

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, and Pre-School Newsletter – 16th January 2026



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

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year as I write the first newsletter of 2026. What a start to the year it has been with snow, ice, frost, torrential rain and sun! We've had all weathers.

Jack led the first Celebration Collective Worship last Friday where nine Bronze certificates were awarded to children who have collected 100 house points. House points are given for a variety of reasons including excellent work, fine effort, super manners, regular reading at home and homework. Do ask your child more about their house points! Well done Jack and to Fergal for supporting him, and also to Alice and Ivy for this morning's Celebration CW.



Mrs King

We said a sad farewell to Mrs King last Friday. She has been providing us with delicious dinners for over 5 years and will most certainly be remembered for her roast potatoes – the best in the world! We will miss her very much and wish her lots of luck with her new ventures.

Pre-school

We are now officially:

Dry Drayton C of E Primary School, and Pre-school

which is very exciting. We would like to welcome Miss Phillips as the new Lead Practitioner of the setting. The children and staff have all had a fabulous first few weeks getting to know each other and learning in the new look pre-school room. It's a bright and colourful place to come

and play and learn.

Breakfast Club

To remind you that this is run by Miss Wright from 7:45am to the beginning of the school day. She serves up delicious breakfast each day including cereals, fruit, toast and pancakes, depending on the day. It is advisable to book in advance for £3.50 a session, but we do offer ad hoc, turn up on the morning for £4.

After School Club

Miss Phillips, alongside Kim, run the after-school club. There are many fun activities on offer for your children: they have the choice to participate in arts and crafts, play board games, role play, construction toys, or they can read and chat amongst themselves. There is also the large enclosed garden in which they can explore the mud kitchen, sand, water play and sports activities of their choosing. They can also play on the trim trail and use the sports field once any sports club have finished. Delicious, healthy snacks are served too including sandwiches, wraps, rice cakes, bread sticks, cheese and fruit.

We run short and long sessions after school and can be very flexible to meet your needs if you require just half an hour of child care. Do contact the school office if you would like to visit pre-school or after school club, make bookings and share the news that we have a new look pre-school and after school club on site.

Half term holiday club

This will be held Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th February, 9am-4pm. As before, fees, which include snacks and materials, are £7 an hour and £6 for siblings. There will be an exciting range of activities from cooking, indoor and outdoor sports and games, arts, crafts and construction. We do need a minimum number of children to attend each day. Bookings will open next week, but in the meantime please do contact the office to let us know which days and times you'd like to send your child/children. We will confirm the Easter holiday club within the next couple of weeks to help with planning for work.

Homework

Teachers have had a discussion about homework and agree that home tasks are valuable to support learning in class and to provide opportunities to practise and reinforce facts and new skills. We know you have busy lives and that children enjoy clubs in and outside of school. With this in mind, we ask if you could please continue to help with supporting your child's learning; we can see the difference regular reading and practising spellings and tables makes to how your child progresses across the whole curriculum. If you would like to come into school to hear readers, test tables or share your skills, we would be very grateful. Please contact the office.

The class pages on our website have information about your child's curriculum and homework. Here is a summary:

Topic for Reception: People who help us

Homework:

Monday and Tuesday - tricky word cards

Wednesday to Sunday - Little Wandle reading book (this is from our phonics scheme)

Topic for Years 1 and 2: the Great Fire of London and Hot and Cold regions in geography

Homework:

Year one: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday - practise reading (then spelling) tricky words. Thursday, Friday, the weekend - read Little Wandle reading book for 10-15 minutes. Play 'hit the button' maths.

Year two: daily home reading of their set reading book, for 15 minutes, which may include reading and spelling tricky words, depending on the stage of your child. Play 'hit the button' maths.

Topic for Years 3 and 4: Climate zones in geography

Homework:

- Read for 15-20 minutes at least 5 times a week.
- Learn weekly spellings, sometimes these are accompanied by a grammar worksheet.
- Complete weekly comprehension task
- Practise recall of Times tables using Times Tables Rockstars. You can generate and print worksheets from timestables.co.uk if you prefer. 10 minutes 5 times a week
- Your child is welcome to research any of the topics they are learning bring into class to share their poster, powerpoint or artwork.

Topic for Years 5 and 6: Climate zones and a study of South America.

