

Drayton CE Junior School

September 2020

Welcome back!

As we are now back into the full swing of school life again I wanted to congratulate the children for how well they have adapted to the changes we have put in place this year. They are a credit and understand that this is just how things will have to be for the foreseeable future.

I'm particularly impressed with our new Year 3 children who have settled in well, despite being unable to take part in the full transition programme last term.

In assembly I have been reminding the children that the recent changes are only part of school life and most of the usual aspects are still as they were, if done in a slightly different way. Despite restrictions, they are all working hard in the classroom and we have even taken some star gazing and others out to build stone age dwellings! I feel it is important to stress all that remains the same so the children don't feel school life is all about coronavirus. We will be trying hard to make this year as "normal" as any other for them.

That said, there are a number of changes we have made and I would like to thank you for your patience during these early days as I discover that what works on paper, when planning during the summer break, is very different once 343 children put it into practice. Hopefully, as things settle fewer tweaks will be needed but we will of course keep things under review to ensure we are keeping the children as safe as possible.

One of the issues we found, particularly on the first few days, were the problems with large numbers gathering at the Vawdrey Road entrance. We have tried to improve this, by getting the children into school much quicker now, but due to the fact that we can only safely accommodate a relatively small number of children at our School Road entrance we will always have the problem of a large number of children needing to arrive and leave through one gate.

In order to help with this can I remind parents that guidelines state that to keep numbers down; only one parent should be dropping off/collecting their child; parents should leave the area as soon as their child is through the gate and to observe social distancing at all times. **I would urge parents/carers to please come onto the playground at the end of the day.** Not only does this make more space but allows for your child to see you easier when they come out of school.

Finally, as we approach the autumn/winter seasons some children will naturally pick up coughs and colds. When this is so I can understand that a parent/carer may wish to have them tested for coronavirus, as a precaution. Please note that where this is the case the school will not be contacting other parents. Department for Education and Local Authority guidelines state that where a child is being tested they, and his/her family, should stay at home but the school should remain open as usual to all children and continue to follow the measures it has put in place. Therefore, to contact you every time such a precaution has been taken only serves to create additional anxiety and questions nobody is able to answer until we know the outcome.

However, it should go without saying that were a test result to come back as positive, or we have a serious concern that a child is symptomatic, we will contact those parents who need to know immediately with advice from Public Health England regarding the next steps they need to take. I feel this would be far more effective communication than "what if..." speculation.

Should you need support, with what to do if your child is unwell, the following link may be of help: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/>

News
letter

Non coronavirus news!

Staffing

Goodbye

During last term's lockdown we said goodbye to a number of people who have supported the school over many years but we were unable to give them the send-off they deserved.

- Mrs Lovett and Mrs Haynes have both taken early retirement from their posts as Learning Support Assistants. I would like to thank them for all the support they have given to the children and for Mrs Lovett's contribution to the art work and displays around the school.

It should be noted that Mrs Lovett cannot completely tear herself away and will be continuing to organise, and attend, the residential trips. Fingers crossed these will be able to go ahead next year and we will see her then.

- Mrs Hamling, Mrs Clements and Mrs Shanaghy have retired from their roles as midday supervisors. All three were a well-known presence on the playground in all weathers and I wish them all the very best now that they can hang up their coats at lunchtime.

- Tim Dennis has stepped down as vice-chair of governors and chair of Finance Committee. Tim has given up hours of his time, voluntarily, over a number of years to support the school and is well known to staff. I would like to thank him for all he has done for Drayton Junior School. His expertise in how to stretch a tight budget will be much missed.

Welcome

As some staff leave, others arrive or return.

- I would like to welcome Mrs Terrington back to school. She will be back in the office as part of a phased return with the aim to be back to her old hours by half term.

- A warm welcome also goes to Miss Moore and Mrs Coleman who joined us this September

Parking

Pandemic or no pandemic the ongoing issues of inconsiderate parking on Belmonte Crescent sadly continues. Please can I remind parents/carers who need to drop off/collect by car to respect the local residents and park considerately. Thank you

Newsletter

News letter

Ruby does it again!

I have a fond memory of delivering a whole school assembly, a couple of years ago, celebrating Ruby Jennings' charity mountain climb in Snowdon and it gives me great pleasure to tell you that she has done it again, only more so. For those of you who didn't catch Ruby's amazing efforts on and in the local news over the summer, below is her account of what she did and why.

On Saturday 15th August, I climbed Scafell Pike (the highest mountain in England, it is 978 metres tall) to raise money for Immy Roe. She is very brave and she has to keep shielding but she's always smiling.

Scafell Pike was quite hard on the way up and I even had to do some proper rock climbing! We had to take quite a lot of breaks because it was very hot.

When we got to the summit, I felt relieved and really proud of myself. It was an amazing moment! I had painted two rocks for #GoClimbForImmy which I carried in my rucksack and left at the top. I was thinking so much of Immy whilst I was climbing and that's what made me carry on when it was a struggle.

We took lots and lots of water but we did run out, we had to fill up from the waterfall on the way down! We also had to cross a river and I went in the deepest parts on purpose! I didn't fall over which is quite surprising for me because I am accident prone (but my mum and dad both fell over on the way down!)

So far we have raised £780 which has beaten my target but I would love to get over £800 for Immy now! This is my fundraising page which has a video of me at the summit and pictures of me and Immy.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/goclimbforimmy>

This is the second mountain that I have climbed (the first was Mount Snowdon for Cancer Research UK when I was in Year 3) and now I'm aiming for Ben Nevis!

Thank you

I'm sure you will agree that this is a terrific achievement for a cause so close to all our hearts at Drayton Junior School and I know that at the time of writing Ruby had surpassed the £800 mark and rising. Well done Ruby!

Diary Dates

October

Wed 21st Last day of Half Term in school

November

Mon 2nd School reopens after half term

Fri 6th Flu immunisations all year groups – info to follow

Wed 11th Individual School Photos

December

Fri 18th Last day of Term in school

Events are currently restricted due to Covid guidelines – we will be in touch with any further info