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 4th September 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers & families

Welcome back to all our families, and a heartfelt welcome to those joining Drayton CE VC Junior School for the first time. As we begin this new term, we are guided by the words from **Philippians 2:3–4: *"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."*** These words sit at the heart of our school vision:

Cherishing each individual
Aiming for everyone to flourish
Relationships rooted in care and respect
Embracing collaboration and compassion

At Drayton, we are committed to fostering a community rooted in humility and respect. We strive to cultivate an environment where every child flourishes—academically, socially, spiritually, morally and culturally. As we welcome both returning and new pupils, we look forward to a year shaped by kindness, collaboration and a shared commitment to caring for one another.

The dedicated school staff have been working hard over the holidays and during our training days to ensure that the classes and the school are fully ready for the year ahead. I am very grateful for the team we have here and for all they do. I am also very pleased to welcome two new members to our school team this year: Miss Parsons and Mr Clarke, who have joined our teaching staff.

There are many exciting opportunities ahead, with a range of events already booked into the school calendar. The children have been hearing all about their topics and themes for this term, and there is a real sense of curiosity and enthusiasm across the school. Don't forget to visit our website to see what your child is learning about and to explore the curriculum in more detail.

There is a national focus on whole-school attendance, throughout the year we will keep you informed about how our school is performing. We fully understand that children become ill and that, at times, family circumstances can be unexpected or challenging. Please be assured that we will always do our best to support you. To work in partnership with all families, we will contact you if your child's attendance drops to **93%**, as we want to prevent pupils from becoming *persistently absent*, which is defined as **90% or below**. Maintaining good attendance is vital for learning, wellbeing and long-term progress, and early communication helps us work together to address any emerging concerns. With regard to term-time holidays, I am not in a position to authorise leave except in the most exceptional circumstances. We appreciate your understanding and continued support in ensuring your child attends school regularly and punctually.

Over the summer, we were fortunate to have a number of individuals who completed work around the school grounds. They have very helpfully decorated the external walls of the swimming pool, which are now a lovely Drayton blue, giving the area a fresh and welcoming feel. They also cleared the weeds and overgrown plants from the pond area, transforming it into a much more inviting and useable space. I want to extend my sincere thanks for their hard work and to say what a fantastic job they have done.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

John Neenan

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DJS Notices and Updates

MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES – We understand that many of our children will have a mobile phone. This may be for a number of reasons, including because they walk to and from school alone. When in school, children will be expected to place their mobile phone in a sealed container for the duration of the school day. These will be stored in the Headteacher's office and collected at the end of the day.

In line with statutory DfE guidance, smart watches that have the ability to send and/or receive notifications or messages via mobile phone networks, or the ability to record audio and/or video, are not permitted to be worn by pupils. Therefore, children with such devices will be required to place them in the containers as well.

NEW CERTIFICATES 26/27– We are introducing a set of new certificates, from September, to celebrate the children's achievements. These will be linked to both attendance and behaviour. Attendance certificates will be awarded at the end of every term, with an additional certificate presented at the end of the year. Children with 100% attendance at the end of the year will also be awarded an attendance badge which they can wear to school on their uniform.



Behaviour certificates will be awarded at the end of each half-term, the children will also be awarded a gold star which they can also wear to school on their uniform.

UNIFORM – PE kits should only be worn on the days children have PE and not everyday unless there is exceptional circumstances. Please can PE shorts be at least mid-thigh to just above the knee in length.



ATTENDANCE – *Please note:*

Our attendance last school year was **95.11%.** If your child's individual attendance drops below **93%**, we will send out letters to offer support and see how we can help improve this. At **90%** you will be invited to a support meeting.

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.

