



# The Drake News

16TH JANUARY 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits

## Lantern Parade

4:30

Hot dogs and Hot chocolate  
Mallards will be selling hot  
chocolate and hotdogs in the  
school hall

5:00-5:10

Lantern collection from classrooms

5:10

Class teachers will lead the way  
from classrooms and out of the  
gates.

5:15

We'll follow our Drake lantern  
around the green, past our Drake  
Samba Band, and into the woods

We look forward to you joining us  
for this magical event!

## Adventures Across the World at the Time and Tide Museum

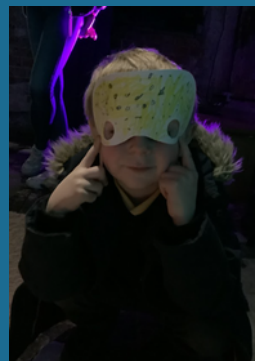
I enjoyed  
everything except  
the smelly fish  
smell!

I liked where we  
played lots of games  
and helped Randall be  
brave.

Making masks  
was really fun.



Earhart class had a fantastic day at the Time and Tide Museum on Tuesday. They spent the day with three explorers, helping them to prepare for their expedition across the world. Poor Randall was very nervous so Earhart class built up his courage by weathering a ferocious storm at sea and fighting off pirates. They learnt about maps and oceans, looked at some amazing artefacts, and created transformation masks to link to our spirit animals.



It was a day full of courage, curiosity and creativity, and Earhart class returned to school inspired for the learning ahead.

## Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are...  
Turing with 96%



## Winter Wildlife Wonders on Our School Grounds!



We had some visitors in our school grounds! Can you spot the footprints they left behind and work out which animals they belong to? Winter brings colder temperatures and shorter days with less sunlight. We also see changes in nature, such as some animals hibernating and tree dormancy which is a survival state where trees halt active growth to conserve energy. Climate change means that UK winters are becoming warmer and wetter than they used to be.



By noticing these seasonal changes and understanding how our local wildlife adapts, we're strengthening the sustainable habits and environmental awareness that sit at the heart of our whole-school sustainability work.

### Plate Waste Research Study



Next week, researchers from the University of East Anglia and the Quadram Institute will be in our school dining hall as part of a study exploring how much of their school meal children actually eat. The team will quietly record which meal options pupils choose and measure any leftover food at the end of lunchtime.

No personal information is collected, and children will not be aware their individual trays are being observed. This research will help improve the nutritional quality of school meals and reduce food waste in the future.

## Zones of Regulation Parent Café



We had a wonderful Parent Café focused on the Zones of Regulation! Children's feelings and emotions are incredibly important, and learning how to understand and regulate them really matters. Across our whole school, we use the Zones of Regulation to give children a shared language for talking about their emotions and recognising how their bodies feel in different situations. This consistent approach helps pupils learn practical strategies to move between zones, supporting their wellbeing, focus and readiness to learn. The children created their very own worry buddies to take home and share with their grown-ups as part of the activity. It was a fabulous afternoon!

I can tell my worries to my grown up and my worry buddy

Quinn



If I'm in the yellow zone I like to do big deep breaths which makes my heart feel calm again

Darcy

## Britten Sinfonia Inspire Our Young Musicians



We are very lucky at Drake to have developed a close and enriching partnership with Britten Sinfonia. This week, we were delighted to welcome them back into school for another live performance with our Key Stage 2 children. As part of the event, pupils from Thetford Academy, who have been taking part in an ongoing music project also performed, showcasing the progress they have made through dedicated practice and expert guidance.

It was inspiring for our children to see older pupils performing confidently alongside professional musicians and to imagine how their own skills could grow.



# Maths Cafés

Year 6

Tuesday 20th January 9am

Year 1

Wednesday 28th January 2:30pm

Year 2

Monday 2nd February 9am

Year 4

Tuesday 3rd February 9am

Year 5

Wednesday 4th February 9am

Year 3

Wednesday 11th February 9am

These Maths Cafés are a great opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about how children are taught maths in school and to pick up practical ideas for supporting learning at home.

## Thank you. £811.75 Raised!



A huge thank you to all of you for making our Christmas Fayre such a lovely community event. It was fantastic to see families and friends coming together to celebrate, browse the stalls and enjoy some festive cheer. An even bigger thank you goes to Mallards for their hard work and organisation. Thanks to their efforts, the fayre raised an amazing £811.75 for our school. We hope you all had lots of fun and felt the joy of our community coming together at such a special time of year.

## Curie Class and The Big Reel Music Project



I liked how I got to express my feelings through dancing.

Amelia Z

I liked the dancing it was fun.

Jackson

It was good I really liked the jumping and kicking in the dancing.

Frank

It was good and I liked the singing parts.

Ava

Curie Class took part in an exciting workshop this week as part of The Big Reel, a project led by Britten Sinfonia in partnership with Thetford Academy.

For this special event, pupils enjoyed a short concert performed by Britten Sinfonia musicians alongside talented students from Thetford Academy. They were also joined by BBC Radio 2 Folk Musician of the Year nominee Will Pound, who helped create a live folk/classical band for the session. Curie Class then took part in a lively ceildh dance workshop led by professional caller Sheena Masson, learning traditional steps and moving to live music right in their own school hall.



Dear parents & carers,

We are delighted to be supporting the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on **Friday 6 February 2026**.

**Everything the NSPCC does protects children today and prevents abuse tomorrow.**

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that’s always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern. Half a million children a year suffer abuse or neglect in the UK. That means 7 children in a classroom experience abuse before they turn 18.



**NSPCC Number Day** makes maths meaningful and is a great way to make numbers fun and bring about a positive, ‘can-do’ attitude towards mathematics.

We are having a fun day of maths activities, and we will be taking part in *Dress up for Digits*. Pupils are asked to wear an item of clothing with a number on it (sports top, football, rugby, netball, hockey shirt or cap). Or get even more creative and become a human calculator, dice or domino by dressing in a maths or numbers theme. To help raise money for the NSPCC, we are asking for donations, and we’d love everyone in the school to take part in this special event.

### Safe fundraising

Please donate via GiftT using the QR code of by clicking [here](#). Please donate and share with friends so we can support the NSPCC.



### It all adds up

We’re really looking forward to all the fun of Number Day, and we really appreciate your support. All the money we raise at Drake will make an enormous difference to children today and help the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow.

Thank you.

Best wishes,

Mr Hewitt

Assistant Headteacher

Drake Primary School

You can find out more about the NSPCC’s work at [nspcc.org.uk](https://nspcc.org.uk)

To find out more about keeping children safe online, visit [nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](https://nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)