



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for November was 94.9%.



Donation from S Stibbards & Sons

A very big thank you to S Stibbards and Sons, who have kindly offered to donate a Christmas tree to the school. Their generosity is much appreciated.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

MESSAGE FROM MR ARCHER, ACTING HEADTEACHER



Just a note to say that I have really enjoyed my time so far at Robert Drake. I have been made to feel very welcome by all the staff and children, and feel privileged to be part of such a positive school community.

It is with sadness that I advise that Mrs Vickery is taking early retirement and will be leaving Robert Drake at the end of this term. Mrs Vickery has been with the school for 16 years, and will be sadly missed. I am sure you will all join us in wishing her the very best for the future. I will be writing to you shortly to confirm the new arrangements in Year 4.

Myself and all members of staff at Robert Drake would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to seeing you all back in the New Year on **Wednesday 5 January 2022** (Tuesday 4 January is a teacher training day).

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

As previously advised the Christmas Performances will be taking place from **Monday 6 December to Friday 10 December**, depending on which class your child is in. Please see separate letters for details.

Please note that we are requesting that all parents and carers attending the performances wear a face mask (unless exempt) and also take a lateral flow test before they attend Robert Drake. Please do not attend if you are showing any Covid-19 symptoms.

Please note that hopefully all will be well, but performances may be cancelled if case numbers do rise or we are advised to do so by Test and Trace

Thank you for your support in this matter in helping to keep everyone as safe as possible.

CONTACT DETAILS—TO BE KEPT UPDATED

In the event that your contact details change, please ensure that you complete a new contact detail form and send it in to the Main Office. Please call or e-mail the school office if you need a copy of the form to complete.

COVID-19

Following advice received in light of the Omicron variant, a message was sent to all parents and carers about new guidelines being put in place, namely:

1 - all visitors to the school will need to wear a face covering in the corridors and communal areas (unless exempt)

2 - contacts of Omicron variant positive cases identified by NHS Test and Trace, irrespective of vaccination status, will need to isolate for 10 days

3 - air quality monitors are now in place in the school to ensure a balance of increased ventilation whilst maintaining comfortable working temperatures.

A copy of the updated Risk Assessment is available on the school website.

We would also request that parents and carers take note of any revised details around quarantining if they are planning trips abroad.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

We are now having a weekly celebration assembly via Zoom in which pupil's successes in each class are shared with the school.

The first winners of merits were:

Finn in Mrs Jones/Miss Fowler's class

Bobby in Mrs Tingey's class

Scarlett P in Mrs Jackson's class

Henry in Mrs Gunnell's class

Samuel in Miss Bradfield's class

Georgia in Mr Chaplin's class

Jessie in Miss Maloney's class

Isabella in Mrs Vickery's class

Darla in Miss Baldwin's class

Maisie in Mrs Rawling's class

Poppy in Mr Smith's class

Well done to Mrs Gunnell's class for the best attendance last week: 98.8% - you'll get to name the new attendance trophy that's arriving this week

DOG OWNERS

A polite reminder that dogs should not be brought on to school grounds. As we are sure you will appreciate, some children are very nervous of dogs and we would also therefore request that they be kept under control and away from the gates at drop off and pick up times. Thank you for your support in this matter.

PARKING

In order to keep everyone safe, could all parents and carers please park with consideration of the schools neighbours and only where legal to do so. Drivers should not park on double yellow lines, or double park in the road.

THANK YOU TO THE FUNDRAISERS FROM MISS MALONEY'S CLASS

Miss Maloney's class would like to thank the fundraisers for funding the purchase of the book *Striking Out* by Ian Wright and Musa Okwonga.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

A reminder that Christmas Dinner this year will be **Friday 10 December**. Children can come in to school wearing their Christmas jumper on this day, and may also bring in a cracker. **Please note that grab bags and jacket potatoes will not be available on this day.** (The usual Friday fish finger menu will now be served on Wednesday 8 December.)

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.

ONLINE SAFETY

A reminder about online safety for your child, and the National Online Safety app. This app is free to download from the App Store or Google Play, and provides a range of online safety resources to parents and schools. The app is regularly updated with new content and features.

We would encourage parents to download the app by visiting their app store and searching for National Online Safety. More information can be found by visiting:

<https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app>

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

SCHOOL COUNCIL—CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone that donated for Children in Need. The sum of £284 was raised.

SCHOOL SPORTS TEAMS

Football: The mixed football teams has played two games so far; the first against Kingston which they drew 3-3, and the second against Woodham Ley which they won 8-5. The team played really well in both games—well done all !



Netball: The girls netball team recently played against Kents Hill and narrowly lost 4-3, but they played brilliantly and battled till the end !

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS CARD

We are delighted to advise that Charlotte D won the Mayor's Christmas Card competition. Herewith a preview of the winning picture. Well done Charlotte !



TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 20 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022—Christmas holiday

Tuesday 4 January 2022—non pupil day

Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February 2022—half term

Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April 2022—Easter holiday

Monday 2 May 2022—Bank Holiday

Monday 23 May to Friday 3 June 2022—half term

Friday 8 July 2022—non pupil day

Friday 22 July 2022 —first day of summer holiday

PLEASE NOTE ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL



**WITH VERY MANY WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW
YEAR**

FROM EVERYONE AT ROBERT DRAKE



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.