



NEWSLETTER

March 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Happy Acts of Kindness Day (for Friday)! On Friday 1st April, we will spend the day being kind, thinking of others and raising money for the Disaster Emergency Committee Humanitarian Appeal. Thank you for every donation and every act of kindness, each individual act has a huge cumulative effect, and days like this live long in the memory. Especially to those of us who have to try and save over 100 penalties, the bruises of which most definitely live long in the memory!

FAREWELLS, A WELCOME AND SOME WELCOME BACKS!

We start the newsletter with a **farewell to Miss Maloney**, who we reported to you in the last newsletter is leaving to pursue the next challenge in her career. Miss Maloney has been at Robert Drake since September 2017, a considerable time in which she has made a significant contribution to lives of many pupils and their families, a legacy that will not be forgotten. After Easter, she takes up a post at another school, so Friday will be her last day – hopefully she will be in school to say goodbye, otherwise we will have to organise an alternative way for her to say goodbye to the class. We wish you well Miss Maloney, and the brilliant enthusiasm, energy, kindness, and humour you brought to the school. Thank you so much, good luck and we will miss you.

As one door closes, another opens! Miss Maloney will be replaced by **Mr Bye**, who will join the school and we are certain will be a brilliant addition to the teaching staff and to the whole school community. Welcome Mr Bye, we are really looking forward to working with you.

It is brilliant news that both **Miss Redpath and Mrs Coe** are returning to Robert Drake. After Easter, Miss Redpath will be back up to full time and Mrs Coe will be in the same position by mid-May. We are grateful for the experience and expertise they bring being back at Robert Drake, supporting our pupils to have the best possible experience. Welcome back!

Mr Archer will be returning to Westwood Academy after Easter. He wanted to thank everyone at Robert Drake for their kindness, support and for being so welcoming, and wishes everybody in the school community the absolute best for the future. To all the pupils that have been so kind, he asked that they keep working hard, learning as much as possible, looking out for each other in the future – it has been an absolute pleasure to have gotten to know you all.

COVID LATEST

As we have got nearer to the end of the term, and as **COVID restrictions** have been eased across the country, the numbers of cases have steadily gone up in both pupils and staff. We continue to follow public health advice and act in the way to best safeguard all our pupils and thank you for supporting us with this demanding situation. We have had to “step up measures” in one class this week due to the number of positive cases, and fortunately have yet to see the extremely high-level of cases of some other local schools. We hope that the measures we take have the desired effect of reducing positive cases and the Easter break will help in this.

One element that has been consistent is the need to test and isolate if symptoms of COVID-19 are evident or in the case of a positive test result, and we follow the DFE (Department for Education) advice on this: -

Should parents send their child to school if they think they have COVID-19?

If a child has any of the main symptoms or a positive test result, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. Anyone with any of the main COVID-19 symptoms should order a test and is advised to stay at home while waiting for the result. If they test positive, they are advised to follow public health advice.

OPEN EVENING/RESCHEDULING.

We hope those of you who attended our open evening on 29th March enjoyed being back in school, seeing the pupils hard work. Our open evenings were unfortunately hit by staff absence, so we thought it best to reschedule them after Easter when staff would be available to welcome parents. Both Miss Baldwin and Miss Maloney/Mr Bye's open evening will be reorganised at a later date, and it will give a good opportunity for Mr Bye to be introduced to parents.

COLLECTION PUPILS FROM CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL.

Please can you make sure that pupils who attend after school clubs are collected in person from the school gate, so that they can be safely escorted to cars by those collecting. Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.

BEFORE SCHOOL CLUB NEWS.

We updated you previously that Governors had formed a working party to look at options for how, when (and if) it is feasible for a Before or After School Club to be set up at Robert Drake. The latest news to share on this is that the working party have identified an existing service provider who has offered to set up a Before School Club on a trial basis initially, beginning during the two weeks before half term (this may be subject to change but is our target). This is something that is being worked on now, and of course requires certain checks and guarantees around safeguarding, risk assessment and so on before it can be finalised. We just thought it would be positive to share our initial thinking with you all because there was significant interest in the idea when we asked initially. More details will be shared when available.

