

Drayton CE Junior School

Newsletter March 2021

As we come to the end of another disruptive term I want to say how impressed I have been with just how well the children have settled back into school life again. They have all told me how much they missed being in school and whilst they also told me how hard their “home tutors” were helping them, they prefer being back with their teacher face to face again.

I have told the children that whilst school may have been closed, to most children, learning did not stop and because so many of them engaged so well with the remote learning, we are finding they will soon be back to where they should be.

The school continues to operate following government guidelines and fingers crossed we will make it to the end of term without having to close a bubble.

With better weather around the corner, we have opened up the field again which is giving the children some much needed space when outside. However please do remember to pop a spare pair of tracksuit bottoms or trousers into your child’s bag, whilst the weather is unpredictable, in case they fall over on the field.

As the country slowly comes out of lockdown it is hoped that next term will see some easing off of current restrictions and by the end of the school year it would be wonderful to see the school back to its usual self again.

This week will see me saying goodbye to DJS as my time here finishes. Although the last 12 months have been the most demanding and challenging of my career, it only amounts to about 20% of my time at the school. Therefore, in time I’m sure I will be able to look back and remember the school as it is normally – if there is such a thing as a normal day in a school – where children sing, play, eat and learn altogether. I was certainly relieved to have all the children back before I go.

Drayton Junior School is a very special place and I often refer to it as a large school with a small school feel. I believe this is down to the wonderful staff, children and families who work together to support the children and make it such a happy place to work. In fact, one of the things I have missed the most, during these restrictions, is having families come into school for learning cafes, performances, sporting and social occasions.

I would like to thank all the staff and governors who have supported me during my time here and I wish Mrs Read all the very best as she takes the school onwards.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you who have wished me well in my new role working for the local authority. It has been a pleasure to lead Drayton Junior School – covid aside! - and I will continue to keep an eye on the school from afar.

Goodbye

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Goodbye and hello

This week we will say a fond farewell to Mrs Holmes who is leaving us to work for the police as a call handler. I would like to thank her for all the support she has given to the children she has worked with in the school and wish her all the very best in her new career.

This term sees us welcome a new member of staff to the school. Mrs Neill joins the school administrative support team and will be working alongside Mrs Frankland.

5H have been keeping a record of these strange times and here is what they have done:

Living through a Pandemic

It was really nice being back at school.

I missed seeing my friends and my teachers.

The best thing about lockdown was spending time with our families.

In 5H we are making scrapbooks to keep for when we are older to remember what it was like living in a pandemic.

We have included in it pictures of us working during lockdown and our baby photos.

We have asked our parents about how they felt during lockdown as well. They have added a page to remind them about their daily life.

By Nina Sanders and Kayla Denton 5H

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Year 4 have been enjoying our topic 'Roadtrip USA' where we have been learning about the 50 states that make up America. The capital city is Washington.

We have improved our computing skills researching important American people like Marilyn Monroe and Rosa Parks. We've also made totem poles based on the wooden ones created by Native Americans. At the moment we're finding out more about New York. This city is in New York State. Here you will find the Statue of Liberty which is over 90 metres tall!

By Faye and Oli in 4B

5L have really enjoyed being back together as a whole class again. We have recently started our new topic: Alchemy Island. As part of this topic we have enjoyed doing loads of practical science experiments, which are great fun (although can sometimes be messy!)

We've learnt about properties of materials by carrying out some testing of different materials; we've seen a chemical reaction in action as a 'fountain of gold'; and we've investigated how to separate materials using techniques like sieving, filtering and decanting.

Last week we made honeycomb covered in chocolate to help us understand reversible (physical) and irreversible (chemical) changes! It was really fun and very delicious.

But 'Alchemy Island' is not all about science. As part of our English we are using our imagination to write about our adventure across the island and in geography we have used our knowledge of grid-references and contours to find our way around.



Intraschool skipping competition.

Since returning to school the children have started practicing their skipping in morning PE lessons. This is in preparation for an intraschool skipping competition which will start after the Easter holidays!

There will be two challenges:

Who in each class can do the most skips in 30 seconds?

Which class in each year group can do the most skips in twenty minutes? (The children will take it in turns to skip during this challenge)

Each week the children will have some time during PE lessons to improve their skipping, leading up to the challenges which will take place towards the end of next half term.

There will certificates for the winners of both challenges.

Parking and crossing

It seems fitting that I finish my final newsletter with a reminder about parking.

I know that it is only a small minority of families but please can I remind you all to be aware of other residents and families when dropping off or collecting your child.

I have been told of cars mounting the pavement, while people are trying to pass with their children, as well as blocking driveways on Belmonte Crescent.

This will always be an ongoing issue and once again I would like to thank all those of you who use their car with consideration.

On a related note, last week there was an incident involving some children from the school who were travelling to school unaccompanied and chose to run across School Road rather than walking to the crossing patrol. Thankfully no one was hurt but it left the driver of the car very shaken.

School Road is a busy main road so can you please remind your child to use the crossing patrol provided for their safety.

Diary Dates

Fri 26 th March	End of Term
Mon 12 th April	First day back in school
12 th – 30 th April	Year 5 Bikeability Sessions – you will be emailed with your child's session date