



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

The attendance for September was 96.1%.

RETURN TO SCHOOL

It has been lovely to see the children back in school, and to have after school clubs back up and running again.

We would like to thank all the parents and carers for their patience and support over the past 18 months. It has been much appreciated.

STAFF CHANGES

Miss Crafer has now left Robert Drake and taken on a new venture, and we wish her all the best in her new position; we are delighted to welcome Mrs Johnson to the Midday Assistant Staff.

We are also very sorry to be losing two other highly valued members of staff later this month, who will both be sorely missed:

Mrs Belcher, a Learning Mentor, who has been with the school for 12 years, is moving on to become a Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer at a secondary school.

Mr Perry, the Site Manager, is relocating to Wiltshire.

We wish them both all the very best.



SEVERE NUT ALLERGY / PACKED LUNCHES

Could we please remind all parents and carers that there are several children within the school with nut allergies. We also have children with airborne nut allergies 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 their packed lunch.**

The school has written to all parents and carers separately regarding this matter, and we are grateful for your support.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-22

The three school development priorities for 2021-22 are:

Priority 1 Developing Reading—to improve reading skills across the school

Priority 2 Disadvantaged Strategy Action Plan—to raise achievement and improve outcomes for identified pupils

Priority 3 Development of Lunchtimes—to develop lunchtime organisation to improve pupil play, behaviour and staff organisation

HEAD PUPILS / SPORTS CAPTAINS

We are delighted to announce that the following pupils, following a vote by the children, have been elected as Head Pupils:

Heads: Isabelle and Kyle

Deputies: Amber and Abhinav

The following Sports Captains were voted for by school staff:

Heads: Lydia and Joseph

Deputies: Isabelle and Dougie

Well done to all the children.

PAST PUPIL NEWS

We are delighted to advise that George Atkins, a former pupil, recently competed in the Under 16 British Gymnastics and won Gold all round. He also won Gold on rings, parallel bars, high bar and pommel, and Bronze on floor.

George then achieved further international success in the Wohnen Junior Trophy in Germany winning Team Gold, and then another seven individual Gold medals including all round individual.

Well done George, a fantastic achievement.

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 it in to the Main Office. Please call or e-mail the school office if you need a copy of the form to complete.

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.

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 all children should be in school by 8.50 am when the gates close. Any children arriving after this time will receive a late mark. Parents /carers arriving after 8.50 am will need to use the intercom to call the Office.

DROPPING ITEMS OFF AT SCHOOL AFTER GATES CLOSE

Please note that it is very disruptive and time consuming for staff for forgotten items to be dropped off at school after the gates have closed. It is therefore not possible to drop off any forgotten items during the school day.

Could you therefore please ensure that your child brings to school any items that will be required for their school day, ie, glasses, coat, book bag, lunch, water bottle. Water will be supplied to children that forget their water bottle and a school dinner can be ordered for those that forget their packed lunch.

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.

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.

NEW INTAKE - SEPTEMBER 2022

The school has available some dates in November for parental / carer tours around the school for pupils that are due to start school in September 2022. Please contact the School Office for further details.

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 10 September . You will need to apply for the place by the closing date of **31 October 2021**.

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 2022.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the beginning of the term two new school councillors were elected from each class in the school. The meetings take place each month, and at their first meeting last month they discussed what they had learned during friendship week and shared ideas that could be used across the school.

The councillors expressed an interest in making the outside area of our school greener by planting trees. This item will be discussed further in the next meeting.

PARKING / DROPPING OFF

Could we please remind all parents and carers to park responsibly and to ensure that they drop their children off with care. We have had reports of parking irresponsibly and blocking access to houses and businesses. We have also had reports of cars stopping in the road and dropping their children off so that they then need to walk on the road to the pavement.

The safety of everyone is paramount to the school; please park only where it is safe and legal to do so.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Week beginning 18 October—Author Theme Week

Friday 22 October—Harvest Festival and non uniform day

Week beginning 7 February—Smashing Scientists/Art Challenge Theme Week

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October 2021—half term

Monday 20 December 2021 to Monday 3 January 2022—Christmas holiday

Tuesday 4 January 2022—non pupil day

Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February 2022—half term

Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April 2022—Easter holiday

Monday 2 May 2022—Bank Holiday

Monday 23 May to Friday 3 June 2022—half term

Friday 8 July 2022—non pupil day

Friday 22 July 2022 —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.