



# NEWSLETTER

*February 2023*

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### ***Message from Miss Redpath***

January seems to have come and gone very quickly! It has been a very busy start to the term in school.

The visit from Steve Clifford was extremely beneficial. Children from all age ranges were inspired by his workshops about being an author. Thank you to those families who purchased copies of his books.

Multicultural week gave the children an opportunity to look at different cultures and beliefs and to celebrate differences.

Key Stage 1 teachers arranged a morning session for parents and carers to come in and work alongside their children, which was very successful. Thank you to everyone who came in to work with their child to make a musical instrument.

Years 5 and 6 visited the Royal Gunpowder Mills in Waltham Abbey as part of their work in history about World War 2. Children looked really in keeping with the era in their World War 2 clothes. They had a wonderful day and teachers said how impressed they were with the level of interest the children showed in all of the activities. They represented Robert Drake very well.

Children in Year 3 were given the opportunity to take part in the Dance Festival at the Palace Theatre in Westcliff. The children were a credit to the school and performed well to a live audience.

Thank you to Lynn and Adam Poulton for preparing the children for their Toy Story performance at the Benfleet and Thundersley Interschool Cluster 'BATIC's Got Talent' which also took place at the Palace Theatre. This was a great opportunity for the children to take part alongside children from other local schools.

Over the next few weeks, there will be a focus on internet safety in school. It is so important that children have a good understanding of how to keep themselves safe while online and what actions they should take if they do not feel safe. The school is sending out regular online safety newsletters in order to share the latest advice and update parents and carers so that they can support their child in keeping safe whilst using the internet.

Thank you to all parents and carers for their continued support for the school.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term.

Miss Redpath  
Headteacher

### ***Forthcoming and Previous Events – please note all dates are subject to change***

#### **Key Stage One Parental Involvement**

The KS1 teachers would like to say thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the recent parental involvement morning. The turnout was amazing and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

#### **Art Challenge**

The children are currently in the midst of this year's Art Challenge. The winners will be selected after half term and the winning picture from each phase group will be framed and displayed in the School Reception. This year, the focus is on sketching.

### **Victoria Ohuruogu – Friday 10 February**

The Olympic athlete Victoria Ohuruogu will be visiting the school on Friday 10 February. She will be leading a sponsored fitness circuit with all the pupils and will then be taking an inspirational assembly and question and answer session. To sponsor your child please visit [www.sportsforschools.org](http://www.sportsforschools.org)

On this day EYFS and Key Stage One children should attend in their PE kit, and Key Stage Two children in their full school uniform and ensure that their PE kit is in school.

### **KS1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower – Thursday 23 February**

Details have already been circulated about the KS1 trip to Layer Marney Tower, which will support the children's learning as part of the history curriculum. The theme of the trip is the Tudor period.

### **Appleton Year 5 Day – Friday 3 March**

All the children in Year 5, irrespective of their intended secondary school, will be attending an open day at Appleton School on Friday 3 March. The day will give the pupils a good experience to sample life at a secondary school and participate in classes and activities there. Details have already been sent to parents / carers.

### **Sitting Volleyball Finals - Wednesday 8 March**

In November 2022 selected Key Stage 2 children won through to the Sitting Volleyball Finals. These finals will be taking place on 8 March at Clements Hall in Hawkwell.

### **Infant Music Festival – Monday 13 March**

All the children in Year 2 will be taking part in the Infant Music Festival next month. Rehearsals have already begun, and parents and carers will have the opportunity to see them performing their songs at the United Reformed Church in Crowstone Road, Westcliff on Sea.

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| Monday 6 February                             | Class and Year 6 Photographs  |
| Wednesday 8 February                          | Dance Festival and BATIC Got Talent assembly to parents/carers – 9 am |
| Thursday 9 February                           | Miss Bradfield's Class Assembly – 9 am                                |
| Friday 10 February                            | Visit by Olympic Athlete Victoria Ohuruogu                            |
| Wednesday 22 February                         | Mr Bye's Class Assembly – 9 am  |
| Wednesday 22 and<br>Thursday 23 February      | Drama Workshops   |
| Thursday 23 February                          | KS1 Trip to Layer Marney Tower  |
| Monday 27 February and<br>Tuesday 28 February | Parent Consultations (letter will be circulated shortly)              |
| Friday 3 March                                | Year 5 Appleton Day   |
| Friday 3 March                                | World Book Day – details to be circulated                             |
| Wednesday 8 March                             | Sitting Volleyball Finals, Clements Hall                              |
| Thursday 9 March                              | Mr Newton's Class Assembly – 9 am                                     |
| Monday 13 March                               | Maths and Science Week  |
| Monday 13 March                               | Year 2 Infant Music Festival, URC Church, Crowstone Road              |
| Tuesday 21 March                              | Year 5 and 6 Parent Involvement Morning – 9 to 11.30 am               |
| Wednesday 22 March                            | Cross Country Finals, Garons Park                                     |
| Tuesday 28 March                              | Easter Discos (details to follow)                                     |
| Thursday 30 March                             | Mrs Jackson's Class Assembly – 9 am                                   |

## **SPORTS NEWS**

### **Cross Country Trials**

Thank you to all the children that took part in the Cross Country trials, and well done to those children who have been selected for the team. A special mention for those who were not successful this time; they all showed great maturity.

### **Football League Results**

Girls v Thundersley – despite losing 5-0 the girls played well and never gave up

Mixed v Thundersley – the result was a 4-4 draw; it was an end to end and was played in superb spirit

Mixed v Hadleigh – although the result was an 8-1 loss this did not reflect the hard work, effort and determination of the team; Mark Hunter was very proud of the team and the resilience they showed throughout the match

## **Netball League Results**

Herewith recent netball results:

Girls v Hadleigh – drew 3-3

Mixed v Hadleigh – this was a friendly match and the result was 6-6

Girls v South Benfleet – won 9-5. The team played really well and deserved the great result

## **GENERAL**

### **Absence from School**

Could we please remind all parents and carers that if your child is absent from school, then the school should be notified before 9.30 am on the day of absence. A message can be left on 01268 754124 or an email can be sent to [admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk)

When notifying the school of the absence, please ensure that the full name of the child is given and the class; the reason for the absence must also be given, ie, sickness and not 'unwell'.

### **Bad weather / emergency school closure**

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>

## **FUNDRAISING**

The Fund Raising team are currently organising the Easter Discos, which will be taking place on Tuesday 28 March. Full details will be circulated shortly.

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

**Attendance** - The attendance for the month of January was 96.3%, an improvement on the attendance for December.

## **REMINDERS**

### **Water Bottles**

A reminder that all children should bring a water bottle to school, filled with just water. Could you please ensure that the bottles have drinking caps rather than screw tops as there have been spillages in class. Thank you

### **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 13 to Friday 17 February 2023 – half term holiday**

**Monday 20 February 2023 – return to school**

**Friday 31 March 2023 – last day of Spring Term**

**Monday 3 to Friday 14 April – Easter Holiday**

**Monday 17 April 2023 – return to school after Easter Holiday**

**Monday 1 May 2023 – Bank Holiday**

**Monday 8 May 2023 – Bank Holiday**

**Monday 22 May to Friday 2 June 2023 – May half term holiday**

**Monday 5 June 2023 – return to school after May half term holiday**

**Friday 7 July 2023 – non pupil day**

**Friday 21 July 2023 – last day of Summer 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.