

Drake Primary School Newsletter

17th November 2023



Guildhall Mosaic Project

Dear Families,

This week, we were extremely proud of our KS2 running club who joined many other schools for the Cross Country Running County Finals. 19 children from Drake Primary visited High Lodge to compete in a county cross country event. The children worked extremely hard to get themselves to this position, winning races in the qualifying round. At the county event, the children represented our school with great pride and gave it their all. Each race consisted of 80 runners, the children from Drake displayed some fantastic running skills which allowed them to consistently place highly.

The Guildhall in Thetford is running a Mosaic project with a local artist. As part of this, a small group of children from year 3-6 have been selected to take part. This week, they started working with Amber Pullen (Education Officer at Thetford Town Council) on the project. They learned about mosaics and how they were constructed by the Romans, before having a go at creating their own using tissue paper and colouring pencils. Their next session on Thursday 7th December, will see the group will go to the Guildhall to meet the artist and learn how to paint the mosaic. A design will then be sent to the school and over the course of a few sessions, these children will paint it before it is permanently installed at the Guildhall. This is a really exciting project to be a part of, not just for the creativity, but more importantly as we further refine our community and historical links with the town.

Leaders welcomed visitors in for a school improvement review this week. They visited lessons, reviewed books and spoke to staff and children. We will share information and their feedback soon.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week are

Turing

100 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance
is 96.9%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Marin, Kuba, Matilda, Macie, Hendry D, Poppy, Vincent, Isabella, Dylan

Year 1: Cayce, Carter, Evelyn, Albert, Harry, Zuzanna, Sofia, Teddy, Eliza

Year 2: Szymon, Ava, Finn, Adam, Pippa, David, Charlie E, Delia

Year 3: Olive, Faye, Harry, Georgia, Amelia L, Francesca, Bella, Leo, Freya

Year 4: Amanda, Calee, Myles, Andrew, Paige, Seren, Charley, Polly, Alfie, Jacob

Year 5: Daniel, Thomas, Maja, Isabella, Amelija, Isla, Bailee, Ishani, Jack P

Year 6: Caitlin, Dylan, Millie S, Emily, Lucas, Kai, Poppy

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

Cafes and Assemblies

On Tuesday, Rashford Class presented their class assembly to their families. They started off by discussing a way that they could be kind to others as part of our value focus this half term of “Kindness and Forgiveness”. They then discussed Diwali and our recent trip to Ancient House. The children finished off their assembly by presenting their model text for this half term “How to trap a Big Bad Wolf” and singing “Count on me.”

On Thursday morning, Year 5 took part in a Maths cafe with their parents to save as many Cave Elves as possible trapped by their nemesis The Pegadraff. By solving clues linked to our multiplication work it revealed a code to a padlock trapping the Elf, everyone attempted lots of clues and many elves were freed, sharing their treasure (chocolate coins) with us all.



Next week: Tuesday — Earhart assembly in the main hall
Thursday — Year 3 parent café in the main hall

Prefect Update

On Tuesday, we had lots of visitors in school, who came to look at how we were doing. They spoke to us about our work, and some people came in to watch Miss Greenwood's maths lesson. We did really well with this.

We also had our parents' evening this week where some parents came into school to see how we are doing.

The Y6 parent's evenings were mostly about SATs and how we are doing with those. We also got time to look at our books with our parents/carers.

A few children have been to a cross-country event this week against some of the top runners in Norfolk. It was a good challenge for us.

This week, we have had a parent café for year 5 and an assembly was done by year 1 Rashford. Tech council had an assembly explaining how to use the 3d printer.

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: Curie

School Update: History Projects

This year, we have organised a range of history projects in collaboration with the Town Council Heritage Projects. This aims to support the delivery of high quality history sessions about Thetford including significant people and events. These will take place across the year with each year group having their own project.

Skol! That is a Viking greeting and it was considered insulting to a Viking if it was not reciprocated. This was the first piece of information that the Year 4 children learned when their class was invaded by two unruly Vikings named Odger and Ulf. Initially heard approaching the classrooms having an intense argument, these two rowdy norsemen entered the premises and proceeded to raid belongings of the children. They were soon stopped and firmly instructed to return all items! The children were then asked about their learning of the Vikings and were able to demonstrate an outstanding amount of knowledge and understanding that also transcended other periods of history. It really was phenomenal to witness! Odger and Ulf also told the stories of King Edmund and his untimely death and the villainous Viking Sweyn Forkbeard. At the end of the session, the children were allowed to take photographs with Odger and Ulf.



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: Tech Council demonstrate the 3D printer <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/3d-printing-with-tech-council>

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

More details to follow soon

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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

See Christmas dates and Workshop information.

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

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

**Note the change to Year 1

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

Family workshops

Leading up to the lights event, there will be a range of workshops—use the link to book.

Willow Lantern making

Monday 27th Nov 3:15—4

<https://forms.office.com/e/8ggfw1j3LT>

Christmas sing-a-long

Wednesday 29th Nov 3:15—4

<https://forms.office.com/e/wHODAFWay0>

Drumming workshop

Thursday 30th Nov 3:15—4

<https://forms.office.com/e/HXjZstkiMb>

Christmas Lights in Town

1st December

We will again be joining in with the events for the switching on of Thetford Christmas lights. This will include some workshops and activities prior to the event for children across school. Children and families will then be able to join us as we having singing and drumming at this community event.

Our current time slot is **5:00pm** on the green in front of the cinema. **Please arrive by 4:50.**

We will then sing again at **5:30** with other Thetford schools.

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