

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Newsletter – 17th November 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,

Well, what a fortnight we have had! The build up to our Dry Drayton's Got Talent show with all the auditions, costume discussions, choosing music and rehearsing, resulted in a tremendous show with a wide variety of acts to entertain the audience. Nearly half the school performed in the show, it was a marvellous afternoon. A big thank you to our judges: Mrs Scott (we were thrilled to see her again); Canon Sue (who brought along our special guest; David Wyatt) and Diane Harris (secretary of both Pre-school and S&VA). They had the very difficult task of choosing the winner for 2025:

Emma and Darya, playing the piano and singing 'You can count on me'. Being our lockdown song, it brought a few tears to the eye. Well done to the duo, it was beautiful.

The judges gave special mention to: Luna and her dancing, Paige and Clover singing, Isabella playing the violin and Lucas and his magic.

The children should all feel very proud of their performances, they had all worked very hard rehearsing and choosing costumes.

Thank you to Antonia, Eden's mum for managing the music for the event, she was very brave to take on this job!

Earlier in the week, the whole school walked to St Peter and St Paul Church for our Remembrance Day service. Our stones painted with poppies greeted us along the path to the church door, and once inside, the children sang, read poems beautifully and respected the two minutes silence; it was a very moving occasion.

Last week was also our annual Kindness Week so the children shared paper hearts with kind messages in Celebration Collective Worship on Friday. It was lovely to hear messages such as "I like your smile" and "You're a kind friend".

Well done as always to our Year 6 children leading Celebration Collection Worship – Alice supported by Fergal last week and Jack supported by Ivy the week before.

We are delighted that the solar panels have been working for some time, the air source heat pumps are thus being powered to provide heat and the heat is now finding its way into school! The hall may well have sprung a few leaks in Friday's downpours, but the room was warm!

A little request: we know everyone has very busy lives, with trying to fit in work and looking after the family. Finding the right balance is difficult, so asking you to hear your child read five times a week and to support your child with their homework, we know is another pressure on your time. We cannot stress enough the huge and noticeable difference this makes to them in school; we are very aware of the regular readers. Learning to read and to develop a love of reading are fundamental skills which can enable children to progress in all aspects of schooling and enjoyment in learning. Homework is frequently the preparation for lessons in school too.

'We learn to read so we may read to learn'.

If you would like support with helping your child at home, please do speak to me or your class teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



St Julian class

Reception:

The reception children are continuing to work extremely hard in all areas of the curriculum at school. They have enjoyed learning about Bonfire Night and Remembrance Day over the last couple of weeks. The children (and staff) are looking forward to practising 'The Nativity' and learning about why it is a special time for Christians.

Home learning is extremely vital in helping your child progress. This includes your child reading their tricky word cards, practising writing their name and reading their Little Wandle books (Wednesday-Sunday). Last week as a class there were 55 (5 days to read x 11 children) opportunities for reading to take place. Only 26 reads occurred across the class. Please try and find a few minutes each day (Wednesday-Sunday) to hear your child read.

If you need any support regarding home learning then please do ask.

Mrs Scarrow

Year 1/2:

Another busy few weeks have flown by!

Well done to the children on a very respectful 2 minute silence in Church on Remembrance Day, and well done for all the fantastic hard work in class.

We have finished our work on The Snowflake Mistake. We enjoyed the story and are now listening out for rhyming words. You can help your child with their learning at home by drawing attention to rhyming words when talking and in books.

Just a reminder/clarification – the children have their own personal 'tricky words' to practise on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. They need to be able to read them by sight. If they are confident at reading them, then please move on to learning to spell them. We tend to use letter names when learning to spell tricky words – they are called tricky words because phonics don't help! On a Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday the children will have a reading book which they have already read in school to read at home. Hopefully they will be more confident at this book so reading will be more of a pleasure than a chore. These books are matched to the children's phonics level.

Year two children will also have an 'AR' (Accelerated Reader) book to read which they will then take a quiz on in school. The AR levels are determined by the Star Reading assessment which we do termly in school. Children can also bring home a reading for pleasure book for an adult to read with them.

In maths, year one have started working on shape, year two are continuing with addition and subtraction.

The children brought home their lines/costume requirements for the Nativity on Monday. Please come and see me if you need any help with your costume. Please help your child learn their line/s and remind them to use a big, shouty voice when delivering their words. We are practising the songs in school and it is sounding brilliant (and Christmassy!) already.

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

We've had a great start to this half term. In Maths we have been continuing our work on column method addition and subtraction. In English, we have begun to write our newspaper articles based on an episode of horrible histories. I am proud of the children for learning a poem, which they recited at the remembrance service at church.

DDGT was a great success, well done to all of those who performed, it was a fantastic show.

Today we had our Viking Day where the children made shields or broaches, Runes, learnt how to use a loom and made and ate pancakes! It was a lovely morning and the children all enjoyed themselves in costume for this immersive day.

Mrs Spink and Miss Corr

Key stage 2: Please make sure that your child has a spare pair of shoes and trousers in their bag on a Wednesday (Tag rugby day).



St Edmund class

In St Edmunds there has been a focus on all things Anglo-Saxon and Viking. The children used their class reader 'Viking Boy' to inspire adventure sequels, building figurative language and ambitious punctuation to make their writing fantastic! This week, they are progressing to planning biographies of the main characters. In History, they have learnt about key Anglo-Saxon and Viking figures and the roles they played in shaping Britain. Designing sea-worthy Viking Longboats in DT has prepared them perfectly and the learning culminated in our Anglo-Saxon and Viking Day today.

