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 11th March 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

We hope you are all well and enjoying the start of spring. It has been a very busy and exciting few weeks in school, and we are pleased to share some important updates and celebrations with you.

Have Your Say: New Education White Paper Consultation

The Department for Education has recently published its new Schools White Paper, *Every Child Achieving and Thriving*, outlining the Government's long-term vision for education, including significant reforms to curriculum, SEND provision and wider childhood support. Every child achieving and thriving

Alongside the White Paper, a national consultation on proposed SEND reforms—*SEND reform: putting children and young people first*—is now open and will run until **18 May 2026**. Parents are strongly encouraged to take part and share their views. Your voices play a vital role in shaping policies that affect our children's futures. Commons Library

Link to the consultation:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/every-child-achieving-and-thriving

The Importance of Good Attendance

We would also like to highlight the continuing importance of good school attendance. In recent meetings with the Department for Education, data shared with us showed that:

- **Children with attendance of 95% or above are twice as likely to achieve good outcomes by the end of Key Stage 2** compared with children who have **5–15% absence**. These chances reduce even more as absence is increases to over 15%.

This underlines just how crucial regular attendance is for learning, confidence and long-term success.

Of course, we completely understand that children are unwell from time to time. When this happens, please let us know—and remember that we are able to administer prescribed medication and pain relief in school with parental consent to support pupils in returning as soon as they are well enough.

Health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities

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Supporting Children with Mobile Phone and WhatsApp Use

We are increasingly aware of the challenges that can arise from children's use of mobile phones and messaging apps such as WhatsApp. As a school, we are committed to educating pupils about safe and respectful online behaviour, including how to recognise and respond to cyber-bullying. However, we are not able to monitor what happens on children's phones outside of school, nor can we resolve disagreements that occur between pupils when they are at home. These matters fall under the responsibility of parents and carers. If issues that begin online do spill over into school life, we will absolutely support children and families—but it is essential that this starts as a **parent-led approach**. We kindly ask for your support in monitoring your child's phone use, talking to them about safe choices, and helping them navigate online communication responsibly.

Learning Highlights Since Half-Term

It has been wonderful to see so much enthusiastic learning taking place across the school since we returned from half-term. Here are just a few things we have been celebrating:

World Book Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating **World Book Day**. It was amazing to see so many children dressed as their favourite book characters, sharing stories, and embracing the joy of reading. The creativity and enthusiasm across the school made it a truly memorable day.

Science Week

This week, the whole school has been buzzing with experiments, investigations, and curiosity as we celebrate **British Science Week**. Children have been exploring everything from forces and habitats to chemical reactions and engineering challenges.

International Women's Day

We are thinking about **International Women's Day** and the inspiring women who have shaped history and those making an impact in the modern world. Children have been learning about scientists, activists, authors, explorers and many more—helping them see the difference one determined person can make

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to updating you on even more exciting opportunities and achievements in the weeks ahead.

John Neenan
Headteacher

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DJS Notices and Updates

BIKEABILITY:

A busy couple of weeks, which has seen almost 100 children complete either their level 1 or level 2 Bikeability.



FOOTBALL: Well-done to the Year 4 Girls football team who made it all the way to the Final!



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INSTAGRAM: Make sure you follow our instagram page for regular updates on class activities, learning, trips and more: DJS Instagram



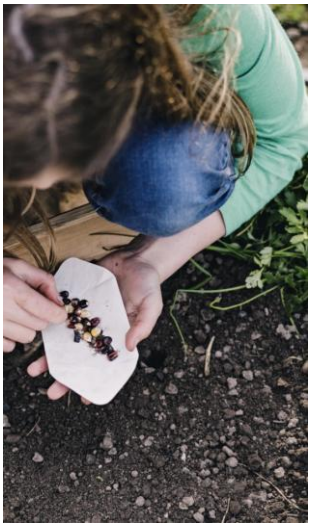
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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

Reap What You Sow – The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1–15)



Jesus Explains the Story About Seed

11 "This is what the story means: The seed is God's teaching. 12 Some people
are like the seed that fell beside the path. They hear God's teaching, but then
the devil comes and causes them to stop thinking about it. This keeps them
from believing it and being saved. 13 Others are like the seed that fell on rock.
That is like the people who hear God's teaching and gladly accept it. But they
don't have deep roots. They believe for a while. But when trouble comes, they
turn away from God.

14 "What about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the
people who hear God's teaching, but they let the worries, riches, and
pleasures of this life stop them from growing. So they never produce a
crop.[a] 15 And what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like
the people who hear God's teaching with a good, honest heart. They obey it
and patiently produce a good crop.

Reflective Thoughts

"What type of soil are you going to be?"
"What are you going to do to ensure you are good soil, how are you going to help others?"

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

Celebrating Women - 1 Timothy 5:2

2 Treat the older women like mothers. And treat the younger women with respect like sisters.



Reflective Thoughts

Take a quiet moment to think of one woman who has made a difference in your life.
What is one thing she has taught you?
How might you show appreciation today?

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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

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.

BREAKTIME SNACK – please provide your child with a healthy snack for morning break at 11.15 am.

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 **95.51%.** 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.

March	Activity	Collective Worship Theme
9th-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

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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	Passover - Exodus 12:24-27
20th – 24th		22nd Earth Day 2026 23rd - St George's Day - Courage
27th – 1st		Kind and Generous - Matthew 5:41
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	Weather to Weather - 1 Corinthians 13:3
11th-15th	11-14th SATS week Year 6 15th Year 4 Roman soldier visit	Our Sun – God's Creation (Sun Safety)
18th – 22nd	22nd – After School Cinema – Raising Funds for The Dog's Trust – Pupil Organised	Charity - 1 John 3:17-18
25th – 29th	Half-term	
June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st-5th	1st – Return to school	What is 'The Holy Trinity'?
8th-12th	8th-10th Year 6 Eaton Vale trip	The right skills at the right time - Zechariah 4:10
15th-19th	17th – Year 3 & 4 Sports Day – 11 am 18th – Year 5 & 6 Sports Day – 11 am 19th - Father's/Special person day shop	Being wise - Proverbs 3:13
22nd-26th	22nd City Sports field events 23rd – City Sports track events 25th – City Sports field events	TBC
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
6th – 10th	8th- 9th Transition Days	TBC
13th – 17th	17th – Last day of the Year!	TBC