



THE ROBERT DRAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2017

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was drawn on Wednesday 16th December. Some of the top prizes were won by the following people:

Miss Burridge - Christmas Food and Drink Hamper (donated by a Grandparent)

Mrs Copley - £50 Carvery Voucher (donated by Toby Carvery)

Mrs Crisp - Meal for Two (donated by Wheelers Tandoori)

Mrs Conway - Meal for Two donated by Maharaja Restaurant).

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

We raised the fantastic total of £525.

Non-Uniform / Cake Sale Day

This will be held on **Friday 10th February**. Details to follow.

Discos

The children's discos are on **Thursday 30th March**.

Details will be circulated nearer the time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

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 will no longer be reading out school closure lists.

SCHOOL 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 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 2016

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

Fund-Raising Meeting

*The next meeting will be held at 2.00 pm on **Friday 27th January 2017**. All parents and carers are welcome.*

GOVERNOR NEWS

Attendance

Attendance for December 2016 was 96.4%.

by **15th January 2017**. It is essential that the application is submitted by this date otherwise it will be treated as a late application.

GERMAN TEACHERS VISITING - 5TH /6TH JANUARY

On Thursday 5th and Friday 6th January three teachers from Laborschule Bielefeld will be visiting the school. They will be teaching a short German lesson to pupils in Key Stage 2 and there will be a special music assembly on Thursday afternoon to welcome the teachers.

CENSUS DAY THEMED LUNCH - HEROES AND VILLAINS

There will be a 'Heroes and Villains' themed lunch on **Thursday 19th 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 - 31ST JANUARY

Mr Chaplin's class will be participating in the 2017 Primary Dance Festival to be held on **Tuesday 31st January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Tickets will be available directly from The Palace Theatre and we will inform parents and carers of pupils in this class as soon as they are available.

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 31st January** at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. Robert Drake will be represented by members of the school's drama group. Ticket details will be circulated soon.

YOUNG VOICES - O2 ARENA

A group of Key Stage 2 children have been invited to take part in 'Young Voices' at the O2 Arena on **Thursday 19th January**. Several thousand children will join together to form one amazing choir for the day. The children are looking forward to this unique experience.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS

Class photographs are due to be taken on **Wednesday 8th February 2017**. 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 28th February** and **Thursday 2nd March 2017** 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 **£90.15**.

PANTOMIMES

Thank you very much to the Fundraising Group who paid for the pantomimes for the children before the Christmas break. The children thoroughly enjoyed the performances.

NEW TEAM CAPTAINS

We are pleased to report that the new Year 6 house team captains are as follows:

Dragon: Abigail and Rhys Griffin: Harvey and Ava-Marianne
Pegasus: Isabella and Tyko Phoenix: Lily and Jessica

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Thank you to everybody who came along to watch our Christmas performances at the end of last term. £200 was donated to St Peter's Church where the Y3/4 Carol Concert was held. We also raised in the region of £450 to put towards a new PA system for the school hall.

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

The following class assemblies are due to take place this term:

Mr Chaplin's class - **Friday 20th January** at 9.00 am.

Mrs Gunnell's class - **Friday 3rd February** at 9.00 am.

Mrs Jackson's class - **Friday 31st March** at 9.00 am.

All parents and carers of pupils in these classes are most welcome to attend. Tea and coffee will be available afterwards.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT SESSIONS - SUMMER TERM

The following Parental Involvement session will be held this term:

Tuesday 7th February (am) - Years 3 and 4

Parents and carers will be invited into school to work with their children during these sessions. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The following educational visit will take place in March:

Thursday 23rd March Y1/2 visit to Braintree Museum

JET WHEEL TYRE - MONEY FOR SCHOOL

Jet Wheel Tyre, the wheel brake and exhaust specialists based in Thundersley, Pitsea and Rayleigh, kindly donate to the school 5% of the total amount spent on their services by any staff members or parents of children at the school. If you visit one of their branches, please mention the school so that we can help bolster the annual amount paid back to us. Thank you.

HAVENS HOSPICE DONATIONS

Havens Hospice visited the school on Friday 6th January, with Betsy Butterfly, to thank us for donating **£2408.75** between 1994 and 2016. The Head Boy and Head Girl were presented with a certificate on behalf of the school.

Thank you very much for your continued support.



SPRING HALF TERM BREAK

Friday 10th February is the last day of term. The half term break is from **Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February**. **Monday 20th February** is a non-pupil day so children should return to school at 8.50am on **Tuesday 21st February 2017** after the half term break.

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
Excellent	100%	190 days	0	0
	99%	188 days	2	10
Good	98%	186 days	4	20
	97%	184 days	6	30
	96%	182.5 days	7.5	37.5
Cause for Concern	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
Unsatisfactory	90%	171 days	19	95
	89%	169 days	21	105
	88%	167 days	23	115
	87%	165 days	25	125
Serious cause for concern	86%	163 days	27	135
Critical	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