



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

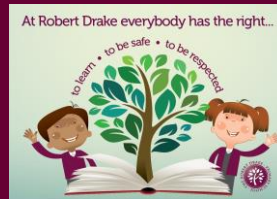
8 January 2024



School values:



School Rules:



We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year! It was lovely to welcome the children back to school. We have many exciting things to look forward to this term including the Paralympic Boccia County Final taking place at Basildon Sporting Village for Year 5 and 6 pupils, the Year 3 Dance Festival at The Palace Theatre, Cross Country Competition and World Book Day along with lots of other exciting events.

Parent Consultations

Letters will be sent to parents and carers shortly regarding the upcoming parent consultations for the whole school. These will take place on Monday 4th and Tuesday the 5th March 2024.

Dinner Money Arrears

As you will be aware, The Dinner Money Debt Recovery Policy was circulated recently. It was set up due to the increasing numbers of dinner money arrears, and so the school could adopt a consistent approach. It is a parent's / carer's responsibility to ensure that their child is provided with either a packed lunch or a school meal, and the school meals should be paid for in advance. Unfortunately, we have seen an increasing amount of dinner money arrears.

We would be grateful if parents and carers could please keep an eye on their accounts and ensure that they are topped up when required. It is possible to create a free email alert on ParentPay when there is a low balance and we will recirculate details on how to do this. If you are experiencing any difficulties paying for lunches please contact the office to discuss this.

This policy does not affect those children who qualify for Free School Meals, nor those in Key Stage 1 who are all currently entitled to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals

Diary Dates & Changes in Personal Details

Please see below future dates for your diary including upcoming assemblies and events. Can you ensure you inform the School Office of any change of address, telephone numbers or any other relevant details. Data Collection Forms are available from the School Office

Diary Dates (all dates are subject to change)

- 18 January: Y 5/6 Flight Simulator
- 19 January: Y2 Class Assembly – Miss Glover
- 24 January: Y 3 Dance Festival
- 5 February: Class photographs
- 8 February: 9:15am Y1/2 Class Assembly- Miss Bradfield
- 28 February: Cross Country Competition
- 4 & 5 March: EYFS-Yr6 Parent Consultations
- 7 March: World Book Day
- 8 March: Year 5 Appleton Day
- 8 March: Y 1/2 Parent Involvement Morning
- 13 March: 2.15pm Road Safety Presentation to EYFS Parents
- 14 March: 9:15am Y 1 Class Assembly - Miss Ramsey
- 17 March: Comic Relief
- 19 March: Y 5/6 Parent Involvement Morning
- 20 March: KS1 trip to Braintree Museum
- 27 March: Easter discos
- March: EYFS walk to St Peter's Church (TBC)
- 10 May: EYFS trip to Barleylands
- 13 May: SAT's week
- 23 May: KS1 trip to Sealife Adventure
- 17 – 21 June: Y6 residential trip to Stubbers
- 21 June: Y 3/4 Parent Involvement morning
- 24 – 28 June: Book Fair
- 26 June – Year 5 Class Assembly
- 27 June: Sports Day
- 2 July: Railway Children production to school
- 6 July: Summer Fun Day
- 11 July: Reports and Open Evening
- 15 July: Leavers' Disco
- 23 July, 9 am: Leavers' Assembly



Tel no: 01268 754124

Email Address: admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.robertdrake.co.uk

Pupil Support Officer, Mrs Green: welfare@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk

Designated Safeguarding Leads:
Mrs Jackson – Mrs Coe
Deputy Safeguarding Leads:
Mr Smith - Mr Chaplin
Safeguarding Governor:
Mrs Foster

House colours:

Dragon	Green
Griffin	Yellow
Pegasus	Blue
Phoenix	Red



Total words read by the pupils of Robert Drake to date:
15,333,007!

Well done to Dillan in Yr 6 for becoming a Word Millionaire!!

Reading

The expectation is that children should read at least four times a week.

PE Days

CLASS	DAYS
EYFS	Wed and Thu
ER	Thu and Fri
NB	Mon and Fri
SG	Mon and Fri
ML	Tue and Thu
CMDH	Tue and Fri
DC	Tue and Fri
KS	Mon and Wed
DN	Tue and Fri
NP	Tue and Fri

All jewellery must be removed for PE lessons by the pupils themselves or at home before coming to school.

Menu

Details for this week's menu can be found at:

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/school-dinner-menu>

Attendance

National expectation for regular attendance is that children must be in school every day. Every second counts and we must work together to improve attendance and punctuality.

Class	Week 1		
Miss Baldwin	95.7		
Miss Simpkin	94.3		
Miss Ramsey	94.7		
Miss Bradfield	94.6		
Miss Glover	97.0		
Miss Leckerman	97.4		
Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert	95.8		
Mr Chaplin	96.5		
Mr Smith	96.5		
Mr Newton	95.7		
Mrs Parrag	96.7		



Geraldine the Giraffe

Geraldine will be spending this week with Mrs Jackson recharging her batteries ready for the first full week of attendance next week!

