

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Newsletter – 31st January 2025



'I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding.' Philippians 1:9

Dear parents and carers,

Wow, what excitement last week with our champion public speakers at Peterhouse College, Cambridge. We are so proud of you all! Well done to Luna for winning the Year 3/4 competition and to Darya who was runner up. As a team, Luna, Darya, Alice and Leon each scored so highly that they were a very close second to the overall school winner. Brilliant! What a fantastic opportunity this was, from our school competition all the way through to the final. It was arranged by another head teacher from the CB23 group of schools. We are very lucky to be part of this support network.

I do enjoy Friday mornings in school. St Edmund Class is always a hub of activity, counting house points, setting up the hall and then a still, calm atmosphere prevails across the school as Celebration Collective Worship begins. Sitting watching and listening to our Year 6 leaders taking us through all the reasons to celebrate for the week is such a joy and so good for them to have the chance to stand up and speak in public. Well done to Michael and Ian for last week and then Buddy and Erica today.

I hope you enjoy reading your child's class news to keep you up to date with their learning and other activities. This is a full newsletter, so maybe make a brew before sitting down to read it.

Have a happy weekend.

Kind regards,
Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



St Julian class

Reception: In Reception we have been reading the lovely story 'Zog' by Julia Donaldson. We have drawn our very own dragons and written sentences to describe them. In Maths, we have been learning number through songs such as '5 little speckled frogs'. We are also working very hard to form our numbers correctly so please help your child with this at home too. We are making fantastic progress in our reading, please remember to listen to your child read at least 5 times a week so they are in with a chance of winning the special chair for the week and to get some house points!

Year 1/2: The children seem to be enjoying their new term's topic based on Medieval Magic. The classroom castle is taking shape, and the children are enjoying decorating it and learning the formation of brick patterns in Art. In English, the children are in the midst of writing their own version of Cinderella and there are some great monkey, cats, dogs, rabbits and many other type of creature stories taking place. In Maths we have just moved onto our next units, Year 2 multiplication and division and Year 1 addition and subtraction within 20. It is the Sumdog competition next week, let's beat the rest of the school!



St Etheldreda class

The children have finished writing and editing their poems inspired by poetry by Grace Nichols. They have written up neat versions to showcase their best handwriting, and have decorated these with some lovely illustrations. We are now beginning to look at Greek Myths. We will read a selection, learn about all their features, and then write our own. We are still working on multiplication and division in maths and will be moving onto area soon. A few of the children are regularly not completing their comprehension and/or spelling homework and this is having a negative impact on their ability to join in our weekly comprehension and/or spelling sessions. It really makes a difference when this homework is completed on time. Let us know if we can support you in any way if your child is struggling to get these tasks done. There is a new SumDog competition next week. Please encourage your child to take part as a fun way to practise their maths.



St Edmund class

In history St Edmund Class have been learning about the Ancient Greek city states of Athens and Sparta, finding out about the differences between the lives of the citizens of both cities. In maths we are multiplying and dividing fractions. As a class we are reading 'Who let the Gods out', which we are enjoying. We are starting to write our own Greek story. The children have been learning about incarnation in R.E; looking at extracts of the Bible thinking about our big question "Was Jesus the messiah?". A reminder that year 5/6 children need a yoghurt pot for Tuesday.

Reminders

A few (polite) reminders to help your child in school and to keep everyone looking smart:

- Please help your child to read 5 times a week and support them to complete homework on time - these are an important part of their education and enable them to be more successful and confident in their learning in school
- Trainers only to be worn on PE days
- Hair to be tied back in a pony tail or plaits
- Fruit for break time snack
- No nuts

Design and Technology

Half of KS2 have started their food technology unit this term, making soups. They have worked hard evaluating soups, learning safe preparation techniques, designing and cooking soups. It has been lovely to see how willing they've all been to try new flavours and experiment with different combinations. They created some delicious soups and I'm looking forward to seeing what the rest of KS2 produce after half term.

Mrs Dunlop



Public speaking competition

Last week Luna (year 3), Darya (year 4), Alice (year 5) and Leon (year 6) represented the school at the CB23 public speaking competition grand final at Peterhouse College in Cambridge. All four children gave well thought out, engaging speeches, and they delivered these speeches wonderfully; using loud, clear speaking voices, and adding appropriate gestures and expression to their words. The high standard of their speeches was reflected in the results. Luna came first in the year 3/4 competition, with Darya runner up. Alice and Leon also scored very highly as Dry Drayton came a very close second in the whole school category (where the scores of each contestant from each school are added up). A huge well done to these children.



Sumdog competition

The new Sumdog competition starts today, please do encourage your child(ren) to take part.

Swimming reminder

If they wish, Mrs Scarrow's group can bring lightweight clothing to swimming next week for water safety.

Thank you to Mr Hacker for helping out with transport for the swimming sessions.

