Drake Primary School Newsletter

7th June 2024

Dear Families,

This week we welcomed the children back with discussions of our values of trust and friendship. This week has been an arts week with the children exploring their own identities, what makes them unique and their own values, interests and passions that contribute to their development of character.

We were thrilled to discover our recent work on the book of Thetford (our identity within the community), was spotted in Jarrolds over the half term!

On Tuesday, Year 3 welcomed Ben Earle from Gressenhall museum, for a workshop called 'Wild Norfolk.' to explore how Norfolk has changed since the Palaeolithic, from a wild landscape, to a farmed one, using maps and museum objects. They handled bones, teeth, animal skins and thought about what the objects told us about pre-historic people.

Also this week, Year 2 took a trip to Lackford Lakes to take part in a range of workshops about 'Living things and their habitats'. This included pond dipping to find invertebrates and observe them under a magnifying glass, using binoculars to identify different species of birds and their behaviours and also going on a plant hunt.

Children from across school took part in a visit to Shadwell Stud as part of a wider project happening across Thetford ,where all of the schools in Thetford are creating sculptures to form a sculpture trail. The children visited the greenhouses where they met Angus - the head gardener - and the children chose their favourite plants to create their own flower arrangements. The children were then able to meet and feed some of the horses, learn fun facts and see how the team at Shadwell care for the horses. All of the children (and staff!) had a great day at Shadwell and we look forward to working on creating a great sculpture for all of Thetford to see.

Visiting Shadwell Stud

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is

Rashford
97.92%

Congratulations!

Whole school attendance is 92.28%

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Ahria, Elisha, Teddy, Pennie, Halle, Cassius, Ella
Year 1: Cayce, Amanda, Berwin, Laura, Brody, Noah, Lily
Year 2: Finn, Bella-Rose, Lucas, Zahra, Darta, Benny, Christian
Year 3: Sem, Bentley, Benjamin, Julian, Nayana, Bella, Freya, Amelia Z, Jackson, Sam
Year 4: Spencer M, Adna, Tieragh, Andrew, Myroslav, Alfie, Sullivan, Jack, Teddie M
Year 5: Ida, Roman, Thomas, Victoria, Jack B, Ella, Ema, Harry
Year 6: Nathan, Gerda, Elena, Lily B, Frankie, Evanas

These pupils have demonstrated our school values and learning behaviours, well done.

Special Assembly—Drake's Got Talent

This week, many children across school auditioned with a chosen talent for the Drake's Got Talent Competition. Children's passions and interests are always at the forefront of our minds at Drake and its one of the reasons we are so invested in ensuring that they are given a wide range of opportunities. However, we were astounded at the amount of talent that has been presented this week. We are also impressed with the children's courage to perform in front of others and the organisational, leadership and collaborative skills demonstrated.

From the auditions, each year group selected an act for the final. This was very challenging and many teachers and children found it hard to make their choice. However, like pros, they came to a conclusion. Each act then performed in assembly and then classes shared their judgements. They were all fantastic and the winner will be announced next week.

Our finalists were:

Reception - Malakai (Jokes)
Year 1 - Julita and Amana (Dance/ballet)
Year 2 - Milena (Kuk Sool Won Martial Arts)
Year 3 - Harry (Describing flag challenge)
Year 4 - Jacob and David (Guitar)
Year 5 - Dolcey, Victoria, Chloe, Sophia (Cheer)
Year 6 - Dexter and Max (Comedy)

Prefect Update

Welcome back after a great half-term. The weather was just rubbish, wasn't it!

We have had a busy first day back this week. In Y6, we had a visit from the mental health support team and Dr Fordham (Thetford Academy Principal) to support our transition to high school. We are both nervous and excited.

It has been Arts Week this week, and everyone in school has been doing lots of activities. Wednesday was workshop day, and we got to try a range of 'art' style activities, including map making, blue song writing and making crafts. Some children went on a trip this week with Miss Greenwood and Mrs Woolacott to Shadwell Stud. They said they had a great time and they saw the fastest racehorse in Europe, Battaash. Drakes Got Talent was this Friday, and every year group sent one act to perform. It was amazing! We had a range of performances including comedy, dancing, cheer and a boy who can describe flags.

