



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Christmas Raffle

Tickets

Raffle tickets will shortly be circulated to all pupils. Prizes include a Photography Experience (donated by A Barrett & co), Old MacDonald's Farm Family Voucher and two tickets to see Alexander O'Neal in concert (donated by Entertainments.co.uk) plus gift vouchers and gift sets.

If you require more tickets then please ask at reception. The draw will be held on **Wednesday 12th December.**

The Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone for their recent contributions to the movie afternoon and neon disco, which raised a combined total of £363.00. Thank you.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for November was 96.7%.

PARENT CONSULTATION

As you are aware the Governing Body recently consulted on the proposal to extend the May half term holiday by three days from 2019. Thank you to all those parents who responded — a total of 112 responses were received, 87 of which were in favour or not against the proposal, whilst 25 were against.

Following due consideration by the Governing Body of all the responses and comments, the decision was taken to proceed with the proposal. Therefore the non pupil day on Friday 24th May 2019 will be moved to Tuesday 4th June 2019, and the three additional days holiday (Wednesday 5th June to Friday 7th June) will be made up by increasing teaching time during the day.

The concerns raised relating to reducing the lunch break by 15 minutes were considered, and as a result the lunch break will only be reduced by 10 minutes each day, thereby increasing the teaching time by 50 minutes each week.

The summer half term holiday from 2019 will therefore be from **Monday 27th May to Friday 7th June 2019.**

UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

We would like to remind all parents and carers that the law does not give any entitlement to parents to remove their child from school during term-time for the purpose of a holiday. Headteachers may only grant leave of absence where an application has been made in advance and the headteacher considers that there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application. At this school all individual applications are considered by the Governing Body.

If an application is not authorised and the holiday is taken this will be recorded in the register as unauthorised. If the period of unauthorised absence is taken and it is for **5 consecutive days (10 sessions) or more** then we are duty bound to refer the case to the Education Access Team (formerly the Missing in Education and Child Employment Service).

The EAT may issue a penalty notice to each of the parents of £60 for each child, to be paid in 28 days. If this penalty notice is not paid within this time-scale it increases to £120. If this is not paid the EAT will then instigate legal proceedings against you in the magistrates court, under the Education Act 1996 for failing to ensure your child attends school regularly.

CHRISTMAS POST BOXES

Christmas cards can be posted in the post boxes placed in reception and the junior corridor. EYFS have their own box in the corridor outside their classroom. Cards will be given out on the last day of term. Please make sure that the envelopes are clearly marked with the **full name and class teacher** of the recipient. Thank you.

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2019

If you have a child who is due to start school next September please remember that your application needs to be sent to Essex County Council Planning and Admissions by **15th January 2019**. It is essential that the application is submitted by this date otherwise it will be treated as a late application.

VISIT FROM GERMAN PARTNER SCHOOL—*Laborschule Bielefeld*

Last month, the school enjoyed a visit from pupils and teachers from its partner school in Germany, Laborschule Bielefeld. During their time at Robert Drake, there were opportunities for the pupils to undertake a range of different lessons and activities. It proved to be a great experience for both schools, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

A team from Robert Drake participated in a mixed dodgeball tournament on **Tuesday 6th November** at The Deanes School. This was a highly competitive event where 10 pupils from Y5-6 were chosen by Mr Hunter to take part based on their ability and behaviour. Pupils behaved impeccably and represented the school well. They were excellent sportsmen, making it through to the quarter finals.

COATS

As the weather is changeable at present please ensure that your child brings their coat to school every day. Thank you.

LUNCHBOXES AND SNACKS

We would like to remind all parents that Robert Drake is a healthy school, and as such we actively discourage parents / carers sending in unhealthy foods in lunchboxes and for snacks. These include, but are not limited to, crisps, chocolates, fizzy drinks and sweets.

Please also be advised that there are children with allergies within the school, and we are therefore nut free—please under no circumstances send your children in with food or snacks containing any kind of nuts in any form.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

NETBALL

The girls team played a League match on **6th November 2018** against South Benfleet, winning the match 5-4, and again away against Holy Family on **29th November 2018** winning 7-4. The mixed team played at home against Kents Hill on **22nd November 2018**, drawing 2-2.

FOOTBALL

The boys team played an away match at Kingston Primary School on **12th November 2018**, losing the game 4-2.

CHILDREN IN NEED - NOVEMBER 2018

The School Council arranged a special day on **Friday 16th November** to support Children in Need, raising the fantastic total of £300.

Thank you to everybody who contributed to Children in Need and well done to members of the School Council for organising this successful event.

YEARS 5 & 6 PERFORMANCE - CINDERELLA ROCKERFELLA

Congratulations to all of the children in Year 5 and 6 for their wonderful performances in Cinderella Rockerfella.



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE DATES

Years 1 and 2 (KS1) will be taking part in their Christmas performances on **Wednesday 5th December** and **Thursday 6th December**, both at **9.15 am**.

Children in Years 3 and 4 will be taking part in a carol concert at St Peter's Church on **Thursday 13th December** at **2.00 pm**.

Children in Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will be performing their Christmas shows on **Tuesday 11th December** at **9.15 am** and **2.30 pm**

Details have been circulated, but we would like to remind parents that all dates are subject to change.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas dinner this year is on **Friday 14th December**, the menu for which has already been circulated. The price of the meal is £2.20, the cost of a normal school dinner. Children are welcome to bring in a Christmas cracker.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

The school will be supporting the Save the Children by taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 14th December**. Children should wear their usual school uniform but their school jumper may be replaced with a Christmas jumper. It would be advisable for the children to wear a plain white t-shirt or school shirt under their jumper as they may become hot in the school building.

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!

Any donation, however small, will be gratefully received. Obviously it is not compulsory for children to take part but we would encourage as many as possible to participate in order to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

SCHOOL NURSE DROP IN SERVICE

We are pleased to advise that from January 2019 there will be a regular school nurse drop in service at the school. Further details to follow.

RETIREMENT

We would like to give our grateful thanks to Mr Paul Cadwell, who is retiring as the school Caretaker this Christmas. We look forward to welcoming Mr Tony Perry, who has been appointed as his replacement.

FINALLY

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The school closes for the Christmas holidays on **Wednesday 19th December 2018** at 3.15 pm and re-opens on **Monday 7th January 2019** at 8.40 am.

