



# The Drake News

12TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



## Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school and to start an exciting new year together. The children have settled back into routines quickly, showing great enthusiasm for their learning and school life. A very special welcome goes to our new Reception children and their families, who have made a wonderful start to their school journey. We are so pleased to have you as part of our community. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead, full of learning, growth and shared experiences.

## High Lodge!



I loved the archery, as it was my first time using a real bow and arrow - Winnie



I enjoyed den building with my friends - Katie



I liked the KS2 play area because it was really fun - Reuben



I liked nature hunt activity - we had to get a card and to find the item in the forest. - Samuel J



## Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are Kamkwamba with 99.35%



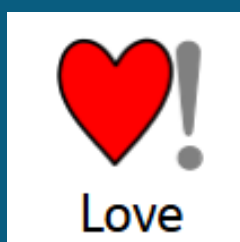
I enjoyed drawing activity. We drew trees in our Art books. - Joshua

Our recent trip to High Lodge in Thetford Forest was a wonderful day of outdoor learning and adventure. The children enjoyed a wide range of activities including archery, exploring the music trails, nature hunting and sketching the beautiful surroundings. It was also lovely to see them playing cooperatively, rebuilding friendships after the summer break, and beginning to form new relationships with staff. The day provided the perfect mix of learning, creativity and teamwork in a truly inspiring setting.



We are delighted to share that Little Pirates has now become Little Ducklings Childcare, bringing the name in line with Drake. This change reflects our commitment to keeping both settings closely connected in name and practice, while continuing to share our vision for sustainability.

Our value this term is...



This term, our new school value is Love. In assemblies and in class, we have been exploring the many ways we can show love to one another—through kindness, care, thoughtfulness, respect, and by working together cooperatively.



## The Year of the Tree



We are delighted to share that 2025/26 will be our “Year of the Tree” at Drake. Across the year, our whole school community will be studying, observing, documenting and celebrating the wonderful trees on our site and in the neighbouring woodland.

Each year group will be linked with a tree to explore through Science, Art and a range of creative activities.

Alongside this, we are thrilled to be launching our new Halcyon Forest project, inspired by a challenge from Chris Packham. Every pupil will have the chance to name, plant and care for their very own tree creating a lasting legacy for our school.

The project will conclude with a special showcase at Halcyon’s Sustainability Exhibition at the Royal Norfolk Show, where our pupils’ work and achievements will be proudly displayed.

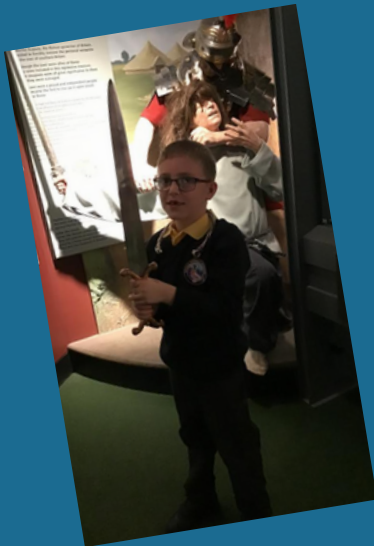
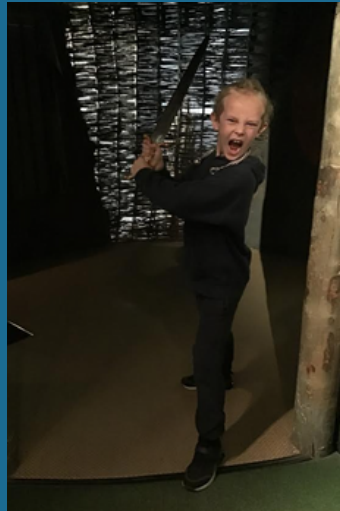


## Come and Drum!

A new lunchtime club for Year 1 and Year 2. Come and give it a try!

