The Drake News

11TH OCTOBER 2026

Where a World of Opportunity Awaits



This week's Class Award goes to Kamkwamba Class for their fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm in science. The children showed wonderful inquisitiveness, asking thoughtful and probing questions as they explored and compared different soil samples. Their eagerness to investigate, observe and deepen their understanding made their science learning truly come alive.

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

Every Day Matters



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

This week's winners are Andersen and Attenborough with 100%

Year 2 Become Castle Detectives at Norwich Castle Museum







I liked when we caught the rats and we found the ring
Kaiden

I like going on the double decker bus
Francesco

I liked going on the castle top roof
Kenny





I like creating the story about the troll
Matvii

On Wednesday, Year 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to Norwich Castle Museum! The children took part in engaging activities, learning about kings and life in the castle. They were given a special mission to help Jack the Rat Catcher find a precious ring, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children also loved exploring the battlements and admiring the wonderful views of Norwich from the top. They represented our school beautifully, showing great enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent behaviour throughout the day. Well done, Year 2!

Reception Blast Off for World Space Week!





What a magical week it has been in Reception as we celebrated World Space Week! The classrooms were transformed into outer space, with blacked-out windows, twinkling star lights and inflatable planets creating an incredible night-sky atmosphere. The children were absolutely captivated from the moment they walked in.

Throughout the week, the children designed their own rockets and planets using UV paint and were amazed to see their creations glowing brightly around the room. They made beautiful night-sky patterns with chalk, explored soft, sensory moon dough and used their imaginations to build all kinds of space-themed models and inventions.

Alongside all the creativity, the children learned lots about the solar system and the planets within it. Their curiosity, wonder and excitement shone through every activity. It truly felt as though Reception had travelled into space together.



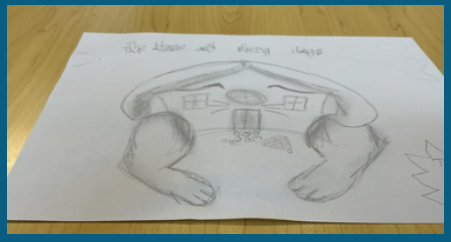



Year 5 Celebrate Reading Together at Their Reading Café





This week Year 5 welcomed families to their Reading for Pleasure café, where we talked about the importance of reading and how adults at home can support their child's love of reading. Families and children then enjoyed activities linked to our class text " House of Chicken Legs" by Sophie Andersen. These included recreating a book cover, making a time capsule or drawing.



A big thank you to all our families for joining us!

Family Market Place Cafe

Open to all parents accross school

Drake Primary School warmly invite you to attend a Market Place cafe with a range of services that support our families and learners.

Our Market Place event will include 10 children and family's support services covering a wide variety of topics. There will be time to speak with professionals, meet with other parents, gather advice and guidance, and if appropriate complete referrals on the day to access further support. Light refreshments will be available.

The Market Place is facilitated by the Pastoral Team in school, who will also be available throughout. We look forward to seeing you there!

Family Market Place Cafe
Topic: Family support services
Date: Tuesday 20th October 9-10am
The event is created in partnership with Breckland Family Hub, drawing together the wealth of expertise and knowledge for families from our local area all in one place.

This is an open, drop in event but we would ask you to please email office@drake.norfolk.sch.uk confirming your attendance to allow us to prepare adequately for the event.

Family Market Place Cafe

Drake Primary School warmly invite you to attend our Autumn term Parents as Partners cafe.

When? Tuesday 20th October 9-10am

Who? Drake Primary and Breckland Family Hub

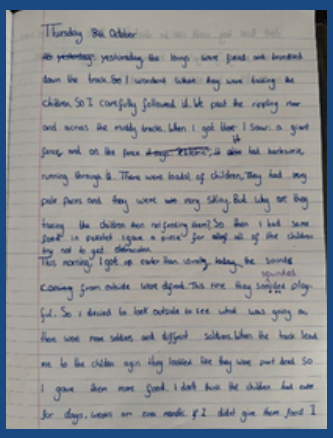
Market Place attendees:

