

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Newsletter – 13th September 2024



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year and what a start it has been. I think we have had all seasons since the first day!

Our Reception children have settled so quickly, it's as if they have always been with us. We also warmly welcome the other children who have joined our school.

It has been so lovely to have the school full of children again, particularly because they have returned with big smiles and lots of enthusiasm to be back with their friends and to all the learning to come. Everyone has been enjoying the new, exciting trim trail. It looks so smart too. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us to raise the funds needed to secure the grant we were given.

Thank you to those parents who were able to 'meet their teacher' Tuesday after school. I hope you found this useful. Your child's class page on the website gives you more information about their curriculum and the homework expectations including the menu of a variety of additional tasks from which they may choose at least one to complete each half term.

Well done to Leon and Laura for leading the first Celebration Collective Worship this morning, quite a daunting task to be the first Year 6 in this role, but they proved themselves to be confident and competent.

We will be very sad to say goodbye to Mrs Patel next Friday 20th September. Her husband has taken a new position at work which, unfortunately for us, is in Texas. Mrs Patel has been here for nearly eight years and during that time she has helped so many children to be the best they can be. In between teaching and supporting in class, she has also been queen of the trimmer and laminator and has generously shared her beautiful saris for our dress up days. We will miss her very much and wish her good luck in America.

Our Harvest Festival is next Wednesday, 18th, at 9am in the church so please do come and join us. Any donations for the Cambridge City Foodbank will be gratefully accepted. Please bring these to school anytime from Monday – we will leave a box outside the office entrance door.

Our next visit to church after Harvest will be for Remembrance Day, 11th November. We would like each child to make a poppy in school and carry it to church for a simple, children's service with Revd Clare. Do join us if you are able. If you ever have drinks in the 2-litre-sized plastic bottles, please may you save and send them in, clean and with the lid on, thank you.

I would like to remind you that we are no longer using Dojo to send reminders or for any other communication. Whilst we are overcoming Bromcom teething issues, we will still send messages via Schoolcomms, the most important of these being this fortnightly Newsletter. This will be your go-to document to find out what is happening and when. It will be slightly longer than it used to be – please read on to the end to discover why. The dates are always near the end.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kind regards,
Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



St Julian class

It has been lovely to welcome our new reception children to the Dry Drayton. They are all settling in wonderfully and getting to know each other and our school.

Year 1/2 have all settled in well and we have gone full steam ahead with all their curriculum learning. The children are enjoying the book *Tyrannosaurus Drip* in English and have been preparing their art work and poem for the harvest assembly next week.



St Etheldreda class

The children have all made a super start to the term and have gelled wonderfully as a new class. Welcome to Alice who has joined us in year 3.

We have made a great start at our English work based on 'The Egyptian Cinderella' by Shirely Climo.

The children have all completed a Star Reader assessment and have their new book levels. Please do support their reading at home by ensuring they read daily. They will have brought home their new comprehension homework book yesterday. Please complete the first piece by next Thursday.

In maths we are working on place value. Again, please support your child at home with times tables practise.

It was great to see many of you at the meet the teacher session on Tuesday. Just a reminder that daily and weekly homework expectations and suggestions, and our termly curriculum overview, are both shared on our class page on the school website.



St Edmund class

Welcome to the new children in our class, they are a great addition.

Well done to all of the children who took part in the Bikeability training this week. Please check the back of their certificates which will outline further practice that is needed.

Please find attached the Friday Collective worship rota – if there are any dates that you are unable to attend then please let the office know and we will try to accommodate any changes.

Comprehension homework was set on Wednesday and is due in next Wednesday. The children will be given some maths homework today which is due in next Friday.

The termly homework menu is now on the menu so please support your children in selecting an activity, one per half term that they can share with us in class.

DT update

This week, the first half of KS2 have started their DT project looking at marble run games. They are going to be creating their own and the Year 3 and 4 group began making prototypes of some of the obstacles.

Could each KS2 child who is doing DT this half term please bring in a cereal box or shoe box as the base for their marble game? Please can these be brought in by Tuesday 24th September, labelled with the child's name and left in their cubbies?



Bikeability

On Monday and Tuesday this week, years 5 and 6 completed their Bikeability Level 2 training. The trainers were very impressed with the group, and complemented them on how sensible they were on the road. Well done to Alice B, Annabel, Bella, Buddy, Erica, Fergal, Jack, James, Laura, Leon, Marnie and Michael



Harvest Festival – Wednesday 18th September

Please join us for Harvest Festival in the church at 9am on Wednesday 18th September. We would be very grateful for any food donations (but not fresh produce thank you), toiletries, nappies and toilet rolls which may be brought to school and left outside the office. We then leave them all in the church to contribute towards their collection for the Cambridge City Foodbank.

