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 30th September 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:



Dear Parents, Carers & families

As we move further into the term, there is already so much to celebrate within our school community. Please do take a moment to look at the calendar below, as we have added a number of exciting events that we would love you to be part of.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – Thank You

A huge thank you to our wonderful Year 5 team for organising a brilliant Macmillan Coffee Morning. We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations from families and for the continued support of DJS Friends. Your kindness truly makes a difference.

Learning Highlights

It has been fantastic to see so much enthusiastic learning taking place across the school already this year. A particular highlight has been the visit from the *Wonder Dome*, which brought an immersive space experience to support Year 5's *Stargazers* topic. The children were captivated, and it has sparked some brilliant curiosity and discussion in classrooms. The children have also enjoyed their PE Lessons this week with Master Wayne SESMA



Sad News

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the death of Sam Jinks, known to many of us as *Titus the Roman Soldier*.

Over many years, Sam brought history to life at Drayton Junior School, inspiring children with his passion, humour, and generosity. He was a truly lovely human being who gave so much to our community, and he will be deeply missed.

We have not shared this news directly with the children, as we feel it is important for parents to address this in a way that is right for their own families. Supporting information can be found via this link: Talking about death and dying with children

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this very difficult time.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Mr John Neenan

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DJS Notices and Updates

FOOD BANK and LINK TO HOPE APPEAL –
If you are able to donate, please see the list below of helpful items for the **Link to Hope Appeal**:

Personal Items

- Soap
- Flannel
- Shampoo
- Safety razors
- Hairbrush/comb





Useful Items

- Pen/pencils
- Pencil sharpener/rubber
- Drawing/writing paper
- Tape measure
- Mug
- Candles with holder / tealights

Fun Items

- Playing cards
- Skipping rope, yoyo, etc.
- Travel-size dominoes, etc.
- Sweets/chocolate (best before 2027)

Any other donations for the **Food Bank** are also very welcome. These will be delivered before the half-term holiday. Please bring all donations into school by **Friday 16th October. Thank you in advance for your support.**

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP-

28th to 2nd September/October 2026

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

Festival of Shelters – Sukkot – Leviticus 23:39-43

God told Moses to instruct the Israelites to celebrate the Festival of Shelters beginning on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. This special festival would last seven days, with a holy gathering on the first day where no work was to be done. For seven days the people were to bring offerings to the Lord, and on the eighth day they were to hold another sacred meeting and rest again. God explained that these festivals were His appointed times, when the people were to bring their gifts and offerings alongside their regular Sabbath observances.



When the harvest was gathered, the Israelites were to celebrate by taking good fruit and branches from palm, poplar, and willow trees, rejoicing before the Lord for seven days. Each year they were to live in temporary shelters to remember how God made their ancestors live in tents when He brought them out of Egypt. God wanted future generations to understand His care and provision.

Reflective Thought

Sukkot honours simple shelter and food. What everyday blessing are you thankful for?

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Drayton C of E Junior School

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ATTENDANCE –

Our current school attendance is: **96.43%**
Our school 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 have noticed an increase in the number of children who arrive via the school office in the mornings as they arrive at school after the gates close at 8.45am. We understand that at times parents get caught in traffic but would be grateful if you could ensure that your child arrives before 8.45am to avoid the disruption late arrivals cause.

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 you with medication; please speak to Mrs. Terrington or Mrs. Hastings in the office.

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

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



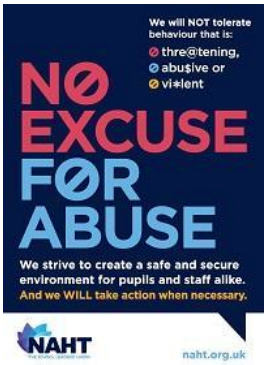
PARKING – Please can I ask everyone to park respectfully by not blocking driveways, keeping footpaths clear for pedestrians, and ensuring crossing points remain safe—especially for our children.

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. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT IF YOUR CHILD REQUIRES A SCHOOL MEAL THAT THESE ARE ORDERED BEFORE 11AM EACH FRIDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THIS ALSO APPLIES IF YOUR CHILD IS ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS, WE ARE EXPERIENCING A NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ARE EXPECTING SCHOOL LUNCHES BUT THESE HAVE NOT BEEN ORDERED BY PARENTS AT HOME.**



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

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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.

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

September	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
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**
4th – 9th	4th (SUNDAY) - Pet's Service at St Margaret's Church - 10.30 am 9th – Year 4 Maths Cafe - Parents invited - After drop off in the Hall	Remove the wood from your own eye – Matthew 7:3-5
12th – 16th	**Foodbank and Shoe Box Appeal Collection** 13th & 15th - Parents consultation evenings, in person 14th – Year 4 Bug Parc Visit	Hannah the harvest mouse
19th – 23rd	21st - Individual school photos 22nd – Last day of the half-term	Setting goals and overcoming challenges - Everest
November	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
2nd – 6th	**Sock Collection Week - Socks for the homeless - St Martins Housing Trust** 2nd – Return to school 5th – Year 3 Norwich Castle Visit 6th – Year 6 Maths Cafe - Parents invited - After drop off in the Hall	Joy in celebrations
9th – 13th	12th – September 2027 Intake Open Evening	Truce – 2 Thessalonians 3:16
16th – 20th	**Chocolate Collection for Christmas Tombola - All donations welcome - Please drop off at the office**	Pack up your troubles
23rd – 27th	25th – Choir performing at Drayton Christmas Lights Switch On. 27th – Year 3 Maths Cafe - Parents invited - After drop off in the Hall	
December	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
30th – 4th	30th – iRock Autumn Concert - 9 am 4th – Year 5 Maths Cafe - Parents invited - After drop off in the Hall 4th – Christmas Fair - 3.15 School Hall	
7th – 11th	9th – Years 3, 4 & 5 - Christmas Church Service - 9.30 at St Margaret's 10th – Year 6 - Christmas Church Service - Parents of Performers welcome - 9.30 at St Margaret's	
14th – 18th	15th – Year 4 Christmas Performance - 6 pm 16th – Year 4 Christmas Performance - 9.15 18th – Last day of term 20th – Carols by Candlelight - 6.30 pm - St Margaret's	
January	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**

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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	
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 11th – Year 4 - Outdoor Adventurous Activity Day - Haubois	
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
19th – 23rd	21st – Last day of the year!	