



NEWSLETTER

March 2023

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath

I have been incredibly proud of the Robert Drake children over recent weeks. It has been a pleasure to visit classrooms and observe pupils so engaged and enjoying their learning, in particular it has been great to see their resilience when undertaking more challenging tasks and activities. We have discussed the importance of resilience in assemblies recently and how it is always important to say: "I can't do this.....yet", rather than: "I can't do this".

Miss Bradfield's and Mr Bye's class assemblies were very enjoyable. Although they participated in performances at Christmas, this was the first time that children had taken part in a class assembly. I was very impressed with the way they had remembered the words for speaking parts and songs, actions and dances. They performed with confidence and sat quietly while they weren't performing - most of them had big smiles too!

The Year 2/1 visit to Layer Marney Tower was very successful. The children and adults looked so in keeping with the Tudor period! Thank you to parents and carers for organising the costumes. They learnt about the history of the Tower and discovered that King Henry VIII had stayed there many years ago. In addition, they found out what knights did and particularly enjoyed learning how to fire a bow and arrow.

We are now all looking forward to the Teach Rex Workshops. Earlier in the week, there was a lot of excitement as the children followed clues to find where the dinosaur eggs were hidden in the school in advance of the workshops. The link to the Teach Rex website is below:

<https://teachrex.co.uk/>

It was good to see most parents and carers attending the in-person parent consultations. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Redpath
Headteacher

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

Victoria Ohuruogu – Sports for Schools



The Sports for Schools event that took place on 10 February was a great success with every child working hard in the sport session to complete as many of the exercises as possible. Thank you to everyone who has raised sponsorship money for new PE equipment. The Olympic sprinter Victoria Ohuruogu inspired the children in assembly by telling her story of patience and perseverance in order to win her medals.

KS1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower

The children had a fantastic trip to Layer Marney Tower last month. The costumes were amazing.



Schools Sport Partnership Meeting – Deanes School

Last month Alice and Corban in Year 6, as the school's Sports Captains, were invited to a meeting at Schools Sport Partnership Meeting at Deanes School. Here is what they had to say about the meeting:

'At the end of February we went to the first Sports Partnership Meeting at the Deanes School and discussed different sports that your child can participate in. The aim of the meeting was to encourage more children to participate in a wider range of sports.'

Following the meeting we met with the Headteacher Miss Redpath and talked about what we can do to achieve this. We decided to conduct a school survey for all the different sports and activities and we will then try and arrange some taster sessions to see what sports the children would like to do in the future.'

Alice and Corban'

World Book Day

World Book Day was a great success, and we saw some fantastic costumes in school. We also had several imaginative entries in the dressing up a bottle competition.



Infant Music Festival – Monday 13 March

All the children in Year 2 will be taking part in the Infant Music Festival later this month. Rehearsals have already begun, and parents and carers will have the opportunity to see them performing their songs at the United Reformed Church in Crowstone Road, Westcliff on Sea.

Year 5/6 Parent Involvement Morning - Tuesday 21 March

The parents and carers of Years 5 and 6 have been invited in to take part in a parent involvement session on Tuesday 21 March, 9 – 11.30 am. The activity taking place will be a science investigation.

Friday 3 March	Year 5 Appleton Day
Tuesday 7 March	Teach Rex assembly and workshops
Wednesday 8 March	Sitting Volleyball Finals, Clements Hall
Thursday 9 March	Mr Newton's Class Assembly – 9 am
Monday 13 March	Maths and Science Week
Monday 13 March	Year 2 Infant Music Festival, URC Church, Crowstone Road
Tuesday 21 March	Year 5 and 6 Parent Involvement Morning – 9 to 11.30 am
Wednesday 22 March	Cross Country Finals, Garons Park
Monday 27 March	EYFS walk to St Peter's Church
Tuesday 28 March	KS2 SAT's and Stubbers Meeting – 9 am
Tuesday 28 March	Easter Discos (details to follow)
Thursday 30 March	Mrs Jackson's Class Assembly – 9 am

SPORTS NEWS

Football League Results

Girls v South Benfleet – Mark said they played superbly, winning 6-2

Netball League Results

Mixed v Montgomerie – won 6-4

GENERAL

Absence from School

Could we please remind all parents and carers that if your child is absent from school, then the school should be notified before 9.30 am on the day of absence. A message can be left on 01268 754124 or an email can be sent to admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk

When notifying the school of the absence, please ensure that the full name of the child is given and the class; the reason for the absence must also be given, ie, sickness and diarrhoea and not 'unwell'.

Bad weather / emergency school closure

If the school has to close for any reason, ie, adverse weather conditions, notification will be put on the school website and parents and carers will be sent a message via ParentMail.

In addition, a list of closed schools will appear on the Essex County Council website at the following link:
<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

Health and Safety

If your child comes to school / rides home on a bicycle or scooter on the pavement, could you please ensure that they ride with care and due regard is given to other pedestrians on the pavement. Thank you

Also, some of our neighbours have been concerned with regards the number of children running around their vehicles and in their car parks; as the children are often quite small they are difficult for the drivers to see. Could we please ask all parents and carers to supervise their children to avoid any accidents.

Thank you for your attention in these matters.

Deanes Community Bike Scheme

A reminder that Deanes now have a community bike scheme. All details have previously been sent out via ParentMail. Bookings must be made through the scheme coordinator (Ellie Turner-Powell) on email deanesfamilycycle@yahoo.com

FUNDRAISING

The Fund Raising team will be circulating details shortly about the Easter Discos, which will be taking place on Tuesday 28 March. Full details will be circulated shortly.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of February was 95.6%.

REMINDERS

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons the school does not allow children to wear jewellery to school, with an exception being made for:

- Pupils in Years 3 to 6 may wear simple watches that only tell time (does not have connectivity features) and do not distract the child/other children from their learning;
- small earring studs in pierced ears only;
- small objects of religious significance;
- medical items which may appear to be items of jewellery.

Children must be able to remove these items themselves for PE lessons.

Earrings **must** be removed on PE days (by the pupil themselves or alternatively they should be removed before school), to prevent any potential injuries from occurring; they cannot be taped up. If the earrings cannot be removed then the pupil will be unable to take part in the PE session.

Pre Loved School Uniform

A reminder that the school sells pre loved school uniform. Each item is priced at £1.00 and can be purchased as follows:

- The pre loved uniform shop is open in the small hall at 3.15 pm on the last Friday of each month
- Parents / carers can email into admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk with details of the items they require, ie, item required, size, gender, etc
- Parents / carers can enquire at the school office

All payments are to be made via ParentPay

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.

Water Bottles

A reminder that all children should bring a water bottle to school, filled with just water. Could you please ensure that the bottles have drinking caps rather than screw tops as there have been spillages in class. Thank you

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Friday 31 March 2023 – last day of Spring Term

Monday 3 to Friday 14 April – Easter Holiday

Monday 17 April 2023 – return to school after Easter Holiday

Monday 1 May 2023 – Bank Holiday

Monday 8 May 2023 – Bank Holiday

Monday 22 May to Friday 2 June 2023 – May half term holiday

Monday 5 June 2023 – return to school after May half term holiday

Friday 7 July 2023 – non pupil day

Friday 21 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.