



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

## CURRENT NEWS

### **FUNDRAISING NEWS**

#### ***Christmas Raffle***

##### ***Tickets***

*Raffle tickets have been sent out, and there are some great prizes. The draw will be held on **Tuesday 10 December**.*

#### ***Fund-Raising Meeting***

*The next meeting will be held on **Friday 31 January 2020** at 2.00 pm. All parents and carers are welcome.*

#### ***Christmas Bazaar***

*Thank you to all the parents and helpers who donated gifts and paper, and came in to help out at the Christmas Bazaar. Your support is much appreciated.. The fantastic sum of £1,513.82 was raised.*

### **GOVERNOR NEWS**

#### ***Attendance***

*The attendance for November was 96.3%.*

### ***BEST UK SCHOOLS GUIDE***

We are delighted to advise that The Robert Drake Primary School has been ranked 373rd in the ParentPower Best UK Schools Guide, a report undertaken annually by The Times Newspapers.

There are over 16,700 state funded primary schools in the UK, so a great achievement for the school.

### ***ATTENDANCE***

#### ***Reporting an Absence / Medical Issues***

As detailed in the Attendance Letter sent out in October, parents and carers are requested to contact the school on 01268 754124 on each morning of their child's absence stating their, the child's name and the full reason for absence. If the absence is due to illness, the full nature of the ailment must be provided.

The School reserves the right to request medical evidence for absences due to illness where it has concerns regarding children's attendance. If parents or carers have been asked but failed to provide this evidence, absences will not be authorised.

Please also note that routine medical and dental appointments should be made outside of school hours, unless it is a specialist hospital appointment or a medical or dental emergency. The school must be informed in advance of such absences and a copy of the relevant paperwork or appointment letter brought in to the school office.

**Please note that in the event your child unfortunately has to undergo a hospital stay, then please bring in a copy of medical evidence provided, such as the discharge documentation as this is not routinely sent to the school, so that the absence can be recorded correctly.**

It is also important that parents and carers keep the school updated of any relevant health information relating to your child, so that prompt and correct medical attention can be given as required.

#### ***Requesting Leave of Absence***

If you wish to request a Leave of Absence, please ensure that the Application for leave of Absence during Term Time Form is completed and handed in to the School Office at least 14 days before the absence is due to take place.

The Form must be accompanied by a covering letter, detailing the reasons for the request. Please also note that a form will need to be completed for each child you have at the school.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

### ***DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES***

**Tuesday 10 December**—Year 5/6 Visit to Cardfields

**Wednesday 11 December**—EYFS Performances, 9.15 am and 2.30 pm

**Thursday 12 December**—Year 3/4 Carol Concert at St Peter's Church, 9.30 am

**Friday 13 December**—Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner

### ***CHRISTMAS POST BOXES***



The children can post their Christmas cards in the post boxes placed in Reception and the junior corridor. EYFS have their own box in the corridor outside their classroom. Please make sure that the envelopes are clearly marked with the recipients full name and class. Thank you.

### ***COATS***

Please ensure that your child brings their coat to school every day as the weather has now turned cold. Thank you.

### ***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 (with no Working Tax Credits), provided your annual income does not exceed £16,190.

Registering is quick and easy. If you think you might be eligible, Essex County Council has an online application form on their website:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Pupil-Parent-Support/Pages/Free-school-meals.aspx>

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.

### ***SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE***

Please find herewith a message received from the School Crossing Patrol Service, asking all parents and carers to park with consideration for others:

'During a recent visit to the patrolled crossing site, I noticed that many vehicles were delayed entry into Spencer Road due to vehicles parking up on the double yellow lines near the corner in Spencer Road. The effects of this is that vehicles bank up in Church Road waiting to enter Spencer Road. This restricts the views of oncoming traffic for the patrol. Also vehicles in Church Road accelerate to overtake the vehicles waiting to enter Spencer Road and their view of the patrol and pedestrians up ahead is restricted. Please park with consideration for the safety of the patrol and all Robert Drake pupils. Thank you. **South Essex Parking Partnership have been requested to monitor this area on a regular basis.'**

## ***WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING***

### ***SPORTS RESULTS***

Football: On 27 November the girls football team played against Woodham Ley and drew 0-0. Mr Hunter said the girls played absolutely fantastically, playing against a team whom over the last two years have dominated the girls league. He said that every girl worked hard and gave 100%.

Netball: The mixed netball team played a match against Kingston on 19 November. They played well and won the match 9-3.

### ***ALDI'S KIT FOR SCHOOLS***

The Sports Council has been busy collating and sticking all of the Aldi Kits for Schools stickers on the huge posters that were given to us.

In total, we sent off four completed posters and one with only 20 stickers to go. This enables us to have at least four chances of being picked out at random for the prize of £20,000 to go towards something for the school that is sustainable and sport related. After consultation with the children in each class, it was decided that if we win, the money would go towards an outside "Trim Trail" where there are gym-like activities stationed around the field. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we are one of the lucky schools!

## ***CHILDREN IN NEED***

Thank you to everyone who donated for Children in Need. The school raised the fantastic sum of £362.96.

Also well done to all the winners of the picture competition. We had some fabulous entries, and it was a very hard decision to choose the winners. Herewith some of the winning entries



## ***SAFER ESSEX ROADS PARTNERSHIP***

The school had a visit from the Safer Essex Roads Partnership at the end of November. They gave a presentation to EYFS parents and carers and their children, and also undertook a presentation to Year 5, which included a roadside practical session.

Road Safety is a very important lesson for children to learn, and we ask all our parents and carers to highlight to their children the importance of Road Safety.

## ***EYFS PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT***

Parents and carers of EYFS children took part in a Parental Involvement afternoon last month, aimed at raising their awareness of the school's approach to teaching phonics and reading.

