



The Drake News

30TH JANUARY 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



Friday 6th February!

We're excited to be taking part in NSPCC Number Day on Friday 6 February, and we'd love all children to join in the fun. As part of the event, pupils are invited to Dress Up for Digits by wearing something with a number on it – this could be a sports shirt, a numbered cap, or even a creative homemade costume inspired by maths.

If you are able to donate, contributions can be made via GiftT using the QR code -



Every outfit helps raise awareness and support the NSPCC's vital work protecting children and preventing abuse.

Every Day Matters



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

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



In Reception, the children have enjoyed a wonderful week exploring birds as part of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch!

The children loved making and naming their own birds and hanging them around the classroom and in Forest School, as well as creating heart-shaped bird feeders to help make the birds feel loved and looked after. Our small world areas were transformed into bird-themed environments with books and seeds for the children to explore.



I can't believe there are so, so, so many of them -

Logan



We have to look after them and not leave rubbish so they don't get hurt -

Grayson

Each child made their own bird and was given a pair of binoculars, along with a photo checklist showing different birds and their names. This allowed the children to go on their own bird hunts, searching for their creations and their friends' birds and ticking them off as they found them.



The children were amazed by how many different birds there are in the world.

Year 2 Begin Their Glockenspiel Journey



Year 2 have embarked on a new chapter in their music learning as they begin to explore the glockenspiels.

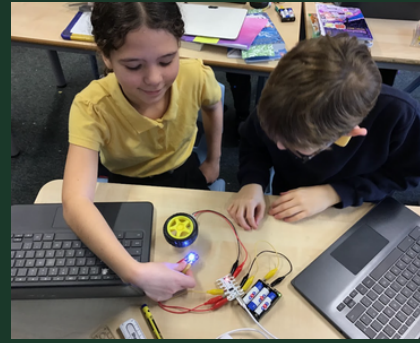


They have been learning a selection of songs inspired by The Robot and the Bluebird project by Britten Sinfonia, ready for their spring performance

This week, they have started learning a brand-new tune that introduces them to the contrasting sounds of major and minor notes. It has been a joy to watch their confidence grow and to see their collaborative learning.



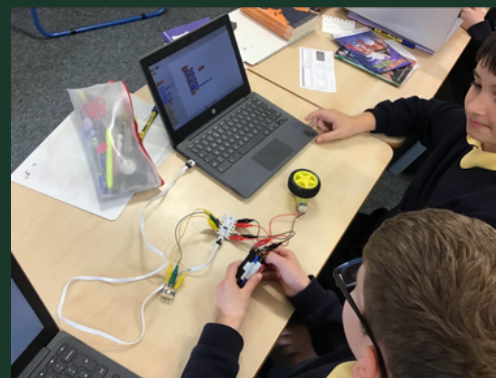
Year 5 Bring Their Coding Skills to Life



Year 5 have been diving deeper into the world of programming this half term as they explore how to use Crumble controllers. After learning how to code a sequence that creates a light show, make a motor turn, and use a button to control an output, the children are now ready to take on a more ambitious challenge.



Over the coming weeks, they will be applying these skills to design and build their own 3D moving creations using Crumble equipment. Early ideas have been wonderfully imaginative, ranging from a fairground swing to a working windmill and even a moving robot.



It has been fantastic to see their problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork grow as they experiment with real-world physical computing.

Creativity and Confidence at the Thetford Dance Event

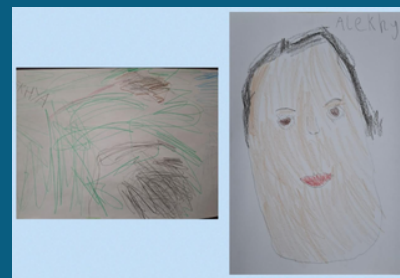


On Monday, Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in a fun and exciting dance event alongside other Thetford schools. Throughout the session, they learnt a range of energetic dance moves and worked brilliantly with others to create a complete routine. The event was a fantastic opportunity to build confidence, teamwork and creativity. The children had a wonderful time and were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Reception's Wonderful Self-Portrait Journey



Over the past term, our Reception children have made great progress in drawing self-portraits and adding their names to their work. They have shown growing confidence in forming the letters of their names independently and take real pride in signing their finished pieces.



The children's self-portraits have also developed beautifully, with increasing detail such as facial features, hair, and expressions. This task highlights their improving fine motor skills, creativity, and self-awareness, and we are very proud of what they have achieved in just one term.

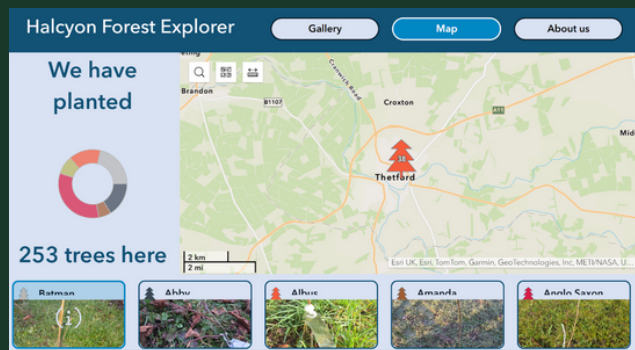
Year 3 Explore Our Local Rivers

Year 3 have been deepening their understanding of our local geography this week as they investigated the rivers that shape our landscape. Using Ordnance Survey maps, the children worked carefully to locate the confluence of the River Thet and the Little Ouse, developing their map-reading skills and learning how rivers connect and change as they flow.



The class showed great curiosity as they explored symbols, grid references, and the features that help us interpret OS maps. It has been a brilliant opportunity for them to link classroom learning with the world around them and to appreciate the geography of our local area.

Mapping Our Growing Forest



Behind the scenes, we have been carefully plotting every tree planted by our children onto a digital map. Each tree has been logged with its location, a photograph, the name chosen by the child, and the species they planted.

Once the map is complete, we will be delighted to share the link with all our families and the wider community. You will be able to explore the map, find your child's tree, and celebrate the collective impact of this wonderful project.

We are very much looking forward to launching this and showcasing the children's contribution to our growing school forest.

Arday Reward for Assessment Resilience



Its like molten rock slime - David

We made the potion with water and food colouring - Lavinia

To acknowledge the hard work of Arday Class during assessment week, we chose to have a reward morning of sensory messy play.

It was so much fun and everyone played together and made all sorts of slimes and potions.

One of the firm favourites was Oobleck Slime. It is a fascinating non-newtonian substance. It is made from cornstarch and water and often some food colouring. It looks like a liquid until you apply pressure with your hands and it then feels like a solid.



The slime feels hard but good - Carter



Assessment Week at Drake

This week, our children took part in Assessment Week. This is an important point in the term that helps us understand how well pupils are learning and where they may need further support. These assessments give teachers valuable information about any gaps in understanding so that teaching can be adapted and targeted effectively in the weeks ahead.

Just as importantly, Assessment Week provides children with the chance to experience sitting tests in a calm, supportive environment. They are taught strategies for approaching questions, managing their time, and showing what they know with confidence.

It's also worth remembering that these tests are only one part of the bigger picture. Teachers use ongoing formative assessment every single day, through questioning, discussion, observation, and feedback to ensure their teaching is responsive and meets the needs of every child. The combination of daily assessment and more formal tests helps us build a clear, accurate understanding of each pupil's progress.

We are incredibly proud of how determined, focused, and positive our children have been throughout the week. The atmosphere across the school has been wonderful, and it has been a pleasure to see pupils approach their learning with such maturity and resilience Well done, Drake pupils!