Drayton CE Junior School

NEWSLETTER Summer 11 2024

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



Dear Parents/Carers,
What a rollercoaster of a year it's been, with so many highlights and memories made! It's been a term focused on supporting transition for September and today we bid a sad goodbye to an amazing cohort of Y6 pupils who've been a real credit to the school over the last four years. Their production this week was absolutely brilliant, showcasing their talent, growth in confidence and, most of all, great friendships made at DJS. Their SATs results received last week demonstrated just how hard they have worked, making well deserved progress in so many different ways. As Y6 move on, all secondary ready, know that they will be missed and remembered with a smile. Go be amazing and aim high!
Very best wishes for a great summer break, Mrs Read

What has been happening at Drayton Juniors?



DJS SPORTS: The term has oozed sporting opportunities for all year groups, with City Sports being a real highlight once again at the end of June. Well done to all track and field athletes, plus our awesome relay teams, especially the Y5 girls team who reached the final. Nobody can question the children's hard work, perseverance and encouragement for each other. Thank you to Mrs Finch for her superb organisation skills, ably supported by Mr Arden and Mr Lambourne.



Smalls groups have also had opportunities to compete with other local schools: KS2 (Y3-Y6) Panathlon – the children were so proud of the lovely medals they were awarded; the Y3/4 football tournament at The Nest where the boys team won 3 games, lost 1 and drew 1, missing out on getting to the finals by 1 goal!



Thankfully, despite the neverending rain this term, the Y5/6 and Y3/4 sports mornings took place and were very much enjoyed by us all. It's great how they are so inclusive for all students, with some very competitive races at the finish – especially the one involving the students from Taverham High School! Thank you to them, plus a massive thank you to Mr Arden for organising Sports Days.



SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT: Once again, our talented musicians shared their achievements and great progress at the end of year concert after school on Tuesday 2nd July. Thank you to all who performed – it was brilliant – and thank you to those who gave donations to the DJS music fund. Mrs Leigh has already created her shopping list to enable music to continue to thrive at our school.



YEAR 6 GRESSENHALL: As part of their Victorian topic, Year 6 and all the teachers dressed up in readiness for a day in role at Gressenhall. They all looked fantastic and, as usual, returned happy with all the hands on learning that really brings history to life.

YEAR 5 STEAM DAY: Thank you to the STEAM team at Taverham High School for providing workshops for Year 5 last Friday, 12th July. It really is a privilege for the children to access specialist subject resources, plus visit the high school.

YEAR 6 PERFORMANCE: Wow, wow, wow!!! Thank you to the incredible Y6 team, children, staff and volunteers, for three fabulous performances of 'The Class of 2024.' How proud we all felt watching the Y6s centre stage, with so much talent, confidence and gorgeous singing on display. Thank you.

FOODBANK COLLECTION: Thank you to those who contributed to this term's Foodbank collection. Your support is much appreciated, replenishing vital supplies during the summer period.



DJS Information Update

SCHOOL DINNERS: Thank you to everyone who has successfully navigated our new cashless system 'School Money' for ordering and paying for school dinners. Change is never easy, however Mrs Terrington and Mrs Hastings have worked hard to introduce the system and support parents, to which the school is very grateful. Thank you.

IMPORTANT: In September parents/carers will only be able to order and pay for school lunches from Tuesday 3rd September. This is due to children's classes not being altered on the computer system until this date. School Money will be enable meals to be ordered throughout the first week with the booking system remaining open. Please keep an eye on emails/texts for updates at the start of September.



STAFFING 2024/25: In September Mrs Yates leaves us to go on maternity leave and we all send her our very best wishes as they become a family of three – watch out for the cute baby pictures. We are delighted to share that Mr George Canham will be teaching 5C during Mrs Yates' absence; he already knows DJS very well having completed his training in 3S this year. Please say hello to Mr Canham should you see him outside.

