

Drake Primary School Newsletter

29th September 2023



Dear Families,

This week has seen lots going on in and out of school. Leaders have been monitoring books and lessons and can see how well the children are meeting the expectations in their new year groups. A learning walk during English showed all year groups working with their model text, many now 'boxing up' ready to write their own innovations. We were excited to listen to their ideas and proud of their ambitious vocabulary.

This week, Year 5 we're invited to meet with local businesses at The Charles Burrell Centre and explore the factory at Warren Services for a Manufacturing Day. The children enjoyed all of the activities, including dressing up in some medical gear and deciding what goes into making a can of beans. They also received free goodies making the day memorable. In this photo, they can be seen with Will Bridgeman, Managing Director of Warren Services who has also been a governor at Drake since Feb 2022.



Peer mentor meetings have resumed this week with increased excitement about continuing their roles. They discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the meetings last year and carried out a verbal SWOT analysis of the aspirations for this year. The peer mentors have expressed that they would like to try and raise the profiles of themselves as individuals and as a group. They have decided they would like to try and raise some money to be able to achieve this, strategies were discussed and ongoing planning will take place to enable them to reach their goal.



Year 5 Manufacturing Day

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with highest attendance this week are

**Kamkwamba,
Hadid and
Maathai**

99 %



Congratulations!
**Whole school attendance
this week: 97.3%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Oliver, Mila, Marin, Charlie, Alina, Adam, Molly, Grace, Levi,

Year 1: Winnie, Enzo, Albert, Carter, Noah, Eliza, Naomi, George, Kian

Year 2: Rose, Milena, Harlo, Olly, Delia, David, Aryan, Lillie

Year 3: Harry, Isabella, Olive, Vanesa, Sophie, Everlyn, Danny, Frank, Petra,

Year 4: Amanda, Harry, Fabio, Oliver M, Miley, Ivy, David Am, Seren, Domas, Jacob

Year 5: Ida, Thomas, Ellie, Bella, Jensen, Bailee, Gabriella

Year 6: Millie S, Liyana, Caspian, Martha, Dylan, Thomas, Frankie, Kai

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

Assemblies and Cafes

We are thrilled to have started our assemblies and cafes again this week.

The first class assembly was conducted this year by the two Y6 classes, King and Kahlo. The children spoke about their terms theme of 'sanctuary' which heavily focused on WW2. They shared knowledge from what they learnt during their WW2 day last week and reflected on their own thoughts and feelings as a child who would have had to be evacuated from their home, if alive during the times. Caspian, Martha, Lucy and Amber read some writing and poetry where the conflict had been used as it's background.



On Thursday we had a great attendance in the Year 2 Maths cafe. We looked at the calculation policy and explored the different strategies we use to answer various open ended questions. We finished with a fun problem solving activity where we used concrete resources such as dienes, bead strings and counters to help us.



Prefect Update

This week, children have been taking part in new clubs: dungeons and dragons maths after school and during school time. Year six have been doing SATs practice every Friday year 5 and 6 are having a competition to see who has the most correct answers.

The majority of the school had the flu jabs, that help fight away colds and flus etc. Year six have had an exiting time visiting a wide range of high schools for when they move up next year. Year six have also had mental health visitors from the NHS. They made emotion boxes that they were able to decorate.

Thanks to Mr Bullock and the students we have finished the crinkle crag. Last week year 3 were lucky enough to go to Norwich castle and had a great time.



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.

239 children across school read more than 7 times last week and achieved their star

This week's award is to:

Merian and Rashford

EVERY child in Year 1 read 7 times or more last week!

Daily run

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

This week's award is to:

KS1: Earhart

KS2: Curie

Curriculum update: Trips and visitors

At Drake, we believe that children need to be exposed to a wide range of experiences and opportunities. We want children to discover their interests and their passions, to learn in a range of contexts and environments, to have access to industry or subject experts and to see what the wider world has to offer. We have designed a curriculum to support children's engagement in their world and for them to explore 'big questions' and make connections between their learning and their lives. Part of our provision for this is our trips, visitors and experiences including competitions and performances. However, we are conscious of the cost of living crisis, as we too are affected by the increase of prices. Coaches now cost significantly more than they did a year ago and this means that we need to review our provision in line with feedback from families.

We are committed to continuing to offer these opportunities, they are central to children's holistic development and learning. We currently use a range of strategies to keep costs down. Last year, and when planning for this year, we have already been trying to shelter families from some of the cost increase by

- Applying for grants and funding. For example LCEP funding contributing towards cultural and arts opportunities; the Thetford Educational Foundation Trust which funded our High Lodge activities, grants towards the development of our pond area. We also approach businesses for financial contributions
- Paying into the Sports Partnership which then covers the cost of coaches for sporting events and some competitions
- Using Sports Premium money to support competitive opportunities
- Sharing travel or venue costs with other schools
- Maximising the use of local opportunities which do not need a coach.
- Sharing opportunities with other year groups to reduce costs

We continue to be proactive in finding ways to reduce the impact on families whilst not compromising the opportunities offered. We would, for example welcome sponsorship from businesses or work with local groups for low cost high impact trips. We would welcome any feedback and ideas regarding this.

Feature Podcast

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

Listen to our Feature Podcast: Craft Club
<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/victoria-interviews-carol-from-craft-club>

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.

you would like to join, 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

5th October: Year 1 trip

9th October: Year 2 visit

20th October: Last day of Half Term

30th October: Autumn 2 begins

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