

Drake Primary School Newsletter

6th October 2023



Turing class Forest School

Dear Families,

This week Year 1 enjoyed a trip to the Charles Burrell Museum to explore the history of transport. They were able to explore the steam engines, understand the history of the museum and they completed a quiz exploring the museum to find the answers. Throughout the trip the children also had the opportunity to ask the volunteers questions about the museum. Also this week, Rashford and Tabei Class enjoyed an Orienteering trip to Redcastle School. The children worked in their teams supported by the Year 6's at Redcastle School to hunt around the field to find answers to different questions. At the end we then had to unscramble the letters to make the word. This sporting event is part of a range of events planned across the year to join other schools for sporting opportunities and different experiences.

Our nominations for Parent and Staff Governors has now been closed and the election process has begun. Once these have been decided, co-opted Governors will then be accepted based on skills and experience to ensure that our Governing Body is able to adequately provide support and challenge for the school leaders.

Leaders have been in classes conducting maths observations in classes this week. We have been impressed with the use of mathematical vocabulary when discussing their approach to calculations and problems. Maths is a focus areas across school as some parents have shared that they are still unsure about how to support their children in this subject. Maths cafes have been taking place to support this further.

This week, we have been talking to the children about keeping safe and what to do if you see or hear something that worries you. The children have been reminded that they can speak to any adult in school or at home. Each class in school also has a worry box which can be used if a child feels they need to share a worry.

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with highest attendance this week are

**Merian and
Attenborough**

99 %



Congratulations!
**Whole school attendance
this week: 97.41%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Ella, Ava, Cienna, Quinn, Vincent, Olivia G,

Year 1: William, Emily, Kamaari, Jack, Blake, Kian, Rosie, Poppy, Aria

Year 2: Geroge, Piper, Martynas, Emilie B, Harley N, Harley S, Olly, Cai, Charlie E,

Year 3: Faye, Oliver, Virujan, Laura, Amelia L, Henry, Amelie, Bella, Benas

Year 4: Romie, Shivansh, Lee, Sonny, Thomas, Spencer D, Spencer M, Archie, Amelia, Torin

Year 5: Jakub, Emily, Ella, Noah, Chloe, Daniel, Darragh, Isla, Roman

Year 6: Louise, Alfie E, Alisha, Aliyah, Louie, Lena, Isabeau, Sophia

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

Assemblies and Cafes

On Tuesday, Maathai had their first class assembly of the year. They were delighted to see that their parents were in the audience. During the assembly they explained what they have been learning about in their English lessons. Seven children then shared some of the stories that they had created, they read very clearly and confidently.

Maathai, regrouped during their reward day for a class photograph.



Next Week: Tuesday 10th October —Turing assembly
Thursday 12th October —Year 1 Cafe

Prefect Update

This week, we have been practising our songs for our upcoming harvest festival and we have been looking at raising some money with a bake sale at school.

Our new play equipment, the crinkle crag, has been used by many children during the week.



Head boy, head girl and the prefects have also been given their badges. The year 6's have been looking forward to doing their sewing unit based on World War 2.

Most classes have started making their own Christmas cards. Our Christmas card project happens every year.

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

This week's award is to:

Rashford

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

Curriculum update: Creative thinking strategies

At Drake, our values are rooted in the personal development for all children and the opportunities that each child experiences to further expand their understanding of the world around them. As part of this commitment, we have been exploring the ways in which we encourage children to think creatively and how we empower them to use creativity across the curriculum, developing the confidence and skills of both our staff and students.

The importance of thinking creatively has been researched for a number of years, however some of the biggest strengths of developing creative skills is to enable children to think critically, work independently, develop their imagination, play with different ideas, make connections and develop their understanding of the world around them. **Our** creative thinking skills and habits include being imaginative, inquisitive, persistent, collaborative and disciplined.

The children have had an opportunity to reflect on their own perspective of creative thinking in an assembly, in which they unpicked the different habits and formed connections between their school experiences and also things they like to do outside of school. For example, they were able to recognise the pieces of writing they produce in English require them to be persistent and imaginative, whilst their efforts towards winning the Daily Mile means they have to work collaboratively to record laps.

This week, we have been looking at how the creative thinking habits have been embedded into the children's learning. In Year 4, they spent time being inquisitive by exploring and investigating different ways to solve some mathematical problems. Whereas in Year 1, they used their imagination to innovate their own story based on the text 'The Enormous Turnip', which they had been reading in class. Miss Bush said that the children were very persistent when writing their own story as even when they found it difficult, they still persevered to produce a great writing outcome.

Feature Podcast

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

Listen to our Feature Podcast: **Learn about our radio station by Mr Fox and Tony**

<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/radio-drake-2023-24-introduction-tony-and-mr-fox>

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 this academic year.

If you would like to join, or share any ideas, please email us.

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

9th October: Year 2 visit

11th October—Harvest Festival food collection

20th October: Last day of Half Term

13-17th November—Antibullying Week

17th November—Children in Need

30th October: Autumn 2 begins

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

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