

**AUTUMN TERM 2023**

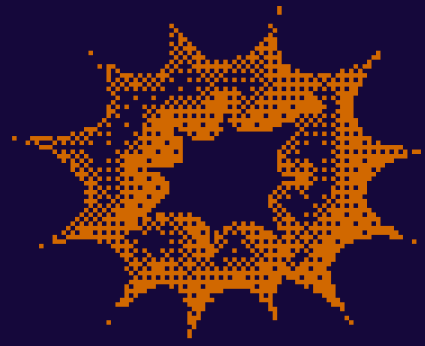
# **DRAYTON INFANTS**

**Find out more about what's been happening at  
Drayton Infants**

**WRITTEN BY STAFF & CHILDREN**



# AUTUMN 2023



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# LETTER FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Drayton Families,

Welcome to the spring term at Drayton Infants.

We know how difficult it can be keeping up with what is happening in school and how overwhelming it can be receiving lots of information at different times. We have tried to slim down our weekly newsletters so you have only the key information but want to ensure we keep you up to date with information such as the curriculum, progress being made against school improvement and ensuring you know about all of the extra things your children experience while with us at Drayton.

Each term we aim to send you this 'magazine' written by the staff and children. This term includes an overview of our school improvement plan, an update on phonics and writing and what personal development in school looks like for your children.

Mrs Boyce and I are thoroughly enjoying working across Drayton and Nightingale and it's been a pleasure getting to know you and the children better. Working in partnership with Nightingale has continued to provide positive changes at Drayton this year. As well as senior leaders and teams such as site, pastoral and admin working across the schools, curriculum leaders have been working together to provide support and challenge for one another. For example, each half term, Mrs Bradfield, our English lead from Nightingale works alongside the English team at Drayton to continue to support improvements in reading and writing. This has brought about rapid improvement and continues to build the joint working across the two schools.

We always welcome your ideas and feedback so please don't hesitate to catch one of us on the gate in the morning or contact the office to arrange a more convenient time to talk.

On behalf of myself and the staff team, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another busy and exciting term at Drayton.

Mrs Hutt  
Partnership Headteacher

# OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Last term we have worked really hard on our school values. We took our Acorn values and simplified them. We now have the OAK values.

The OAK values are firmly embedded into school life. Children, staff, Trustees and many parents all know the OAK values. The children live by the values of Open and honest, Ask listen and Learn, Kind and caring.

Every Monday we have an assembly to introduce the value of the week which is the one that the Oak Star of the week will be rewarded for on Friday. The children do, of course, have to try and keep all the values all week. We discuss in Assembly and class what that value looks like in school.

Children are rewarded with a value sticker or token when they are seen really keeping the value independently. The children are learning the values and understand them and tokens motivates and rewards the behaviours and attitude we expect from the children at Drayton

At the end of each half term, we have introduced a really special assembly to which we invite parents secretly and award very special certificates to the Oak stars of the half term. The staff choose two children from their class to accept the award and their parents are in the assembly. Each certificate has a citation about the child winning the award and the reasons they have been chosen for it. It's a very special assembly.

The OAK values are on display around the school and the children are reminded of them through the language we use when talking to them.



# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Our school improvement plan is made up of 5 core strands.

## **Strand 1 - Improvements in the teaching and assessment of phonics**

Following the rapid improvement in phonics at our partnership school, providing support and guidance to improve the teaching and learning of reading at Drayton. Revisiting training with all staff, setting of children to ensure no gaps are missed and careful monitoring by our phonics lead, supported by the lead at Nightingale. This includes weekly lesson drop ins, tracking of all children which is overseen by the Wensum Trust and investing in books and resources.

## **Strand 2 - Improving teaching of writing - Introducing Talk for Writing**

Introducing a whole school approach to the teaching of writing. This will allow for consistency - ensuring children can build on their learning across year groups with the same use of language and models for writing. Training for staff is taking place over a 2 year period, with visits from our trainer each half term. Leaders work together across our partnership of schools to support each other.

## **Strand 3 - Communication with families**

Evaluating systems already in place, including gaining parent feedback, and identifying improvement required.  
Ensuring clear processes for communication are in place.

Ensuring parents are fully informed about what their children are learning in school and have access to materials and support so they can support at home.

## **Strand 4 - Improving the quality of education across the wider curriculum**

Continuing to build on the long term planning of the foundation subjects (subjects outside of Maths, English and Science) so it is clear what key knowledge, skills and vocabulary are to be taught and how learning builds over time. Developing the quality of teaching and learning so it is of the highest quality in all year groups and in all subjects.

## **Strand 5 - Ensuring our classrooms, environments, curriculum and teaching allows all pupils to achieve their very best**

Continue to provide high quality training for all staff so they are confident in supporting all children. Making adaptations to the curriculum, ensuring all children can access all learning in the way they need and achieve the very best outcomes.



