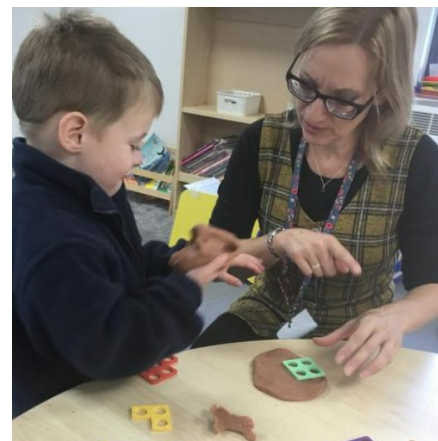


Drake Primary School

Newsletter

20th October 2023



Exploring number with numicon

Dear Families,

This week, the first half term came to a close. The children and staff have all been working extremely hard and should be very proud of their achievements over the past six and a half weeks. It is a joy to walk around school and see the classes so settled and focussed yet enjoying their learning and having fun. This week, was the first of the tours for the reception intake 2024 and the love of learning and school was evident everywhere we went. A visitor from another school also came to look around and he commented on the professionalism and positive environment. He shared that he was inspired by our art and radio station and how our aim for a global perspective within the curriculum has given him lots to think about. We are proud of our school and it is wonderful to have this recognised by those who visit.

Mrs Prince, who used to teach in Year 1 came back to visit this week and led an assembly for Black history month focusing on diversity, hope and aspiration. It was fantastic to have her back and to also share the exciting things that have happened at school in school since we last saw her.

Our new Governing Body met for a Federation meeting this week. Holden Cook was elected as Chair of Governors with Tamsin Robertson as the Vice Chair. Other roles and responsibilities were shared out as the Governors start their journey working together to support and challenge the federation. There are a mixture of new and familiar faces on the Governing Body with some of our previous Governors stepping down. Some of these were long standing and others were fairly new to the role, but all of our Governors have had a positive impact on our school so we would like to thank all of the Governors who have supported the school, especially through a period of change and on our journey towards the Federation.

Year group newsletters will be out over half term with information and dates. We wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing you all on 30th October for Autumn 2.

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with the highest attendance this week are

**Tabei, Hadid,
Kamkwamba and
Curie**

99 %



Congratulations!
Whole school attendance this week: 96.3%

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Halle, Amelia M, Henry G, Kuba, Isabella, Teddy, Pennie, Darcey

Year 1: Carter, Tom, Olivia, James, Rosie, Eliza, Charlie

Year 2: Emilie B, Piper, Eva, Aiden, Dovydas, Dart, Adam, Natalia, Hunter

Year 3: Elizabeth, Julian, Sem, Oliver, Poppie, Caleb, Isabella, Oscar, Jackson, Amelia Z

Year 4: Adna, Faustina, Tieragh, Spencer D, Maddie, Myroslav, Charley, Alfie, Matilda, Sullivan

Year 5: Maja, Jack K, Victoria, Damian, Ema, Emily, Adriana

Year 6: Leonie, Caspian, Jack, Caitlin, Liyana, Evanas, Oscar, Ekaterina

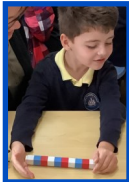
These pupils have demonstrated our school values and learning behaviours, well done.

Assemblies and Cafes

Year 3 welcomed families to their Stone Age assembly. Year 3 spoke about chronology, their trip to Norwich castle and Cheddar man. They shared their thoughts regarding the evidence left behind from the Stone Age and their research into how Stone Age people

would have used the natural materials around them in their daily lives: for example an antler for a pick axe, shells for cutlery, animal skin for clothes and shelter, sharpened flint stones for spear heads, and charcoal from the fire for cave paintings. They shared their learning about Cheddar Man, the name given to a skeleton of a Stone Age man found in Cheddar Gorge believed to be 10,000 years old which meant that Cheddar Man lived in the Mesolithic. Scientists reconstructed Cheddar Man, based on his DNA. Analysis of this showed that he had dark wavy hair, pale blue or green eyes and dark or black skin.

