



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fund-Raising Meeting

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

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for December was 96.0%, and for the Autumn Term was 96.9%. This has reduced over the past two years. We are hopeful attendance rates will improve in the Spring and Summer terms.

CURRENT NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope that everybody enjoyed the Christmas break. We are looking forward to the exciting things that are happening this term.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We would like to congratulate the 133 pupils who achieved 100% attendance in the Autumn Term 2019. It is wonderful that so many pupils have reached this high level of attendance.

HOUSE WINNERS



The House winners for Autumn Term were the Dragons. Well done to all the pupils.

VIRGIN CARE SCHOOL NURSE TEAM

It has been brought to the attention of all Essex schools that an incident happened last week (not linked to our school) where a parent was sent a text by someone purporting to be a School Nurse to ask questions about their child. Virgin Care wish this message to be shared:

School Nurses do not send text messages as their first contact with parents.

If you receive a text message requesting information about your child from anyone purporting to be a School Nurse, please **DO NOT** engage.

To check the validity of any request received, please contact the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service Single Point of Access: South Essex 0300 247 0013

SCHOOL CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

If the school has to close for any reason, ie, adverse weather conditions, notification will be given on the school website and parents and carers will be sent a text. In addition, a list of closed schools will appear on the Essex County Council website at the following link:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

FIRST AID TRAINING

We are incorporating First Aid Training into the Year 5/6 Curriculum this year. Miss Marris' class will start their First Aid Training this Friday, 17 January. The other classes will have their training later in the year.

SICKNESS ABSENCE

Could we please remind parents, especially in light of recent outbreaks, that if your child is sick or has diarrhoea, then they should be kept at home for 48 hours from their last bout of sickness or tummy upset. If you are in any doubt, then please do call the School Office. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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.

ONLINE SAFETY

The school is committed to keeping children safe online, and all pupils are given regular e-safety lessons which cover a variety of topics. As part of this awareness, The Breck Foundation will be visiting the school on **Thursday 12 March**. Children's workshops will be held in the morning, and parents will be invited to a workshop in the afternoon—we would like to encourage all parents to come along. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

TOOT LESSONS

The toot is a musical instrument similar to the flute. We are pleased to advise that for the duration of the Spring Term, both Miss Maloney's class and Mrs Vickery's class will be receiving toot lessons on a weekly basis. We are delighted how well the children have responded after just one lesson.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

Miss Marris' class and Mr Smith's class will be taking part in some indoor athletics sessions on **Tuesday 21 January** at Deanes School. Details are being circulated.

JANUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 13 January—Handwriting Week

Thursday 16 January—School Census—Themed Lunch Frozen

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

Friday 24 January—Year 5 Road Safety Speedwatch Training

Thursday 30 January—Year 3/4 Parent Involvement Morning

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

All the children had a great time performing in their Christmas shows. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support.



VISIT FROM NSPCC

The school had a visit from the NSPCC last week as part of their 'Speak out. Stay safe.' campaign. All children from Years 1 to 6 were involved in the assemblies, with the older year age groups also taking part in workshops. Please try to make time to speak to your children about the assemblies and workshops.

MUSIC FOR SCHOOLS

Music for Schools came in today and gave an assembly to Years 2—6. Each child from those year groups has been given a leaflet, and a presentation is being given to parents of those children interested in taking up brass or woodwind instrumental tuition on **Wednesday 22 January** at 3.20 pm.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CENSUS DAY THEMED LUNCH - FROZEN—THURSDAY 16 JANUARY

The Census Day Themed Lunch, being 'Frozen', will be held on **Thursday 16 January**.

Please encourage your child to have a school meal on this day, even if they just want a jacket potato or grab bag, as this really helps with funding for the school.

The menu for the day will be:

Olaf's Fingers (chicken goujons) or Sven's Veggie Sausage Roll with 'Ice Cube Potatoes', 'Frozen Peas' and 'Cold'Slaw'
Dessert is Snowflake Cookie or Arctic Roll

YEAR 3/4 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MORNING

Parents with children in Years 3 and 4 will be invited in to a Parent Involvement morning on **Thursday 30 January**. Details will be circulated shortly.

YEAR 3/4 TRIP TO CLIFFS PAVILION—BILLIONAIRE BOY

The children in Mr Chaplin's, Miss Maloney's and Mrs Vickery's classes will be watching a performance of Billionaire Boy at the Cliffs Pavilion on the morning of **Friday 24 January**.

YEAR 5 ROAD SAFETY SPEED WATCH TRAINING

On **Friday 24 January** the Year 5 children have an exciting opportunity to take part in Road Safety Speed Watch Training. Essex Highways will be attending to undertake the training, together with an Essex Police Officer.

YEAR 3/4 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MORNING

There will be Parent Involvement Morning for Years 3 and 4 taking place on the morning of **Thursday 30 January**. Further details to follow.

DANCE FESTIVAL - 4 FEBRUARY 2020

Mr Chaplin's class will be participating in the 2020 Primary Dance Festival being held on **Tuesday 4 February** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tickets are available directly from The Palace Theatre.

BATIC'S GOT TALENT—4 FEBRUARY 2020

The BATIC (Benfleet and Thundersley Inter Cluster group) Trust has organised a talent show for pupils from all of the schools in the area, and this is being held on **Tuesday 4 February** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Robert Drake will be represented by members of the school's drama group. Ticket details have been circulated.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Class photographs are due to be taken on **Wednesday 5 February 2020**. Photographs will be in a contemporary style. However, the Year 6 children will also have a more traditional style photograph taken.

FORTHCOMING DATES

Monday 13 January—Handwriting Week

Thursday 16 January—School Census

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

Monday 20 January—EYFS Height and Weight Check

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

Wednesday 22 January—Music for Schools Presentation for Y2-6 parents, 3.20 pm

Thursday 23 January—Miss Maloney's Class Assembly

Friday 24 January—Rabbi Elf Assembly

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

Friday 24 January—Y5 Road Safety Speed Watch Training

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—Children / Parent workshops

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—Year 6 Assembly

Wednesday 22 July—Last Day of Term

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

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—Last Day of the school year 2019/20

Please note that all dates are subject to change

**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.