



NEWSLETTER

October 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath

It has been a really busy start to the term. I have been visiting classrooms regularly and the children's attitudes to their learning have really impressed me. They are so keen to learn and show resilience in their approach.

I have been giving tours of the school to prospective parents and it has been lovely to hear the children talk so confidently and with pride about their school. The Mayor and Mayoress of Castle Point also came in to assembly to talk about their roles. All of the visitors made very positive comments about the children.

A six-week First Aid course has started for the Year 5 and 6 classes. The children have been very enthusiastic about telling me about what they have learnt, which is fantastic as this is such an important life skill.

Children were also able to speak confidently about how to behave safely around dogs following the Dogs' Trust assemblies and workshops. Another important life skill.

It has been such a positive start to the school year.

I am pleased to announce the new team captains for this year:

Griffin: William O and Chloe M

Phoenix: Ryan Mc and Naomi H

Pegasus: Danny C and Amelia H

Dragon: Jude L and Hope P

Congratulations to you all.

Miss Redpath

General

Year 3 /4 Colchester Castle Trip, 7th October 2022

The children had a great time and they really enjoyed themselves at Colchester Castle.

"We watched a video on Iron Age Roundhouses and Roman Villas. We got to make large models of both of them and had to work as a team. We also went under the castle and learnt about Claudius and Nero and the Iceni tribe. It was very interesting." *Joseph, year 4*

"My favourite part was when we went under the castle which used to be a temple. I learned so much and at the end of the day I felt relaxed and tired. I was mostly interested learning about Boudica." *Harriet, year 4*

Harvest Donations

We would be grateful for any donations for harvest. Thank you to those parents and carers who have already left donations. Please leave them in the box inside the school entrance. They will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank in Hadleigh which will support those families in need.

Punctuality / Early Bird

The Early Bird Week was very successful. The children were excited to be visited each day and the older children really enjoyed trying to guess who the early bird was!

Pupil Support Officer

If you have any worries or concerns about your child then please contact Mrs Green (Pupil Support Officer) by emailing welfare@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk or calling the School Office to leave a message. Mrs Green has worked with several children and their families so far this term to provide additional support in school or to signpost families to support agencies. Feedback from parents and carers has been positive.

Eco Warriors

This year, each class has elected a pupil to be an 'Eco Warrior'. The main focus for Eco Warriors will be 'Saving Energy'. They are going to be raising awareness e.g. by turning lights off when a room is not in use. They will also look at recycling - there is now a box for recycling batteries outside the hall door in the main corridor. Please send in any used batteries that you have at home to school for recycling.

Year 6 – Secondary School Applications

A reminder to all Year 6 parents and carers that secondary school applications need to be submitted by the national closing date of **Monday 31st October 2022**. Information from Essex regarding applications was circulated to all Year 6 parents earlier this term.

New Intake Open Afternoon & Parent/Carer Tours

There will be an Open Afternoon for children due to start school in September 2023 on **Monday 7th November** between 4pm and 5.30pm. This has been organised so that children can come along and take part in a range of activities. There will also be an opportunity to meet some of our oldest pupils. Parents and carers of children due to start school in 2023 are invited to book a tour of the school by calling the School Office.

Forthcoming Events - Please note that all dates are subject to change

Mr Chaplin's Class Assembly

Mr Chaplin's class assembly will take place on **Thursday 13th October at 9am**. The assembly will have a harvest theme and parents and carers from Mr Chaplin's class have been invited to attend.

Greenpeace Assembly and Workshops

A representative from Greenpeace will be coming in to take an assembly on Thursday 20th October. They will talk about climate change (at a level appropriate for the pupils), what the children can do at home to protect the environment and the importance of saving energy. Following the assembly there will also be a workshop for the Eco Warriors.

Authors' Week/'Harry Potter Day'

There will be an 'Authors' Week' from **Monday 17th October – Friday 21st October**. This will culminate with a 'Harry Potter Day' on **Friday 21st October** which will be a wonderful way to end the half term. A letter has been sent to all parents and carers with more information about 'Harry Potter Day'.

Parent Consultations (EYFS)

Parent consultations for parents and carers of EYFS children will take place **Tuesday 18th October** (1.30 – 4.30pm) and **Thursday 20th October** (3.30 – 6.30pm). Details have been circulated.

Anti-bullying Day

Anti-bullying Week takes place during the week **14th - 18th November**. On Monday 14th November the school will be holding an Anti-bullying Day which will focus on the children understanding what bullying is (as opposed to a disagreement) and what they should do if they, or somebody else, is being bullied. The children have been made aware that Robert Drake is a ‘Telling School’ and they should tell a member of staff if they feel that bullying is taking place.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee is always looking for volunteers to help out organising or planning the fundraising activities. Meetings are held regularly and the next meeting is due to take place on **Monday 7th November at 2 pm** – you can just turn up and you will be very welcome !

There are still Adventure Island tickets available – please call Rob on 07983 801247 to book your tickets.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of September was 97.1%. We expect pupils to be in school every day. Non-term time absence will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances.

Governor Visits - Governor visits to the school this term have focussed on personal development, and Members of the Governing Body spent an afternoon last week speaking to various groups of children from all classes about this.

After speaking to the children it was a pleasure to know that they feel the school is a safe and happy place to be where staff are supportive and understanding.

School rules were discussed, as well as school and British values. There was a good understanding of this and the children were keen to point out various displays around the school relating to the subject. The fact that all people are different with their own unique opinion, that should be respected.

Governors were told that Robert Drake is a ‘Telling School’ with regards to bullying and that bad behaviour is dealt with promptly by all members of staff with possible consequences if necessary. This is in line with the Behaviour and Anti-bullying Policies.

The children know that we are a healthy school, not allowing certain foods because of the allergies some children have as well as their own healthy living. A suggestion was made that perhaps more lessons could be held outside in the fresh air making it more healthy.

It was a very enjoyable and informative afternoon and we would like to thank the children for speaking to us with such confidence. Thank you !

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.

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October – half term

Friday 16 December 2022 – last day of Autumn term

Tuesday 3 January 2023 – first day of Spring term

PLEASE NOTE ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ROBERT DRAKE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL



A reminder that Robert Drake is a nut free school. There are children within the school who have severe air borne nut allergies and all parents and carers are reminded that no nuts of any type should be brought in to 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.