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 6th November 2026

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

Headteacher's Note:

Dear Parents, Carers & families

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break and enjoyed some quality time with family and friends.

The new half term is already well underway, and there is plenty happening across the school. We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Maths Cafés over the coming weeks, as well as a number of exciting educational visits and enrichment opportunities. Our Year 3 children have already enjoyed a visit to Norwich Castle, where they were able to bring their learning to life through hands-on experiences and exploration.

We also have some exciting visitors planned for our Year 5 pupils, who will be taking part in the Puzzle Pod experience delivered by **Raise Kids Work**. This engaging and interactive programme encourages teamwork, problem-solving and communication skills through a series of immersive challenges. This is being kindly funded by the **Diocese of Norwich** as a thank you for my work on the Diocese Board of Education.

Please see the calendar below for a more comprehensive list of what we have going on or booked in.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening before the break. We hope you found the meetings useful and that they provided a valuable insight into your child's learning, progress and next steps. If you were unable to attend, or were unable to make your appointment on the evening, please do try to attend the next round of meetings in the spring term. Subject to arrangements remaining unchanged, these will take place online.

Finally, I would like to remind families about the importance of children attending the full school day. We understand that it is not always possible to arrange appointments outside school hours; however, we have noticed an increasing number of children being collected early on a regular basis. Every lesson matters, and arriving late or leaving early can mean that children miss important learning opportunities and experiences. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we kindly ask that children remain in school for the entirety of the school day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and successful half term together.

Kindest regards and best wishes,

Mr John Neenan

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DJS Notices and Updates

YEAR 4 BUG PARK TRIP:

The Bug Park was AMAZING!!

We explored the wonders of invertebrates.

We were fascinated by the leaf cutter ants which were travelling all around the ant room in tubes on their expedition to find leaves. We tried to find the queen but we couldn't. Apparently, she is the size of a mouse!

In the handling room we held Madagascar hissing cockroaches, giant millipedes, stick insects and enormous albino snails. At the butterfly house our friend got a butterfly on their head. It was so hot in there. Butterflies only live 9–10 days.

Everybody loved the play area, especially the bouncy pillow. We would like Mr Neenan to install one on the playground!

Joey & India

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING:

This event managed to raise £857.48 for this amazing charity. Thank you all for your generosity and kind donations. It was lovely to see so many families attending. Well done Year 5!



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CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION COMPETITION:



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP-

2nd to 6th November 2026

Collective Worship Theme or Key Question

The Joy of Celebrations

The Bible encourages us to celebrate and share in the joy of other and ourselves.

Imagine entering a hall filled with the aroma of freshly baked treats, upbeat music, and cheerful laughter.

- What is your favourite event of the entire year?
- How does it feel when everyone gathers together to celebrate?

Across our planet, communities pause to share joy, eat special meals, and show kindness to neighbours.

'We may have different customs and traditions, but the joy of coming together belongs to every one of us.'



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SPORTING SUCCESS:
I would like to congratulate all the children who have represented the school so positively in recent sporting events. We have celebrated success across our football teams and were pleased to secure a runners-up position in the recent cross-country competition. What has impressed me most, however, is the enthusiasm shown by so many children. Seeing them participate with confidence, determination and a smile on their faces is what school sport is all about.

ATTENDANCE –
Our current school attendance is: **96.34%**
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

THE RED LION: Is hosting a Pokémon card show on 28th November, raising money for Ambers Army, please see the poster for details:



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**.

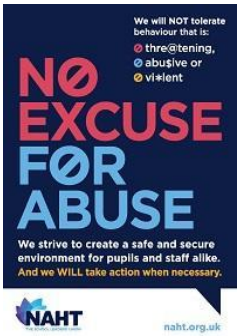
SCHOOL DINNERS - please continue to book school lunches via the School Money System. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT IF YOUR CHILD REQUIRES A SCHOOL MEAL THAT THESE ARE ORDERED BEFORE 11AM EACH FRIDAY FOR THE FOLLOWING**

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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.



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.

November	Activity	Collective Worship Theme
2nd – 6th	**Sock Collection - Socks for the homeless - St Martins Housing Trust - Please bring to the office or Mr Neenan** 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	**Sock Collection - Socks for the homeless - St Martins Housing Trust - Please bring to the office or Mr Neenan** 12th – September 2027 Intake Open Evening	Truce – 2 Thessalonians 3:16
16th – 20th	20th – Reverend Marc to collect socks and attend Collective Worship	Pack up your troubles
23rd – 27th	25th – Choir performing at Drayton Christmas Lights Switch On. 27th – **Whole school non-uniform day.** **Chocolate donations on the day are welcome. These will be used by the Friends of DJS towards the Christmas Fayre. All donations are very welcome.**	Two people are better off than one – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 
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	Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows of Mary
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	The Shepherds account of the Nativity
14th – 18th	15th – Year 4 Christmas Performance - 6 pm 16th – Year 4 Christmas Performance - 9.15am 18th – Last day of term 20th – Carols by Candlelight - 6.30 pm - St Margaret's	Christmas Around the World
January	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
4th – 8th	5th - Return to school	New beginnings and New Year's Traditions
11th – 15th	12th – East Anglian Air Ambulance – CPR Training Year 6	Parable of the sower – Matthew 13:1-23
18th – 22nd		Power of the tongue – James 3:3-6
25th – 29th	29th – School Disco Year 3/4 5pm to 6pm & Year 5/6 6.15pm to 7.30pm	Parable of the wise and foolish builders – Matthew 7:27- 27
February	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 5th		History of the pretzel

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8th – 12th	12th – Last day of half-term	Easier isn't always easy
22nd - 26th	22nd – Return to school	Do not despise the day of small beginnings – Zechariah
March	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
1st – 5th	2nd & 4th - Parents consultation evenings, online, times TBC	TBC
22nd – 26th	25th – Parent drop in to see children's work 3.15pm to 4pm 25th – Last day of term	TBC
April	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
12th – 16th	13th - Return to school	TBC
May	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
10th – 14th	10th to 13th – SATS 14th – Year 6 Rockets Day	TBC
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	TBC
24th – 28th	28th – Last day of half-term	TBC
June	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
7th – 11th	7th – Return to school 11th – Year 4 - Outdoor Adventurous Activity Day - Haubois	TBC
July	**Activity**	**Collective Worship Theme**
5th – 9th	7th & 8th – Transitions Days (Drayton and Taverham Area)	TBC
19th – 23rd	21st – Last day of the year!	TBC