



School values:



School Rules:



Children in Need

The School Council organised activities linked to Children in Need with the theme of 'challenge yourself'. We were very impressed with the photos received of children and staff taking on new challenges! Well done everyone! We raised £177 for Children in Need. Please see the link to our website for the fantastic photos

<https://robertdrake.co.uk/gallery/children-need-challenges-2024-1>

Year 5/6 Performance

Years 5/6 put on a fantastic performance of The Greatest Show. The children learnt all of their lines quickly, their acting and singing was fantastic. Well done!



Australian PenPals

This term, our pupils participated in an exciting Australian penpal project! To celebrate the festive season, the pupils decided to send Christmas cards to their new friends down under. We sent cards to four schools in Sydney. The cards were beautifully crafted by our talented Art Club and signed by all the pupils, making them truly special. This activity has been a wonderful way to foster connections and share creativity across the globe. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were thrilled to spread holiday cheer internationally. We look forward to hearing back from our Australian penpals in the new year!



Pupil Voice Project – Healthy Schools Award

This school year, we are looking at ways of gathering pupils' views to make our school even better! There have been some fantastic suggestions so far. Here are a few... A School Council Views' box in every classroom has encouraged pupils to share their ideas. Adding more colour to the playground – the KS1 playground new play equipment will have a yellow base. We now have a "You Said, We Did" display board to show how the pupils' ideas are being implemented. To motivate pupils to read, an Accelerated Reader prize of Megazone tickets has been chosen by the pupils, which has been a huge hit! This project has had a positive impact, giving pupils a voice and creating exciting changes in our school community. Keep the ideas coming!

Diary Dates – we will list on the newsletter most diary dates. Please do check the calendar on the website as going forward that will be updated with all dates too. All dates are subject to change.

December to January- Diary Dates

- 12/11 & 14/11 - Bikeability
- 15/11 - Children In Need
- 18/11 - Odd Socks Day
- 20/11 - Y5/6 production
- 25/11 & 26/11 - Xmas Bazaar
- 27/11 - No Pens Wednesday
- 02/12 - Santa Fun Run
- 02/12 - Tea and Talk 9am
- 05/12 - Yr1 – Yr 6 Pantomime Towngate Theatre
- 06/12 - Y3/4 performance at St Peter's Church
- 06/12 – Winter Wonderland
- 09/12 - Flu Vaccinations
- 11/12 & 12/12- KS1 performance to parents 9am
- 17/12 - Xmas Jumper Day and Xmas dinner
- 17/12 & 18/12 - EYFS Xmas production AM
- 19/12 - Talent Show



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 Chaplin - Miss Bradfield

Miss Simpkin

Safeguarding Governor:

Mr King



Totals reset at the start of the new school year.

Total words read by the pupils of Robert Drake to date:

9, 535,180!

House colours:

Dragon	Green
Griffin	Yellow
Pegasus	Blue
Phoenix	Red

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
WB	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 10	Week 11
Miss Baldwin	93.9	97.8
Miss Simpkin	96.2	86.2
Miss Ramsey	96.3	95.0
Miss Bradfield	94.3	93.7
Miss Glover	96.0	94.0
Miss Leckerman	94.8	97.9
Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert	98.7	96.3
Mr Chaplin	97.0	93.7
Miss Woodward	98.6	98.7
Mr Newton	96.7	92.3
Mrs Parrag	96.7	98.7



Geraldine the Giraffe

Well done to Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert's class in Year 3/4 for attaining the highest attendance in week 10. Amazing!

Geraldine will be spending this week with Miss Woodward & Mrs Parrags class in years 5 & 6.

Well done to those classes, and all pupils that are in school every day!

Achievements - We are proud to celebrate the following who have received Achievement awards:



Football - The year 3/4 football team won 7-2 against Jotmans Primary School.



Netball – The girls team played really well against Northwick Park. Although we lost 7-2 the team played exceptionally well, especially the in second half. They should be extremely proud of themselves.

Little Lions Family Hub is a warm and friendly centre for families. They offer a wide range of services include child health clinic sessions which are led by a health visitor along with lots of other services

<https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/hubs/little-lions-family-hub/>



Dates for Class Assemblies, all start 9 am:

EYFS: 17th & 18th December 2024
 Miss Glover: 23rd January 2025
 Miss Bradfield: 13th February 205
 Miss Ramsey: 13th March 2025
 Year 5: 25th June 2025
 Year 6: 22nd July 2025

Dates for Parent Consultations:

All years: 11th & 13th March 2025

Head Pupils Deputy Head Pupils

Joseph & Poppy Robby & Harriet

Sports Captains

Freddie & Grace

Attendance

As of 19th August 2024, the DfE implemented the new statutory school attendance guidance. We circulated the relevant information before the summer holidays but we have sent the letter again explaining the changes via Parentmail.

Term Dates:



Non pupil day: 20th

December 2024

Christmas: 23rd December to 3rd January 2025

Half term: 17th February to 21st February 2025

Easter: 7th April to 21st April 2025

Non pupil day: 19th & 20th May 2025

Half term: 21st to 30th May 2025

Non pupil day: 4th July '25

Summer: From 23rd July '25

Donations Request

The Happiness Hub are running low on scrap paper for the children to draw on and make things at lunchtime. We would be very grateful for any donations of scrap paper. Also KS1 are asking for donations of Shepherds Costumes.

As you may be aware, the primary school (Reception) admission round opened on **Monday 4 November 2024**, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2025. The statutory national closing date for applications is **15 January 2025**. Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All of the application information is available on the website above.



Robert Drake promotes healthy living and seeks to provide a no smoking environment, both within the school building and grounds, that help protect the health of the whole school community and visitors to the school. Also, the effects of second hand smoking has been shown to cause serious health issues.

We would therefore like to request that parents and carers refrain from smoking near the school and around other parents and children.

Water Bottles



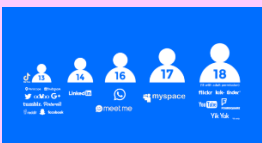
It is important that all pupils bring in a water bottle each day filled with plain water; it can be filled up at water stations during the day. This helps the children to remain hydrated and helps them to focus on their learning - 'knowing more and remembering more'.

The water bottles should have a sports cap to avoid spills.

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/>



School Council

School Councillors are voted for by the children during the school year. Two per class.



The councillors meet regularly and discuss and decide upon events and changes they would like to put forward, i.e., menu items, fundraising days, sport played in school, to give some examples.

Nut Free School/Packed Lunches



The Robert Drake Primary is **NUT FREE & BANANA FREE**. We have pupils with severe air borne nut & banana allergies and to safeguard our children all visitors must refrain from eating nuts & bananas and nut/banana based products for at least 6 hours before visiting the school.

All packed lunches should be healthy and nut/banana free.



Friends of Robert Drake

The school has an active fundraising group. They are always looking for volunteers and hold regular meetings at the school; everyone is welcome.

They can be contacted through their Facebook page:



'Friends of Robert Drake School'
Please check out their site for full details of forthcoming fundraising events

Uniform

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>



Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled.

A reminder that if hair can be tied up, then it should be.

School Premises/Parking



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.

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.**



Clubs



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.

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.

Pupil Premium / Free School Meals

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.

If you think you may be eligible:

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>