

Drake Primary School Newsletter

17th November 2023



Dear Families,

This week, our Year 5 and Year 6 swim team took part in the Thetford Swimming Gala. The children competed against 4 other schools across 3 races using a variety of swim strokes. The children demonstrated our school values throughout the entirety of the event and showed excellent sportsmanship by cheering on their teammates and children from other schools when they needed some encouragement. As a result of their extraordinary efforts, we are excited to share that the children came in 1st place! We are incredibly proud of our children and all of the hard work they put into the event.



It was Anti-bullying week this week. Key learning included understanding of what does and does not count as bullying. Classes all explored the important issue in an age appropriate way across the week. We know that not only is it important to be kind to others ourselves, but that also we can not be a 'bystander' and should speak up for others too. Our school values help us to be safe at school.

Our Children in Need fundraising planned by our School Council was a very successful event. Children mixed across the school to complete two challenges in the morning and then a big sing challenge in the afternoon as well as children in need and challenge related activities in class throughout the day. In assembly we explored how charity is considered within a range of faiths and religions and that our personal values support our good will. With classes full of bright colours, spots and Pudseys, good will was in every inch of school throughout the day. We will share the total raised next week once sponsorship has been paid.

The week ended with our fabulous choir singing at the garden centre. With Christmas clothing and accessories they have brought Drake into the season of Christmas—and we can't wait for what's next!



Reception exploring shadows

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with highest attendance this week are

Turing, Kahlo

98 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance
is 95.4%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Henry G, Amelia M, Erin, Amelia F, Evie, Adam, Dylan

Year 1: Mabel, Tom, Eleanor, Albert, William, Paulinho, Athena, Finley, Laura

Year 2: Harley W, Natasa, Harlo, Martynas, Tommy, Delia, Helen, Christian

Year 3: Aaraa, Jaxon, Vanesa, Lavinia, Bentley, Oscar, Frank, Henry, Danny

Year 4: Isaac, Reuben, Fabio, Lucy, Jane, Seren, Lee, Matilda, Oliver

Year 5: Ruby, Leo, Isabella, Andrew, Sophia, Jakob, Bella, Noah, Dominik

Year 6: Caitlin, Leonie, Kiera, Martha, Henry, Dylan, Sophia, Isabeau, Ayva

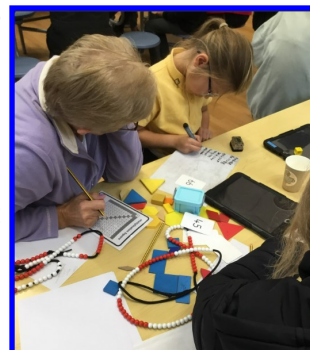
These pupils have demonstrated our school values and learning behaviours, well done.

Cafes and Assemblies

Merian class had their assembly this week on how we can show kindness. The children have been learning about this value all term and it fit nicely with this week's learning about anti-bullying. The children shared some of their fantastic ideas and sang one of their favourite songs. We were very proud of how well the children presented to an audience to share their learning



Year 4 had their maths cafe all about multiplication. Parents and pupils were challenged to a quick daily ten activity to get them warmed up! After this a range of online activities such as Sumdog, hit the button and timestables were played, so that parents could see the different games that their children could access at home to embed their multiplication knowledge. After this, concrete resources were used to explore how multiplication can be understood both at home and school. A lot of fun was had by all!



**Next week: Tuesday—Rashford assembly in the main hall
Thursday—Year 5 parent café in the main hall**

Prefect Update

This week year 5 and 6 went to a swimming gala against 5 other schools, and we came first. We won 45 out of 60 races!

In other news, Tereshkova Class has been making pieces of art every single week to make a big piece to put in the Thetford art book which other schools are also part of making their own piece too.

Also the new theme for anti-bullying week is called make a noise about bullying and on their official website they asked a question if you had a super-power to stop bullying what would it be?

This Friday is for children in need which means you have to wear spotty or bright clothes. If you didn't know the most known and friendly made up character in the children in need is...

Pudsey bear !



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:

Kahlo

Daily run

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

This week's award is to:

KS1: Earhart

KS2: Maathai

School Update: Family Workshop Week

After the success of our first Lantern Parade last year for the switching on of Thetford's lights, we are excited to announce that we are doing it all again this year on December 1st. In the week running up to the parade, pupils will be making lanterns and preparing a song or musical performance. We have opportunities for parents to join in too!

Monday 27th November

Willow Phoenix will be joining us to create a giant lantern for our parade. All children will have an opportunity to help make the lantern, and we will also have an **afterschool family workshop** if you would like to join in the fun. The workshop will run from 3:15 – 4. Places are limited and can be booked via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/8ggfw1j3LT>

Willow Phoenix are also providing kits so that every child can make an individual lantern in class to bring to the parade. These will be sent home with children on Friday. **The cost for each lantern kit is £4, so we would appreciate any donations to help cover our costs.** This can be paid through Pupil Asset.

Wednesday 29th November

Mrs Booth will be holding a **family Christmas sing along** to give all families an opportunity to learn the songs we'll be singing on our parade. The workshop will run from 3:15 – 4 and can be booked via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/wHODAFWay0>

Thursday 30th November

Dave Mitchell, our favourite drummer, will be back in school to help make our parade even more exciting. He'll be creating a whole school vocal piece and working with Year 4 on a Samba piece. Afterschool he'll be running a **free family workshop** from 3:15 – 4 which can be booked via this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/HXjZstkiMb>

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: Children in Need <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/children-in-need-2023>

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

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

See Christmas dates page for activities leading to the end of term

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

MALLARDS Christmas Fayre

8th December

Mallards would like to invite families into school for some Christmas stalls and fun.

Friday 8th December starting at 1pm

More details to follow

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.