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 22nd October 2025

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting half term, we want to take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful opportunities our children have experienced. From the very first day, pupils have embraced new challenges, grown in confidence, and settled beautifully into their new year groups or into life at Drayton Junior School if they've just joined us.

This half term has been packed with enriching learning experiences. Our visit to the Bug Park sparked curiosity and wonder, while the planetarium visit brought the stars right into our school hall, igniting imaginations and deepening understanding of our universe. The choir's performance at St Margaret's Pet Service was a heartwarming moment of community and celebration.

We've also been proud to support important causes. Our Macmillan fundraiser was a great success, and we've contributed generously to the Food Bank and the Shoebox Appeal—thank you to everyone who donated and helped make a difference.

Sporting spirit has been high, with children taking part in competitions against other schools, showing great teamwork, determination, and pride.

None of this would be possible without our incredible staff and community. A massive thank you to every member of our team who goes above and beyond every day. We are truly privileged to have such a dedicated group of professionals working at Drayton CofE Junior School. Not every school is as lucky, and we never take that for granted.

Wishing you all a restful and well-deserved break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting half term.

John Neenan
Headteacher

DJS Information Update



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes

If you work hard, you will have plenty. If you do nothing but talk, you will not have enough – Proverbs 14:23

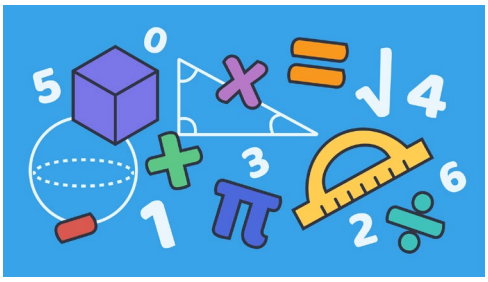
Reflective Thought
Dear God, thank you for the gift of work and the joy of seeing our efforts grow. Help us to be people who act, not just talk. Give us strength to work hard, be kind, and help others. Amen**.**

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ECO AWARD – This year, our school has made the decision to work towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation. This is a project we are undertaking with the Diocese of Norwich. You can find out more about the Eco-Schools programme by scanning the QR code. With the world beginning to experience the effects of climate change - from different species of plant and animals becoming extinct, to micro-plastics being found in the most remote locations on Earth - now, is the time to act. The Eco-Schools programme empowers young people to create positive change by taking a lead on environmental actions and projects in their school and local community.

MATHS CAFES – Don't forget our maths cafes after half-term! These are an opportunity for parents/grandparents/carers to come into school and enjoy a fun maths activity with your child. We know the children love showing you what they can do, too! We look forward to seeing you all here. See the calendar below for dates.



BOOK FAYRE – The book fayre is running all week. Come along after school and treat yourself to a new book for the half-term break.

SPONSORED SWIM – A huge thank you to the Friends of DJS for their incredible effort in organising a sponsored swim to raise funds for our swimming pool. This wonderful idea came from one of our pupils, Elizabeth, who has played a key role in planning the event. Elizabeth hopes the pool will benefit future generations of children at the school and in the wider community—even though, as a Year 6 pupil, she is unlikely to see the benefits herself.

500 WORDS – Following on from Mrs Lambourne's Collective Worship the 500 Words competition is open for entries! Make sure you submit your stories before 9pm, Friday 7 November 2025. 500 Words Competition Entry

COMMUNITY – We kindly ask all parents and carers to park safely and respectfully around the school site. Unsafe or inconsiderate parking not only poses a risk to our children's safety but also causes significant disruption to our local-residents. Blocking driveways, parking on pavements, or stopping in restricted areas can lead to frustration and inconvenience for those living nearby. Let's work together to ensure our school remains a positive part of the community and that every child can arrive and leave school safely each day. Please can I also ask that parents do not use the Infant School car park for football fixtures. Thank you.



DIWALI, HALLOWEEN AND FIRWORKS NIGHT – Remember to stay safe this festival season! Follow this link for safety tips - **https://www.umbrellamedical.co.uk/2025/10/14/stay-safe-this-diwali-halloween-and-bonfire-night/**

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.

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*

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Our current attendance rate last school year was **96.00%.** 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

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

September	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
October	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
20th – 24th	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	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
December	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 5th		St Andrew – 30th November Prepare to wait – The parable of the wise and foolish builders
8th – 12th		Qualities of a friend - St Peter walking on water – Matthew 14:22-33

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14th – 19th	15th - Online Panto 'Cinderella' by Norfolk Music Hub - 1:30pm. 16th – Choir singing at Badgers Wood – 1.45 pm to 2.30 pm and at the Norfolk Show Ground with the Norwich Philharmonic Orchestra – 7.30 pm 17th – Yr 3,4,5 Christmas Church Service 18th – Yr 6 Christmas Church Service – Parents of performers invited. - 9.30 am 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	
February	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
2nd – 6th	5th – Online parents evening 4.30 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	
March	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
16th – 20th	16th – 18th Year 4 Residential group 1 18th – 20th Year 4 Residential group 2	
23rd – 27th	25th - SEND Parents Meeting with Mrs Lamb 26th – Parent/Carer drop in – 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**
25th – 29th	Half-term	
June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
13th – 17th	17th – Last day of the Year!	