



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

### **Attendance**

*The attendance for September was 96.7%.*

## **SCHOOL NEWS AND UPDATES**

As you will have seen, there are numerous letters that are being sent from the school. In these changing times, we are trying to keep all parents and carers updated as quickly as possible.

Due to the number of messages and updates, we are seeking to keep these to a minimum by sending out one weekly or biweekly update on a Friday where possible.

Could all parents and carers please ensure that they read all communications from the school, and keep any relevant parties, such as family members who may be dropping off or collecting your child, updated with regards their contents.

Please also keep checking the school website at [www.robertdrake.co.uk](http://www.robertdrake.co.uk) for news items.

Thank you

## **HEAD PUPILS / SPORTS CAPTAINS**

We are delighted to announce the following pupils, following a vote by the children, have been elected as Head Pupils:

Heads: Emily and Jack

Deputies: Evie and Dylan

The following Sports Captains were voted for by school staff:

Head: Alicia and Albie

Deputies: Ella and Riley

## **COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL**

A reminder that the School Office is open Monday to Friday from **8.15 am until 3.30 pm**. Please do not call outside of these hours unless you are leaving a message a message on the 'absence line' to report your child's absence from school.

If you wish to e-mail the school, please use the school's main e-mail address:

**[admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk)**

Please note that the teachers individual class e-mail addresses will remain closed whilst the school is open. The reason for this is because urgent messages were being sent during the school day, but these were not being seen as the teachers were teaching. Please use the admin e-mail address detailed above.

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

A reminder was sent out last week reminding parents and carers to adhere to social distancing rules outside of the school. We are also requesting that parents and carers wear a face mask.

As from Monday 19 October, parents and carers should not approach or speak with a member 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.

## ***NON UNIFORM DAY—FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER***

The school will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 23 October**.

Unlike previous years, this year the children should bring in their own cake or fruit to take out outside at morning break (SJ/PF class have been written to separately regarding this). Allergies: please note that there are children in the school with severe nut allergies—cakes brought into the school must be **nut free**.

Regarding non uniform, footwear must only be trainers or school shoes and suitable clothes should be chosen to enable the school day to continue as normal—children should not wear crop tops or complete football strips to school (football shirts may be worn).

We would request that the children make a small voluntary donation towards not wearing their uniform, but please only donate if you are able to do so. All donations to be made through **ParentPay**.

The school is seeking to raise around £600 to replace the hard drives and upgrade the RAM in the school laptops, and we will be using any monies raised to carry out these upgrades.

## ***TEMPORARY AMENDMENT TO SCHOOL UNIFORM***

From Monday 19th October, there will be a temporary amendment to the Uniform Policy.

Children may wear a plain (preferably dark) coloured fleece or sweatshirt over their normal school jumper or cardigan (NOT instead of their jumper or cardigan). This must be worn over the uniform and not carried separately.

Please do not send your child in to school in patterned or brightly coloured clothing as this is not in keeping with the school uniform.

All clothing must be clearly marked with your child's name.

## ***WATER BOTTLES***

To avoid spillages in the classroom, could all parents please ensure that their child's water bottles have a sports cap.

## ***CONTACT DETAILS—TO BE KEPT UPDATED***

A reminder to please ensure that you keep the school updated if ANY of your contact details change.

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.

## ***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.

## ***FLU VACCINATIONS—THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER***

Flu vaccinations will be taking place in school on **Thursday 5 November**.

If you would like your child to receive a vaccination, then you will need to complete a consent form by **5 pm on 3 November**.

The consent forms are to be completed electronically and the link is contained within the letter sent out on 6 October.

If you would like a paper copy of the form to complete, then please contact the school office.

## ***PUNCTUALITY***

Thank you to the majority of parents and carers who ensure that their child arrives at school on time.

A reminder that children can only enter the school with their class at the appointed time. They cannot enter the school with a different class.

If your child is late and misses their opening time, they will not be able to come into school until **9.15 am**. On arrival, please buzz the main pedestrian gate to advise the Office; they will inform the class and a staff member will come and collect your child.

Your assistance in adhering to this procedure is much appreciated.

## ***ATTENDANCE BADGES***

Due to the uncertain circumstances in which school has returned, we will be monitoring the criteria of how to award attendance badges to the children for good attendance. We will consider this in the summer term with a view to awarding badges for attendance throughout the whole year, rather than termly.

## ***SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS***

A reminder, if your child is in Year 6, that Secondary School Applications need to be submitted to Essex County Council by the closing date of **31 October 2020**.

Full details of the application process can be found on Essex' website on the following link: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>.

Parents and carers will be notified of their child's school offers on 1 March 2021.

## ***BIKEABILITY***

Bikeability will be taking place for Year 6 pupils after half term. A letter was sent out with full details on 14 October. Any parents or carers wishing their child to take part in the sessions, should complete the form and return it to [pe@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pe@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk).

Please be advised the school is hoping to organise some virtual sports events for Years 1 to 6—parents and carers will be updated on these as and when they are arranged.

## ***BEHAVIOUR POLICY***

The school's Behaviour Policy has been updated as a result of current circumstances. The key consideration when making the changes was keeping children safe within their bubbles, so that staff and children are all safe and the school can remain open.

The updated rules were shared with all the children in the school during our first week back, and we have been very impressed by how the children have adhered to these changes. The amended Behaviour Policy is available on the school website.

## ***PARKING***

Could we please remind all parents and carers to park responsibly. We have had reports again of parking in the private road towards Heston Lodge, thus blocking the access route to this facility. We have also had reports of parking on the pavement outside one of the school gates.

The safety of everyone is paramount to the school; please park only where it is safe and legal to do so.

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

**Friday 23 October**—non uniform day / cake and fruit

**Thursday 5 November**—Flu Vaccinations

**Friday 11 December**—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

## ***TERM HOLIDAY DATES***

**Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020**—half term

**Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021**—Christmas holiday

**Monday 4 January 2021**—non pupil day

**Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021**—half term

**Monday 29 March to Friday 9 April 2021**—Easter holiday

**Monday 3 May 2021**—Bank Holiday

**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.