



# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### *Fund-Raising Meeting*

The next fundraising meeting will be on **Friday 6 September** at 2.00 pm. All are welcome.

### *Adventure Island Tickets*

Tickets still available. Please buy in advance of the end of term holiday.

### *Happy's Circus*

Tickets are available to purchase. Please place your order before the end of the term to take advantage of the early discount.

### *Summer Fayre*

The fantastic sum of £6,255 was raised at the Summer Fayre. Thank you everyone for your contribution to the event.

### *Smarties Promotion*

We are delighted to advise that £633 was raised through the recent Smarties event.

## MESSAGE FROM MISS REDPATH

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff team at Robert Drake who are very hardworking and continually strive to ensure that the children have the best provision possible.

### Staff Changes

After 16 years at the school, Mrs Marris will be retiring from her position as Learning Mentor at the end of the summer term. She has supported many children with special educational needs or those who have needed emotional support during her time at the school and her care and understanding has enabled these children to flourish. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and are hopeful that she will retain some involvement in the school in the future.

Mrs Green and Mrs Belcher will take up roles as Learning Mentors from September 2019.

Unfortunately, because of the financial constraints of the school budget we have been unable to extend Miss Orner's contract, therefore she will be leaving at the end of the summer term. We would like to thank her for her contribution to Robert Drake and wish her every success in her new school.

### School Development Plan Priorities 2019-20

The three school development priorities for 2019-20 are:

**Reading** – although the children at Robert Drake have an excellent understanding of phonics as a strategy for reading, we are aiming for them to develop more fluency and understanding at an earlier stage. When children become more fluent and develop understanding they read with enjoyment, which is the overall aim.

**Enhancing the Curriculum** – although the curriculum at the school is already broad and balanced we are aiming to ensure that we focus on the key learning in each subject area. In particular, we will be continuing to develop PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and introducing the newly published Relationships Education into the curriculum. The overarching aim is to ensure that the curriculum creates positive memories, opportunities and experiences that will shape the future for all pupils by developing values, knowledge, skills and competencies.

**The Development of Lunchtimes** – in consultation with the children we want to continue to develop lunchtimes to ensure that the children actively participate in a range of activities. The overall aim is to ensure that children enjoy lunchtimes.

### Key Stage 2 Play Area

Following a health and safety check, the school has been advised that the 'Spider's Web' in the Key Stage 2 play area will not be compliant within the next few months,

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

### **Attendance**

*Attendance for May 2019 was 96.6%, and for June 2019 it was 96.7%. This is disappointing as it is below our target of 97%.*

due to wear and tear. The cost of replacing the 'Spider's Web' is not affordable so the decision has been made that this will be removed during the summer break, which is disappointing.

If any parents or carers have any information about possible sources of funding that the school could apply for in this regard, we would be grateful to receive any suggestions.

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

The Local Authority routinely request information from the school regarding holidays taken by pupils during term time. As a result, penalty notices have been issued to some of our families by the Education Access Team. We would like to remind parents and carers that the school's Leave of Absence policy states that no absence will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances. We would also encourage parents and carers to make use of the additional week's holiday in May 2020. Please note that all fines go directly to the Local Authority and there is no financial gain for the school.

### **HEAD BOY AND GIRL FOR 2019/20**

Herewith a photo of the candidates, all of whom did a fantastic job and impressed everyone with their presentations. Well done to everyone that put themselves forward.



We are pleased to announce the following appointments, following a vote by the children in Years 1—5:

Jasmine—Head Girl

Georgia—Deputy Head Girl

Dexter—Head Boy

Liam—Deputy Head Boy

The Sports Captains, appointed by staff, are: Rosie and Daniel

### **TEAM HOUSE POINTS**

The current house points table for this term is as follows:

#### **ROBERT DRAKE TEAM HOUSE POINTS**

<b>GRIFFIN</b>	<b>PEGASUS</b>	<b>PHOENIX</b>	<b>DRAGON</b>
406	418	364	446

We are pleased to advise that Pegasus won both the Infants and Junior Sports. Well done Pegasus !

## ***WATER BOTTLES, SUN HATS, SUN CREAM AND SUN-GLASSES***

A reminder please with the warm weather to ensure that your child brings a water bottle (with drinking cap) and a sun hat to school each day. **These should be clearly named.** Parents and carers should also apply sun cream to their children before school each day, as an additional precaution, in order to protect them from the sun.

Please note that children are only permitted to wear sunglasses at school if medical evidence can be provided to support the need for the glasses (e.g. a letter from the doctor / optician) or if they suffer from hayfever.

