



NEWSLETTER

November 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath

A message from Miss Redpath:

I hope that you all enjoyed the half term break and made the most of the good weather.

As always in the half term before Christmas, there are lots of activities and events for the children to look forward to. The school is already beginning to fill with the sound of Christmas!

Over the next few weeks, as part of the monitoring programme, I am going to be speaking to groups of children from classes about their learning. This will also be an opportunity for the children to show me their work. It is so rewarding to hear the children talk about their work with such pride.

I am looking forward to what I hope will be a positive and enjoyable half term.

Miss Redpath

Forthcoming and Previous Events – please note all dates are subject to change

Paralympic Festival – Wednesday 2nd November

A group of Key Stage 2 children took part in a Paralympic Festival organised by the Castle Point and Rochford School Sports Partnership on Wednesday 2nd November. The children took part in a range of Paralympic themed activities, and won through to the Sitting Volleyball County final in March. Well done to all !

New Intake Open Afternoon & Parent/Carer Tours

There will be an Open Afternoon for children due to start school in September 2023 on **Monday 7th November** between 4pm and 5.30pm. This has been organised so that children can come along and take part in a range of activities. There will also be an opportunity to meet some of our oldest pupils.

Parents and carers of children due to start school in 2023 are invited to book a tour of the school by calling the School Office.

Thank you to the Year 6 children who have offered to assist at the Open Evening. Robert Drake children always make the best guides for prospective parents!

KS1 Local Walk – Thursday 10th November

As part of the Geography Curriculum, Key Stage One children will be taking part in a walk around the local area on Thursday **10th November**. Details have been circulated.

EYFS Parent Involvement Afternoon – Thursday 10th November

A reminder that a member of each EYFS child's family is invited to work alongside their child in their classroom on **Thursday 10th November at 1.45pm**. Details have been circulated in a separate letter.

Remembrance Day/Poppies on Sale

Poppies will be on sale in school from **Monday 7th to Friday 11th November**. There will be a two-minute silence at school to mark Remembrance Day on Friday 11th November.

Anti-bullying Day – Odd Socks Day – Monday 14th November.

Anti-bullying Week takes place during the week **14th- 18th November**. This year's theme is 'Reach Out'.

On **Monday 14th November** the school will be holding an Anti-bullying Day. The children will be invited to wear odd socks as part of an event organised by the Anti-bullying Alliance charity in conjunction with CBBC. This is a way to celebrate differences and recognise that we are all unique individuals. Please note this is not a fundraising event.

The key focus will be for the children understanding what bullying is (as opposed to a disagreement) and what they should do if they, or somebody else, is being bullied. The children have been made aware that Robert Drake is a 'Telling School' and they should tell a member of staff if they feel that bullying is taking place.

Year 5 and 6 Production – Snow White – Thursday 17th November

Details have already been circulated of the Year 5 and 6 Production of Snow White. There is a performance taking place at 9:15am and again at 1:45 pm. A maximum of 3 tickets per child; tickets to be purchased by **Tuesday 15th November** via ParentPay.

Children in Need – Friday 18th November

Details regarding Children in Need will be circulated shortly.

EYFS Road Safety Talks – Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd November

Road safety talks will be delivered to Mrs Tingey's class on Tuesday **22nd November** 2:15pm-3pm, and to and Class SJ/SW (and parents) talk will take place in the hall on Wednesday 23rd November 9am-9:45am. Details have been circulated.

Y5 Road Safety Talks and Workshops – Friday 25th November

Road Safety Talks and Workshops are being delivered to Year 5 on Friday **25th November**. The children will have a presentation and then go out for short walks in small groups.

Dodgeball Tournament – Wednesday 30th November

A team of Year 6/5 children will represent the school at a dodgeball tournament organised by the Castle Point and Rochford School Sports Partnership on Wednesday **30th November**.

