



The Drake News

28TH NOVEMBER 2025

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits

A Wonderful Start to Christmas



On Friday 21st November, children from our Come & Sing club went to Thetford Garden Centre to sing for the Drake Christmas Tree for 2025! We sang a Christmas medley of Feliz Navidad, Starry Night and Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer. Our children demonstrated fantastic resilience, singing a capella to songs they had only rehearsed with to music. They did a fantastic job and started the Christmas celebrations for us at Drake.



Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are...
Turing with 99.03%

School of Noise

We were thrilled to welcome the School of Noise to Drake this week for an exciting, interactive workshop all about how sound travels and how noise is created through waves. Children from several year groups took part in a series of hands-on activities that truly brought the science of sound to life.

The high sound made my ears hurt but it made the sand move more



It sounds like we are in space

Maybe sound is invisible

I'm going to go home and see if my fruit and vegetables can make a noise!



During the session, pupils investigated vibrations, experimented with different types of sound waves, and explored how noise can be created, altered, and understood. The workshop not only supported our science curriculum but also linked brilliantly to STEM and STEAM learning, encouraging curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

It was a fantastic day of discovery, and our children left inspired, informed, and eager to explore more about the fascinating world of sound.



Lantern Workshops



This week we welcomed back Willow Phoenix to Drake for our annual giant lantern building event. All pupils had an opportunity to work with Willow Phoenix and we also held 2 very popular family workshops. Children had a fabulous time developing their lantern building skills. For some pupils this was their 4th year of working with Willow Phoenix. We aren't going to share with you photos of the finished lantern quite yet - we'll save the grand reveal for our lantern parade on December 18th.



This week, we were delighted to welcome Emma and Adam from Willow Phoenix back to Drake to build our annual lantern sculpture. Every pupil had the chance to work with Willow Phoenix, and we also held 2 very popular family workshops. The children had a wonderful time developing their lantern-making skills—some pupils are now in their fourth year of working with Willow Phoenix!

We won't be revealing the finished giant lantern just yet; we're saving the big surprise for our Lantern Parade on December 18th.

Over the next few weeks, pupils will also be creating their own individual lanterns to carry in the parade. Depending on their year group, they will make these either in class or during a parent café session.

Lanterns will be given out on December 18th for the parade and can be taken home afterward.

This year, every lantern will be carried on a fresh willow stick grown at Wakelyns organic agroforestry farm, where Willow Phoenix are based. Families are welcome to plant their stick after the parade — each one has the potential to grow into a willow tree.



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Eco-Friendly Christmas Creations at Forest School



I'm going to put it on the Christmas tree. We re-used corks to reduce waste - James



It's very nice that we are reusing things to build something - Helena

This week at Forest School, our children have been putting their creativity, and their commitment to sustainability into action. Using old corks, buttons, and other repurposed materials, the children have been designing and making their own unique Christmas decorations.

By reusing and recycling items that might otherwise be thrown away, pupils not only created beautiful rustic ornaments but also learned about the importance of reducing waste and making environmentally responsible choices.

First Place Victory for Our Year 5 & 6 Swimming Team!



We are thrilled to share the fantastic achievements of our Year 5 and 6 swimming team who recently participated in the Thetford cluster swimming gala on Thursday, 27th November. Our swimmers truly embodied the spirit of teamwork and sportsmanship, serving as excellent role models for our school with their outstanding behaviour and enthusiastic participation.

Competing against 5 schools, each child took part in three races: front crawl, back crawl, and freestyle. Their hard work and dedication shone through as they won an impressive 37 out of 60 races, securing second place in 12 races and ultimately finishing overall in first place!

We are incredibly proud of our swimmers and their achievements. Well done, everyone!

Get Festive for Christmas Jumper Day!

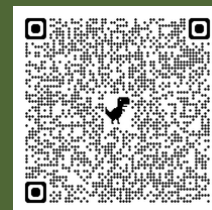


We are delighted to announce that Thursday 11th December is the official Christmas Jumper Day, and this year we will be raising money for Save the Children. All children are warmly invited to come to school wearing their favourite Christmas jumper to help us celebrate the festive season. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, they are very welcome to join in by wearing festive colours, seasonal accessories, or Christmas-themed headwear instead.

Families who would like to donate can do so using the QR code on the next page, which will take you directly to our JustGiving fundraising page.

To keep the festive spirit going, children may also wear their Christmas jumpers on two additional days:

Their Christmas dinner day, and the last day of term, Thursday 19th December.



KS2 Runners Shine at Cross Country Event



Last week, our Key Stage 2 children took part in an exciting cross country event hosted by Thetford Grammar School, and we are delighted to share just how brilliantly they performed.



Many of our runners placed exceptionally highly in their races, showing determination, pace, and impressive stamina. Beyond the results themselves, what stood out most was their attitude. They encouraged one another, supported their peers, and showed real resilience from start to finish. We are incredibly proud of the commitment the children have shown in the lead-up to this event. Their dedication to turning up each week for training, often in cold, muddy, or blustery conditions, truly paid off. Their hard work, teamwork, and readiness to push themselves made the day a great success.



Several of our runners have the opportunity to compete again this week in a further qualifying round, giving them a chance to progress to the county finals. We wish them the very best of luck and know they will continue to represent our school with the same determination and enthusiasm they have shown throughout.

Well done to all of our KS2 runners, we are incredibly proud of each and every one of you!



Drake Primary School
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thursday 18th December
2.30pm-4.30pm

Come along for stalls, games,
refreshments, visit to Santa,
donkeys and lots more fun!

★ The Fayre will be followed by
the Lantern Parade



Carol singing in the woods

We warmly invite
all families to join us
for lantern lit festive singing
in Sir Frederick's Wood.



THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER

2:30 - School Christmas Fair

4:30 - Meet at classroom doors to collect lanterns and line up

4:40 - Lantern parade across to Sir Frederick's Wood

4:45 - Carol singing in the woods