

Dry Drayton C of E (C) Primary School, and Pre-School Newsletter – 23rd 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,

I cannot believe this half term is over! We began in the September heat, not quite that of the summer, but lovely to be able to enjoy playtimes outside, and now we are drawing to a close as Storm Austen is heading our way. Hope you have some sunny days over half term!

Congratulations to the Fundraising and Justice Team who, supported by Miss Hampton, have achieved the Global Neighbours Bronze Award – read all about it later in the newsletter or on the website.

This morning in Celebration Collective Worship, I reminded the children how to have a good holiday and suggested they offer to help with jobs around the house, keep their room tidy and continue to read! It's important to keep this up along with looking at or reading books for fun and enjoyment. Please remind your child to practise their act for Dry Drayton's got Talent over half term. Auditions will take place the first week after half term. There is an exciting list of acts already!

We have had some super Celebration Collective Worship leaders over the last couple of weeks, with clear and confident delivery to the audience; Lola with Lily and Maxwell with Cameron today. Well done!

We celebrated that Farah (blue team) were the house point winners both for this week and the whole half term – well done. The children all know how to earn extra house points!

Yesterday, we said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Vincent. It was her last day before starting maternity leave – how exciting for her as she awaits the arrival of her baby boy early in December! Please don't forget to contact the new music teachers to continue your child's music lessons or send a message to the office if you'd like to arrange for your child to start learning an instrument.

Don't forget to sign up for clubs starting after half term including the new Lego Club and there are a few spaces for taster sessions in Code Club opening to Year 4 children.

Wishing you all a restful break and we look forward to seeing you all at 8:40am on Monday 2nd November.

Kind regards,

Sonia Hegan



Small school.



Big hearts.



Big ambitions.

Pre-School

We've had a busy time in pre-school with lots of autumn exploration and curiosity; we have been noticing all the seasonal changes.

The children enjoyed retelling the story 'Pumpkin Soup', by Helen Couper, using the lovely story sack props. The cat, squirrel and duck all worked together to create a tasty soup. In the mud kitchen, the children made their own 'pumpkin soup'!

We have especially explored all the exciting pumpkin activities using the children's hammers to see what happens when they hammer in the plastic golf tees, and scooping out the pulp and seeds to make their pumpkin soup!

We have also been looking carefully at all the different pumpkin sizes, shapes, and textures. Which pumpkin is the biggest, the smallest, the heaviest or the lightest? What do they hide inside of them?

Donations required:

We are looking to refresh our outdoor **mud kitchen** and would love your help! Before you throw away any old or unwanted kitchenware, please consider sending it our way.

We are hunting for **pre-loved, durable items** such as:

- Old pots, pans, frying pans and baking trays
- Metal bowls, jugs, muffin tins and colanders
- Wooden spoons, whisks, potato mashers, ladles, lemon juicers, and garlic presses
- Plastic measuring cups, spoons and ice cube trays.

Thank you so much for helping us create wonderful, messy play experiences for the children!

We are incredibly excited to announce that our **weekly Forest School sessions** are starting soon after half term! Forest School is a wonderful opportunity for our Pre-school children to step into nature, build confidence, and develop their personal, social, and emotional skills through hands-on, outdoor experiences.

What we will be doing:

Led by our qualified Forest School Leader Miss Phillips, the children will explore our dedicated outdoor space through safe, age-appropriate, and risk-assessed activities. Some of our planned adventures include:

- **Mud Kitchen Potions & Mud Painting:** Mixing natural elements to spark imagination and creative arts.
- **Minibeast Hunts:** Using magnifying glasses to look for bugs under logs and stones.
- **Den Building:** Creating cozy, miniature shelters using sticks, leaves, and branches.
- **Natural Math:** Sorting pinecones by size and counting using painted "number stones".



What your child needs to wear

As the old saying goes: *"There is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!"* We play outside come rain or shine. To keep your child safe from scratches, nettles, and dampness, please send them to preschool wearing suitable clothing, including: all-in-one waterproof suit or full-length trousers, warm waterproof coat, thick socks, sturdy wellington boots and, when the weather gets colder, hats and gloves.

Have a lovely half term.

