



NEWSLETTER

December 2022

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Message from Miss Redpath

A message from Miss Redpath:



With the end of term approaching seemingly very quickly, it is lovely to hear the children singing and watch them enjoy taking part in festive activities.

I was especially proud of all of the Year 5 and 6 children who performed so well during their production of Snow White. It was wonderful to see some children, who can often be quiet and reserved, flourish on the stage. The children who sang solo parts did so with such confidence. In particular, I would like to thank Mason who took on the part of the Prince at short notice. Well done!

This week, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Key Stage 1 performances. As it was the first time they had performed to a large audience they did incredibly well. They spoke, sang and danced with such confidence.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Redpath

Staff Changes

Sadly, Miss Baldwin will be leaving us at the end of the autumn term.

Miss Baldwin completed her initial teacher training at Robert Drake and has taught in Years 5 and 6. She has been responsible for leading languages across our school and has led the School Council with great enthusiasm.

Miss Baldwin will be greatly missed by all of us here at Robert Drake and we wish her the very best of luck in her new career outside of teaching.

We have been very fortunate to have two existing members of staff to fill Miss Baldwin's position: Mrs Malyan (3 days) and Mrs Herbert (2 days) will be teaching the Year 5 class from the start of spring term 2023.

Baby News

We are delighted to inform you that Mr and Mrs Chaplin are expecting their first child in January 2023. I am sure that you will join with everyone at Robert Drake in congratulating them and wishing them every happiness in the future as they will begin their lives together as a family.

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

Open Evening

On 7th November, we held an Open Afternoon for children who will be starting school in September 2023. Many of our Year 6 pupils came along to assist. They helped the younger children with activities and acted as guides for families. The Year 6 pupils were excellent and demonstrated so much confidence and pride, which was wonderful to see. Visitors were extremely complimentary. Well done!

Harry Potter Day

Harry Potter Day was a wonderful way to end last half term. A total of £144.00 was raised. This money has been used to purchase some sports equipment for both KS1 and KS2.

KS1 Local Walk – Thursday 10 November

KS1 recently undertook a local walk as part of their geography curriculum.



Essex and Herts Air Ambulance / Crossing Patrol

As part of EYFS 'people who help us week', Mr Keeliher from Essex and Herts Air Ambulance came into school to talk to EYFS children about the work he does, as did Mrs Wilks, the school's Crossing Patrol Officer. They explained to the children how they are able to help people as part of their job.

Road Safety – EYFS and Year 5

Last month the road safety team came in to give a talk to Early Years, and their parents and carers. Year 5 were given a workshop and then were taken out on safety walks.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 9th December

The school will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 9th December, and the children may also wear their jumpers to school on Thursday 15th December. Details have been circulated.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday 15th December

Christmas Dinner this year is taking place on Thursday 15th December – please note that places needed to have been booked by Wednesday 7th December. If a booking has not been made, then your child will need to bring a packed lunch to school on that day. Hadleigh Rotary Club, together with Santa and his Sleigh, will also be visiting the school on Thursday 15th December. Details have been circulated.

GENERAL

Behaviour Policy

Please advised that the Behaviour Policy has been revised this year and has been shared with pupils. It can be viewed on the school's website, www.robertdrake.co.uk

Music Awards

Congratulations to Evie, Joseph, Freddie, Megan and Maxwell who have been awarded the Essex Music Services Bronze Award.

A special mention for Amelia who was awarded with the Silver Award. Well done!

Sports Update

Football – the boys played a league match against Kingston Primary on 8th November, and won 7-0. Mark Hunter said they all played in great spirit and their performance was outstanding. The girls played against Kingston on 15th November and drew 1-1. Three of the team had never played football before, and Mark said they were all superb.

Dodgeball Tournament – some selected children from KS2 took part in a dodgeball tournament last week. They did really well, and were a credit to the school.

Woodland Trust

Thank you to the Woodland Trust who have donated trees to be planted in the school grounds. Members of last year's School Council planted the trees at the school under the guidance of Miss Baldwin.

Wildlife Tracker Camera

The school have been lucky to have hired a camera this term from Colchester Zoo to record the wildlife around our school. Mr Chaplin has placed the camera near the fence at the back of the field along with various foods to attract different animals. Each morning, the pupils in Mr Chaplin's class have looked at what has been recorded.

Finn and April, from Mr Chaplin's class said, 'We have been absolutely amazed at the various types of wildlife we have found around us. Before Christmas, we are going to share what we have found to the rest of the school.'

School Sports Partnership Youth Board

Congratulations to Corban and Alice who have applied and been accepted to the local School Sports Partnership Youth Board. They have had their first meeting and will be working with schools in the local area over the coming year !

Bikes for Early Years

The Reception classes have asked for donations of bikes please. If you are able to assist please let us know. Thank you

Christmas Post Boxes – Thursday 1st December

A reminder that children can post their Christmas cards in the post boxes placed in Reception and the junior corridor. EYFS have their own box in the corridor outside their classroom. Please make sure that the envelopes are clearly marked with the recipients full name and their class. Thank you.



New Intake 2023

A reminder that for children due to start school in September 2023, all applications need to have been submitted to Essex County Council by 15th January 2023. Information can be found online at www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

Donation from S Stibbards & Sons



A very big thank you to S Stibbards and Sons, who have kindly donated a Christmas tree to the school. Their generosity is much appreciated.

FUNDRAISING

Christmas Bazaar/Fundraising

We are delighted to advise that a profit of around £2,460 was raised this year. Thank you to everyone for your support.

The next Fundraising Meeting is due to be held on Monday 30th January 2023 at 9 am. Everyone is welcome.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance - The attendance for the month of November was 93.3%. 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.

TERM HOLIDAY DATES

Friday 16th December 2022 – last day of Autumn term
Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – first day of Spring term
Monday 13th to Friday 17th February 2023 – half term holiday
Monday 20th February 2023 – return to school
Friday 31st March 2023 – last day of Spring Term
Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April – Easter Holiday
Monday 17th April 2023 – return to school after Easter Holiday
Monday 1st May 2023 – Bank Holiday
Monday 22nd May to Friday 2nd June 2023 – May half term holiday
Monday 5th June 2023 – return to school after May half term holiday
Friday 7th July 2023 – non pupil day
Friday 21st 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.