Arday, Thunberg and Reception children enjoyed welcoming their families for their parent cafes this week. Reception demonstrated their skills of representing numbers in a variety of ways. They also used a variety of manipulatives to create different patterns for their adults to copy or complete. Arday and Thunberg class explored different sensory and interactive ways to support maths skills and concepts



Prefect Update

Around school, everyone has been finishing their Christmas cards this week. Every year, we can buy packs of our cards to give out. They are really nice but need to be sent off early which is why we do them before half term.



Some of us met with Mrs Mulford this week to talk about how we can encourage all children to read at least 7 times a week. We agreed that its actually not difficult, especially for the older children as we read in class every day so we only need to read a few times at home. We think that everyone should be able to get their star after half term as they have a whole week to get to seven reads.

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

This week's award is to:

Kamkwamba, Maathai, Curie

Daily run

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

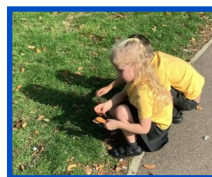
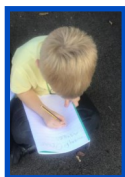
This week's award is to:

KS1: Merian

KS2: Maathai

Curriculum update: Outdoor learning

This week, the teacher staff meeting was all about outdoor learning. This is different to Forest School and is focused more on ways to take our curriculum learning outside using the environment around us for supporting learning in all subjects.



Already, our outdoor area features heavily in our provision, children regularly have their learning outside, particularly science, maths and art. We had restricted access to outdoor areas last year due to our building work so this year, we hope to make great use of our new playgrounds and forest school area as well as Sophia's Garden and the field. We are still developing our pond area and have some orchard trees planted in that area which will give the children more opportunities to take their learning outside. This links to our bio-diversity project to increase plant and wildlife in Thetford. We recently received a grant from the BFER of £2500 to help us in the development of this area and can't wait to see how it develops over the year. See the BFER article [here](#).

Our Reception, Year 1 and SRB also have their own outdoor area which is used throughout the day. We are currently developing the play value in these areas and would welcome donations in support. We do not expect anyone to buy anything for us especially, but please have a think before you throw anything away! If you know of any local businesses who would be able to support us, please encourage them to get in touch or pass details on to the office. We have recently been fortunate to receive donations of shingle and tarpaulin from Wickes and are excited to put this to use.

Feature Podcast

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

Watch our Feature Video: **La Fiesta on the Clarinet**
<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/la-fiesta-clarinet>

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

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

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

30th October: Autumn 2 begins
1st November—Individual School Photos
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

MALLARDS

Next event: Halloween Disco
30th October—Dressing up encouraged

Rec/1/2—4pm—5pm £3
3/4/5/6—5:30pm—7pm £3.50

mallards91rv@nsix.org.uk



Drake Primary School

Open events



Is your child starting a school in Reception in September 2024?

To find out more about our

- mission, vision and aims
- commitment to every child
- bespoke curriculum and exciting, innovative enrichment opportunities

We would like to invite you to attend an informative tour around the school.

Tours

Wednesday 18th October	1:30 - 2:30
Wednesday 1st November	9:30 - 10:30
Thursday 2nd November	9:30 - 10:30 or 1:30 - 2:30
Monday 6th November	4:45 - 5:45

You can also explore our school website <https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk>
and keep up to date through—Key information—Admissions

We look forward to meeting you.

If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please email the school office with the date and time of the session you would like to join.

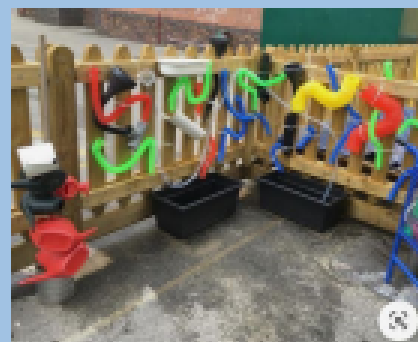
office@drake.norfolk.sch.uk

We need your help!

