 2 with their families. We shared our model text 'How to look after a pet unicorn' with the actions we have learnt. We also spoke about how our theme 'Explore' has been used throughout our curriculum, from making messy maps in Geography to exploring how our body grows and changes as we get older. We shared our recent Science experiment where we built houses made of different materials and the big bad wolf (the hairdryer) tried to blow them down. The class shared that the winning house was the ones made out of Lego. We ended the assembly by showcasing one of our favourite songs from the nativity performance that we have been working hard on. It was so lovely to see so many of our families watch and support. Well done Tabei class.

Some of the work that we shared



Prefect Update

This week we have had a decoration day where we made decorations for our class Christmas trees on Monday.

Year 4, 5 and one of the year 6 classes had a joint P.E lesson this week, it was really good.

on Tuesday, Years 2 and 3 had their Christmas lunch. On Wednesday Years 5 and 6 had their Christmas lunch and on Thursday Reception and Year One had their Christmas lunch.

On Friday Santa came to every class with Mrs Mulford to judge our Christmas trees and the decorations we have been making. We will find out who won next week. We had our Christmas fayre in the afternoon. With lots in the hall and activities in all of the classrooms. It was very busy.

The Year 6 Christmas Trees



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.

241 children across school read more than 7 times last week.

This week's award is to:

Kamkwamba

Daily run

To support mental and physical health and well-being, children run every day.

This week's award is to:

KS1: Tabei

KS2: Maathai

School Update: Decoration Day (D&T)

Across school, the children used Decoration day to practice some DT skills. These focused on designing their own decoration and then using a range of materials and joining techniques to create them. Across school we were able to demonstrate skills development and progression, particularly in sewing. Here are our finished Christmas trees (Year 6 trees in the Prefect Update).



Feature Podcast

Our children contribute to school life and learning through our Drake Radio. You can listen live <https://player.broadcast.radio/?autoplay=1&stationId=730>

Watch our feature video: Music in Forest school <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/the-samba-three-band-of-forest-schools>

All podcasts are available on video centre section of the school website. <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/>

MALLARDS

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas fayre. It was a great event and lovely to see so many of you there. MALLARDS raise money to support the school. We will be looking for more members in January. mallards91rv@nsix.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

All scheduled events are included in class newsletters and added to the school website calendar. <https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/diary/grid/2023/01/>

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

Autumn Term dates

20th December: Last day of term, school closes at 1pm

Spring Term dates

3rd January: INSET Day
4th January: School re-opens for children

Christmas Events

As usual, there will be a range of Christmas events taking place this year. Please see key dates below

Christmas Parties

Classes and Year Groups will have their Christmas parties next week. Specific arrangements have been sent out separately.

Reception: Thursday 14th December
Year 1: Monday 11th December
Year 2: Monday 11th December
Year 3: Tuesday 12th December
Year 4: Friday 15th December
Year 5: Friday 15th December
Year 6: Friday 15th December

Christmas performances

We would like to invite parents and families for a Christmas showcase performance to be held in the Main Hall

Reception: 12th December 9am
Year 1: 13th December 9am
Year 2: 18th December - 9:30 and 2pm
Year 3: 13th December 2:45
Year 4/5: 7th December 2:45
Year 6: 14th December 2:45

Carol service

All classes will be visiting St Cuthberts church on 19th December for a Carol Service. Year groups will take their turn to attend due to the capacity of the Church. This is an event for children only. We are unable to invite families due to limited space within the church.

We will be listening to readings and singing some of the Christmas songs that we have been practising in assemblies or for our performances.

All children will attend school at the usual time. Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be leaving first so please ensure that children arrive by 8:45. Children should wear school uniform, but may wear a Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper or cardigan and may wear Christmas accessories.

Choir

Our school choir will be singing some of our Christmas favourites as we welcome families in at the gate on the last day of term 20th December at 1 pm. The side gate by the main hall will open first to families of choir members so that you can gather to watch your child. You will be directed regarding where to stand on arrival.