

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, and Pre-School Newsletter – 25th September 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

I hope you enjoyed completing the Estimation Station Challenge on the playground this morning. If you didn't see it, our Year 6 leaders in charge of this, Mia and Felicity, set a whole school challenge each week. Children can estimate or make a calculated guess at the solution, write this on our answer sheet and the answer is revealed every Friday during Celebration Collective worship. This week the challenge is 'How many cartwheels can Clover perform in a minute?' If you have the opportunity to discuss this with your child at home, that would be very helpful. Hope Clover doesn't get dizzy practising for this!

Mia and Felicity, followed by Darya and Emma have been super Celebration CW leaders, exemplifying the enthusiasm and confidence of the new Year 6 leadership team. Well done to them all.

We have 73 children on roll in school now which is fabulous! We do have some places left in pre-school so please encourage any prospective parents to join the free 'Stay and Play' sessions every Thursday morning and to book a tour next **Wednesday 30th September at our OPEN MORNING**. Anyone is welcome but you will need to book a tour with our Year 5 children.

Date for your diary – 28th November – the Christmas Fair is back! It will take place, very fittingly, in the church, so please save the date. A group of parents, alongside the S&VA, are busy planning an afternoon of sparkles and fun. If you would like to have a stall, please contact Amy Barker drydraytonsva@gmail.com or contact the school office. Children will be making and selling beautiful Christmas gifts and singing to entertain you, Father Christmas is hoping to call in and they are planning a fabulous raffle. See the poster a few pages on.

You may like to read poetry with your child as we will be celebrating National Poetry Day by writing poems to perform at our Harvest Festival in the church on Wednesday 14th October.

Wishing you all a happy weekend as this glorious autumn sunshine remains with us.

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.

Pre-School

This week at pre-school we continued discussing our family safety circles with the children at carpet time, and we read the book 'Only one you' to discover how unique each one of us is. The book also explains how our family and social circles can grow bigger and bigger to include friends and people in our community! We have loved looking at our family photos and drawing our own family and pets.

Outside, we have been investigating which conker will roll faster depending on the guttering slope! We also enjoyed some exciting autumn scavenger hunts, where the children spotted several autumn colours, shapes and items and collected wonderful autumn treasures for next week's activities.

Pre-school Team



St Julian class

Reception: The children have adapted really well to their new routines in Reception. We have started to introduce our core group lessons of Phonics and Maths and next week we will be introducing Drawing Club, which we use as a tool for our writing lessons.

In phonics, the children have now covered s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d and we have started blending words as a group. If you are talking about any objects that start with these as initial sounds, please do support your child in learning to hear the initial sounds in words, as this is the first step towards blending. Next week your child will be bringing a wordless book home that they will share with you, Wednesday to Sunday. Please allow them to make up a story to go with the book. Please then write in their yellow reading diaries once they have completed this task. You could just write 'read' or you might want to write an amazing thing that they have done when reading.

The children have been working hard on their name writing in their morning work and when working alongside an adult. This has supported the children with knowing that their painting or drawing is theirs as it is easily identifiable. Thank you for supporting them with this task at home as the progress has been amazing.

We are always after bits and bobs for the children's junk modelling area of the classroom. If you have any nut-free, clean packaging, please do send it in with your child and someone will make a wonderful creation that will take pride of place on their 'Wow work wall' and then at home.

There are three unnamed jumpers sitting in our classroom. If you are missing one then please do say (I don't know the children's individual smells yet!)

We are always on the look-out for:

- dead flowers/plants for our mud kitchen
- junk modelling pieces
- pine cones
- conkers
- toys (but not branded toys such as Paw Patrol, Fireman Sam, etc)

Mrs Scarrow

Year 1/2: The children in year 1/2 St Julians have been busy doing lots of writing about dinosaurs in English. Exclamation marks have been very useful when describing some of the more ferocious dinosaurs and their habitats! Some of the children are struggling to remember correct letter formation after the long summer holidays, so if you are practising any tricky word spellings at home, please do support your child by making sure they are writing letters correctly. Let me know if you would like a copy of the Little Wandle phrases we use to help them.

Alongside our fictional dinosaur writing we are learning about the amazing life of fossil hunter Mary Anning in history. It has been lovely to hear that some of the children have visited the Sedgewick Museum in Cambridge to complement this topic.

In maths both year groups are learning about place value. Year twos have begun learning times tables too. Practising the ten times table at home would be a great way of supporting your child. If they are confident with tens, then please move on to twos and fives. Secure, quick recall of times tables makes an enormous difference to a child's ability to tackle all kinds of aspects of maths as they progress through school.