## ***VERY GOOD ATTENDANCE BADGES***

The school will be recognising pupils who have very good attendance (in addition to those who achieve 100% attendance) at the end of the school year.

Children who have 99% attendance over the school year will receive a “Good Attendance” badge at the end of the summer term. This is to recognise that some children are unavoidably absent due to illness.

Please note that any absences taken for pupils to go on holiday for one or two days will not be taken into consideration as these are avoidable.

## ***PARENTPAY ITEMS***

Please could we remind all parents and carers of pupils in years 3-6 that dinners must be paid for on-line via Parentpay before your child orders a school dinner. Please check your balance regularly. If you do not have money in your dinner account then please send your child into school with a packed lunch.

Could you please check your accounts before the end of term and ensure that all outstanding payment items have been paid for and your dinner money account is in credit. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

## ***CLASS ASSEMBLIES***

The following class assemblies is due to take place this term:

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - **Wednesday 24 July** at 9.00 am

All parents and carers of pupils in these classes are most welcome to attend. There is a limit to three tickets per child/family. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

## ***SPORTS NEWS AND RESULTS***

**Netball:** We are pleased to announce the Girls' netball team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the league, narrowly missing out on 2<sup>nd</sup> place through goal difference. They played well all season and battled hard in some tough games. They represented the school respectfully and set a good example to our younger netballers. Well done girls!

**District Sports:** Well done to everyone that took part in District Sports this year. . The children have worked hard all year, and were a credit to the school.

Special well done to our medal winners as follows:

Sprint—James (Y5) and Lewis (Y6)

Relay—Y3: Louie, Dougie, Joseph and George / Y6: Lewis, George, Harry, Carl and Jake

Sergeant Jump—Ella (Y4)

Long Jump—Olivia (Y6)

## ***RECENT EVENTS***

### Year 6 Residential Trip to Stubbers

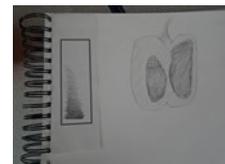
The Year 6 recently attended their five day residential at Stubbers. They all had a great time, despite the weather, making new friendships, building their confidence and learning new skills.

### Visit to Laborschule Bielefeld, Germany

Mr Chaplin and Miss Bradfield visited our partner school, Laborschule Bielefeld, during the half-term break. During their time at the school, they were able to observe a range of different lessons and activities. They both had an amazing time and shared their experience with the pupils in an assembly last week. As recognition for their work, they were both invited to attend the German Teaching Awards at the German Embassy. We are delighted to advise that due to the initiative with Laborschule, the school has received the Intermediate level of the British Council International School Award. Congratulations!

### Art Day with Appleton

Some students from Appleton School recently visited Robert Drake to work with Mr Chaplin's class on an art project, when the Year 3 students received advice and instruction on sketching, shading and toning. Here is some of the artwork they produced.



### Year 6 Transition Days at Secondary School / Young Citizens

All the Year 6 children have been undertaking transition days at their chosen secondary schools this term, and also recently attended a Young Citizens event at Deanes School to help them learn about life skills.

### Hatching Chickens

The children enjoyed a great experience this term, watching the Living Eggs hatch into little chicks. All the school were able to spend some time with the chicks, and thoroughly enjoyed having them in the school.



Mrs Jackson's class learning about the chicks.

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES***

Wednesday 10 July—swimming gala / KS1 Carribean Day

Friday 12 July—non pupil day

Monday 22 July—Year 6 Leavers' Disco

Wednesday 24 July—Year 6 Leavers' Assembly / the last day of term

Tuesday 3 September—non pupil day

Wednesday 4 September—return to school for 2019-20 / Friendship Week

Tuesday 10 September—KS1 Homework Meeting

Saturday 14 September—King John Open Day, 9 am —1 pm

Thursday 19 September—Year 5 Trip to Stubbers / Appleton Open Day, 6-8 pm

Tuesday 24 September—Deanes Open Day, 6.30 pm

Tuesday 24 and Thursday 26 September—Parent Consultations

Friday 27 September— individual school photos / Happy's Circus

### ***END OF TERM / START OF 2019-20***

School closes for the end of term on **Wednesday 24 July** at 3.15 pm, and will re-open for the new term on **Wednesday 4 September** at 8.40 am.

**Friday 12 July and Tuesday 3 September** are staff training days and the school will be closed to pupils.

**WE HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER BREAK**

**SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

The Governing Body of The Robert Drake Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.