



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

June 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath:

The last few weeks have been very busy in school.

It is wonderful to see events and activities taking place for the first time since 2019. The weather was kind to us for Sports Day and it was lovely to see the children taking part with so much enthusiasm and enjoyment. I was especially proud of the children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 as this was the first time they had taken part in a Sports Day which was attended by their families. Thank you to all of those parents and family members who came along to take part and cheer on their children. So many parents and younger siblings took part in the races that we ran out of prizes!

Also, a big thank you to those people who generously purchased raffle tickets on the day. A grand total of £300 was raised. The proceeds from the raffle will go towards buying new equipment for next year's Sports Day. The Mayor and Mayoress of Castle Point attended Sports Day and commented on how much the children were enjoying themselves and were also impressed by the way the older children supported the younger children.



The winning team was

Griffin in Key Stage 2, and



Dragon in EYFS and Key Stage 1. Well done!

Year 6 children had fantastic weather on their residential visit to Stubbers Adventure Centre. Many of the children really challenged themselves when taking part in the activities. Again, it was pleasing to see them support and encourage one another. It is always so rewarding for staff to see the Year 6 children become more independent during the week.

Thank you to Mrs Gunnell for organising First Aid sessions for the children in Years 1 to 4. There has been some very positive feedback from parents and carers about this important life skill being part of the curriculum this term. First Aid lessons for Years 5 and 6 are scheduled to take place in the autumn term.

With more exciting things for the children to look forward to including educational visits to Hedingham Castle and Thorndon Park and the Summer Fun Day it will be a busy end of term.



OPEN DAY FOR PARENTS / CARERS

The school will be holding an 'Open Afternoon' for parents and carers to come in and look at their child's work. This will be taking place on **Thursday 7 July from 4 – 6 pm**. Please note that teachers will not be available for individual appointments on this occasion. Children must stay with their parents / carers at all times and are not able to go onto the play areas as there is no supervision. **Please note that Mrs Parrag will not be at the Open Afternoon but will be available (in Mrs Smith's current classroom) on Tuesday 12th July between 3.30pm and 4.30pm if parents wish to meet her.**

NETBALL

As you will be aware, the girls' netball team won the League this year, and the mixed team came second in their League.

Herewith a nice piece written by one of our players Dougie following the matches against Woodham Ley and South Benfleet: *'Me and a group of other children went to Woodham Ley to play netball and we won 7-3. Netball is a fun game that boys and girls can play. Me and some other children went to play at South Benfleet but unfortunately we lost 11-3, but everyone played well and both games were fair. I felt sorry for our team but happy for the other team. In both games I felt nervous but then you get used to it. After all, the mixed team came second in the league, and the girls team came first.'*

The following is from the Netball Coaches:

'We are really proud of the success of the netball teams, not only of the children who played in the matches but also of all those children who have attended the practices on Thursday afternoons. Mrs Pollock, Mrs Collins and Mrs Taylor have seen huge improvements in all the players netball skills as well as their agility, team spirit and determination. We very much hope that our Year 6 netball players will carry their enthusiasm for sport to their new secondary schools and that our current Year 5 will continue to develop their netball skills from September. We look forward also to welcoming our new Year 5's, boys and girls, to our practice sessions.'

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE

Herewith a message from the School Crossing Patrol Co-ordinator:

Please do not allow children to disembark from cars near the crossing site. This is dangerous as is a distraction for other drivers approaching the crossing site and puts both the patrol and pupils at risk if vehicles then overtake the stationary car. Thank you.

Could parents/carers please encourage pupils to dismount from cycles and scooters when crossing with the School Crossing Patrol. This avoids injury to the patrol and other pedestrians and is very good practise for when children get older and make journeys on their own, as they can then give their full attention to approaching traffic. Thank you.

RESPONSIBLE PARKING

We have been advised that parents / carers have been parking across the entrance to Heston Lodge. Could we please remind all parents / carers to park responsibly and lawfully.

FUNDRAISING

Robert Drake Summer Fun Day

We are pleased to advise that the Robert Drake Summer Fun Day 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.

Sports Day Raffle

Thank you so much to everyone that bought tickets on Sports Day for the raffle. £300 was raised, which as Miss Redpath has indicated above will be used to buy equipment for sports day next year.

SCHOOL EVENTS

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

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

5 July 2022 – M and M Productions performing The Hobbit

7 July 2022 – Parent / Carer Open Day, 4 – 6 pm

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

18 July 2022 – Year 6 Leavers Disco, 3.45 – 5.15 pm (details to be circulated)

21 July 2022 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly, 9 am (details to be circulated)

A reminder that all dates are subject to change

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of May was 95.1%. This is below normal pre-pandemic attendance levels for May. We expect pupils to be in school every day. Non-term time absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

School Dinners – price increase - It is with regret that we inform you that the cost of school dinners will increase by 10 p to £2.40 as from 1 September 2022. The increase, which is the first since 2019, is to offset some of the increased cost of food, gas and electricity.

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.

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.

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!**

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

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.