Have a lovely weekend

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

It has been a very productive week in St Etheldreda. The children all now have their Times Table Rock Stars and Ed/Spelling Shed logins and should be able to access both sites for their weekly homework. We do keep a copy of all logins in school, so please do let us know if one is lost, or if you have any problems accessing the work.

In English, we have continued our work on The Tin Forest and we will be starting to write our own versions towards the end of next week.

We have completed work on partitioning in maths and moved on to number lines – as with most areas of maths, a strong understanding of times tables can be really beneficial too at this stage of place value, especially tens, fives and fours!

In RE we have been considering what rules God might make to remind humans to look after the world.

The children now have a copy of the homework menu and some visual examples displayed in the classroom and seem very excited by some of the projects!

Miss Corr and Mrs Tellett



St Edmund class

In St Edmunds we have been settling into our autumn stride and enjoying our new topics on the Victorians and the circulatory system. The children enjoyed making blood samples out of kitchen cupboard ingredients, recognising the four main constituents of blood. They have been really well engaged with this learning.

They finish their first English unit on 'Swing of Change' today. You can find the clip on YouTube if you'd like to re-visit. We have talked about big themes like racism and discrimination and these lead into our learning this term in PSHE on how to welcome others. This has also fitted the themes of our class reader 'The unforgotten coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce. Hope you can enjoy some lovely time in nature this weekend and prepare the children for inspiration for their autumn poems next week, as part of National Poetry Week.

Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Tellett

A poster with a warm, autumnal color palette of oranges, yellows, and greens. It features stylized illustrations of trees and a tent on the left and right sides. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif fonts in orange and black. The main title is 'DRY DRAYTON SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL OPEN MORNING' in large, bold, orange letters. Below it, the date 'WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER' is also in orange. The times 'TOURS AT 9.15AM AND 10.45AM' are in orange. The body text is in black, stating that Year 5 are conducting tours and that all parents are invited to book a place. Contact information is provided at the bottom in black.

**DRY DRAYTON SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL
OPEN MORNING
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
TOURS AT 9.15AM AND 10.45AM**

Year 5 are conducting tours of the school (including forest school) and pre-school at 9.15am and 10.45am on Wednesday 30th September.

All parents and prospective parents are invited, please call or email the school office to book a place.

office@drydrayton.cambs.sch.uk
01954 780618

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

Wednesday 30 th September	Open Morning, tours at 9.15am and 10.45am
Thursday 1 st October	National Poetry Day Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Friday 2 nd October	Year 3/4 Team Challenge Event

Thursday 8 th October	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Wednesday 14 th October	Harvest Festival in church 9:00am – all welcome
Thursday 15 th October	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Wednesday 21 st October	Parent consultations in the afternoon and after school
Thursday 22 nd October	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
w/c Monday 26 th October	Half Term
w/c Monday 2 nd November	Auditions for DDGT
Thursday 5 th November	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Friday 6 th November	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 10 th November	Year 3/4 Boys Development Football
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance service in church 10:30am – all welcome
Thursday 12 th November	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am Year 5/6 Dodgeball Event
Friday 13 th November	Dry Drayton's Got Talent in the afternoon
Thursday 19 th November	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Wednesday 25 th November	KS2 Cross Country Competition
Thursday 26 th November	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Saturday 28 th November	S&VA Christmas Fair
Thursday 3 rd December	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am Decoration afternoon for Christmas 1:30pm, volunteers needed
Tuesday 8 th December TBC	Nativity dress rehearsal 9:15am
Wednesday 9 th December TBC	Nativity 9:15am
Thursday 10 th December	School pantomime trip to the Cambridge Arts Theatre
Wednesday 16 th December	Christingle and Carols in St Peter and St Paul Church 9:00am
Thursday 17 th December	Pre-School Stay and Play, 9.15am-11.00am
Friday 18 th December	Final Celebration Collective Worship for the term 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

Come and work in Dry Drayton Primary School!

We are looking for a teaching assistant who would like to join us to undertake their Level 3 apprenticeship. This is an excellent opportunity to learn on the job and be paid too. We have supported several members of staff to complete training at many different levels and they all agree that, although it can be hard work at times, it is very rewarding and a straightforward process to gain a qualification as part of their career progression.

Please speak to the office if you are interested.

We are also looking for a catering assistant for 6 hours a week to help Mrs Clark in the kitchen with food preparation, serving and clearing up. Again, if you are interested, please speak to the school office.

Snowmen in September.

It's that time of year again! The school and pre-school have been working on our Christmas card designs this week, with some fabulous results. We are using a new company this year, Cauliflower Cards, so the process has changed slightly. Order forms will be coming home with children in the next week or so; their artwork will be attached to the order form, which contains instructions and contact details for ordering direct from the company. If you choose to order cards or other products, **please return the order form, with artwork still attached, no later than Wednesday the 7th of October.** School orders should be handed in to the office, and pre-school orders handed in to the pre-school staff.