Reading

It is important that children read every day. On a Monday, reading diaries are checked and teachers award gold stars for children who have read more than 7 times.

This week 186 children read more than 7 times and achieved their gold star.

This week's award is to:

Hadid

Daily run

To support Mental and physical health and well-being, children run every day. KS2 have a weekly distance competition.

This week's award is to:

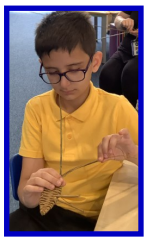
KS1: Rashford

KS2: Hadid

School Update: Art's week

This week was Arts Week in school and its been full of a range of different arts related learning. The arts is more than just drawing and painting, it includes music, drama, poetry and much more. Our theme for the week was identity, in line with a thread of our curriculum that runs through all year groups. Children have created identity maps and self portraits as well as identity poems. On Wednesday we had an arts workshop day with a range of opportunities led by adults in school. This was a great opportunity for children to experience something new alongside other children from a range of year groups. Workshops included drama, dance, music and instruments, song writing, drawing, painting, collage, digital art, scientific art, sewing, nature art, mythical maps, football shirts and willow weaving. It was a fantastic day great for exploring the arts and also general wellbeing of pupils and staff. It was also lovely to have Reception, Year 1 and 2 pupils showcase their Royal Opera House dance to parents across the week.

Some of our pupils helped make a willow plant support. This was designed by our Gardening Club, as part of their entry for the schools garden competition at the Royal Norfolk Show. Watch this space to see their finished mini wheelbarrow garden!



Feature Podcast

Our children contribute to school life and the children's learning through our Drake Radio. You can listen live here .

Have a listen to a feature podcast: Interview with Nick, a film maker

All podcasts are available on the video centre section of the school website.

MALLARDS

Mallards hare currently working on the Year 6 Prom night and the Summer Fayre.

We have had a generous donation from High Lodge in support of our raffle. Thank you. If anyone else would like to donate a prize, please hand it in at the office.

mallards9lrv@nsix.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

All scheduled events for classes/year groups are included in year group newsletters and added to the year group pages.

We aim to provide as much notice as possible for school events, but there are sometimes opportunities that arrive at short notice. As new whole school events are created, we will list them here and then add them to the school website calendar for future reference.

Summer Term dates

3rd - 7th June: Arts Week
3rd - 14th June: Year 4 Multiplications check
10th—14th June: Year 1 Phonics Screening
25th June: Sports Day
18th July: Summer fayre
19th July: End of term — finish 1pm

Drake Primary School proudly presents

SUMMER CONCERTS 2024

Reception - Friday 5th July at 2:45

Year 1 - Tuesday 2nd July at 2:45

Year 2 - Wednesday 19th June at 2:45

Year 3 - Wednesday 3rd July at 2:30

Year 4 - Thursday 11th July at 2:45

Year 5 - Thursday 4th July at 2:45

Year 6 - Thursday 20th June at 2:30

Rocksteady pupils - Wednesday 17th July at 10:00

Choir - Wednesday 10th July at 3:45

Whole school choir- Thursday 18th July at 12:00

DRAKE'S

SPORTS DAY
25TH JUNE

KS2 -
9:20am -
12:00pm
KS1 & EYFS
12:30pm-
2:55pm

PLEASE COME AND CHEER ON YOUR CHILDREN

If you have any questions, please speak to the office.

Thetford Coffee Drop In

VISION NORFOLK

Norfolk County Council

Join us at Thetford Library for friendly chat and advice regarding life with a vision impairment.

Sessions are Monthly - 2pm - 3:30pm

Upcoming Sessions:

- Wednesday 24th April 2pm - 3:30pm
- Wednesday 22nd May 2pm - 3:30pm
- Wednesday 26th June 2pm - 3:30pm

For more information call 07743 921439 or email chris.linstead@visionnorfolk.org.uk