

Drake Primary School Newsletter



22nd September 2023

Dear Families,

This week, we were pleased to have all of the reception children in full time. They have settled well and have had a great (though tiring) week. It's been lovely to observe as they form friendships and engage with their new environment and they have been developing their independence and self help skills through collecting their own meals and eating in the dining hall. We are very proud of them.

Our trips and experiences have all started. Year 4 went to Norwich Castle to learn about the Vikings last week and Year 3 went this week for workshops 'The Mystery of Prehistory!' They went back in time to the Mesolithic where they acted out the daily tasks of hunting, gathering and cooking on a fire before zooming forward in time to the Bronze Age to learn about bronze being made of copper and tin. Also this week, Year 6 were all dressed up for their WW 2 experience day full of activities which are detailed in the Prefect update.



We held our blue sky events for parents and pupils this week, after gathering staff views at the end of the Summer term. We were disappointed not to gather the views of more parents. We strongly value your views and aspirations for our school, but understand that it can be challenging to get into school. We will explore other ways to gather parent voice over the coming weeks. We will be sharing information about how we plan to respond to feedback soon.

At school, we have been talking lots about ways to keep our selves mentally healthy., in particular how sleep and being active is good for our mental well-being as well as out physical health. Wellbeing continues to be a priority nationally and we encourage children to take steps to looking after their own wellbeing and also be supportive of others.



Reception lunch time

Every Day Matters

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

The classes with highest attendance this week are
**Attenborough,
Andersen, Tabei
and Curie**

99 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance
this week: 96.77%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Halle, Oliver S, Amelia M, Matilda, Ahria, Adeline, Poppy, Grace, Malakai, Ivy

Year 1: Harley, Thukan, Mabel, Amanda, Mason, Zuzanna, Isabelle, James

Year 2: Emelie B, Zahra, Isla, Benny, Joana, Helen

Year 3: Ace, Leo, Max, Rachel, George B, Eloise, Nayana, Bella, LC

Year 4: Torin, Zayn, Myles, Amelia, Oliver R, Ryan, Sullivan, Myroslav, David

Year 5: Valentina, Lily C, Hope, Alicia, Isla, Amelia, Lizzie, Connie, George

Year 6: Aliyah, Jack, Mia-Lily, Henry, Scarlett, Poppy, Kai, Amber, Lucy, Henry

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

Federation News

We are very excited to share that our Governors met this week and voted in favour of the federation with Wicklewood Primary School. We will be joining as the Halcyon Federation. Halcyon means 'Best of our days.' We are very much looking forward to working together within the Federation to support all of the children and families in the communities. We will retain our identity as Drake Primary School with our high ambitions and wide opportunities that we provide for the children. We continue to strive for excellence and welcome the opportunity to expand our offer for the children in collaboration with Wicklewood.

With this change, there will be a re-election for Governance. The Governing Body for Halcyon will support all schools within the Federation. First, we recruit two parent Governors who, along with the Local Authority governor, co-opt additional governors. Details and information has been shared on Parent Hub.

Nominations for parent Governors must be made by 12:00pm on Monday 2nd October.

Prefect Update

This week, in school, we had a visitor in to run a WW2 workshop for Year 6. He was very knowledgeable, and we learnt that adults only got one fresh egg every week; they also got three rashers of bacon and four sausages due to the war they had to ration. Also, Kit Kats changed their recipe to save coco, so the colour changed to blue.

The crinkle crags are almost ready and are expected to open on Tuesday. We had a bunch of sand delivered, and we have all been helping move the sand all over the equipment. Year 6 has been practising for SATS coming up in May, and we have had to do lots of assessments in the last two weeks. In Year 2, Earhart won their first trophy; they are also finding which material is best for a waterproof jacket. Year 1 Rashford class are going to do food tasting they have done lemons, grapes and pom bears. They are currently speaking about what they want to be when they grow up.

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's award is to:

Merian

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: Music

We have an exciting year of music lessons ahead of us. As always, we are making sure that all pupils have access to high quality teaching, with opportunities to learn a range of instruments - from steel pans to clarinets!

Year 1 will be having weekly music lessons with Mrs Booth (in our new music room!)

Year 2 will be having lessons each fortnight with our Musician in Residence Mrs Carruthers.

Year 3 will be continuing to play the glockenspiels with Mrs Carruthers

Year 4 will be having woodwind lessons with Mr Williams from the Norfolk Music Hub

Year 5 will have taster terms of woodwind and strings, followed by a term of Samba taught by Norfolk Music Hub teachers

Year 6 have a particularly exciting year ahead of them! Thursday afternoons is music afternoon jam packed with fun musical activities with teachers from the Music Hub. They will have a term each of Samba, steel pans and ukulele. In addition, all year 6 children will have an opportunity to learn an orchestral instrument in small groups if they would like to. Children can choose from brass, woodwind and strings. These groups will form our Drake School Orchestra.

In addition, Mrs Levy continues to offer additional lessons in strings, guitar and keyboards. These lessons can be booked via the hub. Mrs Carruthers is also continuing with our choir after school on a Wednesday.

Feature Podcast

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

Listen to our Feature Podcast:

Jolly Joke Club

<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/jolly-joke-club-with-ms-mcleod-mr-hewitt-tony-and->

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.

We are still looking for more members to join our team and provide the wide range of opportunities for children and parents and support the school with fundraising. If 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

26th September: Year 2 trip

28th September: Year 5 visit

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