

# Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, and Pre-School Newsletter – 13<sup>th</sup> February 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.'* *Philippians 1:9*

Dear parents and carers,

Drama club production, Maths quiz, hockey tournament, public speaking competition, pancakes, chocolate crispies, moving toys, sock puppets, beautiful writing, amazing vocabulary, role play, bright art and lots of number work – what a busy few weeks this half term has been. You can read about lots of these events further on in the newsletter.

Please see the diary dates for our plans for next half term! We have a free, whole school trip taking place on Wednesday 18th March. We have taken advantage of the kind offer from the Major of Cambridge who wants children in the area to learn more about the place in which they live. He has given funding for us to all go to Wicken Fen for the day. We will explore inside the old cottage, look at old tools and explore nature around the fen. There will be more details sent to you after half term.

Everyone in school has made a lovely 8th birthday card to help Amelia, a girl you may have read about on BBC News, to be a Guinness world recorder holder for receiving the most birthday cards. She is undergoing palliative care for cancer and we are sending off over 70 towards her target of 8,000. You may like to read more about this on the BBC website, if you feel it appropriate.

Well done to Fergal and Alice then Ivy and Benjamin for leading Celebration Collective Worship the past two weeks. Don't forget, if your child has an achievement they would like to share, please do send it in with them on Fridays. We were shown a trophy for a dance competition and dancing and gym medals this morning. We enjoy hearing all about these out of school champions, so please do help your child to prepare a few words about the award and why they were chosen to receive it, or a brief summary of what they had to do to achieve the award.

Please remember to book breakfast and after school club. We hope that these help you to manage your busy working life, knowing that your children are being well cared for, have a healthy snack or breakfast and have fun! They really do enjoy their time playing with friends or crafting. With improved weather, the playing can take place outside too.

We hope you have a restful and enjoyable half term holiday and that the sun decides to make an appearance! We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 23rd February. The door opens at 8:40am so that the children are at their places ready for learning to begin after registration at 8:50am. We would appreciate children being on time so that learning can begin at 8:50am, thank you. Please send children back with full Forest School waterproofs and wellies so that they can play on the field if it has dried out enough.

Happy holidays!

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



## Pre-School

This half term, pre-school have learnt all about different types of weather. Last week the focus book was “Tree: Seasons Come, Seasons Go” by Patricia Hegarty, which invites us to explore how nature changes throughout the four seasons through vibrant illustrations of a tree! The children shared wonderful ideas about the colours each season brings and brought their inspiring ideas to the art and crafts table.

Clouds carrying rain, snow, rainbows: we explored all kinds of weather throughout the whole week!

In our mathematical learning, we have been looking at counting numbers in sequence, with a focus on the numbers 1-5. We enjoyed singing counting songs, using the knitted maths resources to sing five currant buns, five little speckled frogs and five fat sausages!

This week we celebrated Lunar New Year; we have loved learning about how people are welcoming in the year of the horse. Our story of the week was “The Great Race”, where 12 animals race across the river so the new year will be named after them. We were very excited to have our own animal race across the river! We have made animals masks, horse collages and painted beautiful lanterns. We made dragon puppets and performed a dance to traditional music!

Last week, we said goodbye to Francesca, who is moving on to a new nursery. Francesca has contributed greatly to our pre-school and after-school club, and we wish her every success in the next chapter of her career.

Miss Phillips and Miss Pope will be working alongside Kim in the after-school club.

Donation request: If you have any spare knitting wool or yarn, pre-school would be very grateful.

Thank you, have a restful half term.

*Pre-school Team*



### St Julian class

**Reception:** What a wonderfully busy half term we have had. The children over the last couple of weeks have really immersed themselves into their mini scientists topics. Last week they looked at objects that sink and float and why this may occur. This week they have looked at changing states of matter, including how ice is made and how different things can melt it quicker; gloop and how it goes from a solid to a liquid due to applied pressure and how bicarbonate and vinegar creates a gas. In our creative area we have been looking at mixing colours to create other colours.

If you have any old flowers, we would love to include them in our mud kitchen, alongside recycling goods for our junk modelling area, but nothing that's had nuts in it please.

This week we have been doing our end of half term assessments in reading and writing. I have sent home the results of common exception word check. Thank you again for all your support with this side of their learning.

I hope that the children have an exciting and restful half term.

