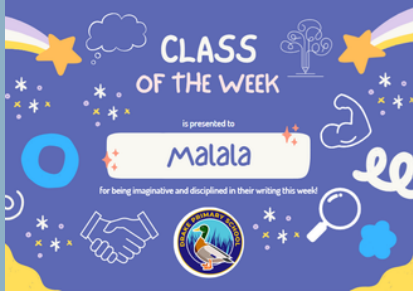




The Drake News

25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



This week's winners of the Class Award are Malala Class for their fantastic use of our Creative Habits. Malala were wonderfully imaginative when they wrote from the perspective of Curiosity, the Mars rover, creating thoughtful and original pieces that showed real creativity. They also demonstrated impressive discipline, pushing themselves to make ambitious language and grammar choices and showing real pride in improving their work.

A huge well done to Malala Class, and congratulations to all our classes for their continued effort and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing who will be nominated next week as our Creative Habits continue to shine across the school.

Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are Maathai with 99.3%

A Journey Into Thetford's Past for Year 2



On Wednesday, Year 2 had a fantastic time on their trip to the Ancient House Museum! The children enjoyed learning all about Thetford Castle and what life was like in the past. They enthusiastically took part in a variety of activities, including discovering medicines used at the castle and having a go at writing with quill pens, just like the knights did. They even bravely climbed the castle hill! It was wonderful to see the children so curious, enthusiastic and engaged throughout the day.



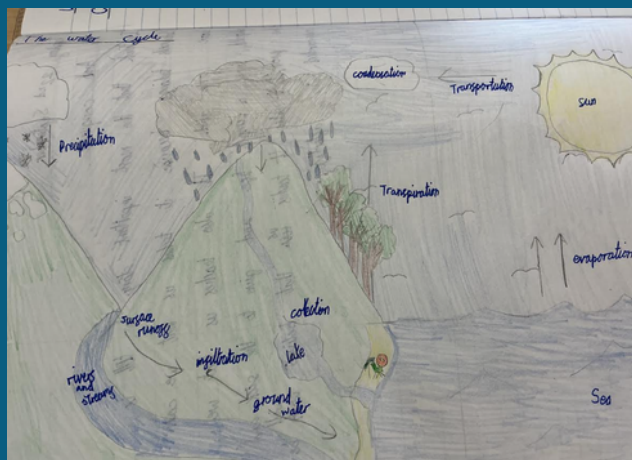
I really enjoyed writing with feathers. I never done this before - Sofija

I liked climbing up the castle hill and learning about the castle - Francesco

I really enjoyed everything and finding out how people lived a long time ago - Sam

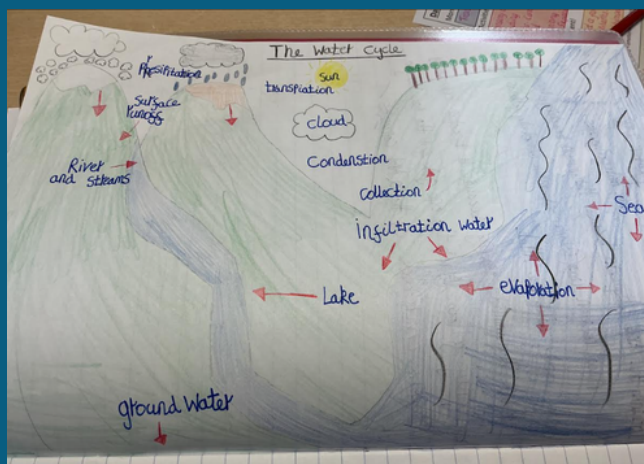


Year 5 Explore Oceans and the Water Cycle



This week, Year 5 have been deepening their understanding of oceans and how they are affected by our changing climate. As part of their learning, the children have been studying the water cycle and exploring how evaporation, condensation and precipitation all play a vital role in shaping weather patterns and ocean conditions.

The class produced some beautifully detailed diagrams to show their understanding, and we are delighted to share two excellent examples created by Zahra and Natasa in Curie Class. Their work shows impressive care, accuracy and creativity, and reflects the thoughtful learning taking place across Year 5.

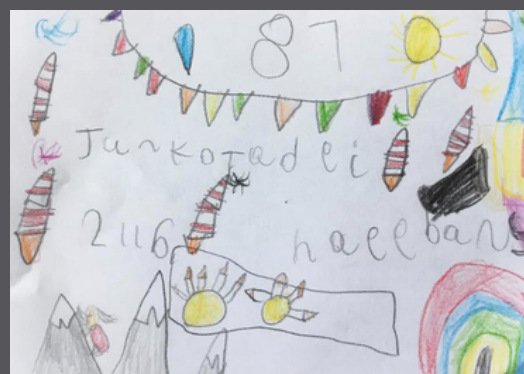


Well done to all of Year 5 for their hard work and curiosity this week.