# Norwich Castle

Year 3 had a fantastic time visiting Norwich Castle! As part of the Mystery of Prehistory workshops, the children explored what life was like in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They loved acting out daily life in a Neolithic village, sorting real flints like archaeologists, trying out Bronze Age weaving, and learning about the properties of metals. It was a fun and exciting day full of hands-on history!



Metals made better tools than stone as they had a sharper edge -

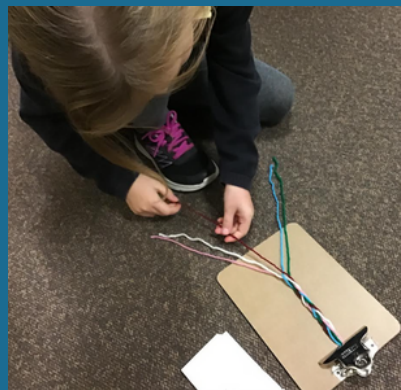
Eleanor

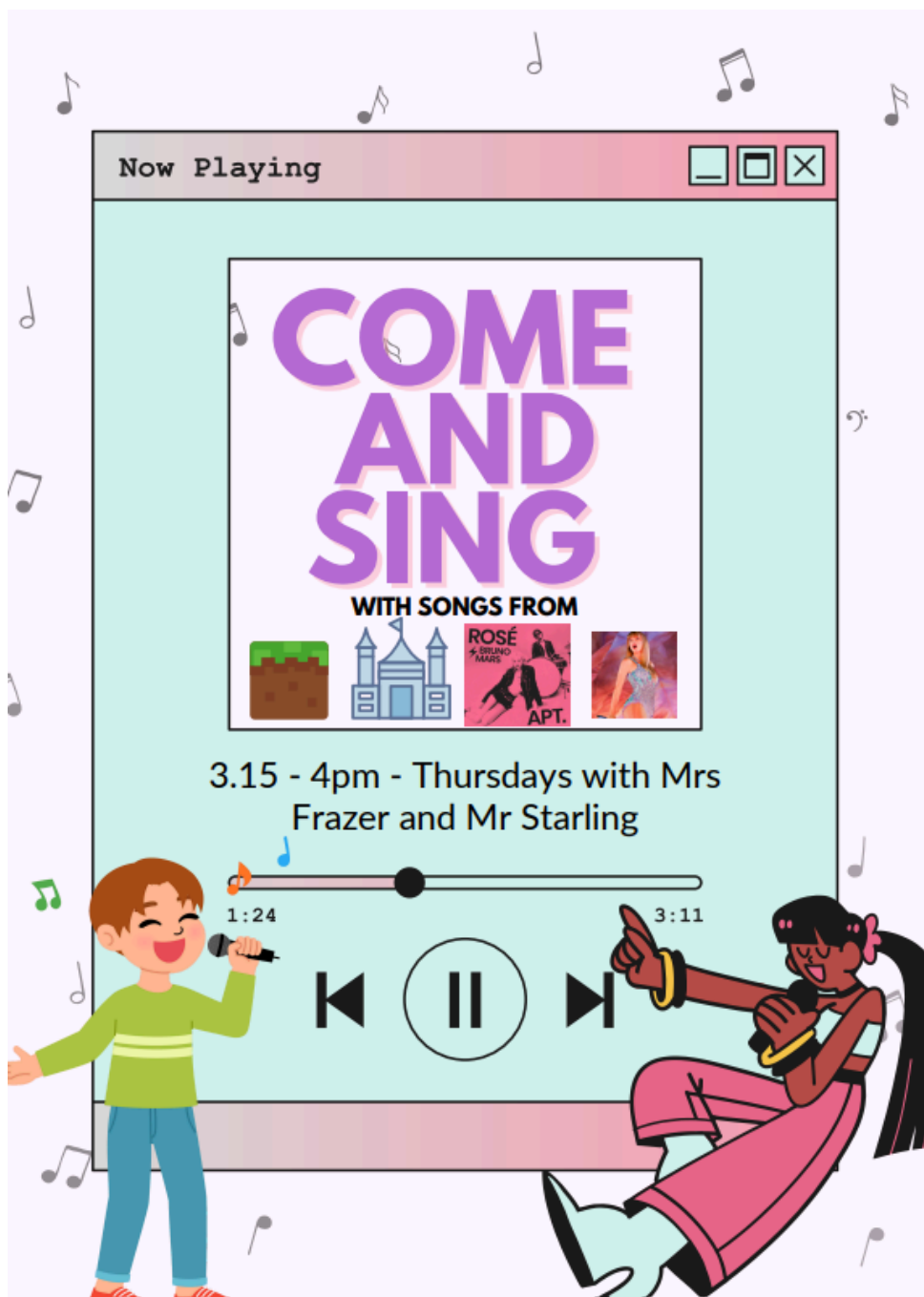
The Neolithic people needed food, water, shelter and fire to survive - Eilidh



