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 12th December 2025

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

As we come to the end of the term, we have much to celebrate and reflect on. The children have achieved a great deal this term and have benefited from some fantastic learning opportunities provided by our dedicated staff.

The school has been full of joy and song over the past few weeks as the Year 4 children rehearsed and performed — and what a performance it was! Well done to the Year 4 children and staff!

As this is the season to be thankful, we must remember to express our gratitude to all those who contribute to making our ongoing journey a success.

A special thank you goes to everyone who works in the school and makes every day special for our children here at DJS.

Thank you to our school Governors, who generously give up their time to support the strategic vision of the school.

Thank you also to the Friends of the School, who volunteer their time to help provide and support enriching experiences for the children. They have raised a significant amount of money this year, which is being invested in current trips and longer-term projects. The Christmas Fayre was a huge success—I didn't realise you could fit so many people in the hall having so much fun!

We would all like to extend a **massive** thank you to the following local businesses who kindly donated prizes for the Year 4 Christmas raffle. Their generosity is greatly appreciated:

- **Taverham Nursery Centre**
- **Pensthorpe Nature Reserve**
- **Tesco, Drayton**
- **ROYS**
- **The Red Lion Drayton**
- **The Bug Parc**
- **Cinema City**
- **UEA Sportspark**
- **Orchard Toys**
- **Norfolk Snowsports Club, Trowse**
- **The Bowling House**
- **Namco Bowling, Bowthorpe**
- **Zaket Potato**
- **Bookbugs and Dragon Tales**
- **Norwich Theatre Royal**
- **Cut Loose Hair Voucher**



DJS Friends at the Christmas Fayre

In the spirit of gratitude, if there is a member of staff you would like to thank, we now have a dedicated section on our school website where you can do so.- Thank a Staff Member

Our final and biggest thank you goes to Ms Katy Leigh. **THANK YOU** for all you have done here at DJS. We wish you the very best of luck on your new educational adventure starting in January.

John Neenan - Headteacher

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DJS Notices and Updates

Farewell from Ms Leigh

As I leave Drayton Junior School after nineteen happy years, I have been reflecting on all the wonderful memories that we have shared together: from musical performances in the school hall and St Margaret's Church to singing with the Norwich Philharmonic and the BBC Children in Need Choir - these are just a few highlights that show how music connects us, builds confidence and brings joy.

Thank you to the brilliant staff and Governors at Drayton Junior and to St Margaret's Church for all your love and support over the years. Thank you to the parents for cheering from your seats at performances, for encouraging your children to practise and for all your kind words.

And most importantly, thank you to the children - both past and present: you have filled my days with music, laughter and inspiration. You have reminded me, again and again, why music matters. Thank you for nineteen unforgettable years. Keep singing, keep playing and keep believing in the power of music.

Ms Leigh

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes

Jesus Walks on Water – Matthew 14:22-33



22 Then Jesus made the followers get into the boat. He told them to go to the
other side of the lake. He said he would come later. He stayed there to tell
everyone they could go home. 23 After Jesus said goodbye to the people, he
went up into the hills by himself to pray. It was late, and he was there
alone. 24 By this time the boat was already a long way from shore. Since the
wind was blowing against it, the boat was having trouble because of the
waves.

25 Between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus' followers were still in the
boat. Jesus came to them. He was walking on the water. 26 When they saw him walking on the water, it scared
them. "It's a ghost!" they said, screaming in fear.

27 But Jesus quickly spoke to them. He said, "Don't worry! It's me! Don't be afraid." 28 Peter said, "Lord, if that is
really you, tell me to come to you on the water."

29 Jesus said, "Come, Peter." Then Peter left the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. 30 But while Peter was
walking on the water, he saw the wind and the waves. He was afraid and began sinking into the water. He
shouted, "Lord, save me!" 31 Then Jesus caught Peter with his hand. He said, "Your faith is small. Why did you
doubt?"

32 After Peter and Jesus were in the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then the followers in the boat worshiped Jesus and
said, "You really are the Son of God."

Reflective Thought

Peter was brave to step out of the boat, but he lost focus and fell. Even good friends sometimes make mistakes or get scared.

Jesus didn't let Peter drown. A true friend is there to catch you when you fall, lifting you up so you can try again.

How can you be a good, supportive, and kind friend?

