



School values:



School Rules:



EYFS – Trip to Barleylands

Early Years had a lovely day at Barleylands Farm in the sunshine. We enjoyed finding out where some of our food comes from and using those ingredients to make our own pizzas. We had a very bumpy tractor ride around the farm and got to feed some animals such as goats and cows.



Athlete visit

On Friday 16th May, we were pleased to welcome Paralympian Kylie Grimes to the school. First, the pupils participated in a range of different exercises and this was followed by an assembly where she spoke about her life and career. It was a wonderful and truly inspiring experience for the whole school.



Eco Warriors - Clothes Collection

There will be a clothing collection on Wednesday 9th July. Please see the attached for full details. On the 26th June we will be raising money for an endangered animal. The children will be asked to donate £1 to wear something green/flowers/animals for the day. They will vote on which animal and if we raise over £67 we can have a plaque at Colchester zoo!



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 – Miss Woodward

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:

21,650,584!

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 30	Week 31	Week 32
Miss Baldwin	96.7	98.7	93.9
Miss Simpkin	94.0	94.3	98.6
Miss Ramsey	99.2	98.3	98.0
Miss Bradfield	97.1	98.7	96.3
Miss Glover	91.7	93.6	95.7
Miss Leckerman	97.0	95.5	96.6
Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert	96.7	94.7	98.3
Mr Chaplin	99.2	98.3	92.3
Miss Woodward	95.0	99.0	99.7
Mr Newton	99.2	98.7	95.5
Mrs Parrag	96.7	95.7	96.0



Geraldine the Giraffe

Well done to Miss Ramsey's, Mr Chaplin's & Mr Newton's class for attaining the highest attendance in week 30. Amazing!

Geraldine was in Miss Woodward's class in week 31. Last week Geraldine was with Mrs Herbert/Mrs Malyan's class in Year 3/4 . 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:



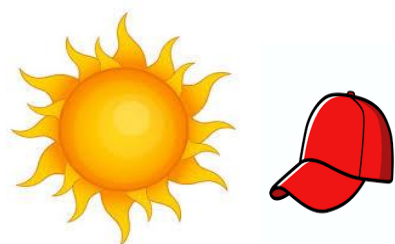
Miss Ramsey:Taylor
Miss Glover:Ella-Rae
Miss Leckerman:Stuart

Mrs Malyan/Mrs Herbert – Eliza E, Leonel & Joshua
Ms Woodward: Joshua
Mrs Parrag: James

Miss Simpkin: Lucas

Staff Members Award – Chosen by the children
Mrs Jackson, Miss Ramsey, Mrs Green & Mrs Barton

Pupil Kindness Award – Chosen by the children
Klaydon & Tyler



As weather is starting to warm up,
please can you ensure your child has
suncream applied, water bottles and
sun hats



Dates for Class Assemblies, all start 9 am:

Year 5: 25th June 2025
Year 6: 22nd July 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: 4th July '25
Summer: From 23rd 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.

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.

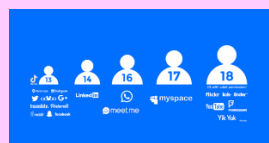
E-Safety

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 School Council has been collecting views across the school.



The School Council are organising a fundraising day, in school, on the 11th July 2025. Further details to follow.

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>

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.

May-July - Diary Dates

16/06 – 22/06 – Year 6 Stubbers
19/06 – Y1/2 – Hedingham Castle Trip
23/06 – 27/06 – Book Fair
24/06 – 25/06 - Y6 Transition Day
25/06 – Year 5 Assembly
25/06 – Y1/2 Summer Games
30/06 – Wizard of Oz production – In school
02/07 – Y5 Danbury Outdoors Trip
03/07 – Open Evening
09/07 – District Sports (TBC)
10/07 – Sports Day (subject to weather)
 9:30am – EYFS & KS1
 1:30pm – KS2
14/07 – Drake Fest
22/07 – Y6 Leavers Assembly

Helping Parents understand Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

From 19 August 2024, there is a National Framework for Penalty Notice Fines being issued for unauthorised absences recorded by schools

National Threshold

A single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by ALL schools in England, this is:

- 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period
- These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence
- For example, a 5-day unauthorised leave of absence would meet the national threshold
- The 10-school week period can span different terms or school years

Who may be fined?

- Penalty Notice Fines are issued to each parent who allows their child to be absent without authorisation from school
- For example, 3 siblings absent for unauthorised leave during term-time would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, the fine amount will be:

- £80 per parent, per child if paid **within 21 days**
- If **not paid within 21 days**, the fine will increase to **£160 per parent, per child**, payable between the 22nd and 28th day

Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised absence, a reduced rate is not available. The amount therefore will be:

- £160 per parent, per child – payable within 28 days

Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed, a Penalty Notice WILL NOT be issued, and the case will be presented **straight to the Magistrate's Court**

- **Prosecution** can result in **criminal records** and **fines of up to £2,500**
- Cases found **guilty** in a **Magistrates Court** can show on the parent's future DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) certificate (Disclosure and Barring Service) due to a **'failure to safeguard a child's education'**

Early help drop-in sessions



Weekly drop-in sessions -
you can attend **any** session

This session is designed to give partners in Essex who work with children, young people & families the chance to: discuss anonymised cases, gain peer support, be signposted to advice & help to answer general questions.

These sessions are supported by our panel of subject experts from across the children's system including:

- Team Around the Family Support Officer (TAFSO)
- Inclusion Partners
- Essex Family Support Service
- Engagement Facilitators
- SENDIASS
- Attendance Specialists
- Essex Youth Service
- Peabody Outreach
- Essex Child & Family Wellbeing Service
- DWP
- and others

These sessions **DO NOT** replace work undertaken by the Children & Families Hub as outlined in **Effective Support for Children & Families in Essex**

DS24_R561 September 24



North Essex drop-in session

Tuesday 15:30-16:30pm

→ Click here to join the meeting

Email (North) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



South Essex drop-in session

Wednesday 12:30-13:30pm

→ Click here to join the meeting

Email (South) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



West Essex drop-in session

Thursday 12:00-13:00pm

→ Click here to join the meeting

Email (West) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk



Mid Essex drop-in session

Wednesday 12:00-13:05pm

→ Click here to join the meeting

Email (Mid) C&FPartnershipLeads@essex.gov.uk

Please note that the Mid Essex has an [online booking system](#), where you are able to pre-book a slot to present a case. Colleagues are still welcome to join the session without booking, but you won't be guaranteed a time to discuss your case.