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 July 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic year this has been. There has been so much happening both in and outside of the school, and it has been wonderful to see our pupils grow, learn and flourish.

First of all, I want to thank all of the staff here at DJS, who are an amazing team to work with. Everything we have achieved over the last five terms—including such a positive SIAMS inspection report—is down to the hard work, love and dedication of the staff in this school. It is these wonderful people who support, encourage and guide our children to flourish.

Well done to all our Year 6 pupils. I wish them the very best as they head off to their respective high schools for a new challenge. It has been a pleasure getting to know them over the past five terms, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. Their Year 6 performance was a truly wonderful way to end their time here at DJS, and my thanks go to the Year 6 team for arranging such a fantastic experience.

It has also been a joy getting to know our new Year 3 pupils, who will officially join us in September. The transition days went very well, and it was lovely to see not only the Year 2 pupils but also our current Year 3, 4 and 5 pupils stepping confidently into their new year groups with their new teachers and support staff. A very successful couple of days.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to the DJS Friends for everything they have done, and continue to do, to support our school. This year, they have raised a significant amount of money, helping to fund trips, equipment, visitors, books, the swimming pool, and much more. Their support is invaluable and truly appreciated.

A massive thank you to all our school Governors. This is an unpaid role and one which takes time and dedication. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and committed board helping to shape the strategic direction of the school. I was asked a very interesting question recently about school finances and how we compare to Mile Cross Primary. I was also asked how they are able to offer things that we can't or don't. This is a really valid question, and one I am very happy to answer.

Essentially, it comes down to the Government's funding model, particularly in relation to deprivation funding, the percentage of pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium or Free School Meals, and the number of SEN pupils on roll who receive additional funding.

To answer this, I have included some information for you. All of this is in the public domain and can be accessed at any time.

Headline figures *from submitted LA budget documents for 2026/27*

- **Number on roll:** Mile Cross **415;** Drayton **330**;
- **Total budget share:** Mile Cross **£2,938,826;** Drayton **£1,741,471**
- **Simple budget per pupil:** Mile Cross ≈ **£7,083;** Drayton ≈ **£5,281**
- **Net per-pupil gap:** approx. **£1,802** (Mile Cross higher)

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Key drivers of the gap

1. **Deprivation / FSM / IDACI:** Mile Cross **£498,299;** Drayton **£66,480**
2. **EAL funding:** Mile Cross: c. **£49,868;** Drayton: c. **£8,558**
3. **SEN / High Needs:** Mile Cross: **£85,887;** Drayton: **£22,117**
4. **Resource Base Funding and Top Up Funding:** Mile Cross: **£132,032;** Drayton: **£0**

Essentially, there is a funding gap of around **£1.2 million** between the two schools, which means they cannot be directly compared in terms of what each is able to offer.

I hope this helps to answer some of the questions that have been raised and gives parents a clearer understanding of why Mile Cross Primary may be able to provide certain things that we cannot. It's important to stress that this is only a brief look at the headline figures. I have not compared how each school allocates its budget across areas such as staffing, facilities, curriculum, or resources.

School budgets are complex and constantly shifting, and recent changes at both central and local government level have made the landscape even more challenging. What I can say with confidence is that we are, and will continue to be, fully committed to doing the very best we can with the resources we have.

Finally, I want to thank all our families for their continued support throughout the year. Your encouragement, partnership and trust make an enormous difference, and we are truly grateful. I wish you all a restful, joyful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back when school returns on **Thursday 3rd September**.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

John Neenan

DJS Notices and Updates

SUMMER CAMP - This summer holiday Next Thing Education are running an exciting 'Summer Tech and WOW camp' at the school for ages 5 to 11 from **27th July to 7th August**. There are limited funded places free to eligible families on free school meals and these places go live at 2pm on 21st June. For more information and to book, please see **https://pbbl.uk/42JC4GX** or visit **www.nextthing.education**.

SCIENCE CHALLENGE - Y3 summer holiday science challenge. Use your new toy car and your physics skills somewhere in a chain reaction sequence. If you are successful, you could send a video clip to the school office clearly labelled Science Challenge. Have fun! From Mrs Woollsey and the science ambassadors.



Link to an example below.
https://www.science-sparks.com/engineer-a-great-summer-with-holiday-makers/

UK SAFER INTERNET CENTRE – The holidays are a good opportunity to talk to your children about their online friendships, the sites they use and encourage best practices online. Why not:

- Watch Red and Murphy talk to Freddie and Alisha about asking before they watch videos online
- Read Digiduck's Big Decision and help educate children aged 3 – 7 about how to be a good friend online
- Take the 'Be the change' quiz and help 8 – 13 year olds to explore how children and young people share images and videos online
- Have an adventure with Kara, Winston and the SMART Crew and help them to make SMART online decisions

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NEW CERTIFICATES – 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.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – Collective Worship Themes

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

2 Corinthians 4:9 - God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed.



In the Bible, St Paul wrote to his friends in Corinth to help them stay strong.

"We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We often don't know what to do, but we don't give up." (2 Corinthians 4:8)

Reflective Thought

If you saw a friend who felt 'defeated' or 'hurt' today, how could you help them show resilience?

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*

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Our current attendance rate last school year was **95.11%.** 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

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

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.

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

July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
13th – 17th	17th – Last day of the Year! 17th – Year 6 Leaver Church Service 9.30am	Moving on
September	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 4th	1st & 2nd - Inset Days for Staff Thursday 3rd – Children return to School	New Beginnings

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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 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	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	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	
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	

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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!	