

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, and Pre-School

Newsletter – 9th October 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,

There has been a sudden change in weather this week, autumn really has arrived with chilly mornings and rain! Then by lunch time, it's been calm, sunny and warm! We are now in the season of needing a spare change of shoes every day to be able to play on the field. This means an old pair of trainers or wellies need to be left in school please. Don't forget a coat every day, especially Mondays for reception and KS1 and Fridays for KS2 as they have forest school in the afternoons. See the timetable below for the date of your child's long forest school afternoon.

Well done to the Celebration Collective Worship leaders, Gian and Jacob last week. Gian addressed the audience with such confidence and clarity! Today was Melammu's turn and he did a great job being supported by stand-in Maxwell.

Staff news: Mrs Scarrow is our senior teacher and Miss Hampton the staff governor. We are looking for an additional parent governor. Please contact the school office if you are interested in learning more about this important role in school. We would like to welcome Miss Shanks as the new catering assistant who will be interviewed for the next newsletter.

I am sure you are aware that Mrs Pergande-Vincent will be going on maternity leave after half term. Mr Gosling will be covering her music classes in school, the choir, drama club and individual music lessons. For those of you who have private lessons with Mrs Pergande-Vincent, I know she has already been in contact. If any children would like to start learning piano, ukulele, singing, recorder or even the trumpet, please contact the school office for Mr Gosling's details.

Miss Pope is starting a Lego Club after half term on Friday nights – see more details further on in the newsletter.

Stay and play has started again, but on a Thursday morning this term, 9:15-11:00am. Please do let anyone with young children know that they are welcome to join in with the fun.

Please join us next Wednesday, 14th October, for our Harvest Festival celebration in St Peter and St Paul Church over the main road from school. Each class will be performing a poem or song. Along with the church community, we are collecting food and toiletries for the Cambridge food bank. Please bring any donations next Tuesday or Wednesday. The food bank is not able to accept fresh fruit and vegetables, only tins, jars and packets, plus toiletries like soap, shampoo, shower gel and toothpaste. Thank you.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.

Pre-School

In pre-school we have continued with stories and activities that have focused on families, relationships, and belonging. The children have enjoyed sharing their family photographs, talking about the people who are important to them, and discovering more about their friends' families.

This week's focus book is 'Mixed' by Arree Chung. The characters are simple circles with highly expressive faces, making feelings easy to read. We discussed our feelings and focused on kindness and the conflict around sharing, inclusion and feelings. We learnt how the colours were sad when they couldn't play together, and how happy they were when they became friends again.

During carpet time we talked about our emotions. Using a mirror we looked at our own expressions and observed how our faces change. With natural loose parts objects, we created our own faces – some were happy, surprised, angry, and sad.



Pumpkin Donations!

As we welcome the autumn season, we will be exploring all things related to pumpkins! We have some wonderful sensory activities, maths, science, and creative activities planned. We would be incredibly grateful for any donations of pumpkins.

Pre-school Team



St Julian class

Reception: Reception are now fully immersed in their EYFS curriculum. If your child says “I don't know!” to your question of “What have you done today?”, please do look at the website where you can find out what they are learning that week.

The children are all now bringing books home based on their reading level. Please may they read their book to you at least 3 times at home (reading books come home Wednesday to Sunday and common exception words (tricky words) come home on a Monday).

In phonics, these are the sounds that your child has now covered: s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r. We are now putting these together to read CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words.

With regards to maths, please ask your child to spot numbers and simple shapes in their everyday environment.

If the two new jumpers with no names that are in our classroom are not claimed by next Monday, I shall put them in our spares draw.

Year R/1/2 are in need of items for junk modelling – please ensure they are nut-free.

Mrs Scarrow

Year 1/2: Another busy week has flown by! We have enjoyed looking at the story Pumpkin Soup and have thought of our own versions. We also thought of lots of adjectives to describe a selection of pumpkins. In maths, both year groups have moved on to working on addition and subtraction. The year twos had a

lovely time in long forest school this week – they made a fire and enjoyed apples and pears in caramel. They also did some craft and paper making. Year ones have their turn next week.