Pre-school Team



St Julian class

Reception: Well done to all reception children for making Mrs Wilson so welcome this week. She has had a lovely week with you all! Thank you to Logan's parents, who brought a tractor into school for the children to see as part

of our harvest topic. The children were all very excited to see such a huge vehicle in the playground with some wheels as large as the children, but the back one was taller than Miss Hampton! They are made autumn wreaths and have threaded tiny beads onto pile cleaners to make colourful trees – excellent fine motor skill practise.

Have a good half term and I look forward to seeing parents on Thursday 5th November, apologies for having to change plans!

Mrs Scarrow



Year 1/2: Year 1/2 finished off their Mary Anning topic by being real palaeontologists last week, and with a Zoom call with Mrs Hegan's palaeontologist friend this week. He got up very early and Zoomed in from Canada to talk to the children and answer their questions. They were a super, engaged and inquisitive audience. Next term we will move on to a geography topic about the weather.

It has been great to see more topic homework coming in. The classroom door is looking like a fantastic dinosaur art gallery.

I have set the year twos a challenge for half term, but year ones might like to join in too...can you think of some homophones (two words which sound the same but have different spellings and different meanings)? We started off our list with tail and tale, red and read, flower and flour. How many more can you add?

It was great to meet with so many parents on Wednesday. Thank you so much for your understanding and kind words regarding my lack of voice.

Have a lovely half term.

Miss Hampton



St Etheldreda class

The first half term of the school year has certainly been a busy one in St Etheldreda! We have completed units on magnets in science, place value in maths, narrative writing in English and the Christian Creation story in RE. Alongside this, we have completed plenty of art projects; Christmas card designs, line drawings as part of Black History Month and repeating wallpaper patterns in the style of William Morris. And we mustn't forget the wonderful Harvest time poem that the children performed so beautifully in church last week. Please do remember to make your tin houses, our street has been slowly growing over the half term.

The children have worked hard, and we are all looking forward to some relaxation and family time over the holiday.
Have an enjoyable half-term

Miss Corr and Mrs Tellett



St Edmund class

Over the last week or so the children have been learning all about how to write an explanation text ready for writing their own after half term. They have been learning how to use the passive voice, using different types of adverbials to add cohesion to their writing and causal conjunctions to add cause and effect to their sentences. The children will be writing their explanation texts about the circulatory system, which is also what they are currently studying in science, so this allows the two subjects to cross over nicely. After not teaching them science myself (that's Mrs Fairburn) I was so impressed today with their knowledge of this when we recapped it during their English lesson.

In maths over the last few weeks, we have been learning about multiplication and division. The children have been learning about factors and multiples. This week we also discussed what a prime number, a square number and a cube number is. Finally, we have finished the topic this week by discussing ways in which we multiply numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000 and how to divide numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000.

It has been fantastic to see some homework coming in to class over the last few weeks. The full homework menu is available on the class page on the school website and pieces will be showcased at the end of the autumn term.

Happy holidays!

Mrs Tellett and Mrs Fairbairn



News Release

Pupils at Dry Drayton CE Primary School have been presented with a Bronze award from Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme for their global citizenship work. Well done!

From their participation in the Cambridge University Nepal project, to their proactive engagement in the local church led local foodbank, and from the work of their eco-committee to engagement in the

Cambridge giraffe trail, pupils and staff at Dry Drayton CE Primary School have been working hard to take their place as global citizens.

Dry Drayton CE Primary has achieved Bronze award status in Christian Aid's [Global Neighbours scheme](#), in recognition of its initiatives to encourage children to think of others throughout the world.

The accreditation programme celebrates schools which are helping pupils learn about global poverty and the Christian responsibility to tackle it, as well as giving them the tools to play a confident part in creating a fairer world.

Mrs Hegan said: "We are thrilled to be recognised for the work we have done as a whole school community to raise awareness of the extreme inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these. The pupils learn about global issues and gain an understanding of injustice in our world.

"Pupils have been learning about examples of people who faced adversity and overcame this to be courageous advocates for change. These stories have challenged the whole school community to think about how each of us can make a difference in our local community and globally.

"Our world is increasingly connected and our hope is for our children to grow as responsible global citizens who care about issues such as the environment and access to healthcare. The children have especially enjoyed the Year 5/6 £10 challenge and choosing a charity to learn about and raise money for."