Homework:

- Read for 15-20 minutes at least 5 times a week.
- Learn weekly spellings
- Complete weekly comprehension task
- Practise recall of Times tables using Times Tables Rockstars. You can generate and print worksheets from timestables.co.uk if you prefer. 10 minutes 5 times a week

In addition to this, we endeavour to help Year 5 and 6 to become more independent in their learning so they have a fabulous homework menu to choose one project per half term to complete at home then share with the class. The link is here: [Homework menu](#)

You can find the term dates for next year on the school website.

Thank you, as ever, for supporting your child at school. Have a good weekend!

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.

Pre-School



What an amazing start to the new year in pre-school; the children have settled back in and have adapted to the new routines and our new staff member, Miss Phillips.

This term we have introduced our new theme, 'weather'. In our first week we explored snow and ice with the story of 'Snowballs' by Lois Ehlert. The children enjoyed exploring all the different ice activities, and they were keen to rescue the polar animals trapped in the ice!

We have had lots of fun learning new songs about penguins and pretending to waddle around flapping our flippers!

This week the focus book is 'Little Cloud' by Eric Carle, which has inspired cloud themed activities. The sensory play with the shaving foam was very popular – the children made their own different shaped clouds.

Outside we have been sky-gazing to find different shapes of cloud types using our special cloud spotters.

Next week we will be looking at windy weather, we will be making kites to fly in the wind and going on a listening walk to listen to different sounds we can hear.

Pre-school would really appreciate recycling boxes for junk modelling and empty Pringle type containers.

Pre-school Team



St Julian class

Reception: A great start to the second term for the reception children. Our focus word this term is independence. We are looking at this in our curriculum areas and our personal skills. For example, writing independently, trying to draw elaborate pictures independently, zipping our coats up independently. Please could you support us by trying to help your children to be as age-appropriately independent as possible.

In the back of their reading books, you will find the new phase 3 sounds that we will be covering this term.

If you would like to discuss your child's progression before the next parents' evening, please do not hesitate to contact the office for an appointment.

Mrs Scarrow

Year 1/2: It has been a busy two weeks back and the year 1/2s have been working hard. They are all incredibly enthused by our Great Fire of London history topic and they are all quickly becoming real experts on the event. Well done all! We have been using the story of Vlad and the Great Fire of London in English and will continue to use this topic to inspire our English work. It has been lovely to hear from some of the children that they have been to the library and found books about it too.

After all the excitement of Christmas we are now back into the swing of things, and back to more routine lessons and timetabling. Year 1 are working on number to 20 in maths and year 2 are working on shape. Year 2 will be moving on to multiplication and division soon – practising counting in twos to twenty, fives to fifty and tens to one hundred will really help them with this.

Some of the children are making fantastic progress with reading and spelling their tricky words, thank you so much for supporting them at home with this.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

What a great start to the term as we welcome Mrs Braybrooke who has swapped with Miss Corr for this half term as part of their teacher training. We have completed our work on area in maths very successfully and we have now moved on to multiplication. The year 4 children will have their official multiplication times tables check (MTC) this year so it is very important that the children are using Time Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) at least 5 times a week to improve their knowledge and speed. The MTC will ask the children 25 questions from any of the times tables up to 12 and they will have 6 seconds to answer it so their instant recall speed is very important.

In English, we have begun our creative writing on the book 'Journey' which is a beautiful book with no words.

Please don't forget to read your AR book 5 times a week so we can see the progress in your quiz results.

Mrs Spink and Mrs Braybrooke



St Edmund class

The year 5/6s have had a great start to the spring term. In maths we have been working hard on fractions, in computing we have been doing some 3D modelling and our RE focus at the moment is Buddhism. In PSHE we are looking at the area of financial capability and have been discussing the salaries of different professions and how much things cost – do ask your child what they think something costs on your next shopping trip!

Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Dunlop

Urgent appeal for DT resources

KS1 and 2 are involved in some exciting DT projects this term, but we need your help! If you have any of the following items going spare at home, please do send them into school ASAP so we can complete our sock puppets in KS1 and moving toys in KS2. Whichever year group your child is in, if you have either of these items, please do help us out by sending in items.

KS1 need any old (clean) socks! If you have any odd socks at home that haven't found a pair and you want to get rid of, or any that have a small hole in or you no longer wear, please do bring them in and give them to Miss Wright in KS1.

