

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

We're well and truly settled into the new school year, and it's been great to see how engaged the children are in their autumn topics.

The calendar is already getting rather full, a real testament to the DJS team's desire to enrich experiences for the children. Once again

it's full steam ahead with football matches for Y5/6, and they've played brilliantly already – well done to them! Thank you to all

involved, from those giving up their lunchtimes, those leading training to those transporting and washing the kit! Added to this, yoga club, knitting club, Samba Band and numerous music clubs are all on the go.

Best wishes, Mrs Read



What has been happening at Drayton Juniors?



PLANETARIUM VISIT: Space, the solar system and stars galore were on display inside the dome at the start of September when the Planetarium launched Year 5's Stargazers topic. It's a fabulous WOW opener that never fails to engage the children...even the ones in other year groups that take a sneaky peek inside!

SEA LIFE CENTRE: As part of their 'Blue Abyss' topic Year 4 explored exhibits at the Sea Life centre back in September. Food chains, digestion and the Great Barrier Reef will continue their learning, along with understanding the importance of sustainability. Look out for clay model creating of their own sea creature.

INTERGENERATIONAL CHOIR: Visiting Badger's Wood Residential Home can mean only one thing – the intergenerational choir has restarted! This autumn it's 5Y's turn to enjoy chats between the ages.

YEAR 3 WELCOME SERVICE: Thank you to Rev Marc and all who joined Year 3 at St Margaret's church for our Welcome Service. A special well done to our Y3 readers who all did themselves proud.

Y5/6 FOOTBALL MATCHES: Congratulations to all who've played already in the football matches this term – awesome teamwork from everyone! Year 5 boys v Queen's Hill (win 25/09); Year 6 boys v Old Catton (win 26/09); Girls v Old Catton (win 02/10) – Brilliant work last night against Cringleford Y5 boys!

SCIENCE AMBASSADORS: As part of our Ogden Trust project participation this year, our new Science Ambassadors enjoyed a hands on training session with children from other schools – they even got to hold a piece of moon rock!



DJS Information Update

STAFFING: After four years as Business Manager at Drayton Juniors, unfortunately Mrs Margie Frankland will be leaving us this term. It goes without saying that she will be greatly missed. We all wish her well as she takes up her new position as Senior Finance Assistant at Norfolk County Council. Thank you Margie, you've been a star!

PARENT REMINDER: In recent weeks there have been increased instances of parents/carers at the school fence encouraging their children to come over to talk to them. Please can we discourage parents from doing this; Such incidents can distract children from their learning, interfere with staff behaviour management in school and unsettle children. Also, it is the school's responsibility to safeguard children and this includes safeguarding them from adults unknown to them walking past school talking to them. Your support is appreciated, but please do speak to us if you have any concerns about your child during the school day.

PARKING: Regrettably, further complaints have been received from local residents, specifically those living in Bellomonte Crescent, about inconsiderate parking during school drop off and collection times. This includes parents parking on pavements (which is illegal) and blocking people's driveways. Please help us to ensure that everyone abides by the law. As mentioned previously, stopping or parking on the yellow lines outside the school gates is illegal and puts children at risk.

Having met with both the local police and District Councillor to explore ways to alleviate parking issues, it remains our priority to keep everyone safe and work together as a community. If you have any possible solutions, please do contact the school office. Walking, cycling or car sharing are simple ways to reduce the amount of vehicles on the road, plus it saves money too!

ROAD/CYCLE SAFETY: Linked to the high volume of traffic on School Road during key points in the day, it has been necessary to remind children in assembly about how to cross the road safely after a few serious near misses this week. Thankfully no one has been harmed this time, however it could have very easily have been a different story. With winter and darker nights around the corner, visibility is also reduced, making it even more important to remind the children to keep themselves safe on the roads. Please do speak with your child, especially if they walk to/from school with friends, and if they're cycling, ensure they wear a cycle helmet. Together we can educate the children about road safety and keep them from harm.

SPORTING EVENTS: The autumn term has already included a number of successful football matches for Y5/6 boys and girls, with many more matches planned. Thank you to Mrs Finch and Mr Lambourne, supported by Mrs Howell and Mr Arden, for their time, providing such great opportunities for the children to play against other Norwich schools. Following the great range of sporting activities on offer in 2022/23, Drayton Juniors has also subscribed to WNDSSP (West Norwich and Dereham School Sport Partnership) for another year. Please see the calendar for dates of joint events taking place this year. We will also be competing in Norwich Primary Schools' Athletics Association Cross Country races. Whilst all dates for the races haven't been finalised, those that we do know about have been added to the dates list. The first cross country race takes place on Friday 13th October at Sprowston Juniors. Finally, the 2024 dates for City Sports have been shared and added to the calendar too.