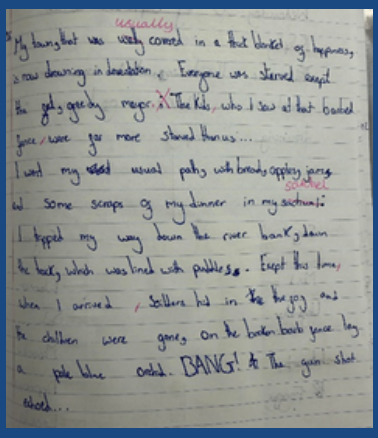
- Breckland Family Hub
- S&C
- Breckland MHST
- ECFS
- FGC and Family Networking Advisor
- Family Voice
- Norfolk and Waveney MIND
- Daisy Programme
- Benjamin Foundation
- Family Action

How? This is an open, drop in event but we would ask you to please email office@drake.norfolk.sch.uk confirming your attendance to allow us to prepare adequately for the event.

Year 6 Bring Rose Blanche to Life Through Writing







Year 6 have produced some truly excellent writing inspired by Rose Blanche, a powerful picture book set in Germany during the Second World War. Through Rose's eyes, children explored a moving and thought-provoking story, which sparked rich discussion and gave them plenty to write about.

Drawing on their imagination, children crafted vivid setting descriptions that captured the atmosphere of Rose's town, before stepping into her shoes to write heartfelt diary entries reflecting her experiences and feelings. Throughout, they worked extremely hard to apply their technical and grammatical skills, choosing ambitious vocabulary and varying their sentence structures to great effect.

The results have been a real pleasure to read, showing both skill and genuine empathy. Well done, Year 6!

A Half Term of Growth and Great Learning in Edison Class



Edison Class have done some fantastic learning so far this half term. In our Maths, we have been exploring the place value of 2-digit, 3-digit and 4-digit numbers and in Reading, the children have enjoyed reading our key text " The wild robot", where they have worked hard on developing their comprehension skills.





This week, we have also worked on our Zones of Regulation interventions, where we have discussed what regulation means, the ways we can regulate ourselves and help others to regulate and the 4 coloured zones.

Wonderful Wet-Weather Learning in Year 1!

This week's Year 1 Outdoor Learning session was a wet one, but rain definitely didn't stop play!

Our sessions take place all year round, and learning to embrace the challenges of different weather helps children develop resilience, while also creating opportunities to explore, play and learn in new ways.





The rain made it possible for children to experiment with how different pens behave when wet, create water chutes to send leaves on their way, use mud to paint spirals and to have fun playing and learning under shelters.





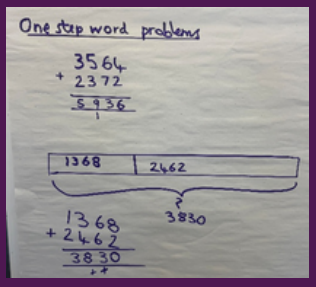


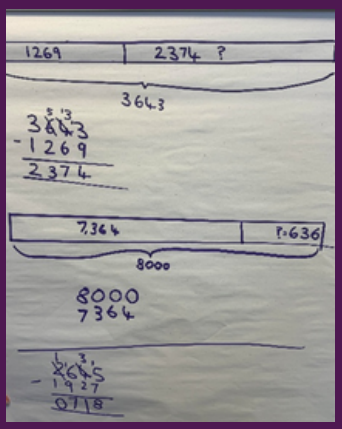
They also got stuck into digging out a new mud pit, made clay 'conker snails', and collected different leaves to make 'leaf kebabs', helping them begin to identify the trees growing around our school site. As always, the children demonstrated fantastic perseverance, cooperation and creativity, and had a wonderful time learning and playing outdoors, whatever the weather!

Year 4 Rise to the Word Problem Challenge

Year 4 have been putting their problem-solving skills to the test this half term, tackling one-step word problems in maths. Children have been carefully reading each problem to work out exactly what it is asking, then choosing the right operation to solve it.

