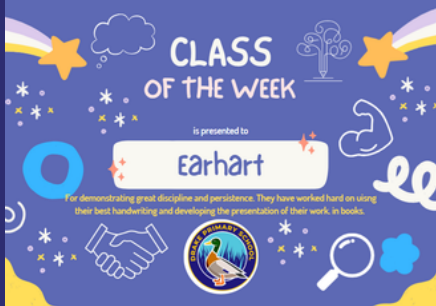




The Drake News

5TH OCTOBER 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



This week's Class Award goes to Earhart Class for demonstrating fantastic discipline and persistence in their learning. The children have been working incredibly hard to use their very best handwriting and to improve the presentation of their work, showing real pride in their books and a determination to keep getting better. We also gave a very special mention to all of Year 4 and Tabei Class, who have shown excellent effort and commitment throughout the week. Their hard work has been noticed and celebrated across the school.

Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are...

Maathai class with 100%

Year 3 Discover the Wonders of Ancient Egypt



Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Norwich Castle this week, where they took part in various activities on the topic of Ancient Egypt.



The children learned about Ancient Egyptian daily life, including what foods would typically have been eaten for breakfast, how crops would have been harvested and what clothing was worn. They loved having the opportunity to dress up and parade around the museum. The children also learned about Egyptian jewellery and the significance of the colours used, before creating their own colourful Egyptian collars. There was also the opportunity to handle and closely observe real Egyptian artefacts from the museum's collection, which really sparked everyone's curiosity. A highlight was learning about the mummification process – especially how the brain was removed through the nose!



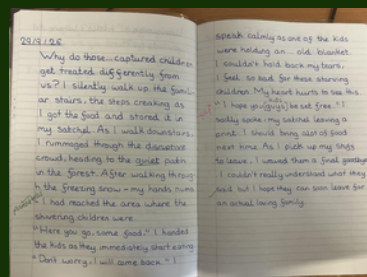
Reading Cafés



This week, we had our wonderful Reception Reading Café, with a focus on encouraging a love of reading in lots of different ways.

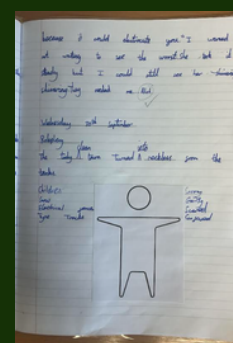
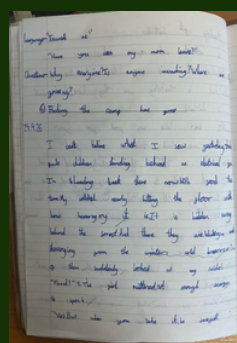
Supporting children to read, practise sounds and enjoy books in a variety of fun and engaging ways can make such a big difference to their learning and confidence. During the session, we explored lots of playful activities to help the children practise their sounds, from splatting flies with sounds on them to catching sound-labelled spiders!

It was lovely to see the children (and grown-ups) so engaged, enthusiastic and excited about their reading. We had lots of fun learning together!



In King Class this week, pupils have been preparing to write diary entries based on a powerful moment in our class text. They explored the section where the main character discovers an undiscovered concentration camp, approaching the topic with maturity and empathy.

Danny and Aaraa, produced particularly thoughtful pieces that showed strong emotional understanding and careful writing.



Thank you to all the parents who joined us for our first Parent Forum this week. It was a valuable opportunity to share and discuss our school's Vision, Mission and Aims, as well as our key priorities for the year ahead. We were grateful for the thoughtful feedback and for the time parents took to reflect on how strongly they felt our VMA represents Drake today.

For families who were unable to attend, we will be sending out a short survey next week on Parent Hub, to gather wider parent voice.

Your views will help shape the next stage of our Vision, Mission and Aims as we continue to refine them together.



Conker fun in Year 1!



In this week's Outdoor Learning session, Year 1 have been busy getting to grips with palm drills and conker clamps to make their very own conker necklaces. Using a new tool for the first time wasn't always easy, but the children showed fantastic perseverance and concentration. There were lots of very proud faces when those first holes finally appeared!

The children have also been enjoying making 'conker runs' using our large loose parts. They worked cooperatively together to build, test and change their designs, thinking carefully about how to make the conkers travel from one point to another.

Alongside all this hands-on learning, they have been exploring the signs of autumn, collecting conkers and noticing the changes happening in the trees around them. It was a lovely afternoon of learning through making, experimenting, problem-solving and simply having a go!

Year 1 Welcome Miss Hinton's Chickens



Year 1 had a very special experience this week when they were invited to meet Miss Hinton's chickens and newly hatched chicks. The birds have settled beautifully into the outdoor Year 1 area, much to the children's delight.

