



The Drake News

14TH FEBRUARY 2025

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits

Zones of Regulation Parent Café



It was so much fun!

I'm really happy I got to keep a worry monster! I shared my sister's worries with it.

We had a fantastic turnout for our Parent Café on the Zones of Regulation and Worry Monsters! Parents and children explored how to understand and manage emotions, followed by a fun creative activity - making Worry Monsters to take home!

Parents described the session as "very helpful and interesting," "informative," and "a lovely activity." One parent shared, "It was great to learn new ways to support my child's emotions."

Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are...

Hadid with 99.3%

Zones of Regulation



For more information about Zones of Regulation, check out their website or follow them on social media -

<https://zonesofregulation.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/zonesofregulation/>

Eco Council Mini COP Flag



Eco Council are very proud to present the flag they have designed for the Mini COP they will be attending later this year. A COP stands for Conference of the Parties and it refers to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which is an international meeting focusing on climate. The mini COP will also be a meeting to discuss the action we need to take to combat climate change, something that is at the heart of all we do at Drake.

Radio Drake



Ollie, Noah and Sully delve back into block-based coding, this week focusing on animated motion

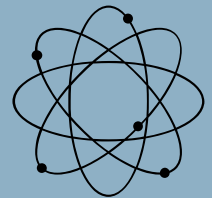


<https://drake-infant-school-and-nursery.primarysite.media/media/scratch-show-episode-3-motion>



On Thursday, we had a visitor in to perform the Norwich Science Festival play 'Food Scientists to the Rescue.'

SCIENCE



My favourite part was when she showed us how bees make honey and we learnt about pollinators - Milena

I liked the chocolate cake part, it was funny! -George

We met Sally the food scientist and learnt about the science of food, exploring the links between food and the planet, our diet, and climate change.

We learnt about healthy and unhealthy foods - Ava

EAL Council Mission and Aims



We have EAL council in our school because it's essential to recognise that not everyone is familiar with the English language. It's all about respecting every country and the diverse languages spoken within our community. We want to ensure that children from all backgrounds feel valued and understood, regardless of the language they speak. To raise awareness, we're committed to helping those who speak different languages and promoting an inclusive atmosphere for everyone.

We aim to create an EAL-friendly environment where our EAL students feel truly welcomed. So far, we've chatted about how to make our front entrance more inclusive for visitors who may be EAL speakers. By adding multilingual signs and welcoming messages, we hope to create a warm and inviting space. Our goal is to foster understanding and appreciation for every language, ensuring our school feels like home for all pupils!

S SAFE Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.

M MEETING Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.

A ACCEPTING Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

R RELIABLE Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are.

T TELL Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.
You can report online abuse to the police at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Online Safety

This week Tech council held a wonderful assembly about online Safety. They told us all about the SMART rules to keeping safe online.

We learned about not sharing personal details, our digital content choices and the importance of not accepting messages or meeting anyone we don't know.

Tech council also taught us about who our trusted adults are and reminded us to tell a trusted adult if anything online upsets or worries us.

For more information check out BBC Bitesize –
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfmhfdm#zyxpywx>

Win a Book Token!

EXTENDED

Deadline extended to 27th Feb...



Maybe you like to read under a tree, in a den, upside down or in the bath? We would love to see your favourite reading spot. Send us a photo of you reading in your favourite place and tell us what you are reading. A book token given for the winning entry.

Send your photos to -

office@drake.norfolk.sch.uk

NUT-FREE



SALE

GRAB A SWEET TREAT!

DRAKE BAKE SALE

Thursday 27th February 2025 at 3:15 pm



Play Council invite you to enjoy all things sweet at the best bake sale at Drake!

Bake some delicious cakes at home and bring them along to help raise money for new play equipment. Bring them in a sealed container to your class by Thursday 27th February. Bake any cakes or cookies but please remember we are a nut free school.



Fresh from our Kitchen!



We are super excited to be able to serve fresh home cooked food after school from our new menu for our wrap around care children. This menu is now available to all children that attend after school club and Little Pirates childcare. The children told us what they wanted to see on our new menu and we have listened to their voice.