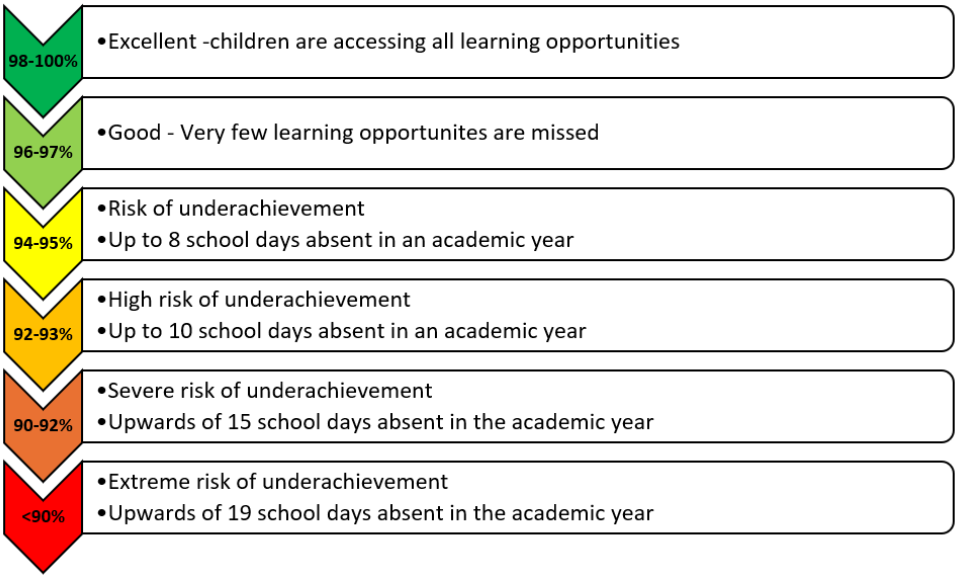
We understand that illness happens and can't be helped, but it is vitally important that children attend as soon as they can. We are happy to support with medication; please speak to Mrs. Terrington or Mrs. Hastings in the office.

*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*

For the school's Attendance Policy, please follow this link: **Attendance**

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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**

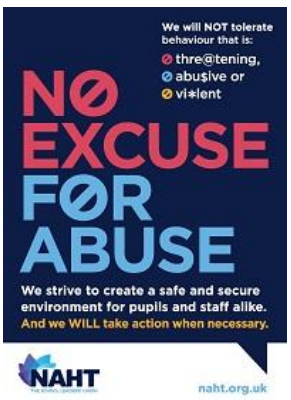
CURRICULUM – Don't forget to keep up-to-date with what your children are learning, see our website for the latest **Curriculum Maps**.

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.

STAFF – Please treat all staff with the respect they deserve. There is never any reason to be threatening, abusive or violent. This applies to all forms of communication, including in-person conversations, phone calls and written messages.



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Please see the Norfolk County Council 2026/27 School Calendar for further details.

September	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 4th	1st & 2nd - Inset Days for Staff Thursday 3rd – Children return to School	New Beginnings
7th – 11th		Hello and Welcome- Focusing on Kindness
14th – 18th	17th – Internet Safety Assembly with MP Alice MacDonald	Democracy – Focusing fairness and respect
21st – 24th	21st – Year 6 Child Measurement Program 21st – Flu Vaccinations 24th - MacMillan Coffee Morning	The story of Gideon - Bravery
28th – 2nd	2nd – School Disco Year 3/4 5pm to 6pm & Year 5/6 6.15pm to 7.30pm	Sukkot – Leviticus 23:39-43
October	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
5th – 9th		Remove the wood from your own eye – Matthew 7:3-5
12th – 16th	13th & 15th - Parents consultation evenings, in person, times TBC 14th – Year 4 Bug Parc Visit	Hannah the harvest mouse
19th – 23rd	Thursday 22nd – Last day of the half-term	Setting goals and overcoming challenges - Everest
November	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
2nd – 6th	2nd – Return to school 5th – Year 3 Norwich Castle Visit	Joy in celebrations
9th – 13th	12th – September 2027 Intake Open Evening	Truce – 2 Thessalonians 3:16
23rd – 27th	26th – Choir performing at Drayton Christmas Lights Switch On.	Pack up your troubles
December	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
14th – 18th	18th – Last day of term	
January	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
4th – 8th	5th - Return to school	
25th – 29th	29th – School Disco Year 3/4 5pm to 6pm & Year 5/6 6.15pm to 7.30pm	
February	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
8th – 12th	12th – Last day of half-term	

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22nd - 26th	22nd – Return to school	
March	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 5th	2nd & 4th - Parents consultation evenings, online, times TBC	
22nd – 26th	25th – Parent drop in to see children's work 3.15pm to 4pm 25th – Last day of term	
April	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
12th – 16th	13th - Return to school	
May	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
10th – 14th	10th to 13th – SATS 14th – Year 6 Rockets Day	
17th – 21st	17th to 19th – Year 6 Eaton Vale Residential 21st - School Disco Year 3/4 5pm to 6pm & Year 5/6 6.15pm to 7.30pm	
24th – 28th	28th – Last day of half-term	
June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
7th – 11th	7th – Return to school	
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
19th – 23rd	21st – Last day of the year!	