

Drake Primary School Newsletter



10th May 2024



BTO Bird Ringing Project

Dear Families,

On Thursday Year 2 enjoyed a skills escalator day at the Charles Burrell centre. They learnt about different places to work in the area and the roles and responsibilities involved. For example, G's Fresh is a company which supplies fresh produce to supermarkets and restaurants such as McDonalds. They learnt how to grow their own produce, how it is cared for, and the machinery involved when being harvested. The children also had a visit with the local Police, BT and Baxter's Health care and learned about careers in these areas.

Dr Ieuan Evans and Dr Viola Ross-Smith came into school this week to ring the chicks that have hatched in our bird box in Sofia's Garden. The Chicks are Great Tits and we have 7 of them. Once the birds are ringed with individual unique numbers the BTO are then able to look at migration movements and distributions of birds throughout Britain and Ireland. This helps to support species conservation at local, regional, national and international scales.

To participate in BirdTrack you need to download the [BirdTrack app](#) and register an account or use an existing username and password. For more information, visit <https://www.bto.org/>

This week, we welcomed 'Music Scholars' from Thetford Academy into an assembly, it was great to see some past pupils! We listened to short pieces played on different instruments, learned a little about the instruments and some musical vocabulary.

Ahead of next week's Year 6 SATs assessments, we would like to remind you all to have a nice relaxing weekend. I know the whole Drake Community is sending their kindest wishes to you all.

Every Day Matters

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

The class with highest attendance this week is

Andersen

99.4 %

Congratulations!



**Whole school attendance is
95.29%**

Secret Student

Named secret students this week are:

Reception: Matilda, Elliot, River, Florence, Elisha, Molly

Year 1: Molly, Albert, Lyla, Indie, Jensen, Sofia, George R

Year 2: Oliver, Zahra, Freddie, Delia, Millie

Year 3: Oscar, Julian, Virujan, George B, Amelie, Igor, Petra

Year 4: Theo, Oliver M, Zayn, Archie, Oliver R, Polly, Matilda, Ben

Year 5: Sophia, Matthew, Chloe, Jack K, George, Aimee, Lizzy

Year 6: Betsy, Scarlett, Alfie, Elena, Lucy, Lucas

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

Parent Assemblies and Cafes

On Tuesday, Year 3 presented their assembly on the Romans! This term, the Year 3 theme is 'Conflict'-they thought about what life would have been like for the Roman soldiers and how the Roman army built up their power and strength. They also researched how the Celts responded to the invading Roman army. As well as sharing their Colchester Castle photos, Kamkwamba class showed off their bold and colourful Roman shields and Hadid class showed their 'Wanted' posters to join the Roman army.



Year 1 held a parent cafe to discuss all things phonics. We started off by talking about the phonics screening - what it is, what the pass mark is, current scores and how to help at home. We then looked at some of the different sounds and what each set means. To recap what we had learned, we played a game of phonics bingo with children and their adults. Afterwards, the children showed their adults fun ways to practice their phonics by singing our phonics song and completing a fun activity.

Prefect Update

To all of Year 6



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 269 children read more than 7 times and achieved their gold star.

This week's award is to:

Merian and Maathai

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: Turing

School Update: Relationships Policy

We recently shared a letter about our relationships policy. Here is a reminder of the components:

1. **The Importance of Pupil Voice:** Pupil voice is central to shaping our school community. Pupil groups and councils empower our students to actively participate in the creation of a positive school culture.
2. **The Role of the Pastoral Team:** Our dedicated pastoral team are readily available to offer a listening ear, provide mentorship, and support conversations when conflicts arise. By fostering strong relationships with students, our pastoral team creates a safe space where students feel heard, valued, and supported.
3. **Utilisation of Arts, Music, and Play:** Through art, music, and play, we provide students with opportunities to explore their emotions, express themselves and develop empathy towards others.
4. **The Disposition of Adults - PACE, Emotion Coaching, Scripts, Restorative Conversations:** Our staff members are committed to embodying the principles of PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) in their interactions with students. We create a supportive environment where students feel valued and respected.
5. **Behaviour Tracking Supports:** We use different tools to identify patterns, triggers, and underlying causes of behaviour. This rigorous approach allows us to tailor our interventions to meet the individual needs of students and provide targeted support where it is needed most.

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:

[SNAC and Eco Council](#)

All podcasts are available on the [video centre section of the school website](#).

MALLARDS

Mallards are currently working on the Summer Fayre and planning events for next Year.

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

13th May: Year 6 SATS week

20th— 24th May: Walk to School Week

22nd May: National Numeracy Day

22nd May: Class Photos

24th May: End of Half Term, school closes at 3pm

3rd June: School reopens

3rd - 7th June: Arts Week

3rd - 14th June: Year 4 Multiplications check

10th—14th June: Year 1 Phonics Screening



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



Thetford Coffee Drop In



 **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