*Mrs Scarrow*

**Year 1/2:** We have finished our history unit on The Great Fire of London. It has been lovely seeing the children's enthusiasm for the topic. The picture they have brought home depicting the event was built up over several weeks as they learnt about the event.

The children have also been learning about reading and writing instructions and have had a go at following a recipe for rice krispie cakes – I hope you enjoyed the tasty end product they brought home on Wednesday.

In maths, year one are working on place value to 20; in order to support your child at home, please practise learning number doubles up to double ten off by heart. Year twos are working hard at multiplication and division; again supporting your child with learning to count in twos, fives and tens, and then learning the 2x, 5x and 10x tables (up to 12x) off by heart would be a great help.

Have a lovely half term.

*Miss Hampton*



### **St Etheldreda class**

This week in St Etheldreda we have said a sad goodbye to Mrs Braybrooke and we eagerly await the return of Miss Corr after the holiday. In English, we have completed our non-chronological reports linked to our learning in Geography. We have written about either Polar or Arid environments. In Maths, we have completed our learning on multiplication and division and we are now moving onto measure – length.

We hope you have a lovely half term with lots of reading and times tables practise!

*Mrs Spink and Mrs Braybrooke*



### **St Edmund class**

It's been a busy few weeks in St Edmunds... the children are currently exploring diary entries with a focus on Charles Darwin. Their holiday task is to make notes for diary entries on their return. However big or small the event, note it down for diary-writing inspiration on your return to school. In Spanish, we have looked more closely at the regions of Spain and the names for 'los paises' (countries) and 'los banderas' (flags) of Europe. Can they remember the names of Switzerland and Sweden and how similar they sound?! Our Climate Zones topic is drawing to a close with a focused look at Nuuk in Greenland. What can the children remember about this fascinating polar climate zone? We have been competing in pairs in a weekly Geography Quiz to develop the children's world knowledge. Each week the winning team is awarded the highly prized squishy globes!

As part of our commitment to reading in St Edmunds, we are developing a new system around children who have earned the freedom to choose books above and below their reading level. These highly capable and committed, regular readers produce comprehension homework to a consistently excellent standard and will use a reading journal to record their reading journey independently from AR quizzes. Any questions about this please ask.

Have a lovely half term from the St Edmunds team!

*Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Dunlop*

## Network CB23 Year 3/4 Maths Quiz



Last Thursday, we were delighted to host the Network CB23 Year 4 Maths Quiz. Alice L, Jamie, Gucio and Isabella were joined by 52 children from seven other schools to face different types of maths puzzles and challenges set by Mrs Hegan. Our team were fabulous and worked really well together to solve these. The school hall has never felt so warm with all the brain power in the room!

## Year 4/5/6 Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey Competition

Two teams from Dry Drayton took part in the Year 4/5/6 Small Schools Quicksticks Hockey Competition at the Cambridge University Sports Ground yesterday. The competition was a round robin format with 18 teams from 13 other schools taking part. The children all had a great time, making lots of saves and tackles, and scoring lots of goals too! Well done to Albie, Bella, Emma, Fergal, Ivy, Jack, Jacob, Lola, Maxwell, Melammu, Mia and Paige for showing great teamwork throughout.



## PE lessons after half term

The PE timetable will change in the summer term to accommodate the years 1-6 swimming lessons. I will keep you updated via the newsletter at Easter as to what the lessons will be.

Mrs Scarrow

	<b>PE sessions spring 2</b>	<b>Extra equipment needed</b>
Reception	Thursday: best of balls	
Year 1/2	Thursday: topic dance Friday: multi-skills rackets	
Year 3/4	Wednesday: hockey Thursday: cultural dance	<u>Hockey</u> Shinpads are mandatory Gumshields are advisory
Year 5/6	Wednesday: hockey Thursday: cultural dance	<u>Hockey</u> Shinpads are mandatory Gumshields are advisory

## Date for your diary: Mothering Sunday celebration

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, mums and stand-in mums are welcome to join their children for a breakfast butty from 8.30am before a special Celebration Collective Worship. If you can't attend you will still be able to buy a bap for your child for them to enjoy in the hall with their friends. More details to follow after half term.

### **Message from the School Council – lunch breaks**

We are trying to make our lunch break more exciting and enjoyable. As School Council members, we have spoken to the children and got some ideas together. We would like to include crafts, card games (such as Uno and Dobble), dressing up clothes and small world toys such as dinosaurs and dolls to our lunchtime activity trolley.

