

Drake Primary School Newsletter

17th November 2023



Year 3 Church Visit

Dear Families,

On Monday, Year 3 visited St Cuthbert's church to help answer their RE question: 'How do Christians celebrate advent and Christmas?' The vicar spoke to them about advent and the events leading up to Christmas. They heard the organ being played and sang the 'Away in a manger' carol.

In the build up to our Christmas events, it has been a very creative week this week. Willow Phoenix returned to work with children and families to make a large scale ship lantern. Its fantastic to have a final outcome which reflects the efforts of every child in school. Staff attended a CPD session to learn how to make lanterns and then the children made their own, Year 6 supporting others around the school.

Dave the drummer returned this week for some music sessions including whole school call and response and Year 4 drumming lessons. The Christmas lights drumming by year 4 welcomed children from Redcastle school into the group for the community event. Listening to them and seeing all of the lanterns was something quite spectacular!



Thank you to all of the families who joined us for workshops throughout the week, it's a wonderful chance for you to be part of the experience and for the children to show you what they have been doing.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with the highest attendance this week is

Earhart

98 %

Congratulations!



Whole school attendance is 95.2%

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Halle, Matilda, Ava, Oliver S, Quinn, Teddy, Matilda, Olivia

Year 1: Finley, Bonnie, Jensen, George R, Matilde, Lyla, Amanda, Harley, Thukan

Year 2: Cai, Isla, Bella, Millie, Joana, Finn, Matas, Samuel J, Martynas

Year 3: Eloise, Nayana, Aedan, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Della, Amelia L, Sam, Rachel

Year 4: Archie, Harry, Myles, Katrina, Leya-Mae, David Ab, Leo, Matilda, Ben, Noah T

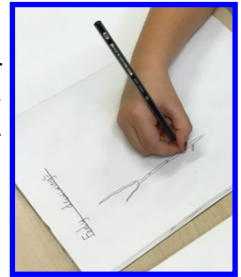
Year 5: Ruby, Alicia, Jack K, Valentina, Ida, Jessica, Elizabeth, Indie, Amelia,

Year 6: Henry, Gerda, Abeer, Dylan, Frankie, Isaac, Lucy, Victoria, Henry

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

Cafes and Assemblies

This week was Earhart's class assembly. The children confidently performed their model instruction-writing text, 'How to look after a pet unicorn,' complete with actions. We shared how we have innovated the model text into our own class version, 'How to look after a pet sea monster,' and heard some of the children read out their work. The children also spoke about some of the things they have done in their Art lessons throughout this half term, before showcasing their favourite song from our upcoming Christmas play. I



It was fantastic to see so many family members in the audience and we are sure you will agree that the children did a wonderful job. Well done Earhart class!

On Thursday, Year 3 held their maths parent cafe- thank you to all who attended! We learnt about using concrete resources in maths lessons, more about how we calculate in Year 3 using number lines and then problem solved our way through a mystery coded 100 square.



Next week: Tuesday—Tabei assembly in the main hall

Prefect Update

This week, Year 3 have been to Thetford church to learn about their RE work.

The whole school has been really busy making lanterns for the Christmas light switch on, which is happening on Friday outside of the light cinema in town. To do this, we had to build pyramid structures and cover them in tissue paper covered in glue. It was really sticky and messy. We then put blue waves on them and stuck a light inside, ready for Friday night.

Once we were finished, we went to other classes to help some of the younger students create their lanterns. We really enjoyed this.



Some of the Y5 and Y6 classes have earned a class reward which have happened this week. We have also had Christmas jumper day where we were able to wear our Christmas jumpers to 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.

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

This week's award is to:

Turing

Daily run

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

This week's award is to:

KS1: Earhart

KS2: Turing

School Update: School Improvement

On 21st November, we welcomed a team from the Local Authority into school as we had requested a school improvement review. This allowed us to showcase a day at Drake and to receive feedback to support sustained improvements. The review included lesson observations, book looks and meetings with pupils and staff. Our radio Council interviewed one of the reviewers, listen here <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/mike-capper-school-improvement-review>

Leaders have reviewed the report and are pleased that all points identified by the reviewers are already being worked on and in development. This will be added to the school website as soon as it is finalised.

In the Autumn Term, leaders have been focussing on using assessment with more rigour to identify gaps and target planning, teaching and support. We have also been reviewing feedback in books to support teachers to mark in the moment and give subject specific feedback and challenge. This will be an ongoing focus. We have also been working closely with middle leaders to ensure subject leadership involves more focussed monitoring to support teacher planning.

In the upcoming Spring Term, our focus will be on evidencing the impact and progress of more practical learning that happens in class or beyond the classroom. Middle leaders will ensure that planning is being reflected in work in books and through other evidence as appropriate for the subject. Drake offers a wide range of experiences for the children. We aim to provide these opportunities to support the discovery and development of interests and passions. More explicit links between these opportunities and curriculum subjects will help the children to make more meaningful connections between different aspects of their learning.

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>

Have a listen to a feature podcast: Medical Council <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/medical-council-interviews>

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

MALLARDS

Next Event: Christmas Fayre—8th December

mallards9lrv@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 Dinners

Our Christmas dinners will be served to year groups on different days. Both meat and vegetarian options will be available. If it is not the day for your Christmas dinner, a school packed lunch will be available.

Little Pirates, Reception, Year 1— 7th Dec
Years 2,3 - 5th December
Years 4,5,6 - 6th 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 and 5 —7th December 2:45
Year 6 —14th December 2:45

MALLARDS Christmas Fayre



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 throughout the day.

This will give us the opportunity to listen to Christmas readings and sing some of our Christmas favourites.



Due to the Church capacity, this event is only for children and not open to families.

A festive winter-themed poster for a Frozen II event. The background is a bright blue sky with falling snowflakes. In the distance, a large, ornate castle with multiple spires is visible. In the foreground, there are several snow-covered evergreen trees and a snowman wearing a black top hat and a grey scarf. The snowman has a red carrot nose and a smiling mouth. The central focus is a large, dark blue oval with a white border, containing the event details. The text is white and blue, with 'Songs of' in a cursive font and 'FROZEN II' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date and time are listed. At the bottom, the venue name and address are provided, along with the booking website. The bottom of the poster features the logos for 'foodbank' and 'FROZEN II'.

Songs of
FROZEN II

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER
4PM & 6PM

THE HUB. ANNA GURNEY CLOSE
THETFORD IP24 1TA

TO BOOK VISIT: LIBERTYCENTRE.ORG.UK

ALL PROCEEDS TO THETFORD FOODBANK