KS2 are still on the lookout for small boxes. These should ideally be smaller than a shoebox and made of strong cardboard (such as a packaging box rather than a thin cereal box). If you have any at home, please bring them and give them to Mrs Dunlop in KS2.

Thank you so much for your help.

Forest School Spring 2026



Forest School sessions take place every week. 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 (no dresses please), plus Forest School gear will be fine.)

KS2 – Wednesdays 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 a Friday, dates below. Please send your child to school in PE kit including their PE sweatshirt (and not a hoodie).

| Date | Year Group |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Friday 23 rd January | Year 3/4 – Chestnuts |
| Friday 30 th January | Year 3/4 – Oaks |
| Friday 6 th February | Year 5/6 – Chestnuts |
| Friday 13 th February | Year 5/6 – Oaks |
| Friday 20 th February | Half term |
| Friday 27 th February | Year 2 |
| Friday 6 th March | Year 1 |
| Friday 13 th March | Reception |
| Friday 20 th March | Year 3/4 Oaks and Chestnuts |
| Friday 27 th March | No Forest School |

Safeguarding at Dry Drayton C of E Primary School, and Pre-school

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

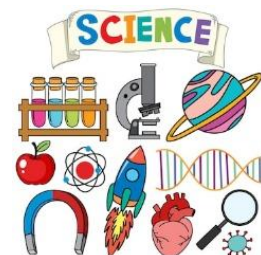
Spring term clubs

Booking is now open for all clubs (except Code Club) for the Spring term: please book places via MCAS. If it would help to pay in instalments, please come and talk to us in the office. **There are spaces in all clubs except Code Club and Cooking Club.**



Our sports clubs are run by JS Sports:

Multi-Sports: Our new multi-sports club for all year groups offers children the chance to try their hand at a host of different sports. Every week is a session based on a different sport, including football, tennis, tag rugby, cricket and many, many more. It is a great activity for children to be introduced to sports and learn the rules and techniques to play the game.



Football: Our football sessions involve an engaging and fun warm up followed by a skill-based activity, learning and improving on different areas of football, including passing, dribbling and shooting, The session finished with some fun matches, tournaments and a variety of football-related games.



Gymnastics: Our gymnastics club is an indoor club and is great for creative children. At the club, children will learn key principles of gymnastics, including rolls, balances, jumps, transitions and more making sure safety is a priority at all times. Children will be able to create their own routines and use apparatus safely, making the most of equipment available.



Please see the table below for details of each club. All these clubs run from 3.20-4.20pm. **Please make a note of the dates each club is running, as they do vary.**

After school wrap-around-care will continue to be offered in the Pre-school room for all pupils aged 3 to 11– contact the office to book.



| Day | Club | Adult | Cost (per term) | Dates |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Monday | Cooking Club (years 1-6) | Miss Wright & Miss Pope | £51 | 12 th January-23 rd March |
| Tuesday | Multi-Sports Club (years R-6) | Sports coach | £53 | 6 th January-24 th March |
| Wednesday | Craft Club (years R-6) | Mrs Sweetnam | £53 | 7 th January-25 th March |
| Wednesday | Code Club (years 5-6) | Claire Shih | | 7 th January-25 th March |
| Thursday | Musical Theatre Club (years 2-6) | Mrs Pergande Vincent | £53 | 8 th January-26 th March |
| Thursday | Football Club (years 3-6) | Sports coach | £53 | 8 th January-26 th March |
| Friday | Gymnastics Club (years R-6) | Sports coach | £53 | 9 th January-27 th March |

Celebration Collective Worship

9th January

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Sophia, Aria, John-Thomas and Albie.

Bronze certificates were awarded to Clover, Daria, Eden, John-Thomas, Jonah, Joshua C and Vlad – well done for earning 100 house points!



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





16th January



Headteacher Awards were awarded to Ellie-Rose, Charlie, Benedict and Darya.

Well done to Charlie, Edward, Emma, Fergal, Melammu, Paige and Reuben for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points.