## ***FORTHCOMING EVENTS***

### ***CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES***

Children in EYFS will be perform their Christmas show on **Wednesday 11 December** at 9.15 am and at 2.30 pm.

The children in Years 3 and 4 will be taking part in a Carol Concert at St Peter's Church on **Thursday 12 December** at 9.30 am.

Details of all events have been circulated.

### ***CHRISTMAS DINNER / CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY***

Christmas Dinner is taking place this year on **Friday 13 December**. The menu is:

Turkey, chipolata sausage, stuffing balls, peas and carrots.

The vegetarian option is a vegetable parcel.

Dessert is a decorated biscuit and ice cream.

Grab bags and jacket potatoes will not be available on this day.

Children are welcome to bring in a Christmas cracker, and they can also wear a Christmas jumper to school. We realise that this is an expensive time of year, therefore we do not expect you to buy a jumper for your child; children are more than welcome to come in a jumper they have decorated themselves!

We are aware that we have taken part in several fund raising activities this term. Therefore any donation, however small, would be welcomed. Donations will be for the benefit of **Save the Children**.

### ***FORTHCOMING DATES***

**Tuesday 10 December**—Year 5/6 Visit to Cardfields

**Wednesday 11 December**—EYFS Performances (9.15 am and 2.30 pm)

**Thursday 12 December**—Year 3/4 Carol Concert at St Peter's Church, 9.30 am

**Friday 13 December**—Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner

**Monday 6 January**—Non-Pupil Day

**Friday 10 January**—NSPCC in school

**Monday 13 January**—Handwriting Week

**Thursday 16 January**—School Census

**Friday 17 January**—ACL Reading Workshop for EYFS Parents, 2 pm

**Wednesday 22 January**—ACL Reading Workshop for KS1 parents, 9 am

**Thursday 23 January**—Miss Maloney's Class Assembly

**Friday 24 January**—Year 3/4 Theatre Visit to see Billionaire Boy, Cliffs Pavilion

**Thursday 30 January**—Year 3/4 Parent Involvement Morning

**Tuesday 4 February**—Dance Festival, Palace Theatre (AM)

**Tuesday 4 February**—BATIC Talent Show, Palace Theatre, 6 pm

**Wednesday 5 February**—Class Photographs

**Thursday 6 February**—Mrs Gunnell's Class Assembly

**Monday 10 February**—Creative Arts/Art Challenge Theme Week

**Tuesday 11 February**—Safer Internet Day

**Wednesday 12 February**—Y5/6 Parental Involvement Morning

**Friday 14 February**—Drumming Workshop

**Friday 14 February**—Non-uniform and cake sale day

**Monday 2 March**—New Age Curling Finals, Basildon Village

**Tuesday 3 and Thursday 5 March**—Parent Consultations

**Thursday 5 March**—World Book Day

**Friday 6 March**—Year 5 Appleton Day

**Monday 9 March**—Sport Relief Week

**Thursday 12 March**—Breck Foundation Day

**Tuesday 17 March**—Cross Country, Garons Park (PM)

**Wednesday 18 March**—Year 1/2 Visit to Boydells Farm

**Thursday 26 March**—Infant Music Festival, Freight House (PM)

**Tuesday 31 March**—Magical Theatre performing Oliver Twist

**Tuesday 31 March**—High 5 Netball Tournament, Deanes

**Wednesday 1 April**—KS1 Easter Disco, 1.45 to 3 pm  
KS2 Easter Disco, 4—5.15 pm

**Friday 3 April**—Mrs Jackson’s Class Assembly

**Tuesday 28 April**—Racquets Festival at Deanes—Mrs Jackson’s Class

**Monday 11 to Thursday 14 May**—KS2 SATS

**Saturday 16 May**—Robert Drake Summer Fayre

**Tuesday 19 May**—Best Team Kwik Cricket (Years 5 and 6)

**Tuesday 19 May**—EYFS visit to Barleylands

**Wednesday 20 May**—Girls Cricket (Years 5 and 6)

**Thursday 21 May**—Sports Day (KS1 AM and KS2 PM)

**Monday 15 to Friday 19 June**—Year 6 Stubbers Residential Trip

**Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 June**—Year 6 Secondary Transition Days

**Tuesday 23 June**—Year 5 Assembly

**Wednesday 24 June**—Year 1/2 Visit to Hedingham Castle

**Friday 26 June**—Year 3/4 Visit to Hyde Hall

**Thursday 2 July**—Open Afternoon

**Friday 3 July**—Miss Bradfield’s Class Assembly

**Friday 3 July**—Year 5 King John School Taster Event

**Thursday 9 July**—KS1 Mexican Day

**Friday 10 July**—Non-Pupil Day

**Tuesday 14 July**—Summer Games at Deanes—Mrs Gunnell’s Class

**Monday 20 July**—Year 6 Leaver’s Disco

**Wednesday 22 July**—Last Day of Term

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

**Friday 20 December to 3 January 2020**—Christmas Break

**Monday 6 January**—Non Pupil Day

Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2020—half term

Monday 6 to Friday 17 April 2020—Easter Break

Monday 25 May to Friday 5 June 2020—half term

Friday 10 July 2020—Non Pupil Day

Monday 20 July 2020—Year 6 Disco

Wednesday 22 July 2020—Year 6 Assembly

Wednesday 22 July 2020—Last Day of the school year 2019/20

Please note that all dates are subject to change

We wish all our parents, carers and pupils a  
Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year



**PLEASE NOTE THAT ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL  
AND CHILDREN OR VISITORS SHOULD NOT BRING INTO SCHOOL  
ANY NUTS OR NUT BASED PRODUCTS**

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.