HEADTEACHER RECRUITMENT: Following a robust Headteacher recruitment process last month, supported by the local authority and Diocese, it can be confirmed that Mr John Neenan has been appointed as the new Headteacher of Drayton CE Junior School from January 2025. Mr Neenan is an experienced local Headteacher with a wide range of skills and experience to bring to the school, supporting its future development. A smooth handover will take place late in the autumn term between Mr Neenan and Mrs Read. The governors of the school extend their thanks to the staff and children who supported the interview process alongside a range of professional colleagues. Mrs Read will continue to lead the school throughout the autumn term.

VICARAGE GARDEN: A polite request from Rev Marc that children should not be playing at the bottom of the vicarage's garden. Not only is this Rev Marc's family home, but the area is unsafe for children and we want to keep them safe. If you become aware of children playing in this area please do get in touch.

PARKING/TRAFFIC: With increased traffic around the school, and parking space restricted, please continue to prioritise child safety by driving slowly, not stopping close to corners where visibility for pedestrians is poor, not blocking driveways and never stop on the zigzag lines outside of the school gates. It is better to be a few minutes late, than have a terrible accident where a child gets injured. Pedestrians should also remain mindful of cars coming out of the school's car park entrance, especially as cars seem to be getting quieter and quieter. By working together we can keep the children safe, whilst working with local residents. Thank you to all who have worked hard to raise issues related to parking around the school and support increased walking and cycling where possible - great alternatives to driving that save money too!

ATTENDANCE: Whole school this year so far: **95.2%** - persistent absence 11.3%

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
94.99%	94.72%	96.18%	94.85%
Persistent Absence			
9%	15.8%	8.2%	12.6%

PASTORAL LEAD: Mrs Clarke, our Pastoral Lead, is available on the playground before school and will have allocated time during the week to speak with parents. This year Mrs Clarke has launched the Working on Worries project which has had a really positive impact and will continue next year. In September, Mrs Lane will be working alongside Mrs Clarke providing increased Pastoral support for families. Mrs Lane is an experienced ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) so will be a great addition to the parent pastoral team. If you would like to speak with either of them in September then please contact the office – 01603 867504 - admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk For further signposting information check out details on the school website: https://www.draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk/parents-community/parent-support/





FRIENDS OF DRAYTON JUNIOR: Thank you to The Friends for all of your fundraising activities this year. Your financial support towards school trips has really helped to keep costs down, helping the school to continue to provide memorable learning experiences.

If you are interested in supporting The Friends please contact the school office admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk with your contact details and The Friends will be in touc

MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE DJS TEAM

Thank you for all of your kind words, gifts and support over the last academic year. We could not be more proud of your amazing children that come to school each day, work hard and make progress that makes us all smile.

Please enjoy a lovely summer break making memories together.



DATES LIST 2024/25

SEPTEMBER	
Tues 3rd	INSET
Wed 4th	Autumn Term starts for all
Wed 18th	Y6 Height & Weight visit
Fri 24th	Y3 – Y6 Flu immunisation – further information to follow
Fri 27th	Y3 Welcome Service@St Margaret's Church – Y3 parents/carers welcome
OCTOBER	
Sun 6th	Pet Service@St Margaret's Church
Thur 24th	Last day of term
Fri 25th	INSET
Mon 28th – Fri 1st	HALF TERM
NOVEMBER	
Mon 4th	Term starts
Wed 6th	Individual photos
Mon 18th	Recycle: Donate Christmas jumpers/tops that are too small
DECEMBER	
Wed 18th	Christmas Service@St Margaret's Church
Fri 20th	End of Term
Sun 22nd	Carols by Candlelight@St Margaret's Church
Mon 23rd – 6th Jan	Christmas Holidays
JANUARY	
Tues 7th	Spring Term starts
FEBRUARY	
Mon 17th – 21st	HALF TERM

2024/2025 INSET DATES: https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/38213/Term-dates-and-school-holidays-2024-2025

INSET DAYS: Tuesday 3rd September - Friday 25th October - Monday 6th January - Tuesday 22nd April - Wednesday 23rd July