

Drake Primary School Newsletter



15th September 2023

Dear Families,

Our first full week back in school has been a fantastic one! With our new crinkle-cragg climbing equipment installed, and sand delivered, we have pulled together as a community led by our fantastic site team to prepare the area and hope that it will be ready to use by mid-week. We would welcome any volunteers to move and rake the sand next week. We would also welcome volunteers for Forest School. If you are interested, please contact the school office.

This week has also been the first week back for our musicians in residence and its been lovely to hear music throughout the school again. Our children always love to sing and our singing in assemblies and in class spreads joy throughout the school. Soon we will be rehearsing songs for harvest as well as practising some of our favourites!

Clubs are back up and running, many are now full. We will be reviewing clubs and extra curricular activities, if you have any suggestions, please do let us know. You might also be interested in coming into school to help with a club or to be one of our partners who run their own sessions as part of their business. Please do get in touch if you would like to become involved.

As part of our leadership, we would like to host a parent 'blue sky' event to gather your hopes and aspirations for the school. We will be running two sessions Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st September 2:30 for parents to join us. To help us cater for all families, we ask you to please register your interest using this form. If sessions are likely to have too many attending, we will provide an additional session.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5Y7kxZssZRz_KfMwf0g493_hHb7OwHrSE6yT2znn3GsKm/w/viewform?usp=pp_url



Ukulele

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week are
Merian and Hadid

99 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance
this week: 97.2%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Everly, Freddie, River, Maddison, Macie, Cassius, Dylan, Florence, Ava-Rose, Darcey, Quinn, Grace

Year 1: Xavier, Indie, Lily, Tom, Amanda, Lyla, George

Year 2: Georgia, Karina, Oscar, Aedan, Anabelle, Francesca, Petra, Connor, Sam, Ava

Year 4: Torin, Zayn, Adna, Theo, Maddie, Andre, Polly, Florence

Year 5: Isabella, Brendan, Matthew, Jack B, Eva, Deighton, Harry, Dominik, Damien, Jessica

Year 6: Caspian, Emily, Alfie E, Louise, Dylan, Eloise, Ayva, Victoria, Oscar

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

Parent cafes and assemblies

This year, each class will usually have either a café or assembly in each half term. We listened to feedback last year about having assemblies for different classes on the same day and how this made it challenging for some families with multiple children in school, so only in exceptional circumstances would this happen. All café's or assemblies start at 9:00 am. Assemblies last about 20 minutes and cafés are 9:00-10:00.

To allow the children to settle in, there are no assemblies in the first two weeks. Therefore for Autumn term, it might be that both are held in the second half term.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Reception	Café 19/10/23	Assembly 12/12/23
Year 1	Café 12/10/23	Merian assembly 14/11 Rashford assembly 21/11
Year 2	Café 28/9/23	Earhart assembly 28/11 Tabei assembly 5/12
Year 3	Joint Assembly 17/10/23	Café 30/11
Year 4	Maathai assembly 3/10 Turing assembly 10/10	Café 16/11
Year 5		Assembly 7/11 Café 23/11
Year 6	Joint assembly 26/9/23	Café 9/11
SRB	Café 16/10 Arday 18/10 Thunberg	Assembly with year group

Prefect Update

This week, around school, there have been many new and exciting things happening. Lots of children have helped to move the sand around our new play equipment, and one person in our class had lots of sand in their shoes after they helped rake it all flat. We have had new equipment to play with at breaktime and lunchtime, including new football goals and basketball hoops, which are fun to play with. We have been swimming for the first time this week in Y6 and Y5 have also been swimming this week. We have been learning about new topics including WW2 in our classes, and some of the children have even been out on a trip to Norwich Castle.

There have been lots of new faces around the school. Some new teachers and children too. We have seen them at breaktime, lunchtime and in assemblies. We hope they have settled in well. We had to help run assembly properly for the first time this week. We think it went well but need to be a little louder next week.

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.

Only 68 children across school read more than 7 times last week.

This week's award is to:

Hadid

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

Our curriculum has been carefully designed to be impactful and encourage deep thinking and enable the children to make connections between different aspects of learning their own lives and experiences. It is sequential, allowing children to build on their existing knowledge and skills as they progress through school making connections between what they have seen, learned and experienced before and the new ideas, knowledge, skills and vocabulary that they are being taught. The opportunities provided within the curriculum help the children to apply these in a range of contexts. Each year group has its own theme for learning for each term. We use themes rather than topics as these allow for broader ideas and concepts to be explored more deeply and for the interests and prior knowledge of the children to be used to inform and direct learning.

Our current themes are:

Reception: People and Communities

Year 1: Me

Year 2: Explore

Year 3: Origins

Year 4: Folk

Year 5: Life and Death

Year 6: Sanctuary

You can find out more about what each year group is learning on the class newsletter and on the school website year group pages <https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/year-groups/>

Feature Podcast

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

Listen to our Feature Podcast:

Our first live at lunch show.

<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/first-live-show-of-the-year-2023-1>

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

20th September: Parent blue sky meeting 2:30

21st September: Parent blue sky meeting 2:30

21st September: Year 6 History experience day

22nd September: Year 3 trip

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