



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance from September to March for 2019-20 was 97%.

WELCOME BACK

It has been an unprecedented few months, and we are pleased to see the children now back in school. Thank you to all the parents and carers for their help and support over the last few months and for getting their children ready for their return.

STAFF CHANGES

Please be advised that Mrs Saunders has now left Robert Drake and taken on a new venture at another school; we wish her all the best in her new position.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Webber to the Midday Assistant Staff, and Miss Baldwin, who will be job-sharing with Mrs Rawling, to the teaching staff.



SEVERE NUT ALLERGY / PACKED LUNCHES

All parents and carers need to be made aware that there are several children within the school with nut allergies. We also have a child with an airborne nut allergy and **it is therefore vitally important that no nut products, or products that may contact nuts, are sent into the school with your child for their snack or within packed lunch.**

The school will be writing to all parents and carers separately regarding this, including details on packed lunches.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

A reminder to keep checking the school website at www.robertdrake.co.uk for news items.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2020-21

The five school development priorities for 2020-21 are:

- 1 Response to COVID-19 Risk Assessment—this is available on the school website and is regularly updated
- 2 Developing Remote Learning Capacity
- 3 Reading
- 4 Enhancing the Curriculum
- 5 The Development of Lunchtimes (dependent on circumstances)

CONTACT DETAILS—TO BE KEPT UPDATED

In the event that your contact details change, you must ensure that you complete a new contact detail form and send in to the Main Office. Please call or e-mail the school office if you need a copy of the form to complete.

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. Punctuality is key to education, and many hours of teaching are lost through lateness.

Please note that children can only enter the school with their class at the appointed time. If your child is late and miss their opening time, they will not be able to come into school until 9.15 am. We have amended this time as the EYFS start times have been brought forward.

On arrival you will need to buzz the main pedestrian gate to advise the Office and they will inform the class and a staff member will come and collect your child at 9.15 am. Your child will not be able to enter the school with a different class.

Your assistance in adhering to this procedure is much appreciated.

DROPPING ITEMS OFF AT SCHOOL/NO ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT IN

Please note that it is not currently possible for parents and carers to come onto the school site, therefore it is not possible to drop off any forgotten items.

If your child has forgotten their reading record on a Friday, then you can let the Office know and they will inform the class of the reading done that week. If packed lunches have been left at home then it will be necessary for them to have a school dinner.

Please note that children are unable to bring items in to school, except their water bottles, packed lunches and their school bag with reading record on a Friday. Unfortunately this means that children are unable to bring in treats for their classmates on their birthday.

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).

If you think you might be eligible, please contact the school office and we will send you a form to complete.

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.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

We are delighted that Google Classroom became operational last week, and from this point forward all homework will be set via this method.

Please be advised that a couple of instructional videos have been uploaded to the Robert Drake website to help guide you through this new system. The link is as follows:

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/google-classroom>

PARENTAL QUERIES—COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

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 Miss Fowler / Mrs Jackson if your child is in Early Years, Year 1 or Year 2.

Any communication for your child's class teacher should be sent in an envelope and marked with the name of your child's teacher.

Please note that as from Friday 25 September the teachers' individual e-mail accounts will be closed. These were set up for the period of the lockdown only and have been left open until Google Classroom became operational.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please could all parents / carers ensure that all children come to school wearing the correct uniform, and on PE days their PE uniform. If the weather is cold, we would suggest that the indoor PE uniform is worn under the outside PE uniform.

Please can parents/carers ensure that all clothing is marked with your child's name.

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES AT SCHOOL

Please note that in the current circumstances, unfortunately the school is unable to administer ad hoc medicines to children during the school day.

If your child does require medicine, we would suggest that this is given before and after school. If the medicine is required to be taken at lunch time, then the child would need to have a home lunch so that it is administered at home.

NEW INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2021

Due to the current circumstances, unfortunately we are unable to hold an Open Evening here at Robert Drake for pupils due to start school in September 2021. Full details will be available shortly.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

If your child is in Year 6, then you will need to apply for a place at secondary school Essex County Council opened their on line process on 11 September . You will need to apply for the place by the closing date of **31 October 2020**.

Full details of the application process can be found on Essex' website on the following link: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>.

Parents and carers will be notified of their child's school offers on 1 March 2021.

11 PLUS EXAMINATION

In line with government guidelines to provide the opportunity for Year 6 pupils to settle back into school in September and to assist selective schools in minimising the spread of Covid-19, it has been agreed that this year's 11+ will be delayed and candidates will be spread across 2 days. The new dates are:

Saturday 7 November and Monday 9 November

Subject to availability, pupils will be tested on one of these two days.

It may be that some pupils have not had the opportunity to register to take this year's tests but may wish to do so. It has therefore been agreed that these pupils can still register for the test. The online registration is now closed, but it is still possible to submit your application form by post to the CSSE Office. This form can be downloaded from the CSSE website and needs to arrive no later than 30 September 2020. Full details can be found at <https://csse.org.uk/>.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Monday 21 September—Handwriting Week

Monday 21 to Friday 25 September —Parent Consultations (Years 1—6)

Thursday 5 November—Flu Vaccinations

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 26 October to Friday 30 October 2020—half term

Monday 21 December 2020 to Friday 1 January 2021—Christmas holiday

Monday 4 January 2021—non pupil day

Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2021—half term

Monday 29 March to Friday 9 April 2021—Easter holiday

Monday 3 May 2021—Bank Holiday

Monday 24 May to Friday 4 June 2021—half term

Friday 9 July 2021—non pupil day

Thursday 22 July 2021—first day of summer holiday

Please note that all dates are subject to change

ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL

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.