Update on the new parent app – My Child at School

We are still in the process of moving our data to the Bromcom system, which will eventually include a new parent app called My Child at School (MCAS). You should have already received your invitation email to log in to this, please let us know if the office if you haven't received an invitation or are having any problems accessing it. You should have also received a request for photo permissions for your children – please could you respond to this, and also check that we have the correct contact information for you.

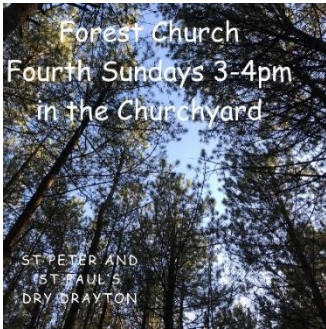
We won't have all of the functionality there initially so don't delete the School Gateway app just yet – new functionality will be added to the MCAS app once we are ready to do so.

Education Inclusion Family Advisor

Clare Merrington, our Education Inclusion Family Advisor, will be in school for parent drop-in sessions on Tuesday 12th November – please see the attached poster for details. If you would like to book an appointment with Clare, please contact the school office.

Church update

Forest Church



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

- Sunday 22nd September
- Sunday 27th October
- Sunday 23rd November

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!



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

Other Church Dates

- Wednesday 18th December – Carol service, 6pm
- Christmas Eve – Crib service, 3pm
- Christmas Day – Family Holy Communion, 10am



Online safety tip of the week: smart speakers

Explore parental controls.

Take a look at the controls available both on the speaker itself and on your home Wi-Fi. Talk these through with your child too. Parental controls are a helpful tool, but an open conversation with your child is the most important thing.

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/>

Forest School Autumn 2024

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 11th September	5/6 group 1 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 18th September	5/6 group 2 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 25th September	3/4 group 1 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 2nd October	3/4 group 2 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 9th October	2
Wednesday 16th October	1
Wednesday 23rd October	R
Wednesday 30th October	Half Term
Wednesday 6th November	5/6 group 1 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 13th November	5/6 group 2 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 20th November	3/4 group 1 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 27th November	3/4 group 2 - names nearer the time
Wednesday 4th December	2
Wednesday 11th December	1
Wednesday 18th December	R (depending on Christmas activities)

Breakfast club

Miss Wright has been excited to relaunch the breakfast club this year with a rolling programme of activities. Children also take part in creating their own breakfast. We have decided to reduce the price of the club to £3.50 a session for advance, regular bookings and £4.00 for ad-hoc sessions. Breakfast club starts at 7.40am in the school hall and we would like to encourage you to sign up your child, so we can continue to provide this important provision. Bookings should be made via School Gateway.

Breakfast Club

With Miss Wright

Daily activities will include a construction area, reading area, art area and active play area with a different focus each day.

Messy
Monday

Try it
Tuesday

Wellness
Wednesday

Thriving
Thursday

Feel Good
Friday



Healthy breakfast is included.

There will always be cereal and toast available, as well as a different healthy option each day which the children will help to prepare.



Celebration Collective Worship

13th September

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Lucas and Albie.

Daisy, Reuben, Lola and Millie were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.



Our new year 6 leaders were introduced to the school during Celebration Collective Worship:

House leaders – Annabel (Ennis), James (Wiggins), Leon (Symonds) and Michael (Farah)





Worship leaders – Annabel and Erica

Library leaders – Erica and Ian

Digital leaders – Annabel and Laura

Sports leaders – Buddy, Maria and Raphael

Art leaders – Buddy and Chris

		House Points					
Totals for this week							
		Ennis - 87	Farah - 101	Simmonds - 101	Wiggins - 125		

Proposed Diary Dates

New dates added in red.

Wednesday 18 th September	Harvest Festival, 9.00am in church
Thursday 3 rd October	Open morning for prospective parents Year 3/4 Team Challenge Event
Thursday 10 th October	Year 5 Careers Fair
Monday 14 th October (note change in date)	Individual and sibling photos
w/c Monday 28 th October	Half Term
w/c Monday 11 th November	Kindness Week
Friday 29 th November	Year 3/4 Boys Football Development Competition
Wednesday 4 th December	KS2 Small Schools Cross Country Christmas Decoration Afternoon
Friday 13 th December	Final Celebration Collective Worship
Tuesday 17 th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 18 th December	Christingle, 9am in church
Thursday 19 th December	Last day of term

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

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