If you have anything at home that you would like to donate, please drop them off at the office.

Thank you,

School Council

### **Request from Reception class**

Reception class now has a role-play playdoh kitchen area in the classroom. Thank you to Miss Dann and her family who have supplied us with some lino flooring.

We would like to make it as realistic as possible. If you have any of the following and would like to donate, please do send it in:

- Garlic press
- Potato masher
- Cupcake tins
- Spatulas
- Oven gloves
- Herb plants
- Rolling pins
- Whisk
- Ladle
- Tongs
- Small sieve



### **Science Week 2026**

Science Week 2026 is fast approaching (6-15th March). This is always a great opportunity for the children to dive deeper into some interesting themes, welcome scientific visitors and communicate findings to an audience.

This year the theme is Curiosity – What's your question? A chance to seek and communicate answers to their most burning questions in STEM!

**IMPORTANT REQUEST!** As a wider community, what scientific passion or career in science could you share with the children? Could you come in talk about your job, your interest or even your hobby? How can we encourage children to ask questions and seek answers by asking 'experts' or continuing their investigation?

Please get in touch with Mrs Fairbairn through the office if you could offer any time to come into school around Science Week. The children would LOVE to meet members of our community and be curious about their scientific interests.

Thanks in advance!

## World Book Day

Just a quick advance note that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. As part of the day, we will be asking the children to dress up as a book character. We would like this dress up to be as sustainable and creative as possible – please see the announcement from the Fundraising and Justice Committee below.

Miss Hampton



## Justice Committee News

Don't let the world pay on World Book Day: take a stand for second hand.

We will be having a second-hand and craft sale on Tuesday 24th February. It will be on the playground straight after school, or in the hall if the weather is very rainy. We will be making some crafts to sell. We will also have a second-hand bric-a-brac and clothes stall. To help us be more environmentally friendly we would especially like any second-hand dress-up outfits that you have outgrown for World Book Day dress-up. We want our costumes to be extra creative this year and not damage the environment by using fast fashion type costumes that might not be used many times. This is because we are thinking about climate justice. Don't let the world pay on World Book Day: take a stand for second hand. Please bring in anything you would like to donate on Monday 23rd or Tuesday 24th February. Anything we don't sell will either be saved for our next event or given to a charity shop. The money we raise will go to Water Aid.

The Fundraising and Justice Committee (Alice L, Darya, Emma, Isabella, Ivy, Lily and Paige)

## School lunches

The updated menu for the second half of the spring term is available on our [website](#). As well as there now being four lunch options each day, Mrs Clark will be cooking special menus on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February to celebrate Chinese New Year and on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March for World Book Day, as well as pancakes for dessert on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Please remember to book your school lunch via MCAS.

### **Theme day**

#### **Chinese New Year: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

- Chinese sweet chilli chicken noodles with spring roll and sweetcorn
- Chinese sweet chilli vegetable noodles with spring roll and sweetcorn
- Plus jacket potato and baguette option

#### **Dessert**

- Sticky toffee apple crumble with custard



### **Theme day**

#### **World Book Day: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

- Lady and the tramp spaghetti and meatballs with tomato sauce
- BFG pepper and bean fajitas with rice
- Plus jacket potato and sandwich option

#### **Dessert**

- Charlie and the chocolate factory cake with Oompa Loompa sauce



## Co-opted Governor Vacancy

The school governing body currently has a vacancy for a co-opted governor. The governing body has an important role in monitoring and evaluating the work of the school, as well as providing strategic direction.

All governors are asked to attend the meetings of the Full Governing Body (normally six per year). Governors will also join either the Resources or the Curriculum & Learning committee, and take on responsibility for a particular area of the school's work. In order to understand the working of the school, it is important for governors to make at least one visit per year to the school during the teaching day. Free training sessions are provided for governors by the Local Authority (including induction training for new governors) and all governors are expected to make use of these opportunities.

Governors are not expected necessarily to be experts in primary education. It is far more important to be enthusiastic, to have an interest in the education of all children, and a commitment to securing the best educational outcomes for all the pupils at the school. Governors are expected to be fair in their judgements, committed to equal opportunities, and ready to work as part of a team.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, or know someone in our wider community who would like to offer their skills and experience to our governing body, please do get in touch via the clerk:

[clerk@drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:clerk@drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk).

