

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School

Newsletter – 12th September 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.' Philipians 1:9

Dear parents and carers,

New year

What an excellent start it has been to our new school year. All the children have settled back into school really well and seem to have a keen interest in their lessons. We welcome all of our new families. Please do read to the end of this fortnightly letter as this is our main line of communication with you and is packed full of very useful information and dates.

Year 6 leaders and Celebration Collective Worship

The 2025 Year 6 leadership team have already made a great impression in their new roles. Please may they wear their badges on their uniform and not PE kit, thank you. This morning, Jack led our first Friday Celebration Collective Worship with great confidence and Fergal was there by his side as support. Well done to you both. All parents and family are invited to join us every Friday for this celebration of the week in school from 9am.

Meet the teacher

Staff were delighted to see you at the 'Meet the teacher' sessions on Wednesday. I am sure they shared their classroom expectations with you and provided useful information to help you to support your child at school. We are always happy to help you with this.

Homework

At Dry Drayton, we believe that there is a place for homework for every child, to support their learning in class, to provide opportunities to embed knowledge and skills and to encourage independent learning. We do not wish for tasks to be onerous, time consuming and with unrealistic challenges, and so homework is planned to be beneficial for our children.

Teachers are able to pick out those children who read regularly at home. Not only do they make greater progress with reading, but it is reflected in all aspects of their school life – a wide vocabulary, interesting and varied sentence structures, creative ideas for writing and so on. We ask that you hear your child read, or encourage them to read independently if they are competent readers, at least 5 times a week building up from 10 minutes a session to more than 20. The younger children may be sent home a reading activity instead of a book. With 100% pass rate in summer SATS and an astonishing 70% of the children scoring at a greater depth level, I think we have found a steady, reliable method for the teaching of reading and this includes appreciating the opportunity to read for pleasure too. Remember, we learn to read to read to learn!

KS2 will have a comprehension task to complete at home which will be marked as a group once a week to develop clear, detailed answers. They require this preparation at home to fully participate in the lesson.

KS2 Maths homework will generally be a TTRockStar exercise to practise tables and other fluency skills. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like some support with helping your child with reading their homework.

New green button on the school gate

Many of you may have noticed that the exit green button has moved. There will soon be another gate to replace the wooden one, again with green release buttons either side. These have been positioned deliberately high up as they are for adult use only. This means that you will need to buzz the office and come into the grounds because we ask that children do not operate the green buttons, thank you.

After School Clubs

We have our usual selection on offer, plus a new look Little Owl after school club. See the information below.

Polite reminders

Your child will need a named and reusable drink bottle in school every day filled with water please. They also need their rain coat and trousers or all in one plus wellies for forest school. Only lightning will stop this from taking place!

Since we are a healthy eating school, please only send in fruit for a break time snack in KS2 and we ask that there are no crisps in lunch boxes, thank you.

Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.



St Julian class

Reception: What an amazing start the reception children have had. From day one they have been very independent in coming in and have really taken everything in their stride.

Seesaw QR codes have been sent home in the children's book bags. We will be updating it every now and again with small snippets of what your children have got up to.

Thank you to everyone that attended the meeting on Wednesday. A few of the key points for home learning (your child needs an A4 sized bag or a book bag):

- Children can change their pleasure books (parents to read) whenever they want to.
- Tricky word cards will be sent home on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (once we have learnt them)
- Reading books will be sent home on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday (once your child is ready)
- On our website page you can find the link to the Little Wandle parent page to support you in reading with your child
- Some of the children's amazing work that they have done in class will be sent home on a Friday, please make sure your child has an A4 sized bag or a school book bag to take it all home in.
- Your child needs their Forest School clothes (wellies, all in one) in school from Monday.
- Your child needs a full set of spare clothes in their school bags.

Mrs Scarrow

Year 1/2: Well done to all the children on a super start to the term. They are getting into the swing of things, and getting to know the new routines and the new classroom. It was lovely to meet so many parents on Wednesday. We have started a unit of English work on the book 'Traction Man' this week. The children have loved the story and we will be using it as the basis for our writing over the next few weeks. It complements our history topic on toys past and present wonderfully. In maths we are focussing on place value and counting, with lots of practical work to help build understanding.

Have a lovely weekend – I think the children are tired out from all their hard work so far, so a few lay ins might be in order!

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

Welcome to St Etheldreda. We have had a wonderful first week back getting to know each other and our routines. In English, we have been writing our autumn poems in the style of Kennings which we share at the Harvest Church Service. In Maths, we have been working hard on place value. This is such an important area of maths as most of our mathematical learning stems from this. In Science, we have begun our learning on Rocks, I'm sure we'll all become rock experts by half term.

This year our homework is to read 5 times a week (please record this in the reading diaries), comprehension (this will be marked on a Wednesday), spellings (this will be tested in a dictated sentence on a Friday). There will also be a homework menu for the children to complete throughout the term.

Mrs Spink and Miss Corr



St Edmund class

St Edmund's have had a really positive first week back, naturally stepping into their new roles and responsibilities at the top of the school! It was lovely to see lots of parents to meet the teachers. Homework menu and curriculum overview will be available on the website by the end of the week.

Mrs Fairbairn

DT Update

KS2 Oaks groups have made a great start to their new DT project. This term we are designing and making model Viking longships (not life-sized as some of the children have asked!). We have already researched longships, designed our models and learnt how to use tools safely. We look forward to starting the making process next week. If any children can bring in any small plastic bottles (500ml size) to make the hulls, please bring these in next week. Thank you!

Mrs Dunlop

Autumn Term PE Lessons

Please send your child to school in their PE kit on their class designated PE day/s as below. Please also look back over your emails with regards to PE. Mrs Scarrow likes to teach more than just the standard skills required by the government to the Key Stage 2 children so please ensure your child has the correct equipment for their lessons. This term, Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) need shin pads on Wednesday. They can be left at school if that is easier. If you have any space pairs at home, we would be very grateful for the as the school sets have dwindled over the years.