Every child had the chance to visit, stroke or even gently hold one of the chickens or chicks. Staff were incredibly proud of how calm, careful and respectful the children were throughout, showing excellent behaviour as they observed and interacted with the animals. Their gentle voices, steady hands and thoughtful questions made the experience a real highlight of the week.

A New Chapter for Our School Library



We're delighted to share that our school library has been given a new lease of life! The space has been transformed into a warm, welcoming corner of our school where children can curl up with a book, discover new authors and lose themselves in stories from every corner of the imagination.

The library is a place to explore new worlds, whether that's journeying through enchanted forests, travelling back in time or uncovering fascinating facts about the world around us. Children will also be able to gather for story sessions, sharing the joy of hearing a tale read aloud together.

Reading for pleasure is one of the most valuable habits a child can develop, supporting their vocabulary, imagination and wellbeing as well as their learning across the curriculum. Being read to matters at every age too: even confident, independent readers benefit from hearing stories shared aloud, at school and at home.

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Working Together Like the Little Red Hen



This week, we were inspired by our story The Little Red Hen and thought carefully about its important message: when we pull together, help one another and work as a team, everyone is happy at the end!

We learned the instructions for making bread together before working as a team to mix, knead and bake our very own loaves. The children did an amazing job and were incredibly proud of what they had made. We even delivered some of our freshly baked bread to staff around school so they could have a taste too!

Afterwards, we used photographs we had taken throughout the process to practise our sequencing skills, putting the different stages of bread-making in the correct order in our books. The children showed fantastic teamwork, kindness and learning. Great job, Reception!



Collaborative Creativity in Year 2!



This week, children worked in small groups to create beautiful pen-and-leaf artworks. They experimented with line drawing, pattern and natural materials, but the real focus was on our Creative Habit: collaboration.

Pupils listened to one another's ideas, shared resources and made joint decisions about how their artwork should develop. It was wonderful to see groups encouraging each other, problem-solving together and celebrating their finished pieces as a team.



Inspired by Lubaina Himid: 3D Lighthouses Take Shape



Year 6 have just completed an exciting art unit transforming 2D drawings into 3D sculptures, inspired by the work of Lubaina Himid. Children began with small sketches and then carefully scaled them up to double the size, developing their understanding of proportion and structure.

Their final creations were impressive 3D lighthouses, linked to our class text *Letters from the Lighthouse*. The photos show the journey from early drawings to finished sculptures, capturing the focus, creativity and teamwork involved throughout the process.



DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits

Is your child starting school in September 2027? Drake Primary School would like to invite you to our open event and classroom tours.

Open Evening

Wednesday 4th November
5.00pm - 6.30pm

Tours

Wednesday 18th November 9.30 am
Wednesday 18th November 1.30 pm

Take a look at the classrooms, meet the staff, find out about our curriculum and the wider opportunities we offer our children

NO NEED TO BOOK

office@drake.norfolk.sch.uk



To find out more call 01842 762055



Next Friday, we will be holding our Harvest Festival assembly, and we are delighted to be supporting Thetford Foodbank as part of our celebrations. The poster on the next page outlines three "Harvest Missions" families can choose from, each focusing on items the foodbank needs most. From cosy cuppa essentials, to tinned goods, to hygiene items.

We kindly ask that all donations are brought into school by Friday morning, so that we can display them as part of our assembly and celebrate the generosity of our school community.

Thank you in advance for your support and for helping us make a meaningful difference to local families.

THIS HARVEST CHOOSE YOUR HARVEST MISSION!

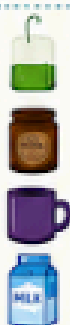
Pick one mission and help collect the items that Thetford Foodbank needs most.

THE COSY CUPBOARD



Help fill a cupboard with things that make a lovely cuppa!

- ♥ Tea bags
- ♥ Coffee
- ♥ Hot chocolate
- ♥ Biscuits
- ♥ Long-life milk



THE TIN TEAM



Can your school build the biggest Tin Team?

- ♥ Tinned meat
- ♥ Tinned fish
- ♥ Tinned vegetables
- ♥ Tinned fruit
- ♥ Tinned soup



THE CARE CREW



Small essentials that make a big difference.

- ♥ Toothpaste
- ♥ Toothbrushes
- ♥ Shampoo
- ♥ Shower gel
- ♥ Deodorant



MAKE IT
A CHALLENGE!

Choose your mission, collect together and see how much your school can achieve. Every single item makes a huge difference.



THANK YOU
for helping our local
community!



Thetford
Foodbank

Together we can
make a difference
thetford.foodbank.org.uk



WE DO NOT NEED:



BEANS



PASTA



CEREAL



RICE

Please donate unopened items that are in good condition and well within their best-before/ use-by date. Thank you!



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THETFORD FOODBANK THIS HARVEST!