Christmas Post Boxes – Thursday 1st December

As from 1st December the children can post their Christmas cards in the post boxes placed in Reception and the junior corridor. EYFS have their own box in the corridor outside their classroom. Please make sure that the envelopes are clearly marked with the recipients full name and their class. Thank you.



GENERAL

Sports Update

Netball – the girls team played a league match against Thundersley Primary on 18th October. It was a tightly contested match and the girls competed with an excellent sporting attitude; it ended in a 2-2 draw.

Football - league matches to start in November, with the first mixed match taking place on Tuesday 8th November against Kingston Primary. This will be followed by girls matches on the 15th and 22nd November.

Gardening Volunteers

We would really appreciate help with de-weeding and getting our garden area ready and looking nice with season appropriate plants and vegetables. If anyone has any time they can commit to helping us with this then please would you get in contact with us to let us know. Thank you.

Reminder - Pupil Support Officer

If you have any worries or concerns about your child then please contact Mrs Green (Pupil Support Officer) by emailing welfare@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk or calling the School Office to leave a message.

Thundersley Congregational Church – book larder

Thundersley Congregational Church have very kindly replaced the book larder at the entrance to the school. We now have our very own Geraldine taking pride of place.



FUNDRAISING

Historically, the school has had an active and very successful Fundraising Group which organised regular fundraising and social activities. The money raised has been put towards providing many extras for the children e.g. workshops and play equipment. The group is not set up as a formal committee and is always delighted to welcome new members with new ideas. Now it is even more crucial as some of the recent members have moved on as their children have transferred to secondary school.

Please volunteer; even just a small amount of your time could make a huge difference. If you are interested in finding out more information, please leave a message at the School Office.

Meetings are held regularly and the next meeting is due to take place on **Monday 7th November at 2 pm** – you can just turn up and you will be very welcome !

There are still Adventure Island tickets available – please call Rob on 07983 801247 to book your tickets.

Christmas Bazaar – Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th November

The Christmas Bazaar is taking place at the end of this month – full details will be circulated shortly. In the meantime the fundraisers would welcome donations of wrapping paper, Sellotape and labels. Please leave at the school office.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of October was 94.3%. We expect pupils to be in school every day. Non-term time absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

REMINDERS

Pupil Premium / Free School Meals

Pupil Premium Funding is allocated to children from families who are currently known to be eligible for free school meals and children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months. You may register your child for Free School Meals if you receive a range of benefits with qualifying conditions such as Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance and Child Tax Credit (provided your annual income does not exceed £16,190), Working Tax Credit run-on, and Universal Credit. If you think you may be eligible, registering is quick and easy.

If your child is in Year 2 or below, please call the School Office and we will send you through a form to complete.

If your child is in Years 3—6, Essex County Council has an online application form on their website: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, registering for Free School Meals will bring more money to the school which will benefit your child. Our Pupil Premium Funding is used to provide support for pupils in a number of ways. As well as enabling your child to have the option of a free, healthy meal at lunchtime, other benefits may also be available for registered children, such as help with the cost of school trips. Further details are available on the school website.

Please be assured that registering for Free School Meals is completely confidential. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or require help with your application.

A reminder that all children in Year 3 and above have to pay for their school dinners unless they qualify for, and have been accepted for, Free School Meals.

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Friday 16th December 2022 – last day of Autumn term
Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – first day of Spring term
Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023 – half term holiday
Monday 20th February 2023 – return to school
Friday 31st March 2023 – last day of Spring Term
Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April – Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April 2023 – return to school after Easter Holiday
Monday 1st May 2023 – Bank Holiday
Monday 22nd May to Friday 2nd June 2023 – May half term holiday
Monday 5th June 2023 – return to school after May half term holiday
Friday 7th July 2023 – non pupil day
Friday 21st July 2023 – last day of Summer Term

PLEASE NOTE ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL



A reminder that Robert Drake is a nut free school. There are children within the school who have severe air borne nut allergies and all parents and carers are reminded that no nuts of any type should be brought in to school.

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.