Dry Drayton
Christmas Fair

Saturday 28 November • 3–5pm

In the Church

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping
Stocking fillers and gifts, mulled wine and mince pies, kids' activities and carols from school and pre-school children.

And yes... Santa's popping in!
Just before the raffle, he'll be handing out sweets and saying hello to everyone.

Win our £100 Grand Raffle prize
Look out for ticket books coming home from school, with lots of other fabulous prizes to be won.

Stalls still available!
Local businesses and charities welcome for a small donation. Donate a raffle prize to promote your business.
Contact Amy Barker: drydraytonsva@gmail.com

Birthday lunches

Don't forget you can book to join your child for lunch in school on (or near) their birthday. Birthday lunches cost £5 each. To book a birthday lunch, please pay on MCAS and email the office to let us know your menu choices.



Please note that we may ask you to choose a different day if there are too many bookings on the same day.

Celebration Collective Worship



18th September

Headteacher Awards were awarded to David, Joshua P and Alice L.

Harry P, Heidi, Ivona and Paige were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.

25th September

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Alfred, Halle, Joshua M, Reuben and Cameron.

Mateo, Rae, Maxwell and Robin were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.



 		House Points		 	
Totals for w/c 14th September					
Ennis - 129 Farah - 147 Simmonds - 82 Wiggins - 85					
Totals for w/c 21st September					
Ennis - 120 Farah - 148 Simmonds - 90 Wiggins - 94					
Totals for the year so far					
Ennis - 368 Farah - 406 Simmonds - 273 Wiggins - 288					

Celebration Collective Worship Leaders – please let Mrs Hegan know if you are unable to attend and would like your child's day to be swapped. It will make you feel so proud to see them in action!

Date	Lead	Assistant
2nd October	Gian	Jacob
9th October	Melammu	Albie
16th October	Lola	Lily
23rd October	Maxwell	Cameron
30th October	Half term	
6th November	Kira	Tala
13th November	Emma	Paige
20th November	Felicity	Mia
27th November	Ruby	Darya
4th December	Jacob	Gian
11th December	Albie	Melammu
18th December	Lily	Lola

Forest School Autumn 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.

Reception and Key Stage 1 – Mondays

KS2 – Fridays

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

Date	Year Group
Thursday 1 st October	Year 4
Thursday 8 th October	Year 2
Thursday 15 th October	Year 1
Thursday 22 nd October	Reception
Thursday 29 th October	Half Term
Thursday 5 th November	Year 5/6
Thursday 12 th November	Year 5/6
Thursday 19 th November	Year 3
Thursday 26 th November	Year 4
Thursday 3 rd December	No Forest School as Christmas decoration afternoon
Thursday 10 th December	Year 1 and Year 2
Thursday 17 th December	No Forest School

Autumn term clubs

Booking is still open for autumn term clubs: please contact the office to book, as we will adjust the cost to reflect the number of weeks remaining. **There are spaces in all clubs except Football Club.**



Our sports clubs are run by JS Sports:

Multi-Sports: Our 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 finishes 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 wraparound care** 3:20-5:30pm will continue to be offered in the pre-school room for all pupils aged 3 to 11 – see below for more details.

Day	Club	Adult	Cost (per term)	Dates
Monday	Cooking Club (years 1-6, priority given to KS2)	Miss Pope	£71.00	7 th September-14 th December
Tuesday	Football Club (years 3-6)	Sports coach	£67.50	8 th September-15 th December
Wednesday	Craft Club (years 1-6)	Mrs Sweetnam	£67.50	9 th September-16 th December
Wednesday	Code Club (years 5-6)	Claire Shih	Free	9 th September-16 th December
Thursday	Musical Theatre Club (years 2-6)	Mrs Pergande Vincent	£38.50	3 rd September-22 nd October
Thursday	Multi-Sports Club (years 1-6)	Sports coach	£72.50	3 rd September-17 th December
Friday	Gymnastics Club (years 1-6)	Sports coach	£72.50	4 th September-18 th December

After-School Club

After-school club is offered in the pre-school room for both regular and ad-hoc bookings (subject to availability). Contact the [school office](#) to book a place.

Hours and fees

- Short session1: 3:20 to 4:30
- Short session 2: 4:20 to 5:30
- Long session: 3:20 to 5:30

Short sessions £6.50; Long session £13.00.

After School Club will close at 4:30 on Fridays, so there will be no long session.



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 of the month for a short, family friendly service of Morning Worship at 11am. The next service is Sunday 18th October.

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

Mrs Sonia Hegan, Mrs Susan Phillips 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/>