



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2019

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was drawn on Wednesday 12 December. Some of the top prizes were won by the following people:

Mrs Willett—photography experience (donated by Barrett & co)

Mrs Fentiman—Old McDonalds Farm Voucher

Miss Burridge—two tickets to see Alexander O'Neal in concert

Thank you to everybody who purchased tickets and congratulations to all of the lucky winners.

We raised the fantastic total of £271.

### Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to everybody who supported the Bazaar, which was held on Friday 30 November and Monday 3 December, particularly all of the parent helpers who assisted on the day.

We raised the fabulous total of £1,590

### Fundraising Meeting

The next fundraising meeting is due to be held on **Friday 8 February at 2 pm.**

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope that everybody enjoyed the Christmas break. We are looking forward to the exciting things that are happening this term.

## HOUSE WINNERS

The House winners for Autumn Term were Dragon. Well done to all the pupils.

## BOCCIA COMPETITION

On 14 January six pupils took part in the Boccia County Finals at Basildon Sporting Village, and WON! A total of 15 teams took part from around the county. The team had the opportunity to meet Dan Bentley, a Paralympic Gold Medal winner for Boccia in 2008, and Bronze medal winner in 2012, who presented the medals. Mrs Vickery said she was very proud of the team, who displayed great sportsmanship and were exemplary in the way they represented the school. Well done to Emel, Elise, Honey, Brooke, Ryan and Luke on their fantastic achievement.



## CONTACT DETAILS AND PARENTMAIL

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of keeping your contact details up to date. Please notify the school **immediately** of any changes to your address and / or contact details. We are currently updating our records, and new forms have been circulated to all parents and carers; we would request that you complete and return this form, regardless of whether your details have changed.

Additionally, any changes to your email addresses or phone numbers must be updated on ParentMail to ensure that you continue to receive mailings from the school. Office staff are not able to make changes to parent/carer contact details on ParentMail - it must be done by the account holder.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

If the school has to close for any reason, ie, adverse weather conditions, notification will be given on the school website and parents and carers will be sent a text. 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>

## ***Non-Uniform / Cake Sale Day***

*This will be held on **Friday 15 February**. Details to follow.*

## ***Discos***

*The children's discos will be held on **Wednesday 3 April**.*

*Details will be circulated nearer the time.*

## ***GOVERNOR NEWS***

### ***Attendance***

*Attendance for the autumn term was 97%.*

Please note that local radio stations no longer read out school closure lists.

## ***SCHOOL ATTENDANCE***

We would like to congratulate the 144 pupils who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn Term 2018. It is wonderful that so many pupils have reached this high level of attendance.

A reminder to parents and carers that any absence of 3 days or more should be accompanied by a medical certificate. Current Government guidelines state that a child is considered a 'Persistent Absentee' if their attendance falls below 90%. The school undertakes regular attendance checks and if your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be asked to attend a meeting at the school to discuss strategies for improvement; if attendance falls below 93% you will be sent a reminder letter.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason (excluding illness and medical appointments), then you will need to request an absence form and this needs to be completed and returned, together with a covering letter explaining the reasons for the absence. For medical appointments, a copy of the appointment letter is requested.

## ***ROBERT DRAKE 50TH ANNIVERSARY***

This year Robert Drake is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary. A whole school photograph will be taken on **Monday 1 April**, and a celebration tea party is also being held in April. Further details will be circulated closer to the time.

## ***CENSUS DAY THEMED LUNCH - WINTER WONDERLAND***

The Census Day Themed Lunch, being 'Winter Wonderland', was held on **Thursday 17 January**. Thank you to all the parents who encouraged their children to choose a school lunch on this day.

## ***DANCE FESTIVAL - 28 JANUARY 2019***

Mr Chaplin's class will be participating in the 2019 Primary Dance Festival being held on **Monday 28 January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tickets are available directly from The Palace Theatre.

## ***BATIC'S GOT TALENT***

The BATIC (Benfleet and Thundersley Inter Cluster group) Trust has organised a talent show for pupils from all of the schools in the area, and this is being held on **Wednesday 30 January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Robert Drake will be represented by members of the school's drama group. Ticket details have been circulated.

## ***CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS***

Class photographs are due to be taken on **Wednesday 6 February 2019**. Photographs will be in a contemporary style. However, the Year 6 children will also have a more traditional style photograph taken.

## ***PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS***

Parent Consultation evenings are being held on **Tuesday 26 February** and **Thursday 28 February 2018** from 3.30pm to 7.00 pm. We will be asking everybody to complete the annual Parent/Carer Questionnaire when they attend the consultation. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

## ***PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SESSIONS - SPRING TERM***

The following Parental Involvement session will be held this term:

**Friday 1 February** (am) - Years 3 and 4

**Thursday 7 February** (am) - Years 5 and 6

Parents and carers will be invited into school to work with their children during these sessions. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

## ***HANDWRITING WEEK / SAFER INTERNET DAY***

The whole school took part in a handwriting week from 14 to 18 January. Safer Internet Day is taking place on **Tuesday 5 February 2019**.

## ***CLASS ASSEMBLIES***

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

Miss Maloney's class - **Friday 25 January** at 9.00 am

Mrs Gunnell's class - **Friday 8 February** at 9.00 am

Mrs Jackson's class - **Friday 5 April** at 9.00 am

All parents and carers of pupils in these classes are most welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

## ***CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY***

Thank you to everybody who supported Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. We raised **£116.00**.

## ***CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES***

Thank you to everybody who came along to watch our Christmas performances at the end of last term. **£162.00** was donated by families of the pupils in Early Years. **£200** was donated to St Peter's Church where the Y3/4 Carol Concert was held.

## ***FOOTBALL***

The Boys played Woodham Ley on 6 December and drew 3-3. They showed great determination and commitment, having been 3-0 down with 12 minutes to play. Excellent teamwork.

The Girls played against Woodham Ley on 12 December and although they lost 5-2 they battled extremely well, gave their all and displayed good sportsmanship.

## ***NETBALL***

The girls netball team played Kents Hill on 17 January, and won 18-0. Well done to all the team on a great display.

## ***FIT BITS***

Could all parents and carers please note that Fitbits may only be worn by children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. They cannot be worn by infant children.

## ***STAMP COLLECTING***

One of our pupils, Evie, is collecting stamps on behalf of her Rainbow Group as part of a fundraising effort for the Bone Cancer Trust. There is a collection box in Reception for any donations. Evie recently met with the local MP Rebecca Harris, and was commended for her efforts.



## ***JET WHEEL TYRE - MONEY FOR SCHOOL***

Jet Wheel Tyre, the wheel brake and exhaust specialists based in Thundersley, Pitsea and Rayleigh, kindly donate to the school 5% of the total amount spent on their services by any staff members or parents of children at the school. The school is very grateful for the recent donation of £167.08. If you visit one of their branches, please mention the school so that we can help bolster the annual amount paid back to us. Thank you.

## ***OFFERS OF EXPERTISE***

As has been widely reported in the press over recent months, schools are increasingly finding it difficult with regards funding. In this regard, if there are any parents / carers with particular areas of expertise which they feel may be beneficial to the school, and they are willing to share their knowledge and skills with us, then we would be very grateful to hear from you.

## ***SPRING HALF TERM BREAK***

**Friday 15 February** is the last day of this half term. The half term break is from **Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February**. Children should return to school at 8.50am on **Monday 25 February 2019** after the half term break.