Drayton CofE VC Junior School

"In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide.
Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too"
- Philippians 2:3-4

NEWSLETTER 30th September 2025

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we move into October, we are proud to be exploring Black History Month, taking time to learn about individuals who have made a significant impact on humanity and the societies we live in today. This is a valuable opportunity for reflection, learning, and celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our Macmillan Coffee Morning. Your generosity helped us raise over **£700** for this incredibly worthy cause—what a fantastic achievement!

It has been truly lovely to celebrate the children's achievements outside of school. We've heard inspiring stories of pupils supporting charities like the East Anglian Air Ambulance, earning medals in gymnastics and trampolining, winning football trophies, and receiving certificates for reading. Whatever your child has accomplished, we want to share in their joy and pride.

We especially want to highlight and celebrate children who are giving back to the community—those who are taking on the responsibility of helping others. These acts of kindness and service are deeply valued and deserve recognition.

Over the past few weeks, we've been reflecting on ourselves and how we are perfectly designed just as we are!

We've been inspired by the story I Am Perfectly Designed by Karamo Brown, which has helped guide our thinking. You can watch the story here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9UtYtbCQrk



Each child has drawn a picture to represent themselves, and our display beautifully shows how we are all different, yet fit together as part of the human race.

John Neenan

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Headteacher

DJS Information Update

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – This week our theme is:

Collective Worship Themes

A time for everything under the sun – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
There is a right time for everything in life.
God has made different seasons for different things:

A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant seeds and a time to pull up plants.
A time to hurt and a time to heal.
A time to break things down and a time to build things up.
A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to be sad and a time to dance with joy.
A time to throw stones and a time to pick them up.
A time to hug and a time to stay apart.
A time to look for things and a time to stop looking.
A time to keep things and a time to let them go.
A time to tear apart and a time to fix.
A time to be quiet and a time to speak up.
A time to love and a time to feel angry.
A time for fighting and a time for peace.



Reflective Thought

The Bible tells us that there is a right time for everything. Think of a year: we have summer for playing and winter for snuggling up. God has given a pattern to the world, and that pattern means every single feeling, activity, and season we go through has a purpose.

Can you think of a time when something difficult happened, but it eventually led to something good or taught you an important lesson? (e.g., losing a game taught you sportsmanship, being sad made you appreciate a happy moment more).

COMMUNITY – A lovely message from Brooklands Care Home

🐯🛏️📝SCHOOL VISIT📝🛏️🧑 - Facebook Post
💻Visiting Drayton Junior School Year 4 children was the highlight for Joy, Judith and Beryl this morning!💻
🌾What a meaningful and joyful session about harvest festival: acrostic poems, games and drawing all in one session!✍️🙏Thank you for having us. We cherish those intergenerational visits😀

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BEHAVIOUR – As a school we have high expectations for school behaviour, we want to work with our families to support children's behaviour but this has to be a collaborative effort. Please see our policy for how we manage behaviour at DJS- Behaviour-Policy-2025-to-26.pdf

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

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, Mrs Lane can also be found on the playground in the morning from 8.35 am.

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 last school year was **96.21%.** 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: School_Attendance_Policy_2025-26.pdf

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Please see the Norfolk County Council 2025/26 School Calendar for further details.

HARVEST 2025 -2026

This year, for Harvest, we are supporting two charities -

- **The local food bank** – helping families in need within our community. - https://norwich.foodbank.org.uk/
- **The Shoebox Appeal** – sending gifts and essentials to children around the world. https://linktohope.co.uk/

If you are able to donate to either of these charities, please send your items into school on **21st October**. To help us organise donations effectively, please either tell your child which charity the items are for **or** label the items clearly. Any support you can offer is truly appreciated.

Food Bank item ideas - these will be delivered to one of the local food banks:

- Jars of coffee (large and small)
- Tins of spaghetti
- Tins of custard
- Jars of fish/meat paste
- Packets of mashed potato
- Tins of fruit
- Jars of jam
- Sponge puddings
- Long-life fruit juice
- Semi-skimmed or whole long-life milk
- Tins of carrots
- Porridge
- Rice pudding
- Tea
- Washing-up liquid
- Rice 500 grams and 1kg packets
- Bottles of cordial & fruit squash
- Chocolate snack bars
- Chocolate and sweets
- Tinned meat
- Tinned ham
- Washing powder/liquid
- Toiletries – Male and Female

Shoebox Appeal items - these will be taken to St Margaret's Church:

