



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2018

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

### Christmas Raffle

*The Christmas Raffle was drawn on Wednesday 13th December. Some of the top prizes were won by the following people:*

*Mrs Turner - Christmas Food and Drink Hamper (donated by a Grandparent)*

*Miss Preston - Meal for Two (donated by Wheelers Tandoori)*

*S Sales—Family ticket to Marsh Farm (donated by The Partyman Company)*

*Mrs Coomber - Small Gift Hamper.*

*Thank you to everybody who purchased tickets and congratulations to all of the lucky winners.*

*We raised the fantastic total of £420.*

### Christmas Bazaar

*Thank you to everybody who supported the Bazaar, which was held on Friday 8th and Monday 11th December, particularly all of the parent helpers who assisted on the day.*

*We raised the fabulous total of £1,440.79.*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope that everybody enjoyed the Christmas break. We are looking forward to the exciting things that are happening this term.

## MISS FOWLER

Parents of EYFS pupils have been informed of the good news that Miss Fowler is expecting twins. We hope you will join us in wishing Miss Fowler and her family well over the coming months.

We will update you again in due course regarding the teaching arrangements to cover her maternity absence when those decisions have been confirmed.

## PARENTMAIL - CONTACT DETAILS

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of keeping your contact details up to date. Please notify the school *immediately* of any changes to your address and / or contact details. New forms will be emailed to all parents and carers next week.

Additionally, any changes to your email addresses or phone numbers must be updated on ParentMail to ensure that you continue to receive mailings from the school. Office staff are not able to make changes to parent/carer contact details on ParentMail - it must be done by the account holder.

## SCHOOL CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

If the school has to close for any reason e.g. adverse weather conditions, notification will be given on the school website and parents and carers will be sent a text. In addition, a list of closed schools will appear on the Essex County Council website at the following link:

<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>

Please note that local radio stations no longer read out school closure lists.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

We are writing to congratulate the 158 pupils who achieved 100% attendance in the autumn term 2017. It is wonderful that so many pupils have reached this high level of attendance.

We would like to remind parents and carers that any absence of 3 days or more should be accompanied by a medical certificate.

Current Government guidelines state that a child is considered a 'Persistent Absentee' if their attendance falls below 90%.

The school undertakes regular attendance checks. If your child's attendance falls below 90% you will be asked to attend a meeting at the school to discuss strategies for

## ***Non-Uniform / Cake Sale Day***

*This will be held on **Friday 9th February**. Details to follow.*

## ***Discos***

*The children's discos are on **Tuesday 27th March**.*

*Details will be circulated nearer the time.*

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

### ***Attendance***

*Attendance for December 2017 was 96.6%.*

*Attendance for the autumn term was 97.6%.*

improvement. If attendance falls below 93% you will be sent a reminder letter. Please see the attendance chart from Essex County Council at the end of this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support.

## ***EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE APPLICATIONS - SEPTEMBER 2018***

If you have a child who is due to start school next September please remember that your application needs to be sent to Essex County Council Planning and Admissions by **15th January 2018**. It is essential that the application is submitted by this date otherwise it will be treated as a late application.

## ***CENSUS DAY THEMED LUNCH - WINTER WONDERLAND***

There will be a 'Winter Wonderland' themed lunch on **Thursday 18th January** and we would like to encourage all pupils to try a school lunch on this day. Menu details will be circulated to all parents and carers soon.

## ***DANCE FESTIVAL - 30TH JANUARY***

Mr Chaplin's class will be participating in the 2018 Primary Dance Festival to be held on **Tuesday 30th January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tickets are available directly from The Palace Theatre.

## ***BATIC'S GOT TALENT***

The BATIC (Benfleet and Thundersley Inter Cluster group) Trust has organised a talent show for pupils from all of the schools in the area, to be held on **Tuesday 30th January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Robert Drake will be represented by members of the school's drama group. Ticket details have been circulated.

## ***CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS***

Class photographs are due to be taken on **Wednesday 7th February 2018**. Photographs will be in a contemporary style. However, the Year 6 children will also have a more traditional style photograph taken.

## ***PARENT CONSULTATION EVENINGS***

Parent Consultation evenings are being held on **Tuesday 20th February** and **Thursday 22nd February 2018** from 3.30pm to 7.00 pm. We will be asking everybody to complete the annual Parent/Carer Questionnaire when they attend the consultation. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

## ***CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY***

Thank you to everybody who supported Christmas Jumper Day to raise money for Save the Children. We raised **£197.98**.



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHART

The chart below is provided by the Missing Education and Child Employment Service (MECES) formerly the Education Welfare Service. This is intended to be shared with parents and carers in order to ensure that expectations about school attendance are clear.

A child with 89% attendance at the end of an academic year will have missed 21 days of school (over four school weeks of learning missed). Whilst 89% is a positive achievement in an examination/test, 89% attendance would warrant a significant level of concern.

Any child with attendance below 90% is considered a Persistent Absentee.

Descriptor	Threshold attendance	Actual attendance	Whole days of absence	Learning Hours Lost
<b>Excellent</b>	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
<b>Good</b>	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
<b>Cause for Concern</b>	95%	180.5 days	9.5	47.5
	94%	179 days	11	55
	93%	177 days	13	65
	92%	175 days	15	75
	91%	173 days	17	85
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
<b>Serious cause for concern</b>	86%	163 days	27	135
<b>Critical</b>	85%	161.5 days	28.5	142.5
	84%	159.5 days	30.5	152.5
	83%	158 days	32	160
	82%	156 days	34	170
	81%	154 days	36	180
	80%	152 days	38	190