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 17th APRIL 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Welcome Back – Summer Term Update

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter break and enjoyed spending time together as families. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school and to see how settled and happy they are as we begin the summer term.

There has been much excitement this week now that we are able to make full use of the school field once again. The children have thoroughly enjoyed having the extra space for play at break and lunchtime, and it has been wonderful to see them so active and engaged outdoors.

It was lovely to welcome our Chair of Governors for lunchtime yesterday. Mrs Swann had the opportunity to observe the children transitioning from class to playtime, on to lunch, and back again. She spent time speaking with our wonderful Midday Supervisory Assistants and many children, all of whom she described as lovely.

Our governors play such an important and pivotal role in our school, which often goes unseen or unrecognised. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our governors for their continued support and dedication.

Staffing Update

We have some news to share regarding staffing for the next academic year. At the end of this academic year, Mr George Canham will be leaving us. He is spreading his wings and moving on to Aurora Ryefields School in Derby. While this is exciting professional news for Mr Canham, he will be truly missed by pupils and staff alike. Aurora Ryefields School will be very lucky to have him, and we thank him sincerely for the dedication and care he has shown during his time with us.

We have been actively recruiting to replace Mr Canham and will be conducting interviews over the next few weeks. This is a significant task, as we have received over 50 applications for the role, which reflects both the strength of the position and interest in our school community. The post will initially be for one year, as we anticipate having two classes entering Year 3 in September 2027.

September 2026 Intake

We are pleased to confirm that we will be welcoming three Year 3 classes this coming September. We currently have 71 children confirmed for the intake and hope this number may grow slightly over the coming months.

For families who already have children in the school with younger siblings joining us, we would like to share details of our upcoming transition arrangements.

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Transition Arrangements

A transition evening for our September intake will take place on:

🗓️ Tuesday 30th June
🕔 5:00pm

This event will take place prior to the children's transition days on 8th and 9th July.

The evening will include:

- A short introductory talk from myself and Ms Cope, Deputy Headteacher
- An opportunity to meet the Year 3 team
- Time to visit the classrooms
- Availability of our SENCo, Mrs Lamb, for brief conversations

We look forward to welcoming families and supporting a smooth and positive transition into junior school life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive term ahead.

John Neenan
Headteacher

DJS Notices and Updates

WORLD EARTH DAY

Children in our Eco Council are very much looking forward to taking part in a World Earth Day celebration at Cawston Primary School, led and supported by the Diocese of Norwich. The event will bring together pupils from 20 other schools across the diocese, providing a wonderful opportunity for the children to come together to share ideas, celebrate environmental responsibility, and deepen their understanding of how we can all care for God's world.

CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Our Christmas card sales have raised a fantastic £462 for the school, thank you to Mr Silvester and the team for the organisation of this. We look forward to being creative again next year!

CARE HOME VISIT:

It was fantastic to welcome visitors from one of our local care homes towards the end of last half term. Both the visitors and the children had a wonderful time, sharing experiences and creating special intergenerational memories together.

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BAKING:

Great to see some of our Year 4 children learning cooking skills, I was lucky enough to be a taste tester!



SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS:

An excited and energetic team represented us in the annual Sportshall Athletics event at the UEA this week. 10/10 for effort and performance, achieving second place overall out of twelve schools.



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BULLYING:

As a school, we take any accusations of bullying very seriously. As a parent myself, I would never want to think of my own children being bullied in their schools, and equally, I do not want anyone in our school community to experience this.

This week, we have been focusing on promoting kindness and developing a clear understanding of what bullying is, how to recognise it, and what to do if it occurs. During Collective Worship, we have used a series of videos to support discussion and encourage the children to reflect on their actions and how they treat others ensuring that everyone can flourish.

What is Bullying?

What to do about... Bullying!

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

Ephesians 4 – Show Kindness

29 When you talk, don't say anything bad. But say the good things that people need—whatever will help them grow stronger. Then what you say will be a blessing to those who hear you. 30 And don't make the Holy Spirit sad. God gave you his Spirit as proof that you belong to him and that he will keep you safe until the day he makes you free. 31 Never be bitter, angry, or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. 32 Be kind and loving to each other. Forgive each other the same as God forgave you through Christ.

Reflective Thoughts

Sometimes kindness is easy – like helping a friend or sharing a smile.
But sometimes kindness is hard – especially when someone has upset us.
This verse reminds us that kindness isn't just a feeling.
It's a choice we make, even when it's difficult.



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.

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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 **95.43%.** 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.

April	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
20th – 24th		22nd Earth Day 2026 23rd - St George's Day - Courage
27th – 1st	1st - Year 4 Roman soldier visit	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	Our Sun – God's Creation

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		(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