



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for November was 97.9%.



NEWS AND INFORMATION

MESSAGE FROM MISS REDPATH

As this is the final newsletter before the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank families for their support in these unprecedented times. Your kind messages of appreciation, particularly over recent days, have been most welcome, and provided an additional boost for all staff. I thank you for taking the time to write in – we are most grateful.

Myself, and all members of staff at Robert Drake, would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas break.

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.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY – NON-PUPIL DAY

A reminder that the school will close at normal time on **Friday 18 December** for the Christmas Holiday.

Monday 4 January 2021 is a non-pupil day, and we therefore look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Tuesday 5 January 2021**. However, if the situation changes we will inform you as soon as possible.

Please note that the staggered start and finish times will remain as they are in the New Year.

CHRISTMAS / COVID-19

A letter has been circulated to all parents and carers regarding guidance to follow during the Christmas holiday should your child start displaying symptoms. Please ensure that you take note of the guidance within this letter, and inform the school as required.

If you need to contact the school during the holiday closure, please do so by e-mailing admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk (please do not leave a telephone message as this will not be picked up). Any information sent out by the school will be sent via ParentMail.

COVID-19 TESTS

Please ensure that if any member of your household arranges for a Covid-19 test, then in accordance with government guidance ALL members of the household need to self isolate until the results of the tests are known.

If a test is arranged during the school day, then the school must be informed and the children collected as soon as any test has been arranged.

Could all parents and carers please ensure that they keep the school informed of any tests taking place within your household, and also notify us as soon as any results are known. The school must be informed of any negative result before children return to school.

DEANES SPORTS CAMPS

Deanes will be running sports camps over the Christmas holidays. To book please visit www.deanessportscentre.com/holiday-camps

ESSEX LIBRARIES WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Essex Library Services are hosting a Winter Reading Challenge to encourage the love of reading by providing large bookmarks which will be stamped for each book the child reads. The aim is to read six books over the winter period – this year's theme is Animals of Snowy Wood. For further details visit www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/the-winter-reading-challenge-is-here/.

BIKEABILITY

Year 6 completed their Bikeability the other week. Riley, Jude and Penny enjoyed learning new things like how to go round roundabouts safely, and giving way at junctions with main roads. They also learnt about how to signal properly whilst riding their bikes on the road, and were told how to cross roads safely and confidently. Learning something new that was outside of school was great and they are looking forward to riding their bikes to school.

CHILDREN DUE TO START SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2021

As previously advised, the school was unable to hold an open evening or book in tours for parents / carers and children who are due to start school in September 2021.

Instead, there is a video tour that has been uploaded to the school's website, and also information regarding admissions. If parents / carers require any further information, then they should contact the school office.

Feel free to pass on this information to anyone you know who has a child due to start school next September.

HOUSE POINTS

Current house points stand at:

Pegasus – 490

Griffin – 392

Dragon – 437

Phoenix - 375

The winning house team for Autumn Term will be announced 16 December and the winning team will be able to wear an item of clothing of their house colour.

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.

RUNNYMEDE SWIM SCHOOL

Please note that although we are unable to endorse the club, Runnymede Swim School has asked us to share the following link with our parents and carers: www.runnymedeswimmingclub.com.

FREE VIRTUAL SESSIONS FOR PARENTS – KEEP- ING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

Schools charity LGfL is offering free parent drop-ins on Facebook during December to help parents keep children safe online. There will be key info, top tips, conversation starters, advice on parental controls, the chance to ask questions, and special guests including Internet Matters and Parentzone. Please see the following link: facebook.com/LGfLDigiSafe

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.

CHILDREN BRINGING IN ITEMS FROM HOME

Please be reminded that children should not bring items from home into school, unless it is their packed lunch, water bottle or school bag on a Friday. This includes items they wish to give to other children.

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.

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 buzz the main gate and the office will inform the class; a staff member will come and collect your child.

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



**WITH VERY MANY WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW
YEAR**

FROM EVERYONE AT ROBERT DRAKE



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.