



The Drake News

19TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



This week we were delighted to present our very first Class Award in Celebration Assembly. Each week, teachers will nominate their class based on how well they are demonstrating our school's Creative Habits, which help us all to become stronger, more confident learners.

A huge congratulations to every class for their fantastic efforts. It was a very close contest, with so many pupils showing great teamwork, perseverance and imagination. This week's winning class was Curie, recognised for their outstanding collaboration. They have been working brilliantly together towards their class goal and making impressive progress as a team. Well done, Curie, and well done to all our classes. We can't wait to see who will be nominated next week!

Outdoor Adventures!

Year 1 have been taking part in Outdoor Learning on Wednesday afternoons, with Rashford Class using Sophia's Garden and Merian Class exploring Drake's Forest School area. As well as providing a wonderful opportunity to be physically active, enjoy the fresh air and spend time in nature, these afternoons are already becoming an important part of the children's learning.

The outdoor environment gives them the chance to experience their curriculum first-hand and develop their curiosity about the natural world around them. They have been learning to identify plants growing on our school site.



Throughout the year, they will revisit these spaces to observe how the plants change with the seasons.

Outdoor Learning also provides lots of opportunities for children to develop their independence, communication and teamwork. They are learning to explore, investigate, ask questions, solve problems and work together, while having the freedom to follow their own interests and discover things for themselves.



Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are Andersen with 99.7%

We are looking forward to seeing how their learning develops and grows throughout the year and discovering what exciting adventures our outdoor spaces have in store for Year 1!

This half term's creative habit is



This half term, the children are learning all about how to be collaborative learners.

Across the school, classes are exploring what it means to work together positively, sharing ideas, contributing to group tasks, listening carefully to others and offering helpful feedback. They will be practising ways to support one another, solve problems as a team and build on each other's thinking.

Children will be using collaborative language such as "Can I contribute...?", "What do you think?", "We could...", and "Can you help me with...?" to help them work more effectively with their partners and groups.

We are already seeing wonderful examples of teamwork, cooperation and shared success in classrooms, and we look forward to celebrating more collaborative achievements throughout the half term.

We Are Proud to Announce Our Artsmark Platinum Award!

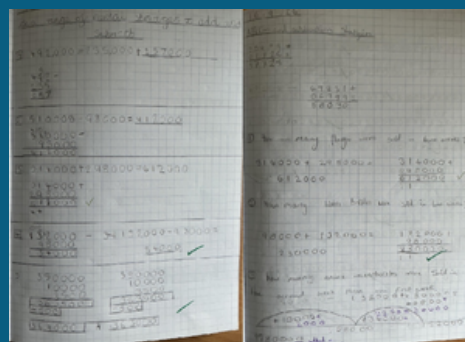


We are absolutely delighted to share that our school has been awarded the Artsmark Platinum Award — the highest level of recognition for arts, culture and creativity in schools. This award celebrates our long-term commitment to providing an exceptional arts education, from high-quality curriculum experiences to rich creative opportunities across the wider life of the school.

Achieving Platinum means we have demonstrated outstanding practice in the arts: a broad and ambitious curriculum, strong partnerships with cultural organisations, and a school culture where creativity is valued, visible and woven through everything we do.

We are incredibly proud of this achievement and look forward to continuing to inspire creativity, imagination and artistic confidence in every child.

Year 6 Master Multiple Maths Strategies



Year 6 have been working incredibly hard to develop their addition and subtraction skills across a range of different strategies. Their mathematical thinking is evident in the beautiful presentation of their work in their books, which showcases their growing confidence with mental strategies, number lines, bar models and written formal column methods.

Through tackling a variety of problems, the children are building resilience and deeper understanding. Their commitment to practice and perseverance demonstrates that maths is about more than just getting the right answer—it's about exploring different approaches and developing problem-solving skills that will serve them well as they move forward. Well done Year 6!

Year 4 Discover the Marvels of the Digestive System



Year 4 have been on a fascinating journey into the world of the digestive system this week, learning about the key organs and discovering how they work together in an incredible partnership.

Through exploring the functions of the mouth, oesophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine and more, the children have developed a deeper understanding of how their bodies process food and keep them healthy.

The children have been amazed to learn just how clever their bodies are, and their engagement and curiosity have been wonderful to see. This knowledge is helping them make more informed choices about nutrition and appreciate the complex processes happening inside them every single day.

Little Ducklings Childcare
Autumn Holiday Club

Ages: 0-7 years

Opening Hours: 7:30am-5:30pm

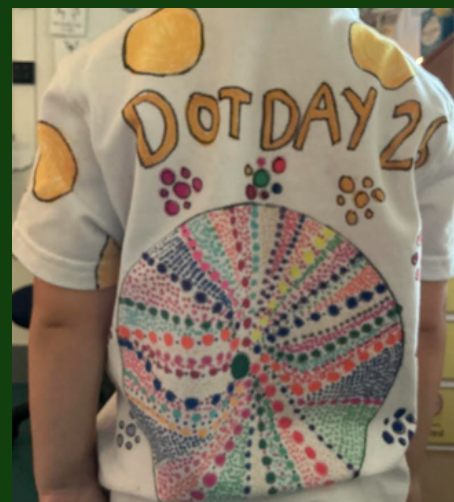
26th-30th October

Fun activities: crafts • stories • games
• sensory play • songs!

