The Robert Drake Primary School - Newsletter 2 2026

Awards

We are proud to celebrate the following children who have received achievement awards this half term.

KS1 Awards

Miss Ramsey - Charlie, Adele, Teddy, Mia-Rose, Ava and Imaam.

Mr Chaplin-Paige, Ethan, Cooper, Jess and Carter.

Miss Leckerman - Oscar T, London, Dolcie, Freddie and Jaxon.

LKS2 Awards

Mrs Herbert/ Mrs Cole - Freddie, Kayson, Harry and Jayna.

Mr Newton - Lyra, Elsie, Finley B and Tilly.

Miss Glover - Eva, Veeresh, Emmie, Eva and Aubrey.

UKS2 Awards

Miss Woodward -Tristan, Sam, Mia, Tabitha and Isaac.

Miss Imbush- Dolly, Lucy, Willow, Harper, Riley and Zoe.

Mrs Parrag - Jaxon, Hivru, Gisela, Jimmy, Jake B and Charlie B.

Gratitude -  **Thank You for Your Harvest Donations**

FAO the Headteachers, staff, pupils and parents of The Robert Drake School

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of food to our foodbank following your Harvest Festival celebrations. We are very grateful for your kindness and for the part you are playing in supporting people in our local community.

Each week, we provide food parcels for around 30 families and individuals. Many of the people we support are living on a limited income and may also experience loneliness and isolation. Your generosity helps us offer practical support at a time when it is greatly needed.

At The Salvation Army, we seek to put our Belief in Action by offering faith, friendship and practical help to people in our community. Your Harvest donation helps us continue that work and reminds those who come to us that their community cares about them.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. Your support really does make a difference.

Best wishes

Major Mark Cozens

The Salvation Army

Head Pupils

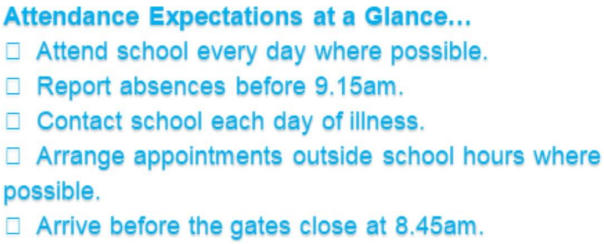
Head Pupils:-

Klaydon L & Scarlett P

Deputy Head Pupils:-

George H & Eliza E

Being on time to school is very important.



We are delighted to introduce "Musical Fridays!" 🎵 If the school meets or beats our whole-school attendance target of 96.5%, the children will enjoy music during lunchtime in the dining hall and/or on the playground. It's a simple, fun way to celebrate great attendance together as a school community. The children are already excited, and we're pleased to let you know that Mrs Jackson and Mrs Coe have their song choices ready to go! We can't

promise they'll be everyone's favourite songs, but we're sure there will be plenty of singing, dancing and smiles!

Punctuality



Pupils arriving late to school causes disruption to their learning and to others in the class.

Make every minute count.

If your child is 5 minutes late to school every day, they will miss 3 days of learning each year.

If your child is 15 minutes late every day, they will miss 2 weeks of learning each year.

If your child is regularly late we will call home to find out why and offer support.

Attendance

EYFS

Miss Simpkin

- Week 8 - 92.6%

Miss Baldwin/Mrs Warboys

- Week 8 - 91.4%

KS1

Miss Ramsey -

- Week 8 - 93.3%

Mr Chaplin -

- Week 8 - 99.0%

Miss Leckerman -

- Week 8 - 94.7%

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LKS2

Mrs Herbert/Mrs Cole -

- Week 8 - 93.3%

Mr Newton -

- Week 8 - 95.5%
- Miss Glover -
- Week 8 - 96.2%

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UKS2

Mrs Parrag -

- Week 8 - 94.0%

Miss Imbush -

- Week 8 - 91.7%

Miss Woodward -

- Week 8 - 90.3%



🏆 Well done to Mr Chaplin's class for achieving the highest attendance in Week 8. What an amazing achievement!