The children have got off to a flying start in their unit on Space in Science. Lots of them have a keen knowledge about specific details that have fascinated them already...

The Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University is open every evening from 7-9pm for stargazing and talks. Please check their website for more details: <https://www.public.ast.cam.ac.uk/public-open-evenings-ia>

Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Dunlop

Key stage 2: Please make sure that your child has a spare pair of shoes and trousers in their bag on a Wednesday (Tag rugby day).

Dry Drayton's Got Talent



Children in Need

It was lovely to see all the children (and staff!) in their spotty clothes on Friday. Thank you to everyone who brought in some change for the children to put on our Pudsey. We're pleased to say that we've raised £163.40 for Children in Need – thank you!



Dry Drayton Apple Juice 2025

After a productive apple picking weekend in September 2025, and a highly successful first edition in 2024, we are proud to announce the 2025 batch of freshly pressed and deliciously refreshing Dry Drayton apple juice!

This year, bottles are directly available from Lord Conrad's Brewery, or can conveniently be ordered via their website (<https://lordconradsbrewery.co.uk/products/juice>). The

suggested donation is £3.50 per bottle, or £10 for 3 bottles, with all profit going to the Dry Drayton S&VA.

The juice combines a wide range of locally grown apple varieties (including Ellington Orange, Warner's King, Monarch, Adam's Pearmain, Bramley, King of the Pippins, Histon favorites, Beauty of Bath, Blenheim Orange, Cox's Orange Pippin, Bloody Ploughman, Ashmead's Kernel, Discovery, Charles Ross, Egremont Russet and various other Russets, and a few delicious pears) and was pressed allergen-free at Cambridgeshire-based Watergull Orchards. It has no added sweeteners, preservatives or colouring, and can be stored for up to 2 years.

If you'd like your pears or apples to take part next year, or if you have any questions, please email Joe (wigleyj@hotmail.com) or Jelle (jv361@cam.ac.uk), or get in touch with the School and Village Association at drydraytonsva@gmail.com.

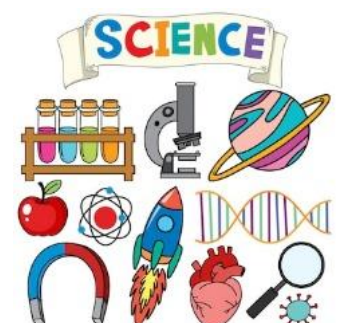
Autumn term clubs

It is still possible to book places at our school-run clubs – please contact the office if your child would like to attend, as we will adjust the cost to reflect the number of weeks left in the term. **All clubs except Code Club still have places available.**



Our sports clubs are run by JS Sports:

Multi-Sports: The multi-sports club 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.

Reception children will be offered the opportunity to book school clubs when they have settled into school life and their teacher agrees that they are ready. If you can see a club available on your reception child's MCAS page, then it is available and Mrs Scarrow has agreed that they are ready for that club.



After school wrap-around-care will continue to be offered in the Little Owl room for all pupils – contact the office to book.

Day	Club	Adult	Cost (per term)	Dates
Monday	Cooking Club (priority given to KS2)	Mrs King & Miss Wright	£70	8 th September-15 th December
Monday	Sports Multi-Skills Club (years R-2)	Sports coach	£66.50	8 th September-15 th December
Tuesday	Science Club (years 1-2)	Mrs Sweetnam	£66.50	9 th September-16 th December
Tuesday	Multi-Sports Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£66.50	9 th September-16 th December
Wednesday	Craft Club	Mrs Sweetnam	£66.50	10 th September-17 th December
Wednesday	Code Club (years 5-6)	Claire Shih		10 th September-17 th December
Thursday	Musical Theatre Club (years 2-6)	Mrs Pergande Vincent	£66.50	11 th September-18 th December
Thursday	Football Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£71.25	4 th September-18 th December
Friday	Gymnastics Club	Sports coach	£71.25	5 th September-19 th December

Forest School Autumn 2025



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 21 st November	Year 5/6 Oaks
Friday 28 th November	Year 3/4 Chestnuts & Oaks
Friday 5 th December	Year 2
Friday 12 th December	Year 1
Friday 19 th December	Last day – no Forest School

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/>



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 Sunday 21st December.

Celebration Collective Worship

7th November

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Joshua P, Alex J, Joshua C and Ivy.

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







14th November



Headteacher Awards were awarded to Michael, Edward, Clover and Kira.

Alexander, Ellie-Rose, Gucio and Jack were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.

House Points			
			
			
Totals for w/c 3rd November			
Ennis - 128 Farah - 119 Simmonds - 104 Wiggins - 113			
Totals for w/c 10th November			
Ennis - 156 Farah - 119 Simmonds - 144 Wiggins - 128			
Totals for the year so far			
Ennis - 895 Farah - 778 Simmonds - 716 Wiggins - 752			

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

Monday 24 th November	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 27 th November	Year 3/4 Football Competition
Wednesday 3 rd December	Cross Country Morning Christmas Decoration Afternoon – volunteers welcome
Friday 5 th December	Hanukkah Day
Thursday 11 th December	Nativity Performance, 9.15am
Tuesday 16 th December	Christmas Lunch & Festive Top Day
Wednesday 17 th December	Christingle & Carols in St Peter and St Paul Church 9am all welcome
Friday 19 th December	Last Celebration Collective Worship Last Day of Term
Monday 5 th January	Staff Training Day – School Closed
Tuesday 6 th January	Children Return to School
Tuesday 20 th January	Young Voices at the O2

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