If you are interested in enrolling your child for breakfast or afterschool care please follow the link for more information -

<https://www.drake.norfolk.sch.uk/child-care-and-after-school-clubs/>

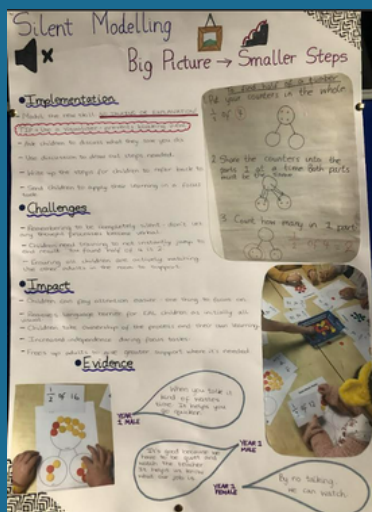
Formative assessment

Our dedicated teachers have been engaged in a yearlong research project in collaboration with the esteemed Shirley Clarke, focusing on the principles and practices of formative assessment. This initiative has underscored the importance of formative assessment as the single most vital factor in enhancing student achievement and fostering a high sense of self-efficacy among our learners.

Formative assessment is an ongoing process that involves assessing children throughout the day, as opposed to summative assessment, which typically occurs at the end of a learning cycle through formal tests. By employing formative assessment strategies, we can gather valuable insights into each child's understanding and abilities, enabling us to adapt our teaching methods to better meet their needs.

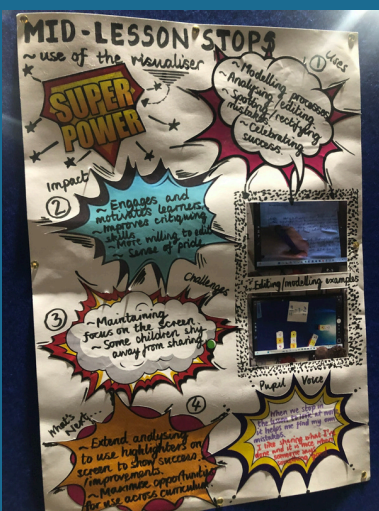


The project encompassed three full inset days, during which teachers from multiple schools convened to collaborate and share their insights. The culmination of this extensive project took place on the final inset day, where all teachers presented their research at 'The Space' in Norwich in front of an impressive audience that included representatives from Norfolk County Council and headteachers from across the UK.



This initiative particularly emphasised strategies to improve self-efficacy, fostering a belief to achieve, by empowering children to support one another as effective learning partners. This is achieved through structured collaborative learning, clear learning intentions, success criteria, and 'In the moment feedback'. Throughout our school, you will observe a variety of innovative strategies that have been implemented, all aimed at enhancing the learning experience of our children. These include -

- The use of lollypop sticks instead of the traditional 'hands up' method to gather responses, ensuring every child's voice is heard.
- Teachers providing real-time marking while children are engaged with their work giving immediate and impactful feedback.
- Lessons designed to help students understand how their brains function, encouraging a thinking growth mindset.
- Specific praise that targets learning outcomes.
- A commitment to mixed-ability groupings, eliminating the notion of ability groups to promote inclusivity.
- Regularly changing talk partners, allowing collaboration and diverse peer interaction.
- The use of 'marvellous mistakes', helping students to recognise the learning potential in errors and to develop resilience.
- Strategies to support cognitive load including silent modelling and co-creating success criteria with the students.



We firmly believe that these practices not only enhance academic performance but also contribute to the development of well-rounded, confident individuals who are prepared to face challenges both in and out of the classroom. We appreciate your ongoing support and encouragement as we continue to strive for excellence in education.

Half term nature activity ideas



Go on a walk and look for signs of Spring



Go star gazing. Can you spot Venus, Jupiter or Saturn- a bright white point of light?



Go on a minibeast hunt



List all the things you can see out of your window



Draw a plant



Make a mud pie



Look out for birds. Can you identify a bird?



Go for a walk along the river Thet



Look at the weather forecast for Thetford



Grow a fruit or vegetable from seed



Draw around your shadow



Apply for a Blue Peter Green Badge!

Take the next step now.



Scan the QR code for more information and how to book your child onto our accredited swimming lesson programme.

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Or for more information, contact us or visit us in-centre today.

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LeisureCentre.com



Learn to Swim Programme



Our learn to swim programme is endorsed by the Royal Life Saving Society and accredited by Swim England.

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SCAN HERE

Give your child the invaluable life skill of swimming.

- Regular lessons with fully qualified, experienced and friendly teachers.
- An increase in confidence from having learned a new life skill.
- Learning the vital four competencies:
 - Swimming 100 metres unaided
 - Treading water
 - How to call for help
 - Swimming in clothing
- The ability for children to safely enjoy a wide variety of water based activities.
- Gain an understanding of how to be safe in, and around, all types of water including the sea, lakes and streams in all weather conditions.
- Leading to career opportunities such as a Lifeguard or Swim Teacher.

All Swim School children get unlimited **FREE Swims** during Casual Swim Sessions

Lessons are for all abilities and ages: from first time learners to older children wanting to improve their skills.



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