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 15th January 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers, and Families,

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to Drayton CE VC Junior School for the start of a new term! It has been wonderful to see the school buzzing with energy again and to hear the laughter and chatter filling our classrooms and playgrounds.

A special warm welcome to all our new pupils and families joining us this term. We are excited to have you as part of our school community and look forward to getting to know you. We hope you will quickly feel at home and enjoy all the opportunities our school has to offer.

This term promises to be full of exciting learning experiences, new challenges, and opportunities for growth. Together, we will continue to nurture a positive, caring environment where every child can thrive.

Important Behaviour Reminder

We have recently received multiple reports of children throwing stones at each other on the way to and from school. One serious incident on Cator Road resulted in the panoramic roof of a car being smashed. This obviously caused significant distress to all involved and we want to avoid anything like this happening again.

While this situation has reached a positive resolution, thanks to parents working together, we want to prevent any future incidents. Please ensure children are monitored on their journey to and from school. If they walk alone, we ask that you speak with them about road safety and appropriate behaviour.

Please also note that behaviour outside of school is subject to the school's behaviour policy, especially if the child involved is identified as a pupil.

Bike Safety Reminder

If your child rides their bike to school, please make sure they do so safely. Wearing a helmet is essential—it can prevent up to 85% of brain injuries and 65% of facial injuries in the event of an accident.
Let's work together to keep everyone safe on their journey to and from school!

Attendance and Penalty Notices – What Parents Need to Know

I have been asked a number of questions recently relating to fixed penalty notices and unauthorised school absence. We want to make sure everyone understands how penalty notices work for school attendance:

- Only two penalty notices can be issued per parent, per child within a rolling 3-year period. This 3-year period starts from the date the first notice is issued.

Example:

If you receive a penalty notice in January 2025 and another in March 2026, that's the maximum allowed for that child within the 3-year window.

What happens if attendance issues continue?

If your child's attendance meets the national threshold (10 unauthorised absences within 10 school weeks) for a third time in that 3-year period, we cannot issue another penalty notice. Instead, the matter is escalated.

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In Norfolk, escalation means prosecution

If the threshold is met for a third time and two penalty notices have already been issued, the case may be referred for prosecution under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. This could lead to a criminal conviction and a fine of up to £2,500.

Summary Table

Breach	Action
1st time	Penalty Notice
2nd time	Penalty Notice
3rd time	Escalation – possible prosecution

We share this information to help everyone understand the importance of regular attendance and avoid these serious consequences. If you have any concerns or need support, please contact us—we're here to help.

Please also be aware that the school does not receive any money from fines issued to parents.

John Neenan - Headteacher

DJS Notices and Updates

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes



Perseverance - James 1:2-4

2 My brothers and sisters, you will have many kinds of trouble. But this
gives you a reason to be very happy.
3 You know that when your faith is tested, you learn to be patient in
suffering.
4 If you let that patience work in you, the end result will be good. You
will be mature and complete. You will be all that God wants you to
be.

Reflective Thought

This week's Bible verse reminds us of something very important: life can be hard sometimes. Schoolwork can feel tricky. Friendships don't always go smoothly. And there are moments when we feel like giving up. In the Bible, James says something surprising. He tells us that when we face problems, we shouldn't lose hope, because these hard times can help us grow.

COMMUNITY - 5:17 Coffee House **would like to support the parents of the school by offering an exclusive 10% discount on items in our Coffee House during set hours. The offer is available in the morning from 8:00am - 9:30am and in the afternoon from 3:00 - 5:00pm. Use code - DraytonJunior517-10**



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

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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 **95.22%.** 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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After School Tennis Club

National Tennis Association have been delivering tennis coaching at schools in Norfolk since 2004. The after school sessions are a great introduction to the game and many of the county's most successful players started in our after school clubs.

In after school club sessions pupils will develop footwork, coordination, ball and racket skills working through a structured curriculum.

Drayton Junior After School Tennis Club Details

Mondays - 5 weeks (12 Jan - 9 Feb)
Year 3-6
3:20- 4:05pm
Cost - £25

How to Enrol?
For more information and booking please click or visit the below link.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

These sessions fill up very quickly therefore it is important to book your place quickly, we operate a first come, first serve basis.

Once you have booked on our website you will receive a confirmation of your place.

If you have any questions regarding the tennis club please contact us:

email: schools@nationaltennis.org.uk

There are still a few spaces remaining in the after-school tennis club at Drayton Junior School. Open to all pupils in Years 3–6, no matter your ability — come along to learn new tennis skills with a professional coach while having loads of fun!

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

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	28th – Thorpe Woodlands Parents Meeting 3.20pm 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**
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**

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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!	