



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2018

FUND-RAISING NEWS

Coffee Morning -

New Intake

*A coffee morning will be held at 9.00 am on **Monday 24th September** for the parents and carers of the children starting in Early Years in September 2018.*

Fundraising Meeting

*The next meeting will be held on **Friday 28th September** at 2.00 pm. All parents and carers are welcome.*

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The overall attendance for 2017-18 was 97.1%.

46 children were awarded a gold attendance badge. Well done!

WELCOME BACK

We hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break and we welcome you back to a new school year. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new children and their families and we hope you enjoy your time at Robert Drake.

SCHOOL OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS

From September, Miss Lord will be working in the office full-time. Mrs Towns will continue to work in the mornings and Mrs Collins will be in the office in the afternoons.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please take the time to have a look at the school's website at www.robertdrake.co.uk

It includes lots of school information including term dates, a calendar of school events, information on clubs / activities, lunch menus, uniform and photos of school events and trips.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PRIORITIES

The key priorities in the School Development Plan for 2018/19 are:

- (1) Raising standards in KS1 (particularly the percentage of pupils working at Greater Depth).
- (2) Development of the curriculum.
- (3) The development of lunchtimes.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We would like to thank all of those parents and carers who ensure that their child comes to school regularly and on time. This is something which is essential in making sure children receive the best education possible. Overall attendance for 2017-2018 was 97.1%.

From the beginning of this term we will be implementing a new system for registering pupils who are late to school. If a pupil is not in school by 8.50am, the usual entrance doors will be locked and pupils will have to enter school via the reception entrance. They will then be registered as a late arrival by appointed attendance monitors, who will then walk the late pupils to their classes.

Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please could all parents / carers ensure that all children come to school wearing the correct uniform. Staff will be extra vigilant in checking that pupils are dressed correctly. A school uniform list is printed at the end of this newsletter.

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).

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.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS FOR YEARS 1 TO 6

This term's Parent Consultation sessions will be held on **Tuesday 18th September** and **Thursday 20th September** between 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Details will be sent out in a separate letter. Please note this is not for parents / carers of children in EYFS.

As it is so early in the term, children's work will not be set out on this occasion.

ROALD DAHL DAY—13TH SEPTEMBER

September is Roald Dahl's birth month and this year the school will be celebrating 'Roald Dahl Day' on Thursday 13th September. Further details will be circulated soon.

TRAVELLING BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair arrives at school on **Monday 24th September**. The children will be given the opportunity to look through the books during the day. The Book Fair will

be situated in the Group Room and all pupils and parents/carers will need to use the new entrance to access this. Books will be on sale from **Monday 24th September** to **Thursday 27th September** - please try to come along.

KS1 PARENT'S MEETING - ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOME-WORK

There is a meeting for all parents / carers of KS1 children on **Wednesday 12th September** at 2.45 pm. We hope you are all able to attend.

INDIVIDUAL PHOTOS

This year the individual photos will be taken on **Friday 28th September** from 8.30 am onwards. We will also be taking family group photos so if you wish any younger pre-school siblings to have their photos taken please could you bring them along at 8.30 am.

CENSUS DAY THEMED LUNCH

We are holding a special themed lunch on school census day, **Thursday 4th October**. We would like to encourage all pupils to try a school lunch on this day. The menu will be circulated nearer the time. The cost will be £2.10, as usual, for pupils in Key Stage 2.

NAMING CHILDREN'S PROPERTY

Please can all parents / carers ensure that all clothing, PE bags, book bags, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly marked with your child's name. There was a great deal of lost property at the end of last term which we were unable to return as it was not named. Thank you.

PARENTAL QUERIES

We would like to remind you that any parental queries should be referred, in the first instance, to your child's class teacher. If these remain unresolved, please make an appointment to see Mrs Rawling if your child is in Years 3 to 6, or Mrs Jones/ Mrs Jackson if your child is in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 2.

EUROKIDS FRENCH CLUB

Eurokids French Clubs specialise in French tuition for Years 3 - 6. They aim to give children an introduction to the written and spoken language in an informal atmosphere.