*As with all sporting events at Drayton Juniors, your child will receive a letter if they are involved.

COVID GUIDANCE: Coughs and colds are certainly in the air, as is Covid, therefore it seems appropriate to provide a reminder about government guidance in relation to absence periods for children (and adults). Please see the link below. As with all illnesses, if your child is unwell then they should be at home. Not only

does this give them time and space to recover, it also prevents illnesses from spreading. Practising regular handwashing, putting tissues in the bin and other general hygiene practices will benefit us all this winter.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/27/what-are-the-latest-rules-around-covid-19-in-schools-colleges-nurseries-and-other-education-settings/>

MOBILE PHONES: Children should not bring mobile phones to school. They present a serious safeguarding issue, however it is appreciated that for older children walking to/from school on their own, having a mobile phone is a safety measure that can reassure parents. If you wish your child to bring a mobile to school then written parent/carer permission must be provided and the mobile phone should never be out on school premises. Please contact the office regarding permission letters.

PREMISES: During the half term break resurfacing will take place in the school's car park, with additional parking spaces being created.

PE KIT: A gentle reminder that on PE days children should be wearing a plain blue/navy sweatshirt or hoodie. No others coloured clothing should be worn. Children not wearing this may be required to wear a blue sweatshirt from the school's secondhand stock. Thank you.

THE BIG AMBITION: The Children's Commissioner has launched a new campaign to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country about what they need to make their lives better. This survey is for all children and young people aged 6-18 and for parents/carers who can complete the survey on behalf of children aged 0-5. Adults can also assist children who are unable to complete the survey independently. The survey can be completed using the link below:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

PASTORAL LEAD: Mrs Laura Clarke, our new Pastoral Lead, is available on the playground before school, as well as on Monday and Friday mornings. Many parents have already met/spoken with her, however if you would like to speak with her then please contact the office – admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

FRIENDS OF DRAYTON JUNIOR: A big thank you to The Friends for continued support subsidising the cost of visits for all year groups. Enriching experiences for the children make a real difference to the children's learning and it is always fantastic to see the children's excited faces on 'trip days!' On Friday 24th November a contingent of Year 4 pupils, parents and grandparents have organised a Christmas fayre in the school hall, with proceeds going towards Hilltop Residential/Y4 trips. There will be a non school uniform day on Friday 17th November in return for donations for the fayre eg. chocolate

Currently happening: Christmas cards are being created by the children – Look out for the order forms soon. Coming soon: Y3/4 and Y5/6 disco dates!!! Best dust off the dancing shoes...

The Friends of Drayton Junior are keen to get new fundraising projects off the ground and really need the help of other parents/carers to make this possible. If you are interested please contact the school office admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk with your contact details and The Friends will be in touch.

PARENT GOVERNORS: Finally, both of our hardworking Parent Governors, Mrs Christina Lister and Mrs Alison Williams, will be leaving Drayton's governing body very soon having served splendidly for a number of years. During their time in office, their support and contributions have been invaluable, making a real difference to the school and the pupils. We send a heartfelt thank you to them both, although we know that they'll still be around organising and supporting school events.

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor, then please look out for a letter being emailed by the end of the week. All parents of children who are pupils are eligible.

More information about the current governors at Drayton Juniors can be found on our website:

<https://www.draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk/home/governors/>

Training is provided and it is a great opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of children.

