



MAY 2021

## GOVERNOR NEWS

### Attendance

The attendance for April was 97.7%.

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Non-uniform / cakes

This will be held on **Friday 21 May**. Please be reminded that complete football kits / crop tops cannot be worn. A letter is being circulated.

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### STAFF CHANGES

Please be advised that Mrs Searles has taken the decision to retire. She has been with the school for many years, and will be sorely missed.

We also last term paid a sad farewell to Mrs Howard, who has also taken the decision to retire.

We thank them both for their dedicated service to the school, and wish them both the very best in their retirement.

### BUILDING WORKS UPDATE

We are pleased to advise the works are ahead of schedule, and so far have not caused too much disruption to the day to day running of the school.

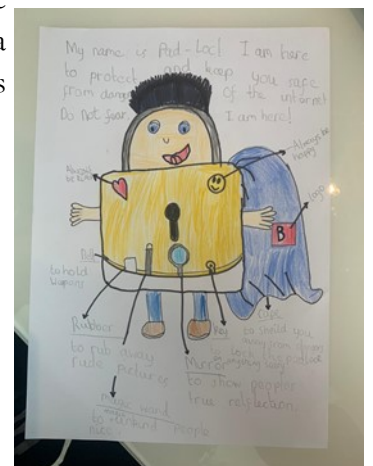
Mr Smith's and Mrs Rawling's / Miss Baldwin's classes are currently being worked in, and it is anticipated that Mrs Vickery's and Miss Maloney's classrooms, the last classrooms to be updated, will be started either later this week or early next week.

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

We can advise that individual photos have been booked in for **Friday 11 June**, and class and Year 6 photographs on **Thursday 1 July**. PE will not be taking place on these days. Further details will be circulated closer to the time.

### BRECK FOUNDATION COMPETITION

As informed recently, we are very proud of Charlie who recently won the Breck Foundation 'Design a Mascot' competition out of over 450 entries. This was his winning entry.



## ***COVID-19 TESTS***

Please ensure that if any member of your household arranges for a Covid-19 test, then in accordance with government guidance ALL members of the household need to self isolate until the results of the tests are known.

If a test is arranged during the school day, then the school must be informed and the children collected as soon as any test has been arranged.

Could all parents and carers please ensure that they keep the school informed of any tests taking place within your household, and also notify us as soon as any results are known. The school must be informed of any negative result before children return to school.

Please note that Lateral Flow Tests are NOT recommended for primary aged children. If your child displays any of the Covid-19 symptoms, then a PCR test should be arranged.

## ***DISADVANTAGED PUPIL FUNDING/FREE SCHOOL MEALS***

The Pupil Premium Funding is allocated to children from low-income 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 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).

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 also 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 and your child's peers need not know they have applied. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or require help with your application.

## ***CENSUS DAY LUNCH***

This will be held on **Thursday 20 May**. It is normal cost for KS2. The menu is chicken or veggie burger in a bun, with crispy cubed potatoes and sugar ring doughnut for dessert. Details have already been circulated.

## ***WATER BOTTLES***

Could parents and carers please ensure that their child brings two water bottles to school, particularly as the weather is starting to get warmer. These should then be enough supply for the whole day.

## ***EX PUPIL NEWS***

We were recently advised that a former pupil, George, has been selected for his first international gymnasts competition in Hungary in May. We wish him all the very best.

## ***REMINDERS***

***Herewith some reminders—please take note:***

### ***SOCIAL DISTANCING / MASKS***

A reminder that parents and carers should not approach or speak with members of staff at the gate at the beginning or end of the day unless they are wearing a mask. If a mask is not being worn, then parents /carers will need to telephone the school office during opening hours.

### ***CONTACT DETAILS***

It is very important that all parents and carers keep the school updated of ALL changes in their contact details.

You will need to complete a new contact detail form if your details do change; please call or e-mail the school office if you need a copy of the form to complete.

### ***CHILDREN BRINGING IN ITEMS FROM HOME***

Please be reminded that children should not bring items from home into school, unless it is their packed lunch, water bottle or school bag on a Friday. This includes items they wish to give to other children.

### ***PARENTPAY / SCHOOL DINNERS***

Could all parents and carers please ensure that their ParentPay account for school dinners is kept up to date and in funds before selecting school dinners.

### ***DROPPING ITEMS OFF AT SCHOOL***

A reminder that parents and carers should not come to school to drop off any forgotten items.

If your child has forgotten their reading record on a Friday, then let the Office know and they will inform the class of the reading done that week. If packed lunches have been left at home, then it will be necessary for them to have a school dinner.

### ***PUNCTUALITY***

A reminder that children can only enter the school at their appointed time; they cannot enter the school with a different class if they are late.

As previously advised, if your child is late and misses their time slot, they will not be able to come into school until **9.15 am**. On arrival, please buzz the main gate and the office will inform the class; a staff member will come and collect your child.

### ***TERM HOLIDAY DATES***

**Monday 24 May to Friday 4 June 2021—half term**

**Friday 9 July 2021—non pupil day**

**Thursday 22 July 2021—first day of summer holiday**

**Please note that all dates are subject to change**

ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE 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.