



The Drake News

14TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits

Thank you!



We would like to say a huge thank you to the Stone family, Rory J Holbrook Ltd and driver Tommy, who so kindly collected a large amount of sand for us from Thetford Town Council. Thanks to their generosity and willingness to give up their time, we have been able to fully replenish the sand pit in our Year 1 outdoor area and top up the Cringle Crag.



Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are...

Kamkwamba with 97.2%



BACK TO School



As we begin a new academic year, we also want to extend a heartfelt welcome back to all our families. It has been wonderful to see familiar faces returning to school, full of energy and enthusiasm after the summer break.

The children have settled quickly into their new classes, reconnecting with friends as well as making new ones. Each new year brings fresh opportunities to build on successes, explore new ideas and continue growing together as a school community. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure every child thrives, feels valued and enjoys their learning journey.



We are delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families to Drake Primary School. This week has been such a special one as our youngest learners have taken their very first steps on their school journey.

Our staff have loved getting to know each child and seeing their personalities shine through.

We look forward to working closely with families as the year unfolds, sharing in the children's progress, celebrating their achievements and supporting them every step of the way.

Our Value this term.....



...is Love!

This term, our whole-school value is Love. In our assemblies and classroom discussions, we have been exploring what love looks like in a school community — kindness, care, respect, friendship and the small everyday actions that help everyone feel safe, valued and included.

On the first day of term, the children took part in our annual Values Day, where each class spent time thinking about the value of Love through discussion, activities and creative work.

Children shared ideas about how we show love to others, how we look after our friends, and how we help make our school a place where everyone belongs. They created artwork, took part in team challenges and reflected on how they can demonstrate love in their words and actions throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing this value shine through in all aspects of school life over the coming weeks,

Our School Key Priorities for 2026–27

This year, we are focusing on three key priorities that will help every child at Drake make strong progress and experience high-quality teaching across the curriculum.

1. Raising standards in writing

We are working to strengthen writing across the whole school. This includes high-quality modelling, clear teaching routines, precise assessment and a well-sequenced curriculum. Children will build strong skills in vocabulary, sentence construction, handwriting and composition, with consistent approaches from EYFS through to Year 6.

2. Improving attainment and progress in maths

We are embedding Maths Mastery principles to help children develop secure understanding, fluency and confidence. Daily retrieval, strong use of representations, precise language and targeted intervention will support pupils to make sustained progress. We are also strengthening assessment so teachers can quickly identify gaps and address misconceptions.

3. Strengthening teaching and learning across all subjects

We are continuing to embed evidence-based practice through our Drake Teaching & Learning Policy and Teaching WalkThrus. This means consistent routines, clear modelling, strong explanations, effective feedback and high expectations for presentation. Our aim is to reduce variability and ensure every child experiences high-quality teaching every day.

Reception Superstars!

The children in Reception have had such a wonderful first week! They have settled in beautifully and have been learning and practising our routines, ready to begin full-time next week. We have already seen so many fantastic skills as the children have explored and enjoyed all the different areas inside and outside the classroom.



My favourite part was making a crown for my class name.



I loved drawing my face, and I'm excited to do it even better next time.



My favourite thing was showing how I can write my name.



Autumn Term Dates



Term time

Thursday 3 September – Thursday
22 October 2026

Half-term holiday

Friday 23 – Friday 30 October 2026

Term time

Monday 2 November – Friday 18
December 2026

Christmas holiday

Monday 21 December – Monday 4
January 2027

Parent Governor Vacancy

We are seeking new Parent Governors to join the Halcyon Federation Governing Board, which supports both Wicklewood and Drake Primary Schools. Becoming a Parent Governor is a wonderful opportunity to help shape the strategic direction of our schools and support the education and wellbeing of all children across the federation.

What do Governors do?

Governors work together as a team to set the school's vision and values, hold leaders to account for educational standards, and ensure that resources are used effectively. They look at the bigger picture rather than day-to-day management, asking thoughtful questions, reviewing information and helping to drive long-term school improvement.

Interested in joining us?

If you would like to find out more or express your interest, please contact the school office. We would love to hear from parents who are enthusiastic about contributing to our school community and helping shape the future of the federation.



Year 1 Spiral Art Exploration

Year 1 have been exploring spirals this week through both their art lessons and continuous provision activities.

The children have been fascinated by the different shapes, sizes and colours they can create, and together they produced a wonderful whole-class piece showcasing their spirals in all their variety.

Over the next few weeks, the children will continue to build on this work, experimenting with new mediums and techniques to develop their artistic skills and creativity. We look forward to seeing how their spiral artwork evolves.