	PE Autumn term 1	PE Autumn term 2
Reception	Thursday- Balance ability (we have enough balance bikes and helmets for all the children. If you would like to bring your own helmets, you are more than welcome to)	Thursday- Gymnastics
Year 1/2	Thursday- listening skills games Friday- OAA (teamwork)	Thursday- Gymnastics Friday- Fundamentals
Year 3/4	Wednesday- Football (shin pads required) Thursday- Netball	Wednesday- Tag rugby Thursday- Gymnastics
Year 5/6	Wednesday- Football (shin pads required) Thursday- Netball	Wednesday- Tag rugby Thursday- Gymnastics

Can you help our EYFS?

EYFS would love your support: if you have any unusual recycling items that you think the children might be able to make something exciting out of, please send it in with your child and ask them to put it in the reception classroom. We are also after old flowers and smelly plants that the children can cut up and use in the mud kitchen. Again, please send it in with your child and ask them to put it in the reception classroom.



After School Club

This week in After School Club the children have enjoyed decorating biscuits with Mrs King!

Bookings for After School Club can be made by emailing the [school office](#).

Dates for your diary – October Half Term Holiday Club

We are delighted to let you know that School Holiday Club will be running in the October half term with new activities and lots of fun!

This will be taking place on the following dates in the Little Owl Room, from 8.30am-5.30pm

We have planned a schedule of really exciting extra activities which all children attending can choose to join in with. These will run alongside art, games and holiday club fun - we will have full access to the school field and trim trail too.

Booking will be via the school office and will open shortly.

Monday 27 th October	Tuesday 28 th October	Wednesday 29 th October
Forest School Day – Mrs Sweetnam will be running forest school sessions in small groups throughout the day	Cookery Club Day – Mrs King will be baking up sweet and savoury seasonal treats with the children!	Sporty Day – JS Sports will be joining us to run a day of multi-sport fun – football, tennis, archery etc...

Autumn term clubs

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

Booking is available on MCAS. **All clubs except Code Club still have places available.**

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.

Day	Club	Adult	Cost (per term)	Dates
Monday	Cooking Club (priority given to KS2)	Mrs King, Mrs Arnold, 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

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 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, 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 19 th September	Year 5/6 Oaks
Friday 26 th September	Year 3/4 Chestnuts
Friday 3 rd October	Year 3/4 Oaks
Friday 10 th October	Year 2
Friday 17 th October	Year 1
Friday 24 th October	Reception
Friday 31 st October	Half term
Friday 7 th November	Year 5/6 Chestnuts
Friday 14 th November	Year 5/6 Oaks
Friday 21 st November	Year 3/4 Chestnuts
Friday 28 th November	Year 3/4 Oaks
Friday 5 th December	Year 2
Friday 12 th December	Year 1
Friday 19 th December	Last day – no Forest School

Church update



Forest Church

Forest Church takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month, 3-4pm in the Churchyard. The next Forest Church will be Sunday 28th September.

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




Celebration Collective Worship

12th September

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Sebastian, Ethan, Benedict and Jack.

Charlie, Grace, Bella and Benedict were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.



		House Points		
Totals on 12th September				
Ennis - 115 Farah - 101 Simmonds - 85 Wiggins - 97				

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

Thursday 2 nd October	National Poetry Day Year 3/4 OAA Competition
Thursday 9 th October	Open Morning with Little Owl Pre-School
Wednesday 15 th October	Harvest Festival in St Peter and St Paul Church 9am all welcome
Thursday 16 th October	Year 5 Careers Fair
w/c Monday 27 th October	Half Term
w/c 10 th November	Kindness Week
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Service in St Peter and St Paul Church 10:30am all welcome
Friday 14 th November	2pm Dry Drayton's Got Talent Wear something spotty and bring a donation for Children in Need
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
Wednesday 17 th December	Christingle & Carols in St Peter and St Paul Church 9am all welcome
Friday 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.drydraytonprimarieschool.co.uk



The
Parenting
Children
Course

Parenting Children Course

Explore how to strengthen family relationships and support one another through the ups and downs of raising children.

Wednesday evenings

October 1 – November 12 (excluding half-term)

7:30pm – 9:30pm

Dry Drayton CoFE Primary School Hall

For anyone in Dry Drayton (village or school) with responsibility for raising children of 0-10 years in any parenting situation

Topics covered:

- Connecting with your kids
- Meeting your children's needs
- Setting clear boundaries
- Teaching healthy relationships
- Considering the long-term
- *Bonus evening:* Q&A panel

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**

The course is based upon Christian principles yet will be useful and accessible to all faith and non-faith perspectives. Each evening includes: tea/coffee and cake, course content (video-based), and small group discussion with other parents.

Questions to ddparentingcourse@outlook.com

Register using the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/ddparenting>



KJV

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR



KANGAS

A free, non-auditioned choir for children in Years 4-6. Rehearsals take place each Saturday at 10-11am during school term time on West Road in central Cambridge. Directed by Lynette Alcántara, the Kangas learn musicianship skills through new music, focusing on developing their sight-reading, using Solfa to approach different repertoire.

- **Wide range of repertoire - classical, gospel, folksongs and more!**
- **Concert venues include West Road Concert Hall & King's College Chapel.**
- **Non- Auditioned - music should always be fun!**
- **Free for all**



Interested? Register now for September!



APPLY NOW



FOR MORE INFORMATION

WEBSITE: www.kjvchoir.org

EMAIL: admin@kjvchoir.org

KJV Community Children's Choir

Registered Charity No: 1198653