Sarah Potter Children and Young People's Officer at Christian Aid, said: "The Global Neighbours Scheme was launched in partnership with the Church of England's Education Office with a vision of helping young people understand more about the inequalities and injustice in this world. It continues to help them to develop that brave courage needed to be true courageous advocates for change.

"It's really inspiring to see how staff (particularly Miss Hampton) and pupils at Dry Drayton CE Primary have taken this to heart and are seeking to take their places as active global citizens at both a local and global level."

Harvest Festival

Last Friday, the whole school walked over to the church, food gifts in hand, to celebrate Harvest Festival. It was lovely to have so many family and friends join us.

Rev'd Clare led the service and each class contributed a thoughtful poem or song. You will find them printed below so you can appreciate the beautiful words and phrases they have chosen.

The children sang joyfully to Mrs Vincent's piano playing.

The harvest loaf was made by cookery club. It looked fabulous and was enjoyed by all for lunch later in the day.

Thank you for your generous contributions which the church will be sending to the food bank later this week.



Christmas Cards

It has been great to see all of the Christmas card orders coming in to school over the past couple of weeks. The school has now sent all of the returned orders away for printing. But it's not too late to order some, by sending your artwork directly to Cauliflower Cards, if you're quick! Please follow the instructions by following the link to their website.



<https://www.cauliflowercards.co.uk/late-and-missed-artwork>

Original artworks for the Christmas cards will be displayed in the school next term, after which they will be sent home for you to keep.

PE lessons after half term

Autumn term 2	
Year 5/6	<u>Wednesday</u> Tag Rugby (children will need spare PE bottoms and spare shoes (school shoes) in their bag to change into) <u>Thursday</u> Gymnastics
Year 3/4	<u>Wednesday</u> Tag Rugby (children will need spare PE bottoms and spare shoes (school shoes) in their bag to change into) <u>Thursday</u> Gymnastics
Year 1/2	<u>Monday</u> Fundamentals <u>Thursday</u> Gymnastics
Year R	<u>Thursday</u> Gymnastics

School lunches



The updated menu for the second half of the autumn term is available on our [website](#), along with menus for a bonfire lunch on Thursday 5th November and Christmas lunch on Tuesday 15th December. Please remember to book your school lunch via MCAS.

Scholastic books



Our new Scholastic Book Club is up and running – a leaflet should have made its way home to you! Go to <https://clubs.scholastic.co.uk/C-2HV5K9DM> to browse the latest books and order online. For every £1 you spend, our school and pre-school will earn 20p in Scholastic Rewards.

Please place your order online by **November 6th, 2026**.

Proposed Diary Dates New dates added in red.

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 Fundraising Wreath Making Evening, 7.30pm-9.30pm (see advert below)
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

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.



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
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

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

DRY DRAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Fundraising Wreath Making Evening



£45
PER PERSON

Includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie

WHEN	WHERE
26th November 7.30 – 9.30pm	Dry Drayton Primary School

Book via MCAS (school parents) **or the school office.**

Open now to school parents and friends.
Open to the wider community from **23rd October 2026.**

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

Christmas Raffle

Your child is bringing home some Christmas raffle tickets tonight, there are lots of fabulous prizes to be won! Please see if family and friends would also like buy some over the half term holidays. There are more books of tickets available if you run out, please ask in the school office.

Money and stubs can be returned to the school office. You can also pay on MCAS if that is easier, please return the stubs to school with a note to say that you've made payment on the app.

The draw will be held at the Christmas Fair in the church on Saturday 28th November.



Celebration Collective Worship



16th October

Headteacher Awards were awarded to Sophia, Isla and Ivona.

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

23rd October



Headteacher Awards were awarded to all of the Reception class, Alex H, Robin and Felicity.

Joshua L, Adele, Lily and Benedict were chosen to sit on the **golden table** next week with a friend of their choosing

House Points			
			 
Totals for w/c 12 th October			
Ennis - 143	Farah - 141	Simmonds - 162	Wiggins - 146
Totals for w/c 19 th October			
Ennis - 108	Farah - 185	Simmonds - 111	Wiggins - 112
Totals for the year so far			
Ennis - 900	Farah - 1.031	Simmonds - 754	Wiggins - 746

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 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.



