



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2019

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Non-Uniform / Cake Sale Day

*This will be held on **Friday 15 February**. Please be reminded that complete football kits cannot be worn and footwear must only be trainers or school shoes. Donations of fruit and cakes would be much appreciated. Further details have been circulated.*

Disco / Easter Egg

Raffle

*The children's discos are on **Wednesday 3 April**.*

Details will be circulated nearer the time.

Adventure Island Tickets

Tickets are now on sale. Details have been circulated. The tickets are valid until December 2019—subject to part opening times.

Summer Fayre

*The 2019 '50th Anniversary' Summer Fayre will be held on **Saturday 18 May, 12 noon until 3 pm**. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.*

Fundraising Meeting

*The next meeting will be held on **Friday 15 March at 2 pm**.*

PUPIL DATA COLLECTION FORMS

Pupil Data Collection Forms have been circulated to all parents and carers. If you have not already done so, please ensure that you complete and return these forms to us **as soon as possible**. It is essential that we have the correct contact details in case of an emergency. Please also note that the additional emergency numbers requested, should be contacts that have not already been noted on the form.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Parent Consultation evenings are being held on **Tuesday 26 February** and **Thursday 28 February 2019** from 3.30pm to 7.00 pm. We will be asking everybody to complete the annual Parent/Carer Questionnaire when they attend the consultation.

SECONDARY INDUCTION DAY

All children in Year 5 will be attending The Appleton School on **Friday 1 March 2019**. This is so that they have the opportunity to experience a day at a secondary school. Details have already been circulated.

WORLD BOOK DAY - 7 MARCH 2019

Robert Drake will be celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 7 March**. All children are invited to come into school dressed as a character from a favourite book—they should bring their book with them so that they can share it with another child.

No hair dye or face paints are to be worn under any circumstances.

The whole school, including staff, will be participating in 'Drop and Read' throughout the day. Each time the bell rings, everyone will stop what they are doing and read a book.

COMIC RELIEF (SCHOOL COUNCIL)

The School Council will be supporting Comic Relief 2019 on **Friday 15 March**. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

INFANT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thirty pupils from Year 2 will be taking part in the Infant Music Festival at the Freight House, Rochford on **Thursday 21 March 2019**, during the afternoon. A letter has been sent home to parents and carers with details about this event.

All parents and carers welcome.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

Attendance for January 2019 was 97.5%.

ROBERT DRAKE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A reminder that this year Robert Drake is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. A whole school photograph will be taken on **Monday 1 April**, and a celebration tea party for the pupils is also to be held after the Easter break. Further details will be circulated closer to the time.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Mrs Jackson's class assembly will be taking place on **Friday 5 April** at 9.00 am. All parents and carers of pupils in the class are most welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

DANCE FESTIVAL - 28 JANUARY 2019

Year 3 children from Mr Chaplin's class were invited to take part in the 2018 Primary Dance Festival held on **Monday 28 January** at The Palace Theatre. The pupils performed really well and enjoyed the experience of dancing on the stage at The Palace Theatre.

BATIC'S GOT TALENT

Year 6 pupils from the Drama Group represented the school in the BATIC's Got Talent Event on **Wednesday 30 January 2019** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff. The group performed a very professional drama act, 'The Curse of the Mobile Phone' which was very well received by the audience. The children worked well together and it was a great experience working at the Palace Theatre.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAYS

Years 3 and 4 held a Parent Involvement session on **Friday 1 February** and had a great time making Anglo Saxon wall hangings. Years 5 and 6 held a session on **Thursday 7 February** and created Chinese pagodas. Both sessions were great fun



NETBALL

The mixed netball team played an away match on **Tuesday 22 January** against Kingston. They lost 5-1 but played well.

The girls netball team played away against Thundersley on **Thursday 7 February**. Despite the result of losing 10-1 it was a hard fought game.

FOOTBALL

The boys team played Montgomerie on **Monday 4 February** and won 3-2, with goals from Bob, Jake and Max. They played well and worked hard to achieve the result. A special mention to the goalkeeper Brooke who kept Robert Drake in the game and to the two Year 4 boys in the team, Albie and Riley.

CHESS

Congratulations to school chess champion Daniel, and chess medal winners Matthew, Dillon, Charlie, Owen, Ewan, Ben, Zara and Ava. Well done all !

STAMP COLLECTING

We are delighted to advise that Evie, who is collecting stamps on behalf of her Rainbow Group as part of a fundraising effort for the Bone Cancer Trust, has so far raised £345.00. Well done Evie !

ATTENDANCE, PUNCTUALITY AND PUPIL ABSENCE

As all parents and carers will be aware, Robert Drake is committed to providing a high quality educational experience for all pupils, and if this commitment is to succeed then good attendance and punctuality is imperative. As part of it's Attendance Policy, the school expects every child to attend school and be punctual every day and would like to thank parents and carers in supporting the school in achieving this.

With regards punctuality, late arrival to school affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. With regards attendance, if a pupil arrives after registration but before the registers close (ie, between 8.50 am and 9.10 am) then they will receive a late mark. Any pupil who arrives after the registers close (ie, after 9.10 am), without an acceptable reason, will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for that session. The same applies for afternoon registration.

We would also like to stress that punctuality at the end of the school day is equally important, and we would request that parents and carers collect their children on time, whether this be straight after the normal school day or following a school club. Continual lateness may result in your child not be able to attend their chosen club.

If your child is poorly, and unable to attend school, then it is the responsibility of parents / carers to contact the school on the first morning of the child's absence advising of the reason for the absence. If a child is absent through sickness for more than three days, then parents / carers will be required to provide medical evidence. Acceptable evidence for sickness absence includes appointment cards or letters, a medical certificate, a letter from the GP or a prescription certificate or label from the prescription medication.

Any planned leave of absence must be notified to the school in writing on the school's leave of absence form. A letter outlining the reason for the absence must accompany the form. It is school policy that a leave of absence shall not be granted in term time unless there are reasons considered to be exceptional by the Governing Body, irrespective of the child's overall attendance. If a parent or carer removes a child after the application for leave has been refused, or where no application has been made to the school, the issue of a penalty notice may be requested by this school.

Again, we appreciate the support parents / carers provide the school, and are grateful for your continued assistance in ensuring that your child is provided with the best possible education.

MOBILE PHONES

Please note that it is school policy that only children in Year 6 bring mobile phones to school, and then only if they walk home on their own. All mobiles must be switched off and handed in to the School Office on arrival at school, and then collected at the end of the day.

WATCHES AND FITBITS

For clarification, it is school policy that pupils in KS2 may wear a watch to school (preferably analogue). However, pupils in Year 3 and above may wear a Fitbit, provided they are not linked to a mobile phone. However, other watches, such as Apple watches, may not be worn as they are directly linked to telephones and provide a safeguarding risk. All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons or sporting activities (as directed by Essex County Council), and this includes watches and Fitbits.

MR CHAPLIN

We are delighted to announce that Mr Chaplin is getting married this Easter. Many best wishes to him and his fiancée.

SPRING HALF TERM BREAK

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

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.