Andersen and Attenborough have a large outside area, but we really need to develop this.

Below is a list of things which could help our project:

- + Metal pots, pans, frying pans & colanders
- + Wooden spoons
- + Plastic sieves, measuring jugs & colanders.
- + Funnels (plastic or metal)
- + Plastic piping (flexible or rigid)
- + Guttering and brackets
- + Gravel, pebbles, shingle or stones.
- + Compost or soil
- + Wood chip
- + Tarpaulin



Thank you in advance for your support.



OCTOBER HALF TERM AT LITTLE PIRATES



Come & join us for a spooktacular half term!



SESSIONS & PRICES

7:30AM - 12:30PM - £35

12:30PM - 5:30PM - £35

8:45AM - 3:30PM - £10.50

7:30AM - 5:30PM - £60

FOOD

ALL PRICES INCLUDE
HEALTHY SNACKS & MEALS
FRESHLY PREPARED
ON SITE



Pin the Spider on the Web

Pumpkin Golf

Monday 23rd -
Friday 27th
October 2023

Pumpkin Bingo



Spooky Games

Witches Hat Ring Toss



Potions

Apple Bobbin



Halloween
Party



and much more fun & games



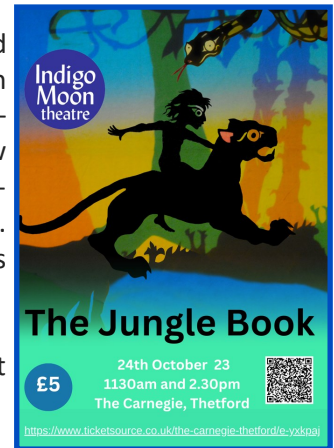
For further information or to request a place, please contact
us via littlepirates@drake.norfolk.sch.uk or 01842 762055

Half Term events at the Guildhall and Carnegie Rooms

Tuesday 24th October – The Jungle Book

You may think you know Jungle Book, but Indigo Moon Theatre's version is inspired by the poetry & spirit of Rudyard Kipling's original books. This tale offers us wisdom in eternal quest for love, identity and belonging. Fearless and free, Mowgli the 'man-cub', finds fun and friendship as he learns to live by the Law of the Jungle. Follow Mowgli's wild adventures in the dangerous world he inhabits, brought to life with inventive shadow theatre, powerful original music, and colourful digital projections. Find out more about this inspirational and accessible art form and its use of puppets and multiple light sources after the show.

Tickets are £5 there are shows at 11:30am and 2:30pm and tickets can be bought from this link <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-carnegie-thetford/e-yxkpaj>



After the 11:30am show there will also be a 60-minute Shadow Puppetry workshop around jungle book – this is free to attend! If you have anyone that would like to book on for this free workshop, please can you get them to contact katiwright@thetfordtowncouncil.gov.uk

You can find more details about the workshop from this link: <https://www.indigomoontheatre.com/puppetry-shadow-theatre-workshops-for-all-ages/shadow-puppet-making/>

Wednesday 25th October – Halloween Arts and Crafts

Join us from 12:30-4pm for some free Halloween Arts and Crafts – make your own decorations ready for Halloween. This is free to attend, and you can pop in at any point throughout the afternoon.

Thursday 26th October – Halloween Arts and Crafts

Join us from 10-2pm if you missed out on Wednesday, join us again for free Halloween Arts and Crafts – make your own decorations ready for Halloween. This is free to attend, and you can pop in at any point throughout the time slot.



Thursday 26th October – Children's Halloween Disco

Spooky season is here and it's time for some Halloween cheer 🎃 The little monsters, witches, wizards, and ghouls of Thetford are invited to our Halloween Disco 🎵 Join us for an evening of fang-tastic dancing and fun. Come dressed in your most frightfully spooky costumes to be in with the chance of winning yourself a treat!

Disco is from 5-7pm tickets are £1 for children and free for adults accompanying a

