

The Robert Drake Primary School - Newsletter 1 - September 2026

Our Forest School Grand Opening

We are delighted to announce the grand opening of our Forest School and Outdoor Learning Area.

It was wonderful to welcome so many visitors to join us for this special occasion. We were honoured to be joined by the Mayor of Castle Point Borough Council, our school governors, Daren from New Life Wood, who created all of the fantastic Forest School equipment, and Maggie from Essex County Council.

Our Head Pupils did an excellent job of welcoming everyone and delivering the opening introduction. They spoke confidently and enthusiastically before leading guided tours of the new area. Visitors were able to explore the site, see our growing vegetable area, and learn more about the exciting outdoor learning opportunities that will be available for pupils.

The afternoon concluded with refreshments and delicious homemade biscuits prepared by our kitchen team, providing a lovely opportunity for guests to chat and celebrate together.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, and we would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event such a success. We are excited to see our pupils make the most of this wonderful new outdoor space in the months and years to come.







Handwriting Celebration



The following children are being celebrated for improving their handwriting over the last two weeks:-

Miss Ramsey - Isla

Miss Leckerman - Roman

Mr Chaplin - Paige

Mrs Cole - Jo

Mr Newton - Daisy

Miss Glover - Finley B

Miss Imbush - Eloise

Mrs Parrag - Sydney

Miss Woodward - Harry

Well done!!

Awards

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

KS1 Awards

Miss Ramsey - Charlie, Sidy, Raffy & Adele

Mr Chaplin- Paige & Ethan

Miss Leckerman - Oscar T, Evie & London

LKS2 Awards

Mrs Herbert/ Mrs Cole - Freddie, Primrose, Neave & Freddie

Mr Newton - Lyra, Olivia & Elsie

Miss Glover - Eva, Freida & Veeresh

UKS2 Awards

Miss Woodward -Tristan, Ariana & Sam

Miss Imbush- Dolly, Lucy, Stewart & Willow

Mrs Parrag - Jaxon, Gisela, Hivru & Jaxon

Gratitude - We are so grateful for our new Forest School and Outdoor Learning Area. We love learning outside, exploring nature and having exciting adventures with our friends.

Head Pupils

Head Pupils:-

Klaydon L & Scarlett P

Deputy Head Pupils:-

George H & Eliza E

Attendance

EYFS

Miss Simpkin

- Week 1 -85.9%
- Week 2 - 97.1%

- Week 3 - 90.3%

Miss Baldwin/Mrs Warboys

- Week 1 - 78.6%
- Week 2 - 100%
- Week 3 - 97.3%

KS1

Miss Ramsey -

- Week 1 - 95.2%
- Week 2 - 99.0%
- Week 3 - 90.3%

Mr Chaplin -

- Week 1 - 93.1%
- Week 2 - 94.0%
- Week 3 - 93.3%

Miss Leckerman -

- Week 1 - 99.6%
- Week 2 - 100%
- Week 3 - 98.7%

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LKS2

Mrs Herbert/Mrs Cole -

- Week 1 - 97.5%
- Week 2 - 98.0%
- Week 3 - 99.3%

Mr Newton -

- Week 1 - 98.9%
- Week 2 - 99.7%
- Week 3 - 99.0%

- Miss Glover -
- Week 1 - 96.3%
- Week 2 - 96.2%
- Week 3 -90.3%

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UKS2

Mrs Parrag -

- Week 1 - 94.4%
- Week 2 95.9%
- Week 3 -91.9%

Miss Imbush -

- Week 1 - 91.5%
- Week 2 - 91.0%
- Week 3 -96.5%

Miss Woodward -

- Week 1 - 91.5%
- Week 2 - 91.0%
- Week 3 - 95.7%



Well done to Miss Leckerman class for attaining the highest attendance in week 1 ! Amazing! Geraldine will be spent was week in Miss Baldwin/Mrs Warboys class. This Week Mrs Cole & Mrs Herbert's class have Geraldine in their classroom.

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.

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

2026-2027 Diary Dates

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07/09/2026	Forest School Opening
08/09/2026	Football Trials LKS2
08/09/2026	KS1 Homework Meeting 2.45pm
09/09/2026	Appleton Roadshow
15/09/2026	Upper KS2 Football Trials
24/09/2026	Individual Photos Day
25/09/2026	Year 4 Class Assembly
29/09/2026	Parents Evening
30/09/2026	Parents Evening
08/10/2026	Year 3/4 Class Assembly
09/10/2026	Roots to food
09/10/2026	Flu Vaccinations
12/10/2026-15/10/26	Bikeability
16/10/2026	Year 3/4 Trip to Colchester Castle
22/10/2026	Year 3 Assembly
23/10/2026	Non-Uniform day
05/11/2026	EYFS Parental Involvement
9/11/2026-12/11/2026	Bikeability
10/11/2026	New Intake Open Evening
12/11/2026	Year 5 & 6 Assembly 9am
13/11/2026	Year 5 & 6 Assembly 1.45pm
20/11/2026	Children in need
25/11/2026	Flu Vaccinations
27/11/2026	Year 3 & 4 Church visit
30/11/2026 – 03/12/2026	Bikeability
03/12/2026	KS1 Performance to Parents
09/12/2026	EYFS Christmas Performance
10/12/2026	Pantomime
11/12/2026	Christmas Jumper day
15/12/2026	Christmas Bazaar
16/12/2026	Winter Ball
21/01/2027	Year 2 Class Assembly
26/01/2027	Teachrex
02/02/2027	Class Photos
04/02/2027	Year 1 Class Assembly
11/02/2027	Year 1 & 2 Class Assembly
04/03/2027	World Book Day
05/03/2027	KS1 Parental Involvement
19/03/2027	Comic relief
19/03/2027	Year 5 & 6 Parental Involvement
19/03/2027	SAT's and Stubbers talk to parents
07/05/2027	EYFS Trip to Barleylands
10/05/2027 – 14/05/2027	SAT'S Week
21/05/2027	Non-Uniform day
11/06/2027	Sports Day
14/06/2027-18/06/2027	Stubbers
22/06/2027	Year 5 Danbury Trip