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.

Code Club for year 4's

This term a group of year 6's are attending Comberton Village College for some maths sessions after school. This means that Claire would like to invite some year 4's to take join some taster sessions for three weeks. These will take place on 11th, 18th and 25th November. The children will join Code Club for these weeks and will be introduced to basic coding and simple circuits. Booking is available on MCAS now.

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 Club (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 15th November.

Please read the harvest song and poems which were read by the children at the Harvest Festival in church last week

St Julian

If you're grateful for your lunch, clap your hands.

If you're grateful for your lunch, clap your hands.

If you're grateful for your lunch – so tasty munch, munch, munch.

If you're grateful for your lunch, clap your hands.

If you're grateful for your dinner, bend your knees.
If you're grateful for your dinner, bend your knees.
If you're grateful for your dinner – it's so good the cook's a winner,
If you're grateful for your dinner, bend your knees.

We're grateful for our food, THANK YOU GOD!
We're grateful for our food, THANK YOU GOD!
We're grateful for our food – very grateful for our food,
We're grateful for our food, THANK YOU GOD!

St Etheldreda

All	Harvest time is...
Robin	Fluffy, fast squirrels and sly foxes running,
Eliza	Ripe blackberries growing in the bushes,
Reuben	Crunchy carrots and lemons ripe,
Fletch	Apples shining in the bright, hot sun,
Lucas	Orange pumpkins made into pie.
All	Harvest time is...
Vlad	Children stomping on dry leaves,
Daria	Juicy apples on the trees,
Samuel	Conkers brown, spiky shells shiny,
Isla	Pumpkin picking all around,
Alex	Sweet, juicy apples crushed by teeth.
All	Harvest time is...
Ethan	Little foxes, golden orange in the shiny sun,
Grace	Crunchy leaves in the sky,
JT	Acorns falling down from the tree,
Aria	Picking pumpkins from the ground,
Clover	Yummy pumpkin pie, ready for Sunday night.
All	Harvest time is...
Harry	Golden wheat in the fields,
Fred	Feet crunching on red and brown leaves,
Josh	Children collecting acorns and conkers,
Gucio	Sharing food that we have found.

St Edmund

Can you feel the wind blowing by the water's edge?
Or see the stunning flowers growing on the laurel hedge?
All the amazing life observed all around
And the beautiful, bold robins bringing melodic singing sounds.

The rain pattering, the trees whispering
And once rampaging children were actually listening
The cold air we all embrace
And the emerald green bushes with a leafy lace.

Go outside and have some fun
Go experience golden sun
Before the special season's gone
Make this a beautiful Autumn, a memorable one.

Ivonna and Mia

Flowers blowing in the breeze
Conkers falling of the trees
Spiders sheltering from the cold
Conkers getting very old
Leaves crunching on the floor
Sheep grazing on the moor
Leaves floating like golden dancers
The wind holds all the answers
Long days , short days
Fun days , dull days
People smiling saying hi
People waving saying bye +
Autumns here so give a cheer
For this golden time of year

Lily

Smudged sky rubs against my rooftop
Mushrooms growing whilst Autumn wind's flowing
Pumpkin carving whilst the fire is darting
Sweetie stampeed whilst hot chocolate is burning!
Guitar strumming whilst the bonfire's crackling
Firey colours sent to the sky
Glowing embers reflecting in my eyes
Lights twinkling whilst ghosts are bickering
Melted marshmallows in the flaming fire
What a perfect Autumn day, glowing embers flowing my way

Eden and Tala

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/>



HALF TERM

@ Cambridge Museum of Technology
For more information, please visit our website: www.museumoftechnology.com

Poo Trail

Wednesday 28th October - Sunday 1st November
Why not come and get HANDS-ON with all things poo related?

- Find a poo
- Identify the poo
- Touch - yes - touch the poo!





HALLOWEEN CRAFT DROP-IN

Friday 30th October
10.30am - 3.00pm
Make your own spooky crafts.
Spooky costumes welcome!

Suitable for all ages. Booking not necessary. Free with normal museum admission.