



NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Fund-Raising Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Friday 28 February 2020** at 2.00 pm. All parents and carers are welcome.

Non-uniform / Cake sale day is being held on **Friday 14 February**. All donations of cakes and fruit are very welcome.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for January was 97.20%.

CURRENT NEWS

SAFEGUARDING AND ONLINE SAFETY

THE BRECK FOUNDATION—PRESENTATION THURSDAY 12 MARCH

We are very fortunate to have been able to arrange for Lorin Lafave to lead workshops at the school on **Thursday 12 March**. Lorin is the mother of Breck Bednar who was groomed online and so tragically lost his life as a result. You may have seen the recently repeated television programme which tells Breck's story. The Breck Foundation is a charity which has been set up in Breck's memory in order to highlight the importance of keeping children safe online and to raise the awareness of parents in this regard.

Lorin will be working with the children in the morning and for the first part of the afternoon in order to reinforce the importance of them keeping themselves safe when they are online.

At 2 pm she will be making a presentation to parents and carers. We would like to encourage as many parents and carers as possible to attend this presentation. Her presentation is extremely moving and provides a powerful message. When Lorin came to the school in 2017 she had a significant impact. At the request of parents and carers who had not attended the first presentation, we arranged for Lorin to come back to the school to repeat her presentation.

The presentation is appropriate for parents and carers of pupils of all ages.

The school is committed to keeping children safe online, and all pupils are given regular e-safety lessons which cover a variety of topics. It was designated Safer Internet Day on **Tuesday 11 February**, and the school organised some activities for the children to reinforce the importance of online safety.

PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS

Parent Consultation evenings are being held on **Tuesday 3 March** and **Thursday 5 March** from 3.30pm to 7.00pm. Letters have already been circulated.

Please be advised we will be asking everybody to complete the annual Parent/Carer Questionnaire when they attend the consultations.

LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN—SCHOOL FUNDING

If your child is looked after, or previously looked after, could you please let the school know as we may be able to apply for some additional funding. Thank you.

JET WHEEL TYRES

A big thank you to Jet Wheel Tyres who have recently donated £262.20 to the school. Please note that if you mention Robert Drake Primary School to Jet Wheel Tyres when you book in your car, they will donate 5% of their fee to school.

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>

PARKING

It is with much regret that we need to advise all parents and carers about the need to park with consideration for other parents / carers and our local neighbours.

There have been several instances lately where there have been some near serious accidents due to people dropping off or collecting their children without due care and attention for others.

Could we also please remind everyone, that Heston Lodge next to the school is a care home and their driveway must be kept clear at all times; could you please ensure that you do not use their entrance for parking or dropping off / collecting at any time.

CHESS CHALLENGE

We are delighted to advise that the following pupils have been awarded their chess medals: Zara, Luke, Ava, Dylan, Jack, Maayan, Ella, Emily and Archie.

We are also delighted to advise that Zara is the school's chess champion and winner of the champion's trophy.

The Chess Club is for children in Years 5 and 6 and takes place on a Thursday lunchtime with Mr Newell.

PE KIT

Could all parents please be reminded that all children in Years 1—6 should have in school an outdoor PE kit, as well as their indoor PE kit. The school's outdoor PE kit is as follows:

- Black sweatshirt/top
- Black jogging/track suit bottoms
- Black trainers

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.

FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

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 17 to Friday 21 February—Half Term

Thursday 27 February—SAT's and Stubbers Meeting , 2.30 pm (Year 6)

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

MATHS COMPETITION

On **15 January** Luke, Ewan, Matthew and James in Year 6 took part in a Maths Competition. They all did the school proud.



YEAR 3/4 TRIP TO CLIFFS PAVILION— BILLIONAIRE BOY

The children in Mr Chaplin's, Miss Maloney's and Mrs Vickery's classes attended the Cliffs Pavilion for a performance of Billionaire Boy on the morning of **Friday 24 January**. They all had a great time.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

Miss Marris' class and Mr Smith's class took part in some indoor athletics sessions on **Tuesday 21 January** at Deanes School.

YEAR 5 ROAD SAFETY SPEED WATCH TRAINING

On **Friday 24 January** the Year 5 children took in a Road Safety Speed Watch Training session. Essex Highways attended the school, together with Essex Police.

This is what Year 5 had to say—"On Friday 24 January, Year 5 did a Speed Watch outside the school. We used a speed gun. Drivers who were travelling over 30mph were pulled over by the police officer. These drivers had the choice of receiving a ticket or being questioned by us. They all chose the second option! We got to ask them questions, which really made the drivers think. We enjoyed this experience and we are proud to have made such a positive impact on road safety outside our school."

YEAR 3/4 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MORNING

Parents and Carers of children in Years 3 and 4 took part in a Parent Involvement morning on **Thursday 30 January**, where they learnt about sentence stacking.

TOOT LESSONS

Since the start of the Spring Term, the children in Miss Maloney's and Mrs Vickery's classes have been receiving weekly toot lesson. 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.

DANCE FESTIVAL - 4 FEBRUARY 2020

Mr Chaplin's class participated in the 2020 Primary Dance Festival on **Tuesday 4 February** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. They all had a great time, and were a credit to the school.

BATIC'S GOT TALENT—4 FEBRUARY 2020

Some members of the school's drama group took part in the BATIC's Got Talent show at the Palace Theatre on **Tuesday 4 February**. They carried out an excellent performance and were by all accounts the stars of the show. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Poulton for their hard work in putting the performance together.

YEAR 5/6 PARENT INVOLVEMENT MORNING

Parents and carers with children in Years 5 and 6 were invited in to a Parent Involvement morning on **Wednesday 12 February**, where they helped the children make a wind propelled vehicle.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SAT's and STUBBERS MEETING

A meeting is being held for all Year 6 Parents and Carers on **Thursday 27 February** at 2.30 pm to discuss the SAT's tests. It will also be an opportunity to raise any questions about the forthcoming Year 6 to Stubbers in June.

APPLETON SCHOOL YEAR 5 DAY

All children in Year 5 will be attending The Appleton School on **Friday 6 March 2020**. This is so that they have the opportunity to experience a day at a secondary school. Details have already been circulated.

INFANT MUSIC FESTIVAL

Thirty pupils from Year 2 will be taking part in the Infant Music Festival at the Freight House, Rochford on **Thursday 26 March 2020**, during the afternoon. Details will be sent home shortly.

FORTHCOMING DATES

Friday 14 February—Drumming Workshop

Friday 14 February—Non-uniform and cake sale day

Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February—Half Term Break

Thursday 27 February—SAT's and Stubbers Meeting , 2.30 pm (Year 6)

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—Rabbi Elf Assembly

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—Band It Assembly (9.20 am)

Wednesday 18 March—Year 1/2 Visit to Boydells Farm

Friday 20 March—Radio Club trip to BBC Radio Studios, London

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)

Thursday 11 June—Junior Music Festival

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

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.