It has been lovely seeing some homework either brought in or photographed and emailed in. The homework menu is on the website for your child to decide which of the activities they would like to complete.

Year R/1/2 are in need of items for junk modelling – please ensure they are nut-free.

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

The children began the week with some fantastic independent writing in English, going on to use editing stations to evaluate and uplevel their own work. We have also finished our Harvest time poems and look forward to sharing our class poem in church at Harvest Festival next week.

In art, our work on William Morris has linked nicely to the Harvest time theme, and we look forward to having some beautiful hand-drawn repeated patterns on display in the hall over the next few weeks.

We are nearing the end of our place value unit in maths and will be moving on to our addition and subtraction unit next week.

It has been fantastic to see some tin houses coming in to class over the last few weeks – these have been greatly admired by lots of children in the school! The full homework menu is available on the class page on the school website. We have a selection of cans available in the classroom, if required.

Miss Corr and Mrs Tellett



St Edmund class

In St Edmunds, we have been busy researching and writing our own poetry. Last week the children wrote some fantastic free verse list poems where they advertised something or someone for sale. This week we have been using the changing autumnal weather to inspire our poetry writing and yesterday and today the children have been writing autumn poems in a style of their choice. Many of them have decided to write in an acrostic style and have used some fantastic figurative language within them.

In history, the children have been learning about the Victorians a little more by discussing what it was like to work in a factory as a Victorian child, the advantages and disadvantages of moving to Victorian towns and whether the invention of the railway was good or bad for society at that time. We will finish the topic by looking at Victorian schools. Please feel free to bring in any Victorian artefacts you may have at home.

Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Tellett

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

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
w/c Monday 16 th November	Kindness Week
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 trip to the pantomime at 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

Year 3/4 Team Challenge Event

Last Friday, Ethan, Lucas, Fletch, Alex, Daria, Isla, Eliza and Aria attended a Challenge Event at Comberton Village College, where they took part in a series of fun games and challenges alongside Year 3/4 children from other schools. The children all did a great job in representing Dry Drayton through their teamwork and determination. Thank you to Eliza's mum for helping with transport.

Christmas cards

Following conversations with the new suppliers, we have been able to extend the return deadline for Christmas card orders to **Friday 16th October**. Should you wish to place an order, please remember to return your child's design and form to the school office before this date.



Is my child too ill for school?

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)?

YES

Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO

Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature. Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	Cold sores Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels. Conjunctivitis Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly. Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP. Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly. Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.	Impetigo They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school. Ringworm See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment. Scarlet fever They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Chickenpox Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	Ear infection If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away. Measles They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system. Vomiting & diarrhoea Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'



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, so do book in early!



Celebration Collective Worship



2nd October

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Heidi, Jonah, Daria and Lily.

Edward, Errol, Clover and Guccio were chosen to sit on the **golden table** the next week with a friend of their choosing.

9th October

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Harrison, Aga, Eliza and Jamie.

Halle, Jonah, Emma and Ruby were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing.



House Points



Totals for w/c 28th September

Ennis - 152 Farah - 132 Simmonds - 90 Wiggins - 89

Totals for w/c 5th October

Ennis - 133 Farah - 163 Simmonds - 118 Wiggins - 121

Totals for the year so far

Ennis - 649 Farah - 705 Simmonds - 481 Wiggins - 488

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
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 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

NEW CLUB! IT'S LEGO TIME!

When: Fridays, 3:20-4:20	How much: £5 per session	With who: Miss Pope
A BRAND NEW LEGO CLUB! Each week, the children will take part in team-building activities and will have the opportunity to create Lego masterpieces using their imaginations or from design idea sheets. This will allow for creativity, an improvement in fine motor skills and a chance to socialise with friends! On the last week of term, the children will each bring home a Lego baseplate which will be filled with their creations for them to keep and treasure.		

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 and Cooking Club.** Booking for Lego club will open shortly.



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
Friday	Lego Clubs (years R-6, priority given to KS1)	Miss Pope	£35.00	6 th November-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/>