



Drayton CE Junior School

NEWSLETTER Autumn 4 2022

Please go to: www.draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

From everyone at Drayton Juniors, we wish all of our pupils and their families a very happy and healthy Christmas break. Let's hope that the ice thaws a bit so that we can make the most of doing what we love. After last year's last minute covid Christmas cancellations, it has been absolutely fabulous to experience a Drayton Christmas altogether, be it on the stage, in the church or in the dining room enjoying Christmas dinner. A massive thank you to the staff team at DJS who continue to work tirelessly to provide the best learning experience for the children. Enjoy a well deserved rest everybody – see you in 2023!
Best wishes, Mrs Read



What has been happening at Drayton Juniors?

NORWICH PUPPET THEATRE: Thank you to Gemma, who expertly performed 'The Pied Piper' using puppets during two performance on Monday 12th December. It really was an entertaining Christmas treat for the children; they were a brilliantly engaged audience, delighting in the story and technical details behind the show.

BOOK BUG WINNERS: Congratulations to the four DJS pupils who were successfully nominated to be a recipient of the Dorothy Amery Readers Awards 2022. Each pupil was selected due to their great engagement with reading and brilliant attitude to learning. Each winner was awarded with £50 worth of books from the Bookbugs & Dragon Tales store. What an honour and real treat! Well done and enjoy your new books.

WELL-BEING CAFÉ: Last Wednesday (7th) Mrs Lamb organised and led DJS's first Well-Being Café for parents/carers, ably supported by Elin Kaemerr-Bailey, one of our school governors. It was an opportunity for people to talk, share experiences and explore issues surrounding mental health, and its varying impact on individuals. Mrs Lamb was also able to signpost attendees to useful mental health websites and organisations, as well as share plenty of examples of mental health related fiction and non fiction books. If you attended, thank you for joining us; we hope you found it useful. Website Info: <https://www.draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk/parents-community/parent-support/>

Thank you to all pupils and parents/carers who completed the recent Mental Health questionnaire. Tailoring provision to the needs of our community is so important; whilst budgets and support is limited, it is all the more important to make the most of what support is available to us. In school we are fortunate to have two trained ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) members of staff, providing four afternoons of mentoring support. In addition to this, the school subscribes to the services of YMCA's Family Matters; their support is based on the needs identified by each family, working in school with pupils, or at home with parents. Whilst there may be a waiting list, please do speak to us if your child/family is experiencing mental health concerns.

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Last Friday's Achievement Assembly was a sea of red and green, with an array of Christmas jumpers, hats and headbands, as we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Thank you to all who joined in the fun and contributed to the charity collection



YEAR 4 NATIVITY PRODUCTION: What a fantastic return to a Christmas Nativity production from Year 4 last week! All three of their performances to the school and their families were brilliant entertainment with great singing and drama, with incredible teamwork on display. Thank you to Mrs Leigh and all of the Year 4 teaching team, as well as all of the children. It was brilliant to see so much happiness on the stage, with so many faces clearly welcoming the long awaited return to whole school productions to live audiences. Children gain so much from these experiences, growing in confidence, controlling their nerves and sharing in the joy of collaborative success. When's the next performance?!

Congratulations to all who won prizes in the Y4 raffle! Many prizes, as well as mince pies, were kindly donated from Tesco and other local retailers, enabling the raffle and refreshments to raise over £200. All money raised will be used to support Year 4 learning, subsidising a visit or visitor in 2023. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC SERVICE: This week it has been a delight to welcome pupils and parents to St Margaret's Church, Drayton as the choir and musicians performed Christmas music alongside Y6 readers who told the Christmas story. Having had to cancel the service at short notice last year, it was all the more special to be able to share this experience together this year. Thank you to Revd Marc for inviting us to the church, and a special thank you to Mrs Leigh whose musical talents and organisation made it all possible. Singing Christmas carols together in such a beautiful setting, being reminded of the true meaning of Christmas is very special. It was particularly poignant to hear the words of Revd Marc's prayers in light of such tragic news this week in Solihull.

DRAYTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: What a special treat it was to hear the DJS choir singing at the Drayton Christmas lights switch on – you were all brilliant, creating a really lovely community event. Thank you.

YEAR 3 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: Early last week instant smiles appeared on many faces as the Year 3 Christmas video was shared across the school. We hope that our Year 3 families received the link and enjoyed the Christmas songs. Thank you to the Year 3 team and all of the children who had great fun dressed up for Christmas, creating such a happy Christmas record to share with home.

HOUSE LOGO COMPETITION: Up until Thursday 5th January, House Captains are inviting all children to design a new logo for each House: Normans, Roman, Saxons & Vikings. Each design entry should be drawn independently with no photocopies allowed. Go be creative, do some research and get designing!



DJS Information Update

STAFFING: As this term draws to a close, we bid a sad farewell to Mr Dave Fleming and Mrs Emily Dunster who move on to pastures new. We thank both of them for all of the support that they have provided since joining the team in September 2021. They will certainly be missed but we wish them good luck in their future adventures and hope that they stay in touch.

PARKING: Sadly, at the end of last week, the office received an upsetting complaint from a local resident who had been subject to verbal abuse from a parent who had illegally parked their car, blocking access on Vawdrey Road. Police are aware of the incident. Please help us to work together with our neighbours, park considerately and model the behaviour we expect from the children. Being five minutes late is much better than putting lives at risk.

