Drayton CE Junior School

NEWSLETTER Autumn 1 2024

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



Dear Parents/Carers,
What a happy start to the school year we've enjoyed with many dates already added to the calendar! Thank you to the amazing DJS team who've created such a smooth transition for the children. With it being my last term at this amazing school, it's definitely a poignant time of reflection; your children continue to amaze me with their enthusiam and zest for learning, seizing opportunities with an excited smile. With so many children keen to take a leading role across the school, you should be very proud – I don't think we've ever had so many Y6s keen to become House Captains. Best wishes, Mrs Read

What has been happening at Drayton Juniors?

WELCOME TO YEAR 3: With 89 Year 3s joining us this year, there's really been a busy buzz about the playground first thing in the morning. It's great to see the children now making the most of the playground to run around with their friends. Hopefully routines are settling and everyone knows what they're doing and where they're going; the children are definitely chatting away plenty to adults in school and getting stuck in to school activities. Junior school life offers many new opportunities for our pupils.

You will have noticed that both Mrs Read and Mrs Clarke (Pastoral Lead) are on the playground at the start of the school day (Ms Cope is on the Y6 playground) so please do come and speak with them if needed. For parents/carers wishing to speak with their child's class teacher in person, after school is always best and much easier. If you would prefer to email information/query, please send it to: admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk and the email will be forwarded to your child's teacher. We endeavour to get in touch as quickly as possible, however teachers are focused on teaching from 8:45 – 3:15 so a reply may come after school. Please be aware that it is not always possible to open emails until mid morning so please call to discuss any urgent matters.



A special Year 3 Welcome service has been arranged at St Margaret's Church on Friday 27th September, at 9:30am. Parents/carers of Year 3 pupils are invited to attend the service which will last approximately 30 minutes. Our SENCO, Mrs Lamb, has also arranged a SEND Café for Year 3 parents/carers on Friday 4th October, 9:00-10:00 to share SEND information, resources and processes that Drayton Juniors follows. It is hoped that this will be a valuable opportunity to learn more about provision for pupils with SEND in schools, as well as ask any questions in relation to SEND. Parents/carers of pupils with SEND needs in other year groups are very welcome to join this café. Refreshments will be available.

NEW PUPILS: A very special welcome to children who have joined DJS in other year groups. It can be tricky joining a year group on your own but please do rest assured that children at Drayton are very good at making new friends and being very friendly and welcoming.

Y5/6 FOOTBALL: After school Y5/6 Football Club has already restarted, led by Mr Craig Lambourne and Mr John Arden. Training is inclusive of all so please do encourage your child to get involved if they're interested. Football matches have been organised for the girls, Y5 and Y6 boys. Please see 'Dates.'



STAFFING: This term we warmly welcome Mr George Canham who is teaching 5C covering Mrs Yates' maternity leave. Mr Canham already knows Drayton very well, being a local resident and having very successfully completed his SCITT with us last year. In other news, we will be bidding a sad farewell to a very dear DJS face next Friday as Mrs Teresa Harrison (HLTA) retires after many years of dedicated service at the school. Mrs Harrison will be missed dreadfully by us all, however I daresay that she will be busy travelling, gardening, making the most of family time. Happy retirement Mrs Harrison and thank you from us all.

BABY NEWS: Exciting DJS news!!! On Monday we returned to the very happy news that Mrs Yates (and Mr Yates) became proud parents to Ralph Ernie Yates on Sunday. Huge congratulations to the new family. From all of us at DJS, we wish you a lifetime of health and happiness, with lots of sleep thrown in!



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. Thankfully all ran smoothly at the start of the school year. Change is never easy, however Mrs Terrington and Mrs Hastings continue to work hard to support parents. Thank you.

SICKNESS REPORTING: If your child is not in school please ensure that you inform the school office before 9:30am. The reason for their absence needs to be provided. If possible, please call 01603 867504 to report your child's sickness/absence rather than email. You can leave a message on the school answerphone. When the office is very busy at the start of the day, the reading of emails can be delayed and it is crucial for safeguarding reasons that we account for all children's whereabouts. Thank you.

It is essential that the school holds two emergency contact numbers for each pupil. If your number changed over the holidays then please provide updated details via email. Thank you.

END OF DAY COLLECTION: Please help us to keep children safe by reminding them that if the adult collecting them from school is not there, then they should make their way to the school office or speak to the adult on the playground at the end of the day. Although other parents/adults may be tempted to help by looking after the child/ren themselves, this can lead to confusion and worry. Only adults listed by parents as authorised contacts on the forms in the office are able to collect children from school. If you wish to add names to your child's authorised adult list then please contact the school office.