Phone: 01842 762055
Email: littleducklings@drake.norfolk.sch.uk



International Dot Day!



The children came to school dressed in dots and enjoyed reading *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds – a lovely story that shows how art and creativity can begin with something as simple as a single dot. We then became artists ourselves, experimenting with bingo dabbers, cardboard tubes, cotton buds and lots of other dot-making materials to create some awesome artwork. The children loved exploring the different patterns, colours and effects they could make. We have also been starting to learn our letters and sounds, starting with the sound 'm'. To help us remember the sound we have a rhyme and picture that says Maisie Mountain Mountain. ! A wonderfully creative and colourful day!



Drake Primary School
ALL PARENTS & CARERS WELCOME

YOU'RE INVITED

Our First Parents Forum

Tea, coffee & a chat with the senior leadership team

WHEN

**Monday 28th
September 2026**

Two sessions — come to either:
8.40am – 9.20am
2.40pm – 3.15pm

WHERE

Our School Hall

Please sign in through the office

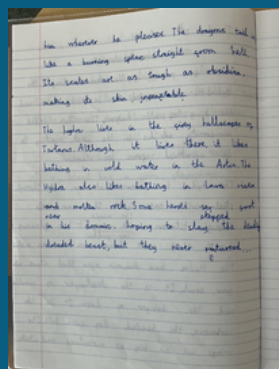
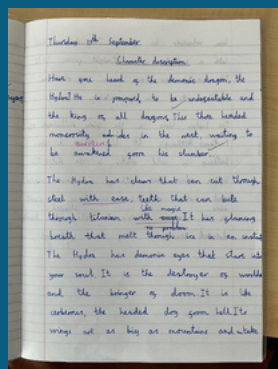
An informal session over tea and coffee — a chance to meet the senior leadership team and hear directly from the Acting Headteacher.

- Meet the senior leadership team
- Hear our mission, vision and aims
- Find out our school priorities

**No need to book —
just come along.**



Year 5 Craft Vivid Character Descriptions



Year 5 have been inspired by the magical world of Kai and The Monkey King by Joe Todd-Stanton to develop their writing skills. Through studying the rich language and imaginative descriptions in the story, the children have worked hard on constructing engaging sentences and using expanded noun phrases to bring characters to life. Their character descriptions have been brilliant—packed with carefully chosen adjectives, precise detail and vivid imagery that really help the reader picture the characters they're creating. The children's growing confidence in using these techniques is shining through in their writing, and their ability to add layers of description is developing beautifully. It's been wonderful to see them apply what they've learned from a masterfully illustrated text to craft their own compelling character work.

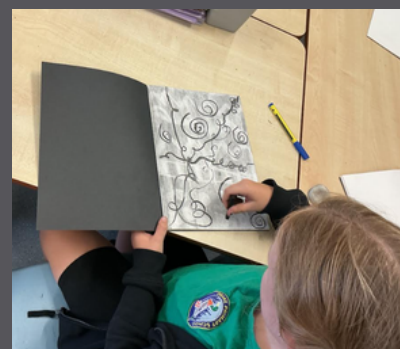
Charcoal Creations: Year 3 Explore Gestural Drawing



Year 3 have greatly enjoyed exploring gestural drawing with charcoal over the last two weeks. Last week, we explored different ways of using the charcoal and the different types of marks that can be made, as well as experimenting with smudging.



This week, we created negative handprint artwork, carefully smudging the outline outwards to make the image 'pop' on the page. We also made charcoal dust palettes and tried out using various parts of our hands to make different marks.



Spotlight on Phonics



Read Write Inc.
Phonics

We teach early reading through **Read Write Inc. Phonics** — a step-by-step programme showing children how letters and sounds work, so they can read words for themselves.

STEP ONE

Speed Sounds

Children learn the 75 sounds of English and the letters that write them — starting with m, a, s, d, t and building to ay, ee and igh from Reception to Year 2.

STEP TWO

Fred Talk

Using Fred the Frog, children sound out and blend: c-a-t, cat. Blending is the skill that turns letters on a page into a word.

STEP THREE

Books that match

Every storybook contains only the sounds your child has been taught, so they read it with success rather than guesswork.

SOME SOUNDS YOUR CHILD WILL MEET

m a s d t sh th ng ay ee igh ow

Say the *pure* sound — “mmm”, not “muh”. The Oxford Owl guide below has films of every sound.

Why phonics matters

Reading unlocks every other subject. Children who decode confidently in their first years at school stop thinking about *how* to read and start thinking about what the words mean.

Read Write Inc. teaches this in a consistent order, with the same routines in every classroom and regular assessment, so every child is taught at exactly the right level.

Ten minutes at home

- 1 Read the school book daily — twice if you can. Rereading builds fluency.
- 2 Use Fred Talk in the kitchen: “pass me your c–oa–t.”
- 3 Praise effort, not speed. Sound out stuck words rather than guessing from the picture.
- 4 Keep reading aloud to them — stories beyond their own level grow vocabulary.



Our classroom phonics display — Simple Speed Sounds and the words we are learning to read.

FOR PARENTS — FREE GUIDE, FILMS AND ACTIVITIES

Oxford Owl: Read Write Inc. Phonics guide

home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/

You can find further videos from Ruth Minskin on Tapestry or Google Classroom.
Questions about your child's reading? Speak to their class teacher.