THANK YOU - RED NOSE DAY AND WORLD BOOK DAY.

Thank you for all the donations for Comic Relief and World Book Day – we managed to raise £242 (which we will pass onto Comic Relief) on Red Nose Day, and £336 on World Book Day, which we will spend on books for use across the school. Thank you so much!

CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE.

On Wednesday 16th March, 27 children from Key Stage 2 went to Garon Park to compete in a cross-country competition with 29 other schools. The children represented our school very well with their brilliant behaviour and amazing resilience and determination. Many congratulations to all the children that took part. We would like to thank the children for all their efforts in the training sessions prior to the race as well. There have been great improvements all round and many personal victories achieved on the day.

NETBALL UPDATE.

Charlotte and Demi contributed reports from the latest netball game: -

On the 21st of March, the netball team went to Hadleigh Junior School. We came home with our first win. The score was 6-4. Before the match, we were a bit nervous but were confident in our ability. Once we calmed down, we played extremely well. We were overjoyed and so proud. Overall, we had a really fun time.

FUNDRAISING – PLEASE SIGN UP TO [easyfundraising](#) 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 now 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!**

The first donations have started to come in and we hope that if everyone uses the link regularly, it can help generate funds that make a real difference to every pupil across the school.

And **thank you to the Fundraisers** who have organised Easter Discos for all our pupils and have agreed to purchase lots of new equipment for our Early Years outside area, which is now starting to be delivered. Your work is much appreciated, and we are looking forward to the summer fete – lots of opportunities to volunteer and help with that will be available nearer the time.

School Events

Keeping to the book theme, on **5 July 2022**, M&M Productions will visit the school to deliver a production of **The Hobbit** to everyone in the school. We've had them visit before and it was a brilliant event that the pupils really enjoyed, so it's one we are looking forward to.

Sports Day is due to take place Friday 24 June.

The following school educational visits have been organised this year:

19 May 2022 – EYFS trip to Barleylands

20 May 2022 – Year 5 trip to Stubbers

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

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

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

A reminder that all dates are subject to change

GOVERNOR NEWS

A separate Governor newsletter has been sent out.

Attendance - The attendance for the term to 28th March was 93.8%. 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>

Contact Details – to be kept updated

In the event that your contact details change, please 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.

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 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 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.



Pro-Academy Of Football Easter Soccer School's



Pro-Academy of football has a unique link towards various Professional clubs, in England and in Europe.

The course will be filled with fun and games, new skills and drills in the morning and Champions League in the afternoon, Each child attending the course will receive a Medal, trophies in recognition of certain achievements special awards.

About our coaches: All our coaches are Full-time professional football coaches are UEFA Qualified and hold up to date disclosures, safeguarding and First Aid. To book your place please follow the instructions below.

To Book your place please follow the link below or for more information about the course please contact Mark Hunter on the contact details below. Payment is required when booking course to confirm place, spaces are limited.

<https://pro-academy-of-football-ltd.class4kids.co.uk>

Email: markhunter@pro-academyoffootball.com

Phone: 07917-130177



Dates:

Course 1: 5th -7th April 2022
Course 2: 12th & 13th April 22

Times:

10AM-3PM

Venue:

The Cope, Waterside
Leisure Centre,
Somnes Avenue Canvey
Island, Essex SS8-9RA

Cost:

£65 (If attending all 5 days, £60 for Canvey Players).

£60.00 (4-days). (CIYFC £55.00)

£45.00 (3-Days) (CIYFC £40.00)

£30.00 (2-Days)

£15.00 (1-Day).

Canvey Island YFC players get a discount if attending 3,4 or 5 days.

Player Checklist:

- *Appropriate Playing kit.
- *Shin-Pads to be worn.
- *Lunch & Plenty of Drink. No fizzy drinks or nut based products.