PASTORAL TEAM: Mrs Clarke, our Pastoral Lead, has been joined by Mrs Lane this year to add increased capacity to this invaluable family support. We are keen for the Pastoral Team to help signpost parents, plus support those experiencing difficulties with their child's behaviour or anxieties. Last year Mrs Clarke used her training on the 'Working with Worries' project to support parents, achieving some really positive results. If you would like to speak with Mrs Clarke then please see her on the playground before school or contact the office – admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

PE KIT: Please be reminded that all pupils should wear the correct PE kit – navy/black shorts; white/royal blue top; plain school coloured blue/navy sweatshirt or hoodie. No others coloured clothing should be worn and no football kits. The children have looked great so far this term – thank you for your support.

FRIENDS OF DRAYTON JUNIOR: A special thank you to The Friends who have already used funds raised to subsidise the forthcoming Y3 trip to Norwich Castle, greatly reduced the cost. With the school budget being so tight, this support is invaluable at helping our pupils to continue to receive the best learning experiences that create memories that can last a lifetime. Thank you.

Are you keen to help the school provide additional resources/opportunities to support the children's learning experience? Do you want to get to know other parents/carers? Just a few hours can make a massive difference and it can be good fun too. 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.



HEADTEACHER 2025: A reminder to parents that in January Mr John Neenan will become the new Headteacher of Drayton CE Junior School. A smooth handover will take place late in the autumn term between Mr Neenan and Mrs Read, with an opportunity for Mr Neenan to visit the school and meet the children, staff and parents. More information to follow.

DATES LIST 2024/25

September	
Mon 23rd	After school: Girls' football match v Queen's Hill (away)
Tues 24th	a.m Flu Immunisation programme
Wed 25th	After school: Y5 Boys' football v Firside (away)
Fri 27th	Y3 Welcome Service at St Margaret's Church – Y3 parents welcome to attend, 9:30 – 10:00am; Mrs Harrison's retirement from DJS.
Sun 29th	St Margaret's Church Harvest service 10:30
Mon 30th	After school: Y6 Boys' football v Horsford (home@DIS)
October	
Fri 4th	9:00am SEND Café led by Mrs Lamb, SENCO for Year 3 parents and parents of other pupils with SEND needs; 18:00 Parent consultation booking system opens.
Sun 5th	St Margaret's Church Pet service 10:30 (DJS choir)
Mon 7th	After school: Girls' football v Taverham (away)
Tues 8th	After school: Y5 Boys' football v Taverham (home)
Wed 9th	After school: Y5 Boys' football v Ashleigh (away)
Thur 10th	Taverham High Open Evening, 18:30
Fri 11th	NPSAA Cross Country, Sprowston Recreation, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start.
Mon 14th	After school: Y6 Boys' football v Queen's Hill (home@DIS)
Wed 16th	After school: Girls' football v Woodland View (home@DIS)
Thur 17th	Parents' Evening 15:30 – 18:10, in school. (Early Help communities team in attendance.)
Mon 21st	After school: Y5 Boys' football v Queen's Hill (home@DIS)
Tues 22nd	After school: Y6 Boys' football v Falcon (away)
Wed 23rd	Parents' Evening 17:00 – 19:30, in school.
Thur 24th	Rev Marc Collective Worship 10:00; Last day of term.
Fri 20th	INSET
28th – 1st	HALF TERM WEEK
November	
Mon 4th	Start of Term

Wed 6th	Individual Photographs a.m; Parent consultations for parents/carers with pupils with SEND (information to be shared with those parents by Mrs Lamb, SENCO)
Thur 7th	Y3 trip to Norwich Castle (see separate information for Y3 parents/carers – letters to follow)
Mon 11th	St Margaret's Church Remembrance service, 11:00, DJS wreath laid by Y6 representatives.
Fri 15th	NPSAA Cross Country, Falcon Junior, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start.
Fri 22nd	Friends Y3/4 school disco – 18:00 – 19:30 - to be confirmed
Thur 28th	Rev Marc Collective Worship 10:00
December	
Mon 2nd	Y6 Crucial Crew visit p.m (The Nest) More information to follow for Y6 parents/carers.
Fri 6th	NPSAA Cross Country, Eaton Park, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start; Friends Y5/6 school disco – 18:00 – 19:30 - to be confirmed
Mon 16th	Norfolk Music Hub Pantomime tbc
Wed 18th	Christmas Service@St Margaret's 9:30 Y6 ; 11:00 Years 3,4 & 5 pupils only.
Fri 20th	End of Term
23rd Dec – 6th January Sun 22nd	HOLIDAY – Term starts Tuesday 7th January 2024 Carols by Candlelight, St Margaret's Church, DJS choir & musicians.
January	
Tue 7th	Term starts
Thur 16th	NPSAA Cross Country, Taverham Junior, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start
February	
Fri 7th	NPSAA Cross Country, Horsford, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start
17th – 21st	HALF TERM WEEK
Mon 24th	Term starts
March	
Fri 7th	NPSAA Cross Country, Old Catton, 13:45 arrival – 14:00 start
May	
w/c 12th – 16th	KS2 SATS Week for Y6
June	
w/c 23rd – 26th	City Sports Week

Please see the Norfolk County Council 2024/25 School Calendar for further details.