Well done all pupils that are in school every day and on time!



Dates for Class Assemblies, all start 9 am:

Miss Glover: Friday 19 January
Miss Bradfield: Thursday 8 February
Miss Ramsey: Thursday 14 March
Year 5: 26 June
Year 6: 23 July

Dates for Parent Consultations:

All years: 4 and 5 March
All years: 11 July – open evening

Please note all dates are subject to change



Term Dates:

Non-pupil day: 16 February
Half term: 19 to 23 February
Easter: 29 March to 12 April
Half term: 27 May to 7 June
Non pupil day: 12 July
Summer: from 24 July

Achievements

Last week and this week we are proud to celebrate the following who received Achievement awards:



Miss Ramsey: Ella-Rae
Miss Bradfield: Frankie M
Miss Glover: Beau B
Miss Leckerman: Albert T

Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert: Dusty A
Mr Chaplin: Harry B
Mr Smith: Violet M
Mrs Parrag: Frankie C

Miss Baldwin; Oliva H
Miss Simpkin: Taylor B
Mr Newton: Jake E

Well done all, but remember that all our pupils are stars!

If your child has any achievements outside of school, please do ask them to share them with us so that we can recognise them and their accomplishments.

E-Safety

E-Safety information from the Robert Drake website:

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/e-safety>

NSPCC website with useful information on online safety:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>



The primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 6 November 2023**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024. The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2024**.

From 6 November 2023, applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

<p>Nut Free School/Packed Lunches The Robert Drake Primary is NUT FREE. We have pupils with severe air borne nut allergies and to safeguard our children all visitors must refrain from eating nuts and nut based products for at least 6 hours before visiting the school.</p> <p>- All packed lunches should be healthy and nut free.</p> 	<p>Pre-Loved Uniform Shop</p> <p>Each item is priced at £1.00; all payments to be made via ParentPay.</p> <p>Purchases can be made as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pre-loved uniform shop is open in the small hall at 3.15 pm on the last Friday of each month - Parents/carers can email into admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk with details of the items they require, ie, item required, size, gender, etc - Parents/carers can enquire at the school office. 
<p>Water Bottles</p>  <p>It is important that all pupils bring in a water bottle each day filled with plain water; it can be filled up at water stations during the day. This helps the children to remain hydrated and helps them to focus on their learning - 'knowing more and remembering more'.</p> <p>The water bottles should have a sports cap to avoid spills.</p>	<p>Uniform</p> <p>All pupils should adhere to the school's uniform policy. The policy can be found on the school's website at https://robertdrake.co.uk/about-us/school-uniform</p>  <p>Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled.</p> <p>A reminder that if hair can be tied up, then it should be.</p>
<p>Safeguarding Information for Parents and Carers</p> <p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/</p> <p>www.nspcc.org.uk</p> <p>https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/</p> <p>Parenting tips and support for dealing with difficult situations.</p>	<p>School Premises/Parking</p>  <p>Please note that dogs should not be brought on to the school grounds at any time, unless they are assistance dogs for the blind; this includes whether on a lead or being carried.</p> <p>We would also request that all parents/carers respect the school's neighbours and only park legally and with consideration for others. For safety reasons, at no time of the day should cars pull into the school's driveway.</p> 
<p>School Council</p>  <p>School Councillors are voted for by the children during the school year. Two per class.</p> <p>The councillors meet regularly and discuss and decide upon events and changes they would like to put forward, ie, menu items, fundraising days, sport played in school, to give some examples.</p> <p>The next council meeting will be taking place in the New Year.</p>	<p>Clubs</p>  <p>There are several clubs that take place at the school every week; full details are available on the school's website https://robertdrake.co.uk/clubs or from the office.</p> <p>Taking into account parents' views at the Tea and Talk sessions, the school has introduced new clubs and is trying to provide a broad spectrum of clubs available, and these include, among others, drama, football, karate, netball, computing, music, fencing, crafting, Bricks4Kidz, etc.</p>
<p>Friends of Robert Drake</p> <p>The school has an active fundraising group. They are always looking for volunteers and hold regular meetings at the school; everyone is welcome.</p> <p>They can be contacted through their Facebook page:</p>  <p>'Friends of Robert Drake School' Please check out their site for full details of forthcoming fundraising events.</p>	<p>Pupil Premium / Free School Meals</p> <p>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, Working Tax Credit run-on, and Universal Credit.</p> <p>If you think you may be eligible:</p> <p>If your child is in Year 2 or below, please call the School Office and we will send you through a form to complete.</p> <p>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</p>

Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky deciding if you child is too ill for school. Please find below a link to the NHS website which provides guidance on common childhood illnesses and advice. [Is my child too ill for 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