DATES LIST 2023/24

October	
w/c Mon 2nd	The Kindness Challenge, NSPCC week
Tues 3rd	Football ASC: Year 5 boys v Cringleford Primary (HOME)
Fri 6 th	9:00am SEND Café led by Mrs Lamb, SENCO for Year 3 parents and parents of other pupils with SEND needs; Year 4 Willow Weaving morning
Sun 7 th	10:00 St Margaret's Church pet service with the DJS choir (Feast of St Francis)
Mon 9 th	Football ASC: Girls v Queen's Hill (HOME) ; Y6 boys v St Michael's (HOME)
Tues 10 th	Football ASC: Y5 boys v Avenue (HOME)
Wed 11th	Football ASC: Y6 boys v Firside (HOME)
Thur 12 th	Parents' Evening 3:20 – 6:00pm; Taverham High School Open Evening for Y6 parents/carers, 18:00 onwards
Fri 13 th	p.m Cross Country@Sprowston Junior
Mon 16 th	Football ASC: Y5 boys v Ashleigh (AWAY)
Tues 17 th	Parents' Evening 5:00 – 7:30pm; ASC Football: Y5 boys v Taverham (HOME) Cup match
Wed 18 th	Y3 watch 'The Witch and the Egg' production, hall, a.m; Senco parent appointments available in school (letters sent to those invited); ASC Football: Girls v Taverham (AWAY)
Fri 20 th	Y4 Maths Café for parents/carers 9:00-10:00am End of Term
23 rd – 27 th	HALF TERM WEEK
Mon 30 th	Term starts
November	
Thur 2 nd	KS2 Cross Country@Langley 10am, more details to follow for children attending.
Fri 3 rd	Y5 Maths Café for parents/carers 9:00-10:00am
Mon 6 th	Flu immunisations (letters to follow)
Tues 7 th	3B trip to Norwich Castle
Wed 8 th	Individual photos a.m
Fri 10 th	Y6 Maths Café 9:00-10:00

Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	MATHS WEEK
Tues 14 th	Y3/4 & Y5/6 Football, more details to follow for children attending.
Fri 17 th	Y3 Maths Café 9:00-10:00; Non uniform day in return for donations for the Christmas Fayre eg. chocolate, bottle, gift
Fri 24 th	Christmas fayre 2:45 – 5:00pm
Thur 30 th	Drayton Christmas Lights switch on 5pm, DJS choir to attend.
December	
Fri 8 th	3I & 3S trip to Norwich Castle; Cross Country@Eaton Park, 2:00pm
Mon 11 th	No school crossing patrol – take care crossing School Road.
Wed 13 th	10:30 Intergenerational Choir Christmas performance – 5Y parents/carers invited to attend at Badgers Wood
Sun 17 th	18:30 Carols by Candlelight@St Margaret's Church
Mon 18 th	p.m Norfolk Music Hub Pantomime
Tues 19 th	Evening: Norwich Philharmonic@St Andrew's Hall, Norwich – more information to follow
Wed 20 th	Christmas Service@St Margaret's 9:30 Y6 and parents/carers; 11:00 Years 3,4 & 5 pupils only.
21 st Dec – 3 rd January	HOLIDAY – Term starts Thursday 4 th January 2024
January	
Thu 4 th	Term starts for everyone
Thu 25 th	Y5/6 swimming gala@UEA
February	
Thu 8 th	Y3/4 & Y5/6 Sports hall competition @UEA; Parent consultations, 3:20 – 6:00pm (online, in person appointments available upon request on a different date)
Tues 13 th	Parent consultations, 5:00 – 7:30pm (online)
Wed 14 th	SENCO Parent Consultation day, appointments available upon request.
Fri 16 th	Term ends
19 th – 23 rd February	HALF TERM
Mon 26 th	Term starts for everyone
Thu 29 th	Y4, Y5 & Y6 Football competition, 10:00
March	
Mon 4 th – Wed 6 th	Group A@Hilltop Residential
Wed 6 th – Fri 8 th	Group B@Hilltop Residential

Fri 8 th	Cross Country@Old Catton, 2:00pm
Wed 27 th	End of Term
Thu 28 th	INSET for staff EASTER HOLIDAY 28 th March – 12 th April
April	
Thu 25 th	Y4,Y5,Y6 Netball Competition@Neatherd High, 10:00
May	
Thu 9 th	Y4, Y5 Basketball@UEA, 10:00
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th	Year 6 KS2 SATS week
27 th – 31 st May	HALF TERM
June	
Mon 3 rd – Wed 5 th	Year 6@Eaton Vale Residential
Thu 6 th	Year 5/6 mixed Cricket@Horsford, 10:00
Fri 21 st	Year 3/4 mini tennis competition@Easton, 10:00
Mon 24 th	City Sports, Field Finals, 3:30 – 6:00pm
Tues 25 th	City Sports, Track Heats, 1:00 – 5:30pm
Thu 27 th	City Sports, Track Finals, 1:30 – 5:30pm
Fri 28 th	KS2 Panathlon competition@THS, 10:00
July	
Thu 4 th	Y6 Team Building Transition Festival@THS, 10:00
Wed 10 th – Thu 11 th	Year 6 Transition days@THS
Fri 12 th	Year 5 STEM day@THS
Mon 15 th	Reports go home
Fri 19 th	Year 6 Leavers' Service@St Margaret's Church@9:30; Last day of the school year.

Please see the Norfolk County Council 2023/24 School Calendar for further details.