SCHOOL DINNERS: Whilst the office are very grateful to the majority of parents who pay school dinners promptly, they are finding that they are spending more time every week chasing up parents/carers where dinner money has not been paid. They would be grateful if you are paying weekly to make the payment before a Wednesday each week so that we can add this to your child's account. If you pay for the half term please make the payment during the first week of a new term. Thank you.



If you are struggling with payments then please do let us know as payment plans can be arranged in exceptional circumstances. Also, if you currently do not qualify for Free School Meals but your family circumstances have changed, then it may be worth making an online application using the following link: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk> Pupils in receipt of FSM also receive additional funding for educational purposes, including reduced costs for residential trips. It is well worth spending a few minutes making a Free School Meal application.

Online payments are much preferred if possible as they incur less costs to the school.

Sort code: **20-62-61** Account number: **80607754** Account name: **NCC Drayton CE VC Junior School**
Unique Reference: (please contact the school office for this reference)

VACANCIES: Drayton Juniors currently has an advertisement for two Learning Support Assistants and a cleaner. If you wish to speak with Mrs Read/Ms Cope about the roles then please call the office on 01603 867504. Further details can be found by following the links below:

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/vfjobs/learning-support-assistant-84/?fromSearchPage=true>

<https://www.educationjobfinder.org.uk/vfjobs/cleaner-215/?fromSearchPage=true>

FOODBANK COLLECTION: A big thank you to all who donated for this term's Foodbank collection. Your kindness and generosity really does make a massive difference.

FILLING THE GAP: Taverham Evangelical Church's 'Filling the Gap' project, supports local families in need. They are able to provide immediate food parcels, or can refer families to Norwich Food who also offer fuel vouchers and can signpost to other agencies. They can also make referrals to the Soul Supermarket where people can buy groceries and other household items for £3.00 per bag.

If you would like to access this support please contact Rachel Ward (our Chair of Governors) via email: admin@tec-church.com – Please write 'Filling the Gap' in the subject box. The school is also able to refer families. This can be done via the school office where consent forms and information sharing will need to be agreed. All information received is confidential.

FRIENDS OF DRAYTON JUNIOR: Thank you to all Year 5 children and their families that supported the Friends Y5 Cake Sale on Friday 2nd December. All funds raised are used to enhance the children's learning and enjoyment at school. We are very grateful to their support, especially so at Christmas when they provided all of the children's Christmas crackers on Wednesday and paid for the beautiful Christmas tree in the hall. (If anyone needs a tree after Friday 16th December, we have one available. Just contact the office.)

If you wish to become involved in The Friends fundraising please contact the school office admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk with your contact details. More information is on the school website.

DATES 2022/23

December	
Fri 16 th	Christmas Church Service at St Margaret's Y3/4/5 9:30; End of Term – Christmas Holidays begin
Sun 18 th	Carols by Candlelight at St Margaret's Church, 6:30pm
19 th – 3 rd	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
January	
Wed 4 th	Term starts
Thur 5 th	The Two Johns – E-Safety Y3/4 11:00, Y5/6 1:30; Parents/carers 6:30pm E-Safety for Parents@DJS
Fri 20 th	Friends Y5/6 Disco 6-7:30

w/c 23 rd	Host a Curate in school Monday - Thursday
Sun 29 th	DJS choir@St Margaret's Church Candlemas Service, 10:30am – invitation for grandparents to attend
February	
Thur 2 nd	Y3/4 & Y5/6 Sports Competition @UEA Sportspark, 10-4, spectators welcome
Fri 3 rd	Friends Y3/4 Disco 6-7:30 TBC
Fri 10 th	End of Term
13 th – 17 th	HALF TERM WEEK
Mon 20 th	Term starts
Thur 23 rd	Parents' Evening 3:30-6:00 - online, in person appointment available upon request
Tues 28 th	Parents' Evening 5:00 -7:30 – online, in person appointment available upon request
March	
w/c 6 th	Y4 Hilltop Residential – Mon-Wed (4P, ½ 4B) Wed-Fri 4H, ½ 4B)
Fri 24 th	Friends Family Easter Bingo & Chips 6-8pm
Fri 31 st	Last day of Term; p.m Y5/6 Cross Country@Langley Prep School
April	
3 rd – 17 th	EASTER HOLIDAY
Mon 17 th	Staff INSET
Tues 18 th	Term starts
May	
w/c Mon 8 th	KS2 SATS Week (Y6)
Thur 18 th	Y4/5/6 Frisbee Festival @THS 10-2
Fri 19 th	Friends Y5/6 Disco 6-7:30 TBC
Fri 26 th	End of Term
29 th – 2 nd	HALF TERM WEEK
June	
Mon 5 th	Term starts
Thur 8 th	Y5/6 Kwik Cricket 10-2 @ Horsford
12 th – 14 th	Y6 residential @Eaton Vale TBC
Thur 15 th	Y3/4 Tennis 10-1 @Easton

w/c Mon 26 th	City Sports Week: Mon 3:30 – 5:30 Field events; Tues 1-5:30 Track Heats; Thur 1:30-5:30 Track Finals
Fri 30 th	Friends Y3/4 Disco 6-7:30 TBC
July	
Mon 3 rd	RE Day
Wed 19 th	Y6 Leavers' Service at St Margaret's Church 11:00, parents/carers welcome
Fri 21 st	End of Term; End of School Year