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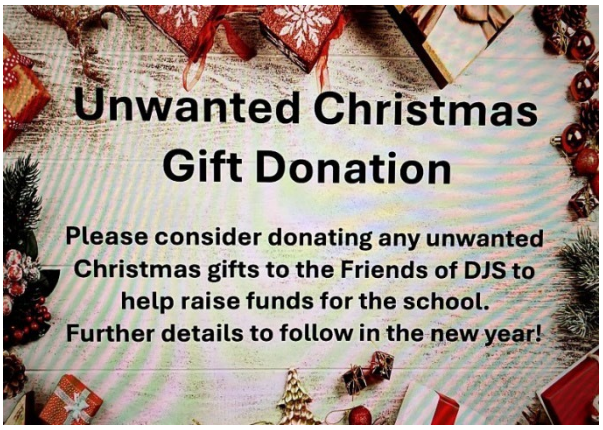
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DJS FRIENDS UPDATE - Friends of DJS had 17 parent/grandparent volunteers, alongside amazing child helpers from Years 3,4,5,6 and siblings who have left DJS and now at High School came back to support hosting the stalls. Thank You Everyone!

With incredible generosity of parents/grandparents and local businesses with prizes we made £1325.00

The Friends are now planning fun events for next year and if you have any unwanted gifts/toys/prizes after Christmas that need a new home, please consider DJS.

Our email is djsfriends00@gmail.com to talk directly to the Joint Chairs - Debbie (Matthew 5C) and Holly (Ben 6L).





PARKING – Please can I ask everyone to park respectfully by not blocking driveways, keeping footpaths clear for pedestrians, and ensuring crossing points remain safe—especially for our children.

AFTER SCHOOL - Please ensure that children of DJS and their younger siblings do not play on the tyres and play equipment at the end of the school day. As school staff are unable to supervise this, we want to avoid any risk of injury.

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 must 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*

Our current attendance rate last school year was **95.91%.** 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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<u>Please see the Norfolk County Council 2025/26 School Calendar for further details.</u>

December	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
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 – **School Children Only** 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	Happy New Year - Philippians 4
12th-16th	16th - Online Safety Workshop Parents 2-3.10pm	Light at the end of the tunnel - James 1:1-2
19th – 23rd	23rd - Online Safety Workshop Parents 2-3.10pm	Well-being - John 14:27
26th-30th	30th - Online Safety Workshop Parents 2-3.10pm	The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20: 1-17
February	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
2nd – 6th	5th – Online parents evening 4.30 pm to 7.30 pm 6th – Online Safety Workshop Parents 2-3.10pm 6th – School Disco – Years 3/4 5- 6pm, Years 5/6 6.15-7.30	Being grateful -1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
9th - 13th	10th - Online parents evening 3.30 pm to 6 pm	10th Preparing for Lent – Rev Marc How do different Christian denominations Celebrate Lent?
16th – 20th	Half-term	
23rd – 27th	23rd- 26th Year 5 Bikeability (further details to follow nearer the time)	Generous and Considerate -1 Timothy 6:18
March	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**

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2nd – 6th	6th – Cross Country Old Catton	Reap what you sow - Parable of the sower – Luke 8:1-15
8th-13th	13th – Mothers/Special person day shop	10th Collective Worship – Rev Marc Celebrating Women - 1 Timothy 5:2
16th – 20th	16th – 18th Year 4 Residential group 1 18th – 20th Year 4 Residential group 2	St Patrick's Day Global Recycling Day - Numbers 35:33-34
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	Easter Story – How do different Christian denominations Celebrate Easter?
April	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
13th – 17th	14th – Return to School	
May	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
4th-8th	4th – May Bank Holiday School closed 8th – School Disco – Years 3/4 5-6pm, Years 5/6 6.15-7.30	
11th-15th	11-14th SATS week Year 6 15th Year 4 Roman soldier visit	
25th – 29th	Half-term	
June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st-5th	1st – Return to school	
8th-12th	8th-10th Year 6 Eaton Vale trip	
15th-19th	19th - Father's/Special person day shop	
22nd-26th	22nd City Sports field events 23rd – City Sports track events 25th – City Sports field events	
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
6th – 10th	8th- 9th Transition Days	
13th – 17th	17th – Last day of the Year!	