An advertisement for DRY DRAYTON P.H. CARS. The background is green. At the top, it says "DRY DRAYTON P.H. CARS" in white text with a right-pointing arrow. Below that, it lists contact information: "m / Phil Hacker 07799 144 080 or SMS text", "t / 01954 782 089", and "e / drydraytonph@aol.com w / www.phcars.co.uk". There are four icons in a row: an airplane, a road sign, a car, and a downward arrow. At the bottom, it says "No journey too far. Polite & friendly service. Competitive rates" and "Local / Long distance / Airports / Contracts welcome".

Children's Mental Health Week and Feel Good Friday

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. We will be thinking about wellbeing and mental health over the course of the week and to mark the end of the week we will be having a 'Feel Good Friday - Dress to Express' on Friday 7th February. We will spend the day doing some special activities and the children can wear an outfit to school which expresses themselves. This could be a fancy outfit, a casual outfit, a club uniform...whatever they like...(as long as it is suitable and safe for a busy day in school, so sensible shoes and so on should be maintained please). The fun will continue after school with the disco organised by the fundraising committee (see their notice below for details).

Please take a look at <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/> for ideas as to how you can also take part in children's mental health week at home.

Fundraising Committee Update

On 7th February, 4.30pm-5.30pm, we are having a disco to raise money for Safe Haven 4 Caitlin. The tickets are £5, including 4 tokens that can be exchanged for sweets, drinks and crisps. We will also have lots of games, such as a dance competition, musical statues and a best dressed competition. The best dressed competition will be judged in two groups, KS1 and KS2. Please book your tickets on the MCAS app.

From the Fundraising Committee: Darya, Lola, Emma, Mia, Paige, Lily, Luna, Millie and Kira.

About Safe Haven 4 Caitlin

Safe Haven 4 Caitlin is a local charity supporting 11 year old Caitlin Passey. Caitlin has been diagnosed with CLN3 Batters Disease, a progressive, neurodegenerative disease for which there is currently no available treatment or cure. Caitlin's family and community have spent the four years since her diagnosis tirelessly fundraising in order to both raise awareness of Batters Disease, and to undertake the necessary 'future-proofing' renovations of Caitlin's family home. Caitlin is now registered blind, but continues to astound and inspire all who know her with her determination, humour and compassion. The Passey family are incredibly touched and grateful to the children of Dry Drayton for their support.

More details about Caitlin's courageous Batters journey, Bucket List and the various ongoing SH4C fundraising opportunities can be found by following the links below.

<http://www.bdfa-uk.org.uk/caitlins-story/>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/SafeHaven4Caitlin>

<https://www.collectionpot.com/news/safe-haven-for-caitlin/>



Year 6 Leavers Hoodies

Deadline for ordering your leavers hoodie this year is Friday 14th February. There are samples available to try outside the school office, please place your order on the MCAS app and let us know what size/colour you would like.

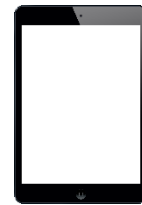
National Science Week

National Science Week 2025 runs from 7th - 16th March this year and we are planning additional events and activities around this time to enthuse the children's love of Science! If you have any particular scientific expertise then please do get in touch with Mrs Fairbairn, via the office. It would be fantastic to have a few visitors talking about their related fields of Science; encouraging children to develop new areas of understanding and find out about possible careers of the future. Many thanks in advance for your support.

NSPCC Online Safety Sessions for Parents

The NSPCC East of England Campaigns Team has been providing free online safety sessions for parents since November. The last session in the current series is taking place on Monday 17 February at 6pm. Themes such as cyberbullying, social media, sharing images and gaming will be addressed.

Places can be booked [here](#).



Online safety tip of the week: tablets

How to start a conversation with your child about using a tablet safely: Why do you want to get a tablet?

Whilst deciding if it is time for your child to have a tablet can be a great opportunity to find out what your child expects to use their tablet for. This could be for connecting with friends, playing games, for homework and research or for something else.

Find more online safety tips here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Safeguarding at Dry Drayton C of E Primary School

Mrs Sonia Hegan, Mrs Nicole Spink and Mrs Fiona Sweetnam are the designated safeguarding leads at Dry Drayton C of E Primary School.

If you have a concern about a child, please inform **any** member of staff.

If you think a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/>



School and Village Association

Dry Drayton does not have a PTA — it has the S&VA. The School & Village Association was founded by a Dry Drayton CE Primary School headteacher more than 30 years ago to do exactly what it says on the tin: to bring the school and village together in support of one another.

Please come and support the Dry Drayton School & Village Association at our AGM on Tuesday the 25th of February starting at 7pm in the School Hall. Headteacher Mrs Sonia Hegan will report on the 2024 school year and S & VA Chair Neil Harris will report on the S & VA's 2024 activities and support for the school and village. We'll also be discussing new event ideas for the coming year: your views and ideas are very welcome!

