

SRB Grandin Newsletter



Autumn 2

Dear Families,

How lovely it has been to welcome the children back to school and into the SRB! We have focused on making sure that the transition back to school is as smooth as possible, with the wellbeing of the children being the primary focus as they settle back into the school routines.

Our SRB classroom is named after Mary Temple Grandin, who is a prominent proponent for the humane treatment of livestock and author of more than sixty scientific papers on animal behaviour. She is one of the first individuals on the autistic spectrum to document the insights she gained from her personal experience of autism. Grandin was named amongst the 100 most influential people in the world and is a spokesperson in the autism and neurodiversity rights movements.

Drop off time for the SRB is 8.40-8:45am at the main hall and pick up time is 3.15pm.

We will work together to follow our school rules as usual. They make our learning environment safe and protective for everyone.

- 1) Praise. No put down.
- 2) Hands, feet and objects to yourself.
- 3) Follow instructions.
- 4) Talk quietly, stay on task.

School Value

This half term, we will focus on the school values of 'kindness' and 'forgiveness'. We will be spending time exploring what kindness is and how to be kind to others. Within this, we will also discuss forgiveness and how to respond to others when they do something that we do not like and how we need to forgive others.



Half Term Focus

The Zones of Regulation

The Zones of Regulation is a fantastic emotional regulation approach, which will support the SRB pupils to identify and regulate their emotions throughout the day. This half term they will learn about each of the 'zones' and their corresponding emotions.

Blue Zone—sad, tired, unwell
Green Zone—happy, calm, ready to learn

Yellow Zone—excited, anxious, worried, energetic

Red Zone—angry, furious

Most importantly, the children will be supported to identify personalised strategies to regulate their emotions so that they are ready to learn!

Each morning in the SRB we have been focusing on a different zone, watching characters from familiar stories experiencing those emotions and thinking about what we could do to regulate when we are feeling them too.

Sensory Circuits

In our sensory circuits we will complete alerting, organising and calming activities to get us ready for a day of learning!

Examples of these activities include:

Alerting activities—star jumps, running, bouncing on an OT ball, skipping, frog jumps

Organising activities—colour sorting, blowing bubbles, throwing, balancing, push ups

Calming activities—sensory toys, bean bag squashes, OT ball rolls, weighted blanket time

Sensory circuits will not only support the pupils with their regulation, but it will also develop key skills such as independence, following instructions and fine and gross motor skills.

Sensory circuits are also something you can do at home, choosing activities from each category that require less resourcing.

Here are some links to find out more about the benefits of this approach

<https://www.childrenschoicetherapy.co.uk/sensory-circuits/>

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/Example%20sensory%20circuit%20info%20and%20ideas%20for%20home.pdf>

Home Learning

Check your Year Group Newsletter for any home learning that might apply to you.

In the SRB we are going to focus on a different life skill each half term that you can practise at home.

Skill of the term —Turn Taking

Taking turns is such an important life skill, teaching fairness and resilience, as well as the importance of having fun! Play turn taking games regularly and practise sharing, not winning the game and accepting that it is about having fun and taking part!

Other Ideas

Handwriting

Practise your name, surname and letter formation for those letters you might find tricky! Sensory trays are a fun way to practise e.g. flour, sand, shaving foam!

Sumdog

Use this website to practise your maths skills
Sumdog: www.sumdog.com/en/

Reading Diaries

Reading is a fundamental part of our school. Children must read every day, this supports learning across the curriculum. The reading diary should be completed every time the children read, starting a new page each week. Each time they read, a section of the reading record should be filled in to reflect this. When you read with them please ask questions to check for comprehension and understanding of the text.

Important Dates

Remember to check your Year Group newsletter for dates that apply to you!

A look at our learning so far...



School Councils and groups

Eco Council has written a mission statement: 'To help the world because we want everyone and everything to be able to live in an environment which is healthy.' We are undertaking an environmental review and this term, our focus is: recycling. Check what you can put in your recycling bin here: tinyurl.com/3v4pzeuv

Behaviour

In school, we earn merits for demonstrating our learning powers, positive behaviours and outstanding effort and achievement.

We can also earn a class marble when we work well as a class to achieve something. When we fill our marble jar, we will vote on a class reward.

Secret students are picked randomly daily. The class staff will observe the secret student throughout the day. When the secret student has made good choices throughout the day. We share these on our school website.

Attendance

The attendance expectation attendance at Drake Primary School is 100%.

Grandin class attendance for Autumn 1 is 91.13%

We look forward to working together to ensure high attendance across the year.

Pupil voice

'I like our new tent and sensory toys in the SRB'

'If we are feeling upset, we can choose something to help us feel calmer'

Pastoral Notice

At Drake Primary School, we are delighted to begin working with the **Mental Health Support Team (MHST)** for Norfolk.

MHST offer a wide range of services for children and their families who are impacted by social, emotional and mental health difficulties. Their services include 1:1 support, parental workshops and whole-school support.

We are in the beginning stages of forming a Pilot Parent Group who will work with MHST to learn Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to support their children.

If you are interested in joining this pilot group, please contact Miss Kane on psa@drake.norfolk.sch.uk

For further information, please follow the link below to our school website:

<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.secure-primariesite.net/parent-support-adviser/>

The website is a fantastic window into learning at our school.

Keep a look out in the days and weeks ahead for an updated SRB website page and new information regarding the SRB <https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.secure-primariesite.net/grandin/>

If you have any questions about the classroom or any other school related issue, please do not hesitate to email the school office, we will either email you or arrange a time to call you.

Miss Burke and the SRB Team