# Drayton CofE VC Junior School

"We flourish when we help others flourish" - Jeremiah

# *NEWSLETTER 18th JUNE 2025*

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

# *Headteacher's Note:*

*Dear Parents & Carers,*

*Since the beginning of the calendar year, we have had to look very carefully at our school budget to ensure future sustainability. As you may be aware, many schools are currently facing financial challenges and are having to work creatively with their funds to balance the books while still providing the best possible experience for our children and community. This has been further impacted by the falling birthrate locally and nationally.*

*To help us achieve this stability, we have made some necessary changes and recently completed a staffing restructure process. This process hasn't been an easy one and has involved a combined effort from the entire school team.*

*Unfortunately, as a result, Mrs Leigh's working days are reducing from three and a half days. From September, she will be working one day a week, primarily teaching music to Year 6 pupils. She will continue to lead whole school singing, the Intergenerational Choir, and the school Choir, and will remain involved in school life as much as possible. Music is a vital part of our identity at Drayton Junior School, and we have worked hard to preserve this despite the financial constraints we face.*

*Initially, the outlook was more concerning, but thanks to the dedication of our finance team, we have managed to avoid further redundancies. This is not a process any Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team or Board of Governors want to do, however, it has been necessary given the very challenging circumstances we have found ourselves in.*

*At the end of this summer term, we will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Yates, who is moving on to new opportunities within education. Since joining us in September 2021, Mrs Yates has made a significant impact on Drayton Junior School. Her hard work and dedication have made the school a better place, and we wish her all the very best in her next chapter.*

*With Mrs Yates moving on we have a vacancy in our Teaching team, therefore, I am pleased to announce that Mr Canham will be staying with us for another year, until August 2026!*

*I can now tell you which teachers will be in which year group for September 2025, children will find out who their class teacher is on the morning of the transition days:*

*Teachers for 2025/26*
*Year 3 – Mr Silvester, Mrs Howell and Miss Parker*
*Year 4 – Mrs Hone, Mrs Finch & Mrs Jacobs and Mrs Bond & Mrs Silvester*
*Year 5 – Mrs Innes, Mr Canham and Ms Game*
*Year 6 – Mrs Woollsey, Mrs Brooks & Mrs Brosche and Mrs Lambourne & Mrs Lamb*

*We have taken the decision to only mix the current Year Three children as they transition into Year four. On the balance of everything we felt it was best for Year Four and Year Five children to stay in their current classes.*

*John Neenan*

*"And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light." – Genesis 1:3*

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# *DJS Information Update*

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP –** This week our theme is:

**Hope in Darkness linking to the book of Job**



https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%201&version=ERV

**Reflective Thought**

How can you be the light of hope for someone else today?

**DAY OF WELCOME:** As part of the "Day of Welcome" activities across the school, 5L enjoyed meeting Faz, an Egyptian artist, during today's live lesson. Each student made a mask as part of the session while learning about the experiences of refugees.



**RESIDENTIAL –**

The Year Six children had an amazing time at Eaton Vale!

They took part in a wide range of activities, including raft building, canoeing, shelter building, rifle shooting, a quiz night, and more! A massive thank you to all the staff who gave up their personal

time to manage the residential. Without their dedication, experiences like this just wouldn't happen.








**THE COMMUNITY –**





On Friday 13th June, children from Year Three made bookmarks for the church congregation for Father's Day. Its so lovely to celebrate all those father figures around us who have a positive impact on the children and young people within our community!

On Friday, 11th July, Reverend Tony Lynn (82) will be sleeping in the porch of St Margaret's Church to raise awareness about mental health and homelessness. As part of this initiative, he will also be raising funds for MIND Norfolk.

In a future newsletter, I will share details on how we can support Rev. Tony and this important cause.

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Children from 3B had a lovely time visiting and reading with the residents of Badger's Wood Care home. Such a lovely way to bring the different generations together.




**CURRICULUM –** Don't forget to keep up-to-date with what your children are learning, see our website for the latest Curriculum Maps.

**SCHOOL VANCANCIES –** Please see this link for our current staffing vacancies - Teaching and Learning Assistant and MSA.

**SCHOOL DINNERS** - please continue to book school lunches via the School Money System. Please note: the new menu is online for you to see.

**PASTORAL STAFF -** Drayton is very proud of the pastoral support we provide. If you would like to speak to Mrs Lane, our Pastoral staff member, then please contact the office – admin@draytonjunior.norfolk.sch.uk

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**ATTENDANCE – *Please note:*** *The school day finishes at **3.15 pm**, unless there are valid, authorised reasons then children should not be being picked up early. If you do need to pick your child/children up early, please provide the office with the reason so we can ensure our records are up to date. Thank you*

Our current attendance rate this school year is **95.67%.** If your child's individual attendance drops below 90%, we will send out letters to offer support and see how we can help improve this.

Gates are open from **8.30 am** and a member of staff will be on the playgrounds at **8.35 am.** Please ensure your child is at school for **8.45 am** to start their learning, this is when the gates will close.

We understand that illness happens and can't be helped, but it is vitally important that children attend as soon as they can. We are happy to support with medication; please speak to Mrs. Terrington or Mrs. Hastings in the office.

For the school's Attendance Policy, please follow this link: DJS Attendance Policy

| **June** | **Activity** | **Collective Worship Theme** |
|---|---|---|
| Wk 2nd – 6th | Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check | Hate something, change something<br>- Story of creation |
| Wk 9th – 13th | 9th to 11th - Year 6 residential –<br>11th - Year 3 Trip to Banham Zoo | Sustainable Development<br>- Our Planet |
| Wk 16th – 20th | 17th - Sports Day – Years 3 and 4<br>18th - Sports Day – Years 5 and 6<br>20th - Year 4 World War Two day | Then there was hope – Changes<br>- The book of Job – Light and hope |
| Wk 23rd – 26th | City Sports Week | Learning from Nature<br>- What can we learn from our wise animals, Proverbs 30:24-28 |
| Wk 30th – 4th | 30th Year 6 trip to Gressenhall | Keep calm and carry on<br>- Proverbs 15:1, 15:18 & 29:11 |
| **July** | **Activity** | **Collective Worship Theme** |
| Wk 7th – 11th | 8th Summer Concert – School Hall – 3.30 to 4.30 | Well-being<br>- Psalm 119:121-122a |
| Wk 14th – 18th | 14th School Reports Out to Parents/Carers<br><br>16th Evening performance Year 6 Play – 6pm - letter to follow after half term!<br>17th Morning performance Year 6 play 9.15am - letter to follow after half term! | Memories and moving on |
| Wk 21st – 25th | 22nd Last day of term<br><br>22nd Leavers Service at St Margaret's 9.30 am – Parents welcome to attend. | Memories and moving on |
| **September** | **Activity** | **Collective Worship Theme** |
| Wk 1st – 5th | 1st and 2nd Staff Inset Days<br>3rd – Children return to school | TBC |

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