Adele, Frederik, Fergal and John-Thomas were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.

| House Points | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | |  |
| | | |  |
| Totals for w/c 5th January | | | |
| Ennis - 122 Farah - 102 Simmonds - 105 Wiggins - 107 | | | |
| Totals for w/c 12th January | | | |
| Ennis - 123 Farah - 114 Simmonds - 107 Wiggins - 104 | | | |
| Totals for the year so far | | | |
| Ennis - 1,693 Farah - 1,981 Simmonds - 1,502 Wiggins - 1,466 | | | |

Year 6 Celebration Collective Worship Leaders

| Date | Lead | Assistant |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 23 rd January | Benjamin | Marnie |
| 30 th January | Bella | Jack |
| 6 th February | Fergal | Alice |
| 13 th February | Ivy | Benjamin |
| 20 th February | Half Term | |
| 27 th February | Marnie | Bella |
| 6 th March | Jack | Ivy |
| 13 th March | Alice | Fergal |
| 20 th March | Benjamin | Jack |
| 27 th March | Bella | Marnie |
| Easter Holiday | | |
| 17 th April | Fergal | Benjamin |
| 24 th April | Ivy | Bella |
| 1 st May | Marnie | Alice |



St Peter and St Paul's Dry Drayton

A small church with a big heart

Church update

All are most welcome to join us every third Sunday at 11am for a short, family friendly service of Morning Worship at 11am. The next service is tomorrow, Sunday 17th January.

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 5th January | Staff Training Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday 6th January | Children Return to School |
| Monday 19th January | CB23 KS2 Public Speaking Competition |
| Tuesday 20th January | Young Voices at the O2 |
| Friday 23 rd January | Community Table Tennis starts in the village hall, 3:30-5:30pm free! |
| Friday 30 th January | Village Curry Night - just turn up to the village hall at 6pm! |
| Thursday 5th February | CB23 Year 3/4 Maths Quiz |
| Friday 13th February | Last Day of Term |
| w/c Monday 16 th February | Half Term |
| Wednesday 25 th February | Year 5/6 Humanities Quiz |
| Wednesday 4 th March | S&VA AGM – all welcome 7:30pm in the school hall |
| Thursday 5 th March | World Book Day |
| w/c Monday 9 th March | Science Week |
| Wednesday 18 th March | Whole school free trip to Wicken Fen funded by the Mayor's Day Out initiative |
| w/c 23 rd March | Shakespeare Week launching with 'Theatre in schools' workshops |
| Wednesday 25 th March | Easter Church Service 9am |
| Friday 27 th March | Final Celebration Collective Worship 9am and Last Day of Term |
| Saturday 28 th March | Orsino Choir 6pm in St Peter and St Paul Church |

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

DRY DRAYTON
C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL
KNITTED RANGE



Dry Drayton Knitted V-Neck Jumper Dry Drayton Knitted Cardigan

From £15.45 **From £16.45**




<https://price-buckland.co.uk/dry-drayton-c-of-e-primary-school-knitted-v-neck-jumper-p>

<https://price-buckland.co.uk/dry-drayton-c-of-e-primary-school-knitted-cardigan-p>

Price & Buckland
SCHOOLWEAR SINCE 1959

FRIDAYS
3:30-5:30 PM
 STARTING 23
 JANUARY
 8-WEEK PILOT

DRY DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL



DROP-IN SESSIONS

SUPPORTED BY THE DRY DRAYTON SCHOOL & VILLAGE ASSOCIATION AND DRY DRAYTON VILLAGE HALL

COMMUNITY TABLE TENNIS



EVERYONE WELCOME

FREE TO ATTEND

NO BOOKING NEEDED – JUST TURN UP

COMMUNITY DROP-IN ACTIVITY. CHILDREN ATTEND UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS/CARERS.

Family Table Tennis at Dry Drayton Village Hall 🏓

New family-friendly table tennis sessions are starting at Dry Drayton Village Hall!

📍 Dry Drayton Village Hall

📅 Fridays, starting 23rd January

🕒 3:30–5:30 pm

📅 8-week pilot

🆓 Free to attend

The pilot is kindly supported by the Dry Drayton School & Village Association and the Village Hall.

This is a very relaxed, drop-in activity – come for five minutes or two hours, play a bit, chat a bit, bring children, bring grandparents, or just come on your own.

It's not a club or childcare, just a chance for families and children to be active together locally.

All voluntary donations collected during the pilot will go to the Dry Drayton School & Village Association to support community activities and help make future sessions sustainable.