



NEWSLETTER

July 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath:

As we come to the end of the academic year it has been wonderful to see so many activities taking place again.

The children in Years 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Hedingham Castle. It was the first educational visit for all of these children - they conducted themselves impeccably and were a credit to themselves and the school. As they arrived back from Hedingham Castle, one of the children excitedly came to speak to me and said, "Miss Redpath, I have been on a school trip and I loved it. We went on a big coach!". They made the most of the whole experience and came back with big smiles on their faces, which was so lovely to see.

Year 3 and 4 children visited Thorndon Park, and learnt all about geocaching.

Year 5 pupils and EYFS children have taken part in Road Safety workshops. Children were able to tell me about keeping safe on and near roads following the sessions.

I am also pleased to advise that the children have voted for the following Head Pupils for next year:

Head Pupils: Darla and Shai

Deputy Head Pupils: Rosabelle and Elliott

The teachers elected the following Sports Captains:

Alice and Corban

Well done to all pupils.

Fundraising

The Summer Fun Day was a great success. The weather was ideal and it was fantastic to see so many past and present pupils come along to support the event. Thank you to those who organised and helped on the day. Money raised will go towards purchasing 'Monster Phonics' (£535.00 in donations were received. Thank you) which is a phonics scheme that will be used by all children in EYFS and KS1. Parents and carers will receive more information about this scheme in September. Hopefully, more parents and carers will be available to assist with the organisation of the Fun Day/Summer Fayre next year. Please look out for details of the next Fundraising Group Meeting and, if you are able to offer some time to the school, we would be really pleased to see you at the meeting. All are welcome.

The school was overwhelmed with the support received by parents / carers for the Book Fair, with £500 being raised for the school to spend on books across the school. Thank you so much for your support.

Sports

Last week, the athletics team took part in the District Sports at The Deanes School. They have all shown commitment to weekly before school training sessions and achieved well deserved success finishing 5th overall with many individual medals. Robert Drake staff were very proud of the team. Thank you those parents and carers who came along to support and cheer on the team.

Also well done to the boys' football team who came third in the League.

Year of Reading

This year is Essex County Council's 'Year of Reading' and as part of this all children have received a library card. Essex Library Service came into school to make a presentation to the children in assembly about the Summer Library Reading Challenge which takes place between 16th July 2022 and 3rd September 2022. More information can be found in the link below:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/children-and-young-adults/summer-reading-challenge/#:~:text=Saturday%2016%20July%20%E2%80%93%20Saturday%203%20September%202022&text=Children%20are%20asked%20to%20read,their%20Gadgeteers%20certificate%20and%20medal.>

Please continue to read with your child as regularly as possible during the summer break. Thank you.

Staff Changes

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Cross and Mrs Pardoe at the end of the term, both of whom have worked at Robert Drake for many years. We will miss them both and hope that they enjoy having more time for themselves. I am sure that they will visit from time to time. We thank them both for the contribution they have made to supporting the children at school.

EUROKIDS – FRENCH LESSONS

Please see the attached flyer regarding French lessons next year.

CHILDREN EAT FOR £1 AT ASDA CAFÉ'S

Asda has announced its next move in bids to help feed children this summer, meaning children across England and Wales can eat for just £1 at any time of the day in Asda Cafes, seven days a week, with no minimum adult spend required. Further information can be found [here](#).

SCHOOL EVENTS

21 July 2022 - Year 6 Leavers Assembly, 9 am (details have been circulated – please book your tickets on ParentPay if not already done so)

A reminder that all dates are subject to change

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of June was 96%, which is a small increase on last year. We expect pupils to be in school every day. Non-term time absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

REMINDERS

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.

A reminder that all children in Year 3 and above have to pay for their school dinners unless they qualify for, and have been accepted for, Free School Meals.

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 22 July 2022 —first day of summer holiday

Monday 5 September 2022 – children return to school

BEST WISHES AND GOOD LUCK TO ALL YEAR 6 LEAVERS

HAVE A LOVELY SUMMER EVERYONE, AND SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER ☺

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.