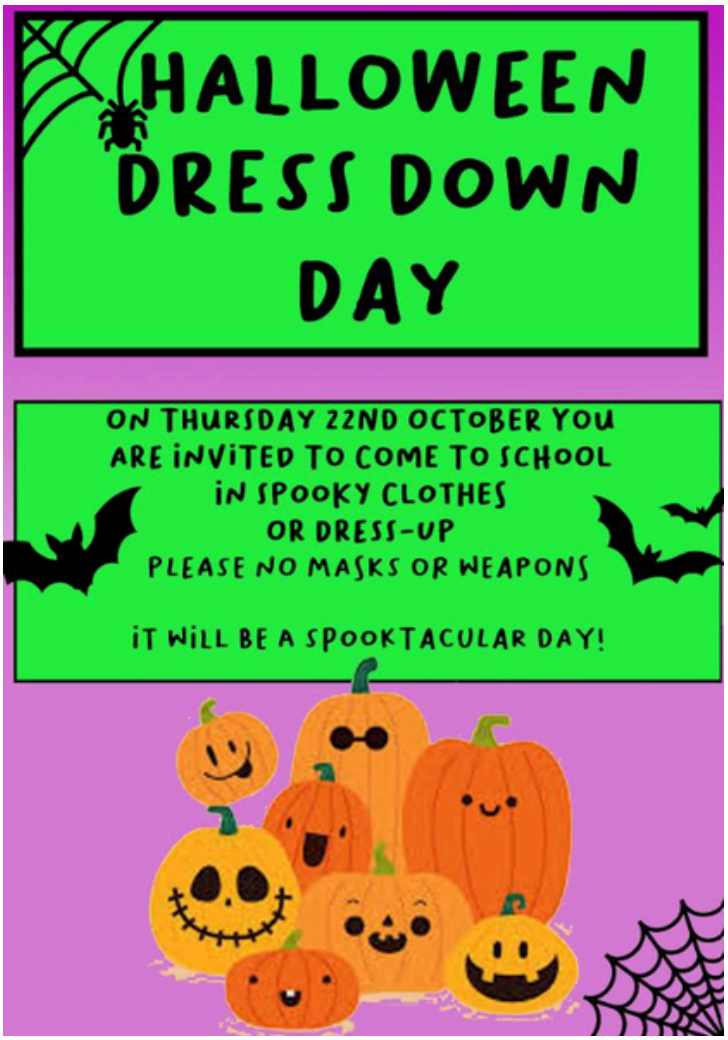






To support their reasoning, they have been drawing pictorial bar models to show how the numbers in a problem relate to one another, before using formal column methods to calculate their answers accurately. It has been wonderful to see children explaining their thinking and checking whether their answers make sense.

Most impressive of all has been the persistence Year 4 have shown. When a problem proved tricky, they kept going, tried a different approach and supported one another until they succeeded. Well done, Year 4!





Spotlight on History

A knowledge and vocabulary rich curriculum that helps our pupils begin to think like historians.

Across the school we teach history through the Inspiration Trust humanities curriculum. Carefully sequenced units build rich knowledge and the precise vocabulary pupils need to write about the past.

Most of our pupils go on to Thetford Academy, where our history flows seamlessly into their Key Stage 3 curriculum — so they start Year 7 on firm foundations.

Thinking historically

Every unit has a **guiding question** linking what pupils learn to how historians argue about the past. Writing tasks focus on a particular type of historical question:

- Long- and short-term causes
- Why did it happen at that time?
- How quickly did things change?
- How much continuity was there?
- Political, social and economic causes
- What were the consequences?
- To what extent did things change?
- How similar were groups of people?

Reading every lesson

Most lessons include a rich reading, shared in ways that help every child access the text.

Bringing it to life

Role play and drama, used well — always asking: are pupils learning what we intend?

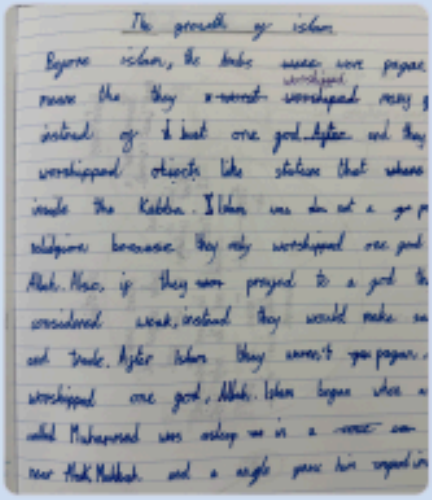
Knowledge that sticks

We return again and again to the core knowledge and vocabulary that matter most.

