

Drake Primary School Newsletter

3rd November 2023



Enjoying library time

Dear Families,

We started the week welcoming everyone back with an assembly about our focus values for this half term; kindness and forgiveness. We watched a clip about The Good Samaritan and discussed how not only was one person kind to another, but they forgave each other for all of their past disputes. The children took part in a range of activities in their classroom focused on these values which are key this half term with Anti-bullying week approaching soon.

Our Halloween discos were a huge success, thank you to MALLARDS for organising this event. The costumes were great and the dancing was even better! It brings great joy to watch the children having a good time together within a social context. These opportunities are essential for creating shared experiences and memories which further strengthen our sense of community at Drake.

This week, some year six pupils were invited to Thetford Academy where they joined their students for an orchestra experience led by Thetford Academy Music Teacher Mrs Hodges and Britten Sinfonia. This opportunity is supported by the Local Cultural Educational Partnership which helps us to engage in a wide range of activities and experiences relating to the Arts which underpin much of the work we do at school. We used the opportunity to create some radio content whilst we were there too!



Our swim team had their competitive skills sessions at the leisure centre this week to focus on swimming skills and then competing against each other for some friendly competition ahead of the upcoming swimming gala.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is-

Merian

100 %

Congratulations!



Whole school attendance is 95.31%

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Kuba, Halle, Cienna, River, Sophia, Elisha, Armandas

Year 1: Conroy, Eilidh, Tom, Archie, Xavier, Jensen, Scarlett, Zuzanna

Year 2: Oskar, James, Martynas, Jude, Aryan, Cai, Natalia, Isla

Year 3: Laura, Olive, Sophie, Vanesa, Isabella, Phoebe, Victor, Rachel, Ava, Everlyn

Year 4: Calee, Zayn, Archie, Lucy, Miley, Melania, David Ar, Florence, Charley, Alfie

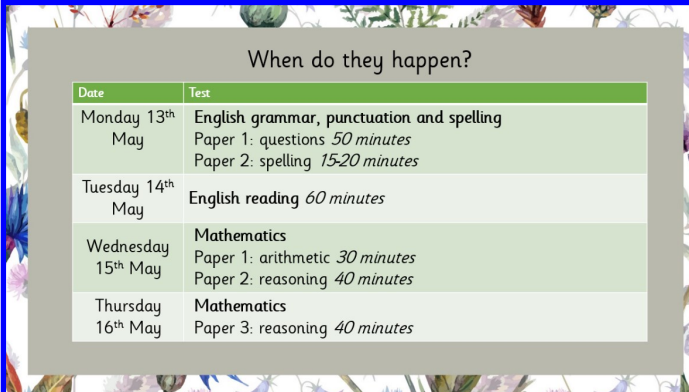
Year 5: Darragh, Isla, Jack B

Year 6: King, Toby, Viktor, Lily B, Eloise, Lena, Thomas

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

Year 6 SATs meeting

We had a great turnout of parents for our Year 6 SATs meeting on Wednesday 1st November. We went through assessment dates, the number of assessment papers and what they will be about, how they are marked by external markers, how parents can help at home and we viewed previous assessments. A copy of the presentation will also be available via Parent Hub.



Date	Test
Monday 13 th May	English grammar, punctuation and spelling Paper 1: questions 50 minutes Paper 2: spelling 15-20 minutes
Tuesday 14 th May	English reading 60 minutes
Wednesday 15 th May	Mathematics Paper 1: arithmetic 30 minutes Paper 2: reasoning 40 minutes
Thursday 16 th May	Mathematics Paper 3: reasoning 40 minutes

**Next week: Tuesday—Year 5 assembly in the main hall
Thursday—Year 6 parent café in the main hall**

Prefect Update

This week some of Drake's best musicians went to play in Thetford academy orchestra but they were late to come back as the start of storm Ciaran was coming over.

Since it was Halloween this week our school had a disco with that theme for KS1 and KS2.

In one year 6 class they are beginning to make websites with information of their choice while the other is making bookmarks using sewing skills.

Also our eco councillors got their badges and the peer mentors got their hoodies so that people around the school can recognise who they are.

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 5 times.

239 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.

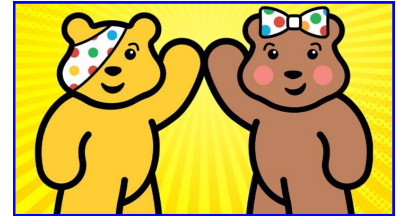
This week's award is to:

KS1: Earhart

KS2: Kahlo

School Update: Children in Need

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.



The theme this year is 'spotacular' and 'challenge yourself.' School Council would like to take the opportunity to raise money for this event, knowing that this supports many charities in the UK, including some that affect our own community such as the cost of living crisis and mental health.

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 will be sent home next week and payments can be made via a just giving page closer to the date.

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: Interviewing a conductor <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/victoria-interviews-conductor-chris-parsons>

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

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

6th-10th November—Remembrance Week

13-17th November—Antibullying Week

17th November—Children in Need

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.