

Drake Primary School Newsletter

10th November 2023



**School Council delivered the
Food Bank donations**

Dear Families,

This week started with our School Council delivering all of the food collected for the Harvest Festival to the food bank where they were able to find out a bit more about how The Thetford Foodbank supports families. They talked about the cost of living crisis and how it is impacting on all families and their finances and learned that many families need the support of the foodbank in Thetford. They learned about the process of checking and sorting the food and how families can get support. Later in the week, the School Council met again to reflect on charities that support families and plan the Children in Need activities ready for the 17th November.

Our Drake Running Team were absolutely sensational at the cross country event, this week and they represented our school with pride. Throughout each race, they showed high amounts of grit and determination. Drake Runners had seventeen children qualify to race at the county finals on the 22nd November 2023.

Our Reception tours have all taken place now and families have given lots of positive feedback. Each year, we continue to be over subscribed. Please do ensure that you apply on time if needing a place for September 2024.

On Friday we held a Remembrance Service in our celebration assembly taking time to remember those who have previously fought and served for their Country and also those who continue to serve and families affected by war. The children joined to sing songs of peace and support including one of our school favourites 'Shalom'.



Every Day Matters

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

The classes with the highest attendance this week are

**Tablei, Earhart and
Curie**

99 %



Con-

gratulations!

**Whole school attendance this
week: 96.3%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Alina, Grace, Olivia G, Adeline, Malakai, Josie, Cienna, River, Oliver L, Anthony

Year 1: Aria, Poppy, George R, Teddy, Olivia, Jenson, Cayce, Berwin

Year 2: Eva, Emilie Bu, Joshua, Joana, Pippa, Samuel Fi, Olly

Year 3: Jordan, Bella, Laura, George F, Isabella K, Amelie, Max, Connor, Caleb

Year 4: Jane, Leya-Mae, Reuben, Melaniia, Domas, Ivy, Noah T, Miroslav

Year 5: Andrew, Isla, Matthew, Isla, Igor, Kiko, Jessica

Year 6: Thomas, Freddie, Max, Evans, Skyla, Abeer, Cooper, Aliyah, Alfie E, Ronnie

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

Assemblies and Cafes

This week, in the Y6 parent cafe, the children and parents were asked to work through a SATs arithmetic and reasoning paper. It's fair to say that the parents found this a little daunting but the children soon surprised them with all of their maths knowledge. Thank you to everyone who came and we hope this has been a good insight into the papers that the children will be sitting in May.



Over the past few weeks, Year 5 have been noticing that Drake Primary has been visited by some mysterious, mischievous guests, and in our assembly, a few of these creatures chose to reveal themselves! Hiding amongst our year 5 students were some Cave Elves, little green fellows who love to grow vegetables and play chess. The Year 5 children shared with parents and Years 4 and 6 some tips for spotting Cave Elves in the world around us. We also shared a little about The Book of Thetford, an exciting arts project we've been invited to contribute to. The children have been asked to build ideas for a guidebook to our town, as seen through the eyes of our children. We look forward to sharing more on this in the coming weeks.

Prefect Update

This week has been a busy week, some of key stage 2 runners went to cross country. Miss Valentine said that, "This year's cross country was the best one yet!"



In addition to this, year one went on a school trip to the ancient house museum which sounded interesting. In year four classrooms they have been doing some exciting experiments with raisins, they put some raisins in sprite and some in lemonade to see which one made the raisins dance. Also, year 5 teachers hid small images of cave elves around the school that are linked to their class topic. Finally this week people have been wearing poppies to remember the people who fought for our country, which is now recognised as Remembrance Day.

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 244 children read more than 7 times and achieved their gold star.

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: Children in Need—17th November

School Council members have met to discuss plans for Children in Need on the 17th November. Merchandise will be available to purchase throughout the week.



Planned activities:

Spotactular—please come dressed in spots or brightly coloured clothing with a suggested donation of £1 in a named envelope. Of those that bring their donations in a named envelope, one name per class will be randomly selected to win a Children in Need Teddy.

Sponsored Challenge Day

School Council have created a list of a wide range of challenges including physical challenges, resilience and perseverance and curriculum related challenges. On 17th November, each child will be given two challenges to complete in the morning and then join together for a whole school big sing in the afternoon. We would like to ask for your child to collect sponsorship for their participation in the challenges. Forms have been sent home.

Payments can be made via this just giving page

https://www.justgiving.com/page/drake-primary-school-1699629575793?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Fdrake-primary-school-1699629575793&utm_source=copyLink&utm_campaign=pfp-share



Feature Podcast

Our children contribute to school life and learning through our Drake Radio.

Watch our Feature Video: **A Day in the life of Radio Council** <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/radio-council-a-day-in-the-life>

Remember that you can listen to our radio play throughout the day here.

<https://player.broadcast.radio/?autoplay=1&stationId=730>

MALLARDS

Our MALLARDS are busy planning events to take place for the rest of this academic year. We were thrilled to see so many attend and have fun at our Halloween Disco.

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

13-17th November: Antibullying Week

17th November: Children in Need—Dress in spots and/or bright colours

w/c 20th November: Parents evening

See Christmas dates sheet for additional Christmas related activities

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 - 7th December
Years 1,2,3 - 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

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 perform at this community event.

More details to follow

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.

Thetford Community Christmas Events

Tis the season to be jolly

THETFORD'S CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
ALL ACROSS THE TOWN!

5:30pm Santa Arriving at Riverside
6.30pm Lights Switch On

Lets step into Christmas with Craft & Gift Stalls, Continental Market Entertainment, Performers and much much more



Friday 1st
December

Market Square
Kings Street
The Carnegie

DROP IN FOR FESTIVE FUN
PAY WHAT YOU CAN

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

JOIN US FOR

CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS

10-2PM
IN THE GUILDHALL



The CHRISTMAS TOYSHOP MYSTERY



2nd December 2pm
Adults £7.50 - Children £5.00
The Carnegie, Thetford

Santa's Grotto

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2023
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

THE GUILDHALL, THETFORD
FROM 10AM

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTS OUR ANNUAL SANTA'S GROTTTO, TAKING PLACE IN THE GUILDHALL! COME AND MEET SANTA'S ELVES AND WRITE YOUR LETTERS TO SANTA, BEFORE GOING AHEAD TO MEET THE BIG MAN HIMSELF! SUITABLE FOR ALL YOUNG CHILDREN.

Book now at:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-carnegie-thetford

Child Ticket: £3.00
(Age 1 and Up)
Infant Ticket: £1.50
(Under 1 yr)