Priority Items-

- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Candles & Holders
- Small Games – Draughts/Playing Cards
- Sweets/Chocolates – Packets
- Soap & Flannels
- Gloves, hats & scarfs

Other items you could purchase and send us for the Shoebox Appeal-

- Colouring Pads, crayons/pencils/ calculators, A5 pads

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- Small Toys – Yo-yo's, skipping ropes, toy cars etc
- Gifts for parents – DIY tools, tape measures, lightweight head scarves, jewellery
- Toiletries – Shampoo (max 400ml), new make-up, moisturiser, hairbrushes
- Reading glasses (max +2 strength) , wooden cutlery, sensory items, hot water bottles, work gloves, socks & tights (new), wind up radio/torch, scissors, nail clippers etc

September	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
29th – 3rd	30th – School and Community Team parental engagement visit – for a 1 to 1 meeting please email the school office 2nd SEN Meet a Greet with Mrs Lamb 8.45am	Harvest - A time for everything under the sun – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
October	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
5th – 10th	**SUNDAY** – 5th – Pet Service St Margaret's Church – Choir performing 10:30 am 6th - NSPCC – Speak out Stay Safe Assembly https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/services/speak-out-stay-safe	The story of Jonah – Taking time out
13th – 17th	15th – Y4 trip to the Bug Park 15th – Joe Dix Foundation Assembly – Year 6 https://joedixfoundation.co.uk/for-children/	The habit of silence and peace
20th – 24th	21st – In school Harvest Celebration – Please send in any donations, thank you 21st – In person parents evening – 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm 23rd – In person parents evening – 3.30 pm to 6 pm 23rd – Friends of Drayton – Sponsored Swim	All hard work brings a profit – Proverbs 14:23 & 24:30-34
27th – 31st	Half-Term	
November	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
3rd – 7th	3rd – Year 3 Castle Trip (Egyptians) 5th – SEND Parents Meeting with Mrs Lamb 5th – Individual School Photos 7th – Year 6 – Math's Café – 9 am 7th – School Disco – Yr 3 & 4 (5 pm to 6 pm), Yr 5 & 6 (6.15 pm to 7.30 pm)	Similarities between Christianity and Hinduism – Celebration of light
10th – 14th	14th – Year 4 – Math's Café – 9 am	Remembrance – Thinking of others
17th – 21st	21st – Year 5 – Math's Café – 9 am 21st - Non-uniform day – please bring donations for the Christmas fayre. Details to follow.	Two people are better off than one – Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
24th – 28th	26th – Drayton Village Christmas Light Switch on 27th - Year 2 – Open/Intake Evening 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Tradition of Advent

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December	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 5th	5th – Christmas Fayre, 3:15pm	St Andrew – 30th November Prepare to wait – The parable of the wise and foolish builders
8th – 12th	8th – iRock Concert 9:30am	Qualities of a friend - St Peter walking on water – Matthew 14:22-33
14th – 19th	16th – Choir singing @ the Norfolk Show Ground with the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra – 7.30 pm 19th – Last day of term **SUNDAY** – 21st – Carrols by Candle Light - School Choir and Handbells – 6.30 pm	Christmas Story & History of St Nicholas
January	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
5th – 9th	6th – Return to School	
12th -16th	Y6 Ultimate Aliens Roadshow	
February	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
2nd – 6th	5th – Online parents evening 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm 6th – School Disco – Yr 3 & 4 (5 pm to 6 pm), Yr 5 & 6 (6.15 pm to 7.30 pm)	
9th - 13th	10th - Online parents evening 3.30 pm to 6 pm	
16th – 20th	Half-term	
23rd – 27th	23rd – Return to school 25th - SEND Parents Meeting with Mrs Lamb	
March	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
16th – 20th	16th – 18th Year 4 Residential group 1 18th – 20th Year 4 Residential group 2	
23rd – 27th	26th – Parent/Carer drop in, 3:15-4pm – come and see your children's work 27th – Last day of term	
April	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
13th – 17th	14th – Return to School	
May	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
4th – 8th	8th – School Disco – Yr 3 & 4 (5 pm to 6 pm), Yr 5 & 6 (6.15 pm to 7.30 pm)	
11th – 15th	Y6 SATs week	
25th – 29th	Half-term	

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June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
8th – 12th	8th -10th Y6 Eaton Vale residential trip	
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
13th – 17th	17th – Last day of the Year!	