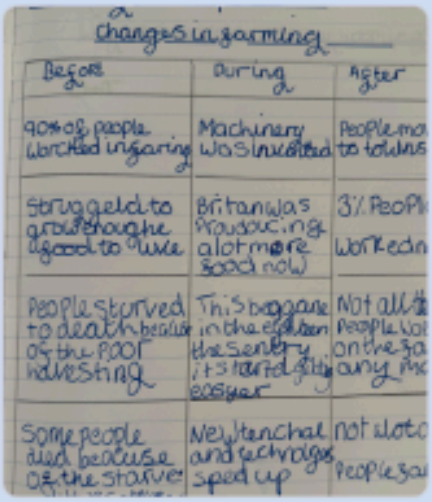
Work we're proud of



Year 3 · Ancient Egypt booklet



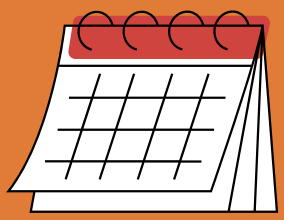
The growth of Islam



Changes in farming over time



Dates for your Diary



20th Oct - Family marketplace café 9am
21st Oct - Individual photos
22nd Oct - Flu vaccinations*
Spooky dress up day
Last day of half term (Close at 3.15pm)
Halloween disco
23rd Oct - School closed for staff training
26th -30th Oct - Half term holiday
2nd Nov - First day of Autumn 2 term
10th - 12th Nov - Parents Evenings (more info soon)
11th Nov - Remembrance Day - poppies available in the office
19th Nov - Flu vaccinations* (catch up session)

*Flu Vaccinations - Vaccination UK are using a new system where they contact parents directly to obtain consent

Wanted: Reading Heroes!



Do you love a good story? Could you help spark a lifelong love of reading in our children? We're on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers to join our reading team and help our young readers flourish across the school.

Just an afternoon or two a week listening to children read can make a huge difference. You'll get to share in those magical moments when a child cracks a tricky word, discovers a new favourite author or simply can't wait to turn the page. It's a rewarding way to give back to our school community, and you'll come away with plenty of smiles too!

No previous experience is needed, as full support and guidance will be provided. As with all school volunteers, you will need to complete the usual safeguarding checks before getting started, and we'll help you through this process.

Interested? Please contact the school office to express an interest and arrange a conversation with our Deputy Head. We can't wait to welcome you to the team!

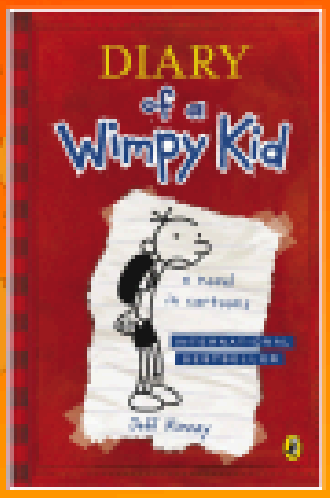
DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns FREE BOOKS for our school*

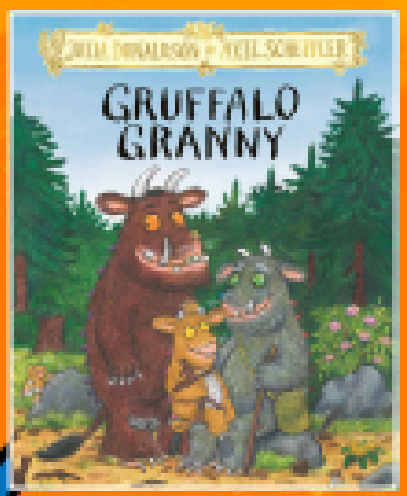
COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

And find your next favourite read!











3 for £10.00





DATE:	Friday 16th Oct Monday 19th Oct Tuesday 20th Oct	TIME:	3.30 - 4.15 pm
LOCATION:	School Main Hall		

GO ALL IN.

NEW BOOKS. NEW WORLDS. NEW FAVOURITES.

DISCOVER BOOKS FROM £3.99





Includes your own wands!





DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!

www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases

All books subject to availability.

Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books

- You may pay by card at the Fair via our digital till or card reader machines if your school has one, or by using the online link at **www.bookfairs.co.uk/pay** and simply selecting your school from the drop down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in **£5, £10, £15, £20** and **£25**. Go to **www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers** to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £3.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

*Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details. All books subject to availability. Book range may vary.