



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

May 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath:

It has been lovely that the weather has been so good and the children have been able to spend more time outside in the fresh air since returning after the Easter break. It definitely feels as though we are getting back to normality, as we are now able to organise more activities, events and educational visits. I have enjoyed being back with the children and chatting to them around the school and on the playground. They are an absolute credit to the school and their families. Mrs Kadwill, who has been working at the school over the past few weeks, had the pleasure of observing children in lessons and around the school commented that Robert Drake children were a 'delight'. Pupils in Years 2 and 6 have been taking their SATs this week and other year groups have also been undertaking assessment tests. I have been so impressed with all of their attitudes, they have shown good levels of concentration and resilience. I would like to mention our wonderful Year 6 children in particular as they have all worked hard and made very good progress, both academically and personally, and are now well prepared for the transition to secondary school. I am so very proud of them all!



PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEK

As you will be aware, national celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be taking place across the country in June.

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee various activities and events will take place during the week beginning 16 May within school. Activities will include a special picnic (details to follow) and every child will receive a commemorative badge. Thank you to the Fundraising Group for kindly purchasing the badges.

This half term we will be having two non-uniform days as part of the Jubilee celebrations, depending which year your child is in. They are as follows:

Thursday 19 May – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Friday 20 May – EYFS, Years 1 and 2

On the selected day for your child they can come to school in red, white or blue, or purple, the official colour of the Platinum Jubilee. Children are free to wear a combination of these colours! No crop tops, full football kits, hair dyes or face paints please; sensible footwear to be worn.

NETBALL UPDATE

We are delighted to advise that the girls netball team won the League this year, and the mixed team came second in their League. Very well done to all the netball players on a fantastic achievement!



FOOTBALL UPDATE

Well done to all the children who have taken part in the mixed football team matches this year.

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

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

There has been an increasing number of children arriving late for school. Please note that all children should arrive at 8.40 am when the gates open. Parents /carers arriving after 8.50 am will need to use the intercom to call the Office.

Attendance

The local authority routinely request information from the school regarding holidays taken by pupils during term time. As a result, penalty notices are issued to some families by the Education Access Team (please note fines go directly to the local authority; there is no financial gain for the school). We would like to remind parents and carers that the school's Leave of Absence policy states that no absence will be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

In addition, please note that any leave of absence taken during September 2022 is more likely to result in a Penalty Notice.

Please ensure that all leave of absence requests are made **at least two weeks in advance** of any planned absence.

WARMER WEATHER – SUNCREAM, HATS AND SUNGLASSES

With the start of the warmer weather, it is important that children are protected. Could we please advise as follows:

- Suncream – it would be helpful if parents/carers could apply suncream to their child/ren before they come to school. As you will be aware there are children within the school that have life threatening nut allergies, and some suncreams do contain nuts so they cannot be used on children coming into the school. Could you please ensure that you check the ingredients of your suncream. We are aware that Nivea's suncream does contain almond oil, which sometimes is listed with its formal name: *prunus amygdalus dulcis oil*.
- Sunhats – please put a sunhat in your child's bookbag which they can put on when the sun is out
- Sunglasses – it is the school's policy that only prescription sunglasses should be worn to school. If your child does not have prescription sunglasses, please supply your child with a sunhat to protect them from the sun.

CONTACT DETAILS – PUPIL DATA COLLECTION FORM

It is vital that the school has up to date contact details for all parents and carers, and health and medical details. In this respect, please find attached herewith a Pupil Data Collection Form. Could you please complete and return to the Main Office.

BEFORE SCHOOL CLUB

We can confirm that a Before School Club will be starting after half term on a trial basis.

Further details will be sent out to all parents and carers on **Monday 16 May 2022**.

FRENCH CLUB - EuroKids

After half term the lunchtime French Club run by EuroKids will be recommencing. This will take place on Tuesdays, starting 7 June, and will initially be for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 only. Full details regarding prices and how to register are attached.

THANK YOU – ACTS OF KINDNESS / UKRAINE APPEAL

Thank you for all the donations for Acts of Kindness Day in April supporting the Ukraine Appeal, Disasters Emergency Committee Fund. The amount of £296.50 was raised. Many, many thanks !

FUNDRAISING

Robert Drake Summer Fayre

We are pleased to advise that the Robert Drake Summer Fayre will again be taking place this year. It is due to be held on **Saturday 9 July, from 11 am – 2 pm.**

Mrs Cheryl Coomber has asked us to put out a request for volunteer helpers to help out on the day. If you are able to assist, even if it is just for an hour on the day, please contact her on 07832 123995

Adventure Island Tickets

The fundraisers have Adventure Island tickets for sale at £15.00 each. Please contact Cheryl on 07832 123995 if you would like to purchase some.

easyfundraising – please sign up to help the school



An easy new way of contributing to the fundraising at the school is through **easyfundraising...**

- Robert Drake Primary School Fundraisers are registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise **FREE** donations for us every time you shop online. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page by clicking on the link below: -
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/robertdrakepsf/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_medium=email&utm_content=gs-e1 **Thank you so much!**

CENSUS DAY LUNCH

Please be advised that the Census Day Lunch this term will be held on **Thursday 19 May**. It is a normal cost for KS2. The menu will be hotdog in a roll or veggie hotdog in a roll, with potato puffs, sweetcorn and baked beans; mini doughnuts with chocolate sauce for dessert. Full details have been circulated.

SCHOOL EVENTS

19 May 2022 – EYFS trip to Barleylands

20 May 2022 – Year 5 trip to Stubbers

10 June 2022 – Class and Year 6 Photographs

13 – 17 June 2022 – Year 6 Residential trip to Stubbers

24 June 2022 – Sports Day

27 June and 1 July 2022 – Years 3 / 4 trip to Thorndon Country Park

29 June 2022 – Years 1 / 2 trip to Hedingham Castle

5 July 2022 – M and M Productions performing The Hobbit

9 July 2022 – Robert Drake Summer Fayre, 11 am – 2 pm

A reminder that all dates are subject to change

SAFETY CONCERN – LOCAL BUSINESSES

We have been contacted by EH Roberts Penet Group who are concerned for the children's safety. Young children are riding their scooters in and out of cars and are at risk of an accident. Could parents and carers please have regard to this when walking their child/ren to and from school. Thank you

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of April was 96%. We expect pupils to be in school every day. Non-term time absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

REMINDERS

School Closure Notification

If the school has to close for any reason, ie, adverse weather conditions, notification will be put on the school website and parents and carers will be sent a message via ParentMail. In addition, a list of closed schools will appear on the Essex County Council website at the following link:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

Pupil Premium / Free School Meals

Pupil Premium Funding is allocated to children from 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 with qualifying conditions 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), Working Tax Credit run-on, and Universal Credit.

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 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. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or require help with your application.

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

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 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.