AGM Agenda Tuesday 25th February - 7pm School Hall

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Review and adoption of 2024 AGM minutes
3. Presentation and acceptance of the accounts
4. S & VA Chair report
5. Headteacher report
6. Election of the Officers/Committee for 2025/26
7. 2025 Calendar of Events
8. Ideas for coming year
9. Any other business

Forest School Spring 2025



Forest School sessions take place every week on the following days. Please ensure that your child always has their Forest School Gear at school which is a pair of wellies plus a waterproof jacket and trousers (or an all in one). Remember, it's never the wrong weather, it's the wrong clothes, so please don't let your child miss out. We have some second-hand wellies in school if you need to borrow them, so do ask in the office. We are happy to have any

outgrown waterproofs for our spares. PLEASE LABEL ALL CLOTHES AND SHOES.

Infants – Mondays (No need to wear PE kit. School uniform, plus Forest School gear will be fine.)

KS2 – Tuesdays This year KS2 will have either half a term of Forest School or of DT, they will then swap for the following half term.

In addition to these, each year group will have a whole afternoon of Forest School on the following **Wednesdays**. Please send your child to school in PE kit including their PE sweatshirt (and not a hoodie).

Date	Year Group
Wednesday 5 th February	Year 1
Wednesday 12 th February	Reception

Church update



St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton
A small church with a big heart

Chamber Music Concerts
at
Dry Drayton Parish Church

Recital
by
Innova
Early Music

Programme to include songs and instrumental music by

Vivaldi, Charpentier & Schmelzer

Tickets: £15 and £5 (students & under 18s)
to include wine/juice afterward
Tickets can be reserved at
<https://innovaearlymusic.eventbrite.co.uk>
Payment on the door

Friday 28 February; 7.00 pm
lasting one hour



Forest Church

Forest Church takes place on the following dates, 3-4pm in the Churchyard:

- Sunday 23rd February
- Sunday 23rd March

Forest Church is a service for all ages, and everyone is welcome!

There will be a bible story, songs and craft, with lots of space to run about, explore nature and make noise during this short, informal service. The service meets outdoors whatever the weather so do please come prepared and wrapped up warm!

Celebration Collective Worship

24th January

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Alex, Daria, Paige and Jack.

Clover, Jonah, Alice L and Antonio were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.

Well done to Charlie, Ethan, Gucio, Halle, Jason and John-Thomas for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points and to Annabel and Buddy for achieving their **Silver** certificate for 200 house points.



31st January

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Max, Joshua C and Benjamin.

Lucas, Max, Alice B and Maxwell were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.

Well done to Laura for achieving her **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points, to Leon for achieving his **Silver** certificate for 200 house points, and to Jack for achieving his **Gold** certificate for 300 house points.





House Points



Totals for last week

Ennis - 172 Farah - 185 Simmonds - 101 Wiggins - 166

Totals for this week

Ennis - 152 Farah - 175 Simmonds - 117 Wiggins - 150

Totals for the year so far

Ennis - 2,365 Farah - 2,379 Simmonds - 1,918 Wiggins - 2,666

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

w/c Monday 3 rd February	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7 th February	Feel Good Friday – non school uniform day
Tuesday 11 th February	Quicksticks Hockey tournament – team from years 5/6
w/c Monday 17 th February	Half term
Monday 24 th February	Immunology Scientist visiting St Edmund Class
Tuesday 25 th February	S&VA AGM in the school hall 7pm – all parents welcome
Tuesday 4 th March	KS2 visit to the Science Park – free Forces Workshop! Girls 5-a-Side Football (team from years 5/6) – date change from 5 th March
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day and Dry Drayton Spelling Bee (wear PE kit as normal)
w/c Monday 10 th March	Science Week – Change and Adapt
Wednesday 26 th March	Tag Rugby Festival – team from years 4/5/6
w/c Monday 31 st March	Parent Consultations – tbc Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons
Wednesday 2 nd April	Easter Church Service 2.15pm
Thursday 3 rd April	KS1 trip
Friday 4 th April	Final Celebration Collective Worship, 9.00am Last Day of Term
Thursday 24 th April	First Day of Summer Term

Don't forget full term dates, curriculum information, photo gallery and lots more can be found on our website:
www.drydraytonprimaryschool.co.uk



Stage & Screen

Shakespeare: Remixed!

Join us for our two day Shakespeare: Remixed! workshops, exploring the work of William Shakespeare with a modern twist!

KS2 (Years 4-6): 17th-18th February 2025

KS3 (Years 7-11): 19th- 20th Feb 2025

Venue: Cambridgeshire Music Histon

Cost: £90 per two day workshop

Time: 10-3pm

For more information please visit
www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.uk