The French club is held each Monday lunchtime at The Robert Drake Primary School, starting on **Monday 17th September**.

For further details please contact Sharon Knight on Tel. 07714 328252 or email eurokids@btinternet.com

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

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

Mr Chaplin's class - **Wednesday 3rd October** at 9.00 am.

Mrs Vickery's class - **Friday 12th October (Harvest Festival)** 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.

EDUCATIONAL VISIT

The following educational visit is due to take place this term:

Friday 21st September Y3/4 visit to Colchester Castle

NEW INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2019 - OPEN EVENING

We will be holding an Open Evening on **Thursday 18th October** for pupils due to start school in September 2019. If you know anybody with a child due to start school next September please can you inform them of this date. Further details can be obtained from the school.

A number of school tours will be held during October and November for parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2019. Please contact the school office to book a place.

NON-PUPIL DAYS 2018-2019

Non-pupil days for 2018-19 are:

Monday 3rd September 2018

Friday 4th January 2019

Friday 24th May 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

Friday 12th July 2019

Please note that these dates are subject to change. The term dates for 2018-2019 are on the school website (www.robertdrake.co.uk).

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Years 1-6 (Winter)

- GIRLS:** White/blue shirt with collar (not polo shirt)
Grey skirt (not culottes) or pinafore dress (knee length)
Grey tailored trousers
Maroon cardigan/jumper (not sweatshirt)
School tie
White ankle or knee length socks or plain black, white or grey tights (no trainer socks)
Flat black shoes, **no trainers or knee length boots please**
- BOYS:** White/blue shirt with collar (not polo shirt)
Grey tailored trousers

Maroon pullover (not sweatshirt)
School tie
Socks (dark and plain)
Black shoes - **no trainers please**

Years 1-6 (Summer)

GIRLS: Optional Summer uniform blue and white striped/checked dress (one piece only)
White ankle or knee length socks.
Flat black shoes or sandals

BOYS: White/blue short sleeved shirt with collar (not polo shirt)
Grey tailored trousers or tailored shorts
School tie
Socks (dark and plain)
Black shoes or sandals

Early Years Foundation Stage (Winter)

GIRLS: Grey skirt (not culottes)/pinafore dress (knee length)
Grey tailored trousers
White polo shirt
Maroon sweatshirt
White ankle or knee length socks or black, white or grey tights (no trainer socks)
Flat black shoes, **no trainers or knee length boots please**

BOYS: Grey tailored trousers
White polo shirt
Maroon sweatshirt
Socks (dark and plain)
Black shoes - **no trainers please**

Early Years Foundation Stage (Summer)

GIRLS: Optional Summer uniform blue and white striped/checked dress
White ankle or knee length socks
Flat black shoes or sandals (closed in)

BOYS: White polo shirt
Grey tailored trousers or tailored shorts
Socks (dark and plain)
Black shoes or sandals (closed in)

- Ties are to be worn to and from school in Years 1-6
- Boots worn in extreme weather conditions should be changed on entering school

Indoor games, dance and gymnastics

A plain white T-shirt
Black shorts (plain)
Black plimsolls
(On occasions, children will work barefooted unless they have a foot infection)

Outdoor games and athletics

A plain white T-shirt
Black shorts (plain)
A plain black or burgundy tracksuit (no logos)
Black plimsolls or trainers

Swimming Boys and Girls:

One piece swimming costume/trunks

Towel
Swimming hat (can be purchased from the School Office)

Jewellery

Ear studs (no hoops, removed on days of PE)
Watches (**Juniors only - we are not responsible for loss of watches**)

Haircuts

Children are expected to have sensible appropriate haircuts/styles/colours for school. They should not have haircuts with patterns or symbols shaved into their heads.

N.B. Health and Safety:

- ***To avoid the national problem of head lice, we have been instructed by the Area Health Authority to ensure that all long hair is tied back whilst the children are at school.***
- ***Pupils wearing heels exceeding 3cms may, for safety reasons, be asked to change into their plimsolls during school hours.***

Nail varnish and hair accessories should not be worn.

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.