## New website

Our current website is using a content management system that will shortly no longer be supported, so we are in the process of moving it over to a new content management system. The new site will be live from 24<sup>th</sup> February at the same address ([www.drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk)) – you might notice small changes to how it looks from that point, although the content should all still be in the same place. If you experience any problems with the website or have any trouble finding information please do let us know in the office.

### **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/>

## 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 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Oaks and Chestnuts
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	No Forest School

## Spring term clubs

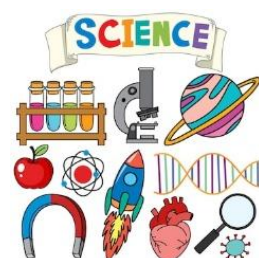
Booking is still open for all clubs (except Code Club) for the Spring term: please contact the office to book places. If it would help to pay in instalments, please come and talk to us in the office. **There are spaces in all clubs except Code Club and Cooking Club.**

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 <sup>th</sup> January-23 <sup>rd</sup> March
Tuesday	Multi-Sports Club (years R-6)	Sports coach	£53	6 <sup>th</sup> January-24 <sup>th</sup> March
Wednesday	Craft Club (years R-6)	Mrs Sweetnam	£53	7 <sup>th</sup> January-25 <sup>th</sup> March
Wednesday	Code Club (years 5-6)	Claire Shih		7 <sup>th</sup> January-25 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday	Musical Theatre Club (years 2-6)	Mrs Pergande Vincent	£53	8 <sup>th</sup> January-26 <sup>th</sup> March
Thursday	Football Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£53	8 <sup>th</sup> January-26 <sup>th</sup> March
Friday	Gymnastics Club (years R-6)	Sports coach	£53	9 <sup>th</sup> January-27 <sup>th</sup> March

### Celebration Collective Worship

#### 6<sup>th</sup> February

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Errol, Reuben, Luna and Melammu.

A **Bronze** certificate was awarded to Mia – well done for earning 100 house points!



Ellie-Rose, Fletch, Melammu and Mia were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> February



Headteacher Awards were awarded to Ellie-Rose, Rae, Sammy, Robin and Bella.

Well done to Aria, Kira and Ruby for achieving their **Bronze** certificate for 100 house points.

Alex H, Charlie, Gian and Lune were chosen to sit on the **golden table** after half term with a friend of their choosing.



### House Points



#### Totals for w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Ennis - 125 Farah - 83 Simmonds - 69 Wiggins - 69

#### Totals for w/c 9<sup>th</sup> February

Ennis - 177 Farah - 157 Simmonds - 129 Wiggins - 123

#### Totals for the year so far

Ennis - 2,219 Farah - 2,443 Simmonds - 1,864 Wiggins - 1,804

### Year 6 Celebration Collective Worship Leaders

Date	Lead	Assistant
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Marnie	Bella
6 <sup>th</sup> March	Jack	Ivy
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Alice	Fergal
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Benjamin	Jack
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Bella	Marnie
Easter Holiday		
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Fergal	Benjamin
24 <sup>th</sup> April	Ivy	Bella
1 <sup>st</sup> 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 this Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February.

### Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

w/c Monday 16th February	Half Term
Wednesday 25th February	Year 5/6 Humanities Quiz
Wednesday 4th March	S&VA AGM – all welcome 7:30pm in the school hall
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
w/c Monday 9th March	Science Week
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday celebration – breakfast butties from 8.30am. Bring your Mum or stand-in Mum to breakfast before a special Celebration Collective Worship
Wednesday 18th March	Whole school free trip to Wicken Fen funded by the Mayor's Day Out initiative
w/c 23rd March	Shakespeare Week launching with 'Theatre in schools' workshops

	Parent consultations (date tbc)
Wednesday 25th March	Easter Church Service 9am
Friday 27th March	Final Celebration Collective Worship 9am and Last Day of Term
Saturday 28th 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](http://www.drydraytonprimaryschool.co.uk)

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**C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**KNITTED RANGE**



Dry Drayton Knitted V-Neck Jumper      Dry Drayton Knitted Cardigan

**From £15.45**      **From £16.45**




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*Price & Buckland*  
SCHOOLWEAR SINCE 1959

**FRIDAYS**  
**3:30-5:30 PM**  
 STARTING 23 JANUARY  
 6-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.