



# NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

### ***Attendance***

*The attendance for March was 97.2% (the period from when children returned to school)*

## ***NEWS AND INFORMATION***

### ***MESSAGE FROM MISS REDPATH***

It has been lovely seeing the children back in school this month. They have settled in well.

After only three weeks in school, it is now the Easter Break and we look forward to seeing the children return to school on Monday 12 April.

### ***BUILDING WORKS***

The school has been successful in gaining grants to replace electrical wiring and to update and replace the heating system. Work will commence on Monday 29th March and we are hoping that it will be completed by the end of the summer holiday. With a project such as this it is inevitable that there will be some disruption to normal school life. However, we will endeavour to ensure that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

During the Easter holidays, while the children are not in school, the contractors will be working in corridors and communal areas. However, during the summer term a lot of the work will be undertaken above the ceilings and this will involve some disruption to classes.

Work will start in Mrs Gunnell and Miss Bradfield's classes on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The KS1 classes will not be out of their classrooms for more than one week. Classes will be relocated to the Group Room and the Small Hall when their classrooms are not operational. Work in Mrs Jackson and Mr Chaplin's classes is expected to start on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

EYFS classes will not be affected during term time as work on these classes will take place during school holidays.

KS2 classes are likely to be out of their classrooms for a two week period. Further details about this will be provided to you when we have the confirmed schedule.

The contractors will be on site between 7am and approximately 5pm each day. They will access the classrooms via the outside doors in each room and will not be accessing the rest of the building (the classes will be sealed off). Please be assured that the contractors will be following our Covid-19 procedures whilst on the school site and take part in regular lateral flow testing.

## ***SPELLING BEE***

Yesterday, six year six, super-spellers (Autumn, Alicia, Riley, Emily, Jack and Beau) took part in a virtual BATIC Spelling Bee.

Even though they were separated by a screen to keep them all safe, they worked together and were a fearsome force to be reckoned with. There were six rounds and they had to spell words such as conscientious, collywobble and aardvark. At the end of the competition, they had scored 53 points out of a possible 66 - earning three bonus points for three perfect rounds! They came second, being beaten by just two points! Their prize was a £50 Amazon voucher to spend on something for school. The team is now looking forward to helping Miss Redpath spend their winnings.

Well done, Super Spellers. You were all great and I was very proud of you all.

Mrs Rawling

## ***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 Easter holidays. To book please visit [www.deanessportscentre.com/](http://www.deanessportscentre.com/).

## ***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.

### ***KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE***

A letter was recently sent out regarding Online Safety and the National Online Safety app which is free to download from the App Store or Google Play. More information can be found by visiting <https://info.nationalonlinesafety.com/mobile-app>.

### ***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 12 April 2021—children return to school for the Summer Term**

**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 EASTER  
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.