



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

### **Attendance**

*The attendance for October was 97.9%.*

*This was excellent news.  
Thank you.*

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **SCHOOL UPDATES**

A reminder to please keep checking ParentMail for communications from the school to ensure that you are up to date with all relevant information.

Please also keep checking the school website at [www.robertdrake.co.uk](http://www.robertdrake.co.uk) for news items.

Thank you

### **COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL**

A reminder that the School Office is open Monday to Friday from **8.15 am until 3.30 pm**. Please do not call outside of these hours unless you are leaving a message on the 'absence line' to report your child's absence from school.

If you wish to e-mail the school, please use the school's main e-mail address:

[admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk).

### **STAFF CHANGES**

We are delighted to advise that Mrs Cresswell recently got married and is now Mrs Winter.

Our many congratulations to Mr and Mrs Winter.



### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Please be advised that due to the current circumstances, the Governor's have taken the decision not to restart the after school clubs for the Spring Term. We shall keep you advised of the position for the Summer Term.

### **SCHOOL CROSSING**

There have been increased incidences of cars not stopping outside the school at the crossing.

With this in mind, could all parents and carers please keep their children with them as they approach the school crossing, and always accompany the younger children across the road. Thank you

## ***CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2021***

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances the school is unable to hold an open evening or book in tours for parents and children who are due to start school in September 2021.

Instead, the school has uploaded to the school's website a video tour of the school. There is also information, and a booking form to book in a Zoom meeting with the Headteacher and school staff. This documentation can be accessed via the following link: <https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/admissions-policy>

Please do not hesitate to pass on this information to anyone you know who has a child due to start school next September.

**If you have a sibling due to start school in September 2021, we would be very grateful if you could let the office know.**

## ***LEAVE OF ABSENCE***

Could all parents and carers please ensure that they request and complete a Leave of Absence form at least two weeks before any planned absence. This will ensure good time for processing.

## ***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 may be eligible, registering is quick and easy.

If your child is in Year 2 or below, please call the School Office and we will send you through a form to complete.

If your child is in Years 3—6, Essex County Council has an online application form on their website: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>.

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.

## ***PARLIAMENT WEEK***

Years 3 and 4 class took part in Parliament Week earlier this month, and Mr Chaplin's class put the following article together:

Last week was Parliament Week and all of the Year 3 and Year 4 classes spent some time completing a range of different activities. All of the Year 3 and Year 4 classes joined in a video call with our local MP, Rebecca Harris, and we got to ask her lots of different questions. We really wanted to know why the House of Lords is red and the House of Commons is green. Rebecca did some research and found out that there is no known reason for why this is. She also told us that the Queen is allowed to vote, but she chooses not to. We learnt lots of amazing facts about the House of Lords and the House of Commons. We also learnt about debating and why it is important.

## ***FUNDRAISING***

Non uniform day – we are delighted to advise that the school raised the grand total of £460. £400 was added to this from last years Year 6 leavers who very kindly donated monies from their cancelled night out.; this gives a grand total of £860. These monies will be used to replace the hard drives and upgrade the RAM in the school laptops

Children in Need – the fantastic sum of £207 was raised for this worthy cause.

Thank you all so much for your generosity.

## ***TEAM POINTS***

Last week's Team Points winners were Pegasus with 63 points.

## ***BIKEABILITY***

Children from Year 6 who signed up, have been able to take part in Bikeability sessions. They have been learning to ride safely on the road and to check their bikes to ensure they are roadworthy and safe. It has been fantastic to deliver this opportunity in these difficult times. The feedback from the children has been really positive and they have enjoyed the sessions.



## *ONLINE SAFETY*

In these times of increased online use, herewith a reminder about minimum age restrictions for social media use:



Please check the school's website for further details on online safety:

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/e-safety>

## *CHRISTMAS*

In these difficult times, we are pleased to let you know about some seasonal and fun events taking place ahead of the Christmas holidays.



### **From Thursday 10 December**

Cinderella Pantomime — a virtual pantomime for all classes will be held in December. These will take place in the classrooms.

This is very kindly being paid for by the Fundraising Group.

### **Friday 11 December**

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner. Further details to follow

### **By Friday 11 December**

Christmas Cards—children may bring in Christmas cards for their own class only. These need to be brought in to school by Friday 11 December at the latest. No glitter or messy items please. There will be a box in each classroom, and the cards will be quarantined before being circulated. They will be brought home on Friday 18 December—children should bring in a carrier bag in their book bag on this day for this purpose.

## ***REMINDERS***

*Herewith some reminders—please take note:*

### ***SOCIAL DISTANCING / MASKS***

A reminder that parents and carers should not approach or speak with members of staff at the gate at the beginning or end of the day unless they are wearing a mask. If a mask is not being worn, then parents /carers will need to telephone the school office during opening hours.

### ***CONTACT DETAILS***

It is very important that all parents and carers keep the school updated of ALL changes in their contact details.

You will need to complete a new contact detail form if your details do change; please call or e-mail the school office if you need a copy of the form to complete.

### ***DROPPING ITEMS OFF AT SCHOOL***

A reminder that parents and carers should not come to school to drop off any forgotten items.

If your child has forgotten their reading record on a Friday, then 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.

### ***PUNCTUALITY***

A reminder that children can only enter the school at their appointed time; they cannot enter the school with a different class if they are late.

As previously advised, if your child is late and misses their time slot, they will not be able to come into school until **9.15 am**. On arrival, please use the intercom at the main gate and the office will inform the class; a staff member will come and collect your child.

### ***PARKING***

A message was again sent out this week regarding parking. Could we again remind all parents and carers to park responsibly. Please do not park in front of the school gates, or in the road to Heston Lodge. Please ensure you only park legally, responsibly and where it is safe to do so.

### ***PARENTPAY / SCHOOL DINNERS***

Could all parents and carers please ensure that their ParentPay account for school dinners is kept up to date and in funds before selecting school dinners.

### ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES***

**Friday 11 December**—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

**Friday 11 December**—last day for bringing in Christmas Cards

### ***TERM HOLIDAY DATES***

**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.