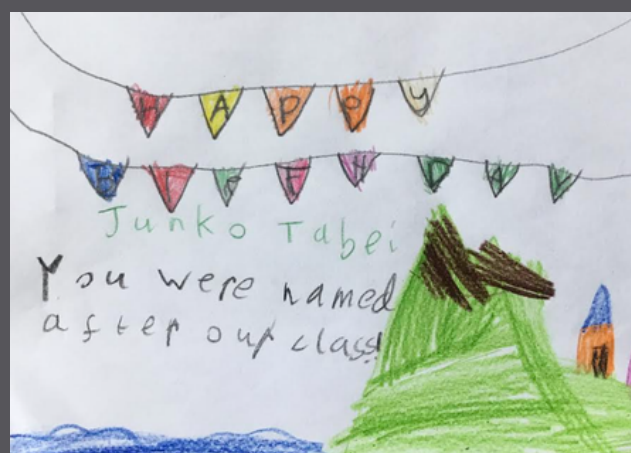
Tabei Class Mark Junko Tabei's Birthday



On 22nd September, Tabei Class remembered the inspiring Junko Tabei on what would have been her 87th birthday.



We learned about why she is famous, explored her incredible life journey and discovered some fascinating facts about her achievements. The children enjoyed drawing pictures and writing special birthday messages to remember and celebrate her life and legacy.



Reading for Pleasure at Drake



At Drake, all of our curriculum cafés this year are centred around Reading for Pleasure, a key priority across the school. Research consistently shows that children who read widely and enjoy reading not only develop stronger comprehension skills, but also build significantly richer vocabularies. Studies such as the DfE's Reading Framework highlight that children who read regularly encounter millions more words than those who do not, a difference that has a powerful impact on their confidence, language development and long-term learning.

Reading for Pleasure is about far more than decoding; it is about curiosity, imagination and the joy of discovering new ideas. When children choose to read, talk about books and share stories with others, they strengthen their understanding of the world and deepen their emotional literacy.

This is why our cafés are designed to celebrate reading, bring families into the learning experience, and show how we can nurture a love of books together.

Year 2 Reading Café

On Tuesday, Year 2 were delighted to welcome parents to our Reading Café! We had a wonderful time celebrating our love of reading and focusing on reading for pleasure. We enjoyed the hilarious and interactive story 'The Book with No Pictures' and took part in a range of fun activities linked to other texts. It was lovely to see the children sharing their enjoyment of books with their parents and celebrating what makes reading so much fun!





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

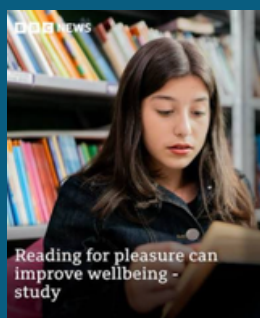
An informal session over tea and coffee — a chance to meet the senior leadership team and hear directly from the Acting Headteacher.

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

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



Reading and Wellbeing



Recent research from Cambridge University highlights a powerful connection between reading for pleasure and children's wellbeing. Their latest study found that children who regularly choose to read experience higher levels of life satisfaction, better emotional regulation and reduced stress, compared with those who read less frequently. Reading offers a calm space for children to unwind, explore feelings safely and build empathy through stories and characters.

By nurturing a love of reading, we are not only strengthening vocabulary and language skills, but also supporting children's mental health and overall happiness.

Link to the article -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cmx2zdp1wv11o>

University of Cambridge link -

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/reading-for-pleasure-and-for-better-health>

Year 1 Outdoor Learning – Donations Welcome



As part of enriching our Year 1 outdoor learning provision, we are hoping to gather a small collection of resources that will help the children explore, create and play safely. If you have any suitable items at home that are in good condition and safe for children to use, we would be very grateful for donations. These will support our ongoing work to develop a stimulating outdoor environment where children can learn through hands-on experiences.

Thank you!



Old climbing ropes
Cable reels (that are suitable for outside)
Guttering and pipes
Logs and stumps
Scaffolding boards / decking boards
Washing up bowls
Hand forks, trowels, spades, forks, watering cans
Old blankets and picnic blankets
Old sheets
Net curtains
Wooden crates and milk crates
Wooden garden furniture
Garden netting
Trellis
Camo netting
Decorators paint brushes
Wood offcuts
Chopping boards
Wooden kitchen utensils
Old camping equipment
Wooden ladder
Bamboo