As a reward, Geraldine and the Attendance Cup will be spending this week with the class. Thank you to all pupils and families for your continued commitment to excellent attendance. Keep up the fantastic work! 💐👏

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.

As technology becomes an increasingly important part of everyday life, many of our children are spending more time using phones, tablets, computers and gaming devices. While technology can provide fantastic opportunities for learning, creativity and communication, it is important that children use it safely, responsibly and in a balanced way.

We would like to encourage all parents and carers to take an active interest in what their child is watching, playing and accessing online at home. Many apps, games, videos and social media platforms can appear suitable for children but may contain content, language or interactions that are not age-appropriate. Regularly checking age ratings, using parental controls and having open conversations about online activities can help children stay safe and make positive choices.

Some simple ways to support safe and healthy screen use at home include:

- Ensuring games, apps and videos are appropriate for your child's age and stage of development.
- Setting clear expectations about when, where and for how long screens can be used.
- Keeping devices in shared family areas where possible, rather than in bedrooms.
- Encouraging children to speak to a trusted adult if they see or experience anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable, worried or confused.
- Promoting a healthy balance between screen time, physical activity, reading, hobbies and family time.

By working together, we can help our children develop positive digital habits, stay safe online and make the most of the many benefits that technology can offer. Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils become confident, responsible and respectful digital citizens.

Word of the Week

We are excited to share a new initiative that we are introducing this half term called "Word of the Week"!

At our school, we are always looking for ways to develop our children's vocabulary, communication skills and understanding of the values that help us build positive relationships with others.

Through *Word of the Week*, we hope to expand our children's knowledge of the wider world while also encouraging positive attitudes and behaviours both in school and at home. Each Monday, the children will be introduced to a new word during assembly. We will explain its meaning and discuss how it can be used and applied in everyday situations. Throughout the week, children who demonstrate an understanding of the word and putting it into practice will be celebrated during our Friday assembly.

To help strengthen the link between home and school, we will share the Word of the Week with parents and carers at the start of each week so that you can discuss it together and encourage its use at home.

This week's Word of the Week is:

Kindness ❤️We will be encouraging the children to think about what kindness looks like in action, how small acts of kindness can make a difference, and how they can show kindness to others both in school and at home.

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:

A huge **thank you to our Fundraisers** for organising the Halloween Movie Nights. The children thoroughly enjoyed the films and treats, especially the delicious homemade popcorn made with our new popcorn machine! 🎃🍿

Thank you to everyone involved for creating such a fun and memorable experience for our pupils. 👏❤️

🏰 Years 3 and 4 Journey Back in Time at Colchester Castle

🏰✨ Years 3 and 4 stepped back in time for an unforgettable adventure at Colchester Castle! Throughout the day, the children immersed themselves in the fascinating world of the Romans, discovering what life was like thousands of years ago through engaging activities and historical exploration. One of the highlights of the trip was venturing into the castle's mysterious dungeons, where pupils and staff alike enjoyed uncovering the secrets hidden within its ancient walls. A fantastic day of learning, discovery, and hands-on history that will be remembered for a long time to come! 👑📜✨





👦🍳 Year 5 and 6 Cooking Up Success with Roots to Food

👦🍳 Year 5 and 6 Cooking Up Success with Roots to Food

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed an inspiring morning of cooking with Roots to Food. During the session, the children learned about a range of fresh, healthy ingredients, discovering where they come from and how they contribute to a balanced diet.

Using these ingredients, the pupils worked together to create a nutritious and delicious American-inspired chilli. They demonstrated excellent teamwork, kitchen skills, and enthusiasm throughout the activity. The finished dishes looked fantastic and, most importantly, tasted delicious too!

A big thank you to Roots to Food for providing such an enjoyable and educational experience, helping to inspire the next generation of young chefs. 🌶️🍅🥕✨







2026-2027 Diary Dates

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
16/10/206	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 Peformance
10/12/2026	Pantomime
11/12/2026	Christmas Jumper day
15/12/2026	Christmas Bazaar
16/12/2026	Winter Ball
21/01/2027	Yaer 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 Involvment
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