

The Robert Drake Primary School - Newsletter 8

Celebrating Attendance for the Spring Term

As voted for by our School Council, a group of randomly selected children enjoyed a biscuit-decorating activity as a reward for their outstanding attendance during the Spring term. The children had a wonderful time celebrating their commitment and positive attendance in a fun and creative way.

















Art Challenge Winners 2026

Watercolour Art Challenge 2026 – Winners Announcement

We are delighted to announce the winners of the Watercolour Art Challenge 2026, which showcased an exceptional range of creativity, imagination and artistic skill across the school. This year's challenge encouraged pupils to explore watercolour techniques, including tone, blending and texture, and the standard of entries was exceptionally high.

We would like to congratulate all of our winners for their outstanding achievements. The Watercolour Art Challenge 2026 has been a wonderful celebration of creativity, and we are incredibly proud of the talent and enthusiasm shown by our pupils.

Well done to everyone involved.



1 - The school extends its sincere appreciation to Frameworks for their generous assistance in the professional framing of the artwork.

Rocksteady Concert

This event was a celebration of the talented children who attend lessons with Rock Steady. The pupils and parents were delighted to enjoy a performance by our emerging pop stars, showcasing their confidence, musical ability and enthusiasm.



EYFS Trip to St Peters Church

The children in EYFS walked up to St Peter's church. They looked around the church, learnt about different celebrations that happen in a church and had our very own wedding! The children really enjoyed seeing the different outfits the reverend wears for special times in the church and hearing the church bells. All of the church were so well behaved for their first trip out of school.





Red Nose Day

We are delighted to share that the school raised a total of £126.00 in support of Red Nose Day. This fantastic achievement reflects the generosity and enthusiasm of our pupils, staff and families, and we would like to thank everyone who contributed.





Year 5/6 Parental Involvement Morning

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed a fantastic Parental Involvement Morning, working alongside their parents on an exciting design and technology challenge. Together, they designed and built prototype cam boxes, exploring how different styles of cams work and how they create movement. Parents and children tested the cams they made, observing how shape and rotation affect motion. It was a lively and hands-on session that encouraged teamwork, problem solving and practical learning. It was wonderful to see parents so actively involved in their children's learning and certainly tested their resilience!

Maths Day

Our recent Maths Day was a brilliant celebration of numbers and problem solving across the school. The day began with a special problem-solving assembly, where children explored how maths is used in everyday life and why it is needed in every job, from builders and artists to shopkeepers and scientists. Pupils then enjoyed visiting the Maths Museum, filled with hands-on activities and challenges. There was great excitement during the Countdown-style competition, which tested everyone's mental maths skills, and a whole-school TTRockstars competition was proudly won by Mr Chaplin's class.

Planning Ahead for the Next Academic Year

Over the coming months, we will begin planning for the next academic year. We kindly ask that you approach these discussions with your child in a positive and supportive manner. Please take time to talk with your child about their friendships and, where possible, who they may wish to be placed with next year.

Awards

We are proud to celebrate the following children who have received achievement awards

KS1 Awards

Miss Simpkin/Mrs Worboys - Esme, Ivy, Isabella & Abby

Miss Imbush - Freya, Evelyn, Adele & Felix

Miss Ramsey - Millie, Scarlett, Logan & Issac

Miss Covey - Aria, Freddie, Rosie, Bobby & Jude

Miss Leckerman - Joe, Riley C, Primrose, Daisy, Neave, Isabella, Harley, Alfie, Eddie & Mihail

LKS2 Awards

Mrs Herbert/ Mrs Malyan - Rafe, Leo, George C, Frankie M & Ella-Rae

Mr Chaplin - Poppy, Sophia E, Riley H

Miss Glover - Ted, Dolly, Oliver L &

UKS2 Awards

Miss Woodward - George, Scarlett M, Caelan, Jess, Sam, Isla E, Rosie, Ben, Isla E, Mia E & Eliza E

Mr Newton - Dempsey, Paige, Finn & Harley

Mrs Parrag - Ellis, Edee, Summer, Jake A, April & Noah

Gratitude - Thank You Moments

We are delighted to share that both staff and children continue to celebrate kindness and gratitude during our celebration assemblies. We are very proud of all the children, and they have had a busy term filled with lots of activities. We look forward to all the wonderful opportunities ahead. Kindness and gratitude continue to be celebrated by both staff and

pupils during our celebration assemblies. We are very proud of the children and all that they have achieved during a busy and enjoyable term. We are excited about the wonderful opportunities still to come.