# MEET OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

Everybody gets their  
say  
We all have a voice

We go to our class and ask  
big questions

## DCIS SCHOOL COUNCIL



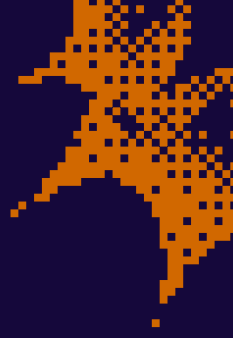
We gather the feelings and thoughts of our whole class – everyone has a say and a vote.

We take the votes, ideas and thoughts to our next meeting so everyone's voice is heard.

Our meetings are with Mrs Boyce and we discuss things like which charities we might support this year, how the school spends money, how we can fundraise for school events and equipment, which trips we might go on and sporting events we might be able to take part in. We talk about how we feel about school and our learning.



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT DRAYTON



Personal development in school is centred around some key themes:

- developing responsible, respectful and active citizens
- promoting equality of opportunity
- promoting an inclusive environment
- developing pupils' **character**, giving them qualities they need to flourish in society
- developing pupils' **confidence** and **resilience** so that they can keep themselves mentally healthy
- preparing pupils for the next phase of education

These themes are woven through our curriculum and day to day routines and practices in school. Below is some key areas which make up our offer at Drayton, providing children with opportunities to develop these skills.



## 1 PSHE Curriculum

The PSHE curriculum is split into the three key themes of Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Living in the Wider World. This is in addition to our RSE (Relationship Education) lesson which are held in the summer term each year.

PSHE sessions are taught weekly as well as being threaded through other subjects such as science (keeping ourselves healthy) and computer (staying safe online).

Our schools values are woven through our PHSE curriculum and high quality texts to support themes being taught.

## 2 Curriculum Enhancements

Our wider curriculum is centred around books which have been chosen for their high quality texts and the themes they highlight. Some of these include looking after our planet, key, significant people of history and what we can learn from them and differences in cultures and traditions.

At Drayton we aim to give learning meaning. This means we do not simply follow a classroom focused curriculum. To help our pupils see the value of PSHE, we find a range of opportunities to help the learning 'make sense' and 'come to life.' This is done through strategies such as our School Council, with representatives voted for by their class; visitors from the wider community coming to speak with the children; trips and visits into the local community and beyond; representing the school in a wider event such as sports and presenting and performing for their peers and families.



### 3

## Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities



At Drayton, our curriculum is enriched through our clubs and extra-curricular activities. Every member of staff is invited to host a club that helps to promote their own passions at some point through the year. These might be linked to a specific subject, like Art or Tennis club, or be more focussed on skills such as singing, or sharing and turn taking in Board Games Club.

We facilitate a range of clubs from external providers such as tennis and football. We also have a range of opportunities from visitors through our PE and wellbeing curriculum.

### 4

## Eco-Schools

Drayton Community Infant School is registered with Keep Britain Tidy's eco-schools programme and we received our most recent green flag accreditation in July 2023.

This prestigious award recognises the fantastic ongoing work DCIS does to help the environment and teach the children about caring for their planet.

A new eco committee is formed in the first term of each academic year with 2 representatives from each key stage 1 class, and 2 representatives from Reception joining from the Spring term.

At the start of each academic year an environmental review on 10 eco-topics is completed by the children and staff to identify strengths and areas for improvement. From this review, 3 eco-topics are chosen which form our action plan for the year.

In their classes, the children and adults discuss ideas and activities to work on for our 3 topics. All pupils are involved in eco-activities throughout the year, and we also welcome family members outside organisations to support us in our work.

Our 3 topics that we will be working on this year are Marine, School Grounds and Global Citizenship.

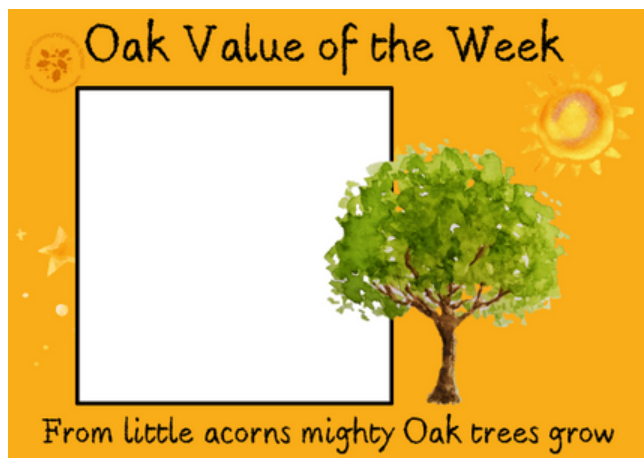
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