



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.