Head Pupils

Head Pupils:-

Ted V & Ariana C-T

Deputy Head Pupils:-

Kyle C & Alexa C

Attendance

EYFS

Miss Simpkin/Mrs Worboys -

- Week 26 90.9%

Miss Imbush -

- Week 26 96.8%

-

-

KS1

Miss Ramsey -

- Week 26 94.0%

Miss Covey -

- Week 26 96.0%

Miss Leckerman -

- Week 26 95.3%

-

LKS2

Mrs Herbert/Mrs Malyan -

- Week 26 92.1%

Mr Chaplin -

- Week 26 91.3%
- Miss Glover -
- Week 26 93.8%

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UKS2

Mrs Parrag -

- Week 26 98.0%

Mr Newton -

- Week 26 92.9%

Miss Woodward -

- Week 26 89.7%



Well done to Mrs Parrag's class for attaining the highest attendance in week 26! Amazing!

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

Keeping Our Children Safe Online

As technology becomes a bigger part of everyday life, many of our pupils are spending more time on phones, tablets, computers and gaming devices. Screens can offer wonderful learning opportunities, but it's important that children use them safely and responsibly.

We kindly encourage all parents and carers to keep a close eye on what their child is watching and playing at home. Many popular apps, videos and games may look child-friendly at first glance but can include content that isn't suitable for younger viewers. Checking age ratings, using parental controls and talking with your child about what they enjoy online can make a big difference.

A few simple steps can help keep screen time positive:

- Make sure videos, games and apps are **age-appropriate**
- Set clear boundaries around **when and how long** screens can be used
- Keep devices in **shared family spaces** where possible
- Encourage children to talk to you if they see anything that makes them feel unsure or uncomfortable

By working together, we can help our children build healthy digital habits and enjoy the online world safely and confidently.

School Council - Help Needed!

The school council would like to create a snake of happiness for our Forest School. Therefore, we are asking for donations of smooth stones, at least 3" in length. If you have any you can kindly donate, please leave them at the office.

General Information

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.

Allergy Aware School

The Robert Drake Primary is an **Allergy Aware School**. We have pupils with severe **airborne nut and banana allergies** and to safeguard our children all visitors must refrain from bringing nuts/products containing nuts and bananas into the school, and refrain from eating nuts/products containing nuts for at least 6 hours before visiting the school.

Uniform and Water Bottles

All pupils should adhere to the school's uniform policy. The policy can be found on the schools website at

[School Uniform Policy](#)

It is important that all pupils bring in a water bottle each day filled with 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'. Water bottles should have a sports cap to avoid spills.

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 EYFS, Year 1 or Year 2, please call the School Office and we will send you through a form to complete.

If your child is in Years 3, 4, 5 or 6, Essex County Council has an online application form on their website: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Young Carers

We are delighted to announce that the school has won the prestigious **Young Carers in Schools Award Plus** for our work in supporting pupils who have caring responsibilities at home.

We are very proud to share that we are only the **second school in Essex** to achieve this award.

The award was formally presented to the school on 23rd February 2026.

This recognition reflects the dedication, compassion, and hard work of all our staff in supporting our pupils and ensuring their needs are always at the heart of everything we do. As a school, we remain committed to continually improving our provision so that every child receives the understanding, support, and opportunities they deserve.

What is a young carer?

A young carer is a child or young person under 18 who helps to look after a family member who has an illness, disability, mental health condition, or struggles with substance misuse. This caring role can involve practical tasks, emotional support, or taking on responsibilities beyond what is typical for their age.

How can we help?

At our school, we are committed to supporting young carers so they can thrive both academically and personally. If you think your child may be a young carer, please contact the school. There is lots of support available, and we can access this in a confidential and supportive way to ensure your child and family receives the help they need.

Your partnership is vital in helping us provide the best care and opportunities for every child.

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

2025-2026 Diary Dates

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22.04.2026	Y1/2 Panathalon, Deanes
24.04.2026	Football AWAY v Thundersley Boys year 5/6
29.04.2026	Football AWAY v Thundersley Girls 5/6
29.04.2026	Girl Band - The Label coming to perform
01.05.2026	Year 3 and 4 Trip to Museum of Power
05.06.2025	Tea and Talk 2.30pm
08.05.2026	EYFS Trip to Barleylands
11.05.2026	KS2 SAT's Week
14.05.2026	Inflatables Event after school
15.05.2026	Non Uniform Day
01.06.2026	Coin Drive
05.06.2026	Tea and Talk
11.06.2026	EYFS Parental Involvement Afternoon
11.06.2026	Junior Music Festival, Cliffs Pavilion
12.06.2026	Sports Day
15.06.2026	Stubbers Week
22.06.2026	Year 5 Trip to Danbury
22.06.2026	Book Fair week
23.06.2026	Year 6 Transition Day
24.06.2026	Year 6 Transition Day
24.06.2026	Y1/2 Summer Games Festival, Deanes (AM)
26.06.2026	Year 1 & 2 Sealife Centre Trip
26.06.2026	Year 5 Assembly to Parents
29.06.2026	Jungle Book Production – Year 6 Workshop
30.06.2026	Meet the teacher
02.07.2026	Open Evening
03.07.2026	Inset Day
08.07.2026	BATIC District Sports
10.07.2026	School council fundraising day
13.07.2026	Drake Fest - Year 6 leavers festival