



School values:



School Rules:



### BATIC – Palace Theatre

The drama group was pupils from years 5 and 6. They performed a sketch called either The Train Journey. They were 1 out of 16 acts that took to the stage at The Palace Theatre. Could we also say a thank you to Steve Bish and his team for organising and especially thank you to Mr and Mrs Poulton who created the sketch and trained the children. It was a fabulous evening and the children were a credit to the school. We have some budding actors/actresses at Robert Drake.



### Teachrex Workshop

It's not every day that a school is visited by a dragon but that's exactly what happened at Robert Drake Last week. We met Sol the dragon and were involved in helping develop a training plan for him to help his interaction with other children. In the afternoon, KS2 used their video editing skills to create a green screen movie of a close shave with Sol. All of the children, and many adults, thoroughly enjoyed the visit and it has been used as a writing stimulus across the school.

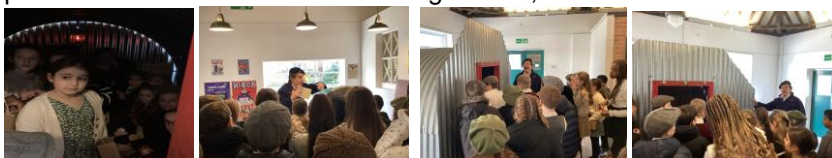


### Friends of Robert Drake

A huge thank you to our 'Friends of Robert Drake' for the target and magnetic dartboards they recently purchased for the pupils. £60 well spent, we may have the next Luke Littler here at the school.

### Gunpowder Mills Trip – Years 5 & 6

What a trip! All of Year 5/6 were lucky enough to visit one of the largest Gunpowder Mills in the country. This was part of our WW2 topic in our history lessons. We were immersed into what life would have been like during the height of the conflict. The children considered contentious topics such as evacuation and delved deeper into whether the government were right to intervene or not. This was then used to produce some fabulous balanced arguments, back at school.



### Australian Penpals

We are excited to share that we have received our first letters from our penpals! Over the next half term, the children will be reading the letters and learning about their new friends from across the world. They will also be working on their replies to them. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to develop their writing skills and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and life experiences of other children across the world.



Tel no: 01268 754124

Email Address:

[admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk)

Website:

[www.robertdrake.co.uk](http://www.robertdrake.co.uk)

Pupil Support Officer, Mrs Green:

[welfare@robertdrake.essex.sch.uk](mailto: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
SG	Mon and Fri
ML	Tue and Thu
CMDH	Tue and Fri
DC	Tue and Fri
CW	Mon and Wed
DN	Tue and Fri
LR	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 17	Week 18	Week 19
Miss Baldwin	97.4	97.0	94.8
Miss Simpkin	92.9	92.4	97.1
Miss Ramsey	98.7	96.0	93.3
Miss Bradfield	91.0	93.7	94.7
Miss Glover	91.4	94.5	93.1
Miss Leckerman	97.9	98.3	99.0
Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert	96.3	96.0	98.0
Mr Chaplin	95.7	95.3	96.7
Miss Woodward	96.7	99.3	96.7
Mr Newton	96.3	96.7	99.3
Mrs Parrag	98.0	98.7	91.3



Geraldine the Giraffe

Well done to Miss Ramsey's class in year 1 for attaining the highest attendance in week 17. Amazing!

Geraldine will be spent last week with Miss Woodward's class in year 5 and Mr Newton's class in year 6 this week. Well done!

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:



Miss Ramsey: Jayna

Miss Bradfield: Elsie

Miss Glover: Millie

Miss Leckerman: Arthur

Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert: Harper/George

Mr Chaplin: Isabelle

Ms Woodward: Edee

Mrs Parrag: Henry, Bella, Isabella, Ashely, Aggy

Miss Simpkin: Rhiella

Miss Baldwin: Maeva

Mr Newton: Arda

### Year 3 & 4 – Football

Robert Drake 5 – 4 Thundersley Primary



### Mixed Year 5 & 6 - Netball

Robert Drake 8 – 0 Kingston Primary

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:**

Miss Bradfield: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Miss Ramsey: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Year 5: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Year 6: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

**Dates for Parent Consultations:**

All years: 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### Head Pupils    Deputy Head Pupils

Joseph & Poppy    Robby & Harriet

### Sports Captains

Freddie & Grace

### Attendance

As of 19<sup>th</sup> 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:**



**Half term:** 17<sup>th</sup> February to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

**Easter:** 7<sup>th</sup> April to 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

**Non pupil day:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Half term:** 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Non pupil day:** 4<sup>th</sup> July '25

**Summer:** From 23<sup>rd</sup> July '25



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.

### 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

### 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.

### 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>



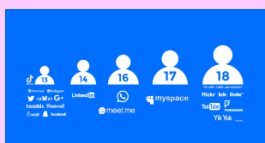
Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled.

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

### 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 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.**



### School Council

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



Pupil Voice – the School Councillors have been collecting views across the school. We now have a 'You Said... We Did...' display which celebrates all the changes made by the School Council. This includes more colour on the playground, whiteboards with squares (maths work), more toys/games in the Happiness Hub, pupils' views boxes in every classroom and Accelerated Reader awards chosen. We will continue to collect pupils' views and update you again very soon. Well done to all the children for sharing their views to improve our lovely school.

### 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.

### 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.



### 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>



### Green Flag Award – Robert Drake's Eco Journey

We are pleased to share that our school is working towards achieving the Green Flag Award as part of our commitment to becoming a more eco-friendly and sustainable school. Our pupils are playing a key role in this initiative, and we would love your support at home too!

Here are some of the ways we are encouraging eco-friendly changes:

#### **Reducing Single-Use Plastic**

We are asking families to use reusable lunchboxes and avoid single-use plastic packaging where possible.

#### **Reusable Water Bottles**

For school trips, we encourage children to bring refillable water bottles instead of disposable plastic ones.

#### **Eco-Friendly Search Engines**

Ecosia is a search engine that you may want to use at home. Ecosia uses 100% of its profits for the planet and produces enough renewable energy to power all searches twice over.

#### **Sustainable Lunch Choices**

We are working with our kitchen to reduce the use of single-use plastic pots at lunchtime.

By making small changes together, we can have a big impact on the environment! Thank you for your support in helping our school become greener.



#### Eco Warriors strive to keep our streets litter free!

On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February, Robert Drake Eco Warriors went for a litter picking walk along Church Road. We were disappointed at the amount of rubbish we found on the grass verges, pavement and bushes. This mainly consisted of crushed cans, plastic bottles and food wrappers. Please can you help us keep our local environment clean and safe by placing your rubbish in the bin! Don't forget to recycle any plastic bottles and cans.