The Bronze Age people melted metals to make tools - Rikan

The Neolithic people hunted deer with spears, made from flints - Archibald





This week we launched our new MIS system, Arbor – the UK’s most widely used school management software. We hope this change will make things more efficient and user-friendly for both staff and parents. Early feedback has been really positive, but if you experience any difficulties, please do get in touch with our office team who will be happy to help. Arbor will support us in streamlining daily operations, reducing paperwork, improving data analysis through real-time reporting, and strengthening collaboration among staff. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we continue to improve our systems to better support our school community.



### Parent Workshops

We’re excited to be offering a series of free parent workshops this year, in partnership with Norfolk County Council. Designed to support you with your child’s learning at home, most sessions also allow children to join in for the final 30 minutes. Families (except on the cooking course) will also receive a free museums voucher. Details of the first workshops are attached—please contact the office if you’d like more information.

# Protecting Kids Online Drake Primary School



**FREE**  
museum voucher  
and prize draw  
raffle entry  
when you attend  
2+ sessions

Are you concerned about your child's online habits?

Would you like to know more about possible dangers on the internet?

NCC Family Learning are delighted to invite you to Drake Primary School over October for a FREE 4-week workshop on understanding and protecting young people online.

You don't have to be able to attend all 4 weeks, but more beneficial if you can.

Parents/carers only.

Thursday mornings: 1 hour per workshop: 9am to 10am

Oct 2nd - Identifying risks to children's safety

Oct 9th - Building Digital resilience

Oct 16th - Safeguarding with parental controls and monitoring tools

Oct 23rd - Preparing and adapting for future risks

# Maths through Games

## Drake Primary School KS1 (Yr 1 -2)



Do you or your children learn through hands-on activities?

Would you like to support your child's Maths at home, in visual and engaging ways?

NCC Family Learning is delighted to be coming to Drake Primary School over October to run FREE 4-week workshops giving you the opportunity to take part in games and activities with your children, whilst also learning maths terms and strategies used in school. Aimed at parents of Yr.1&2.

You don't have to come every week, but better for you if you can.

Thursday afternoons - 2 hours per workshop - 1:15pm to 3:15pm

Oct 2nd - Place Value and Top Trumps

Oct 9th - Addition and Subtraction through Sports

Oct 16th - Playground Games

Oct 23rd - Design your own

\*\* Children to join you for last 30 minutes to work together \*\*

# MAKING SENSE OF **SEND**



## FREE INFORMATION EVENT

For parents/carers of young people with SEND and  
the professionals who work with them.



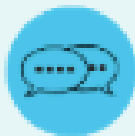
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025



10am-12pm



The Charles Burrell Centre, Staniforth Road,  
Thetford IP24 3LH



Attend a talks about **SEND support** and **reasonable adjustments**



Get **information** & **advice** from services



Enjoy free **refreshments**

Find out more and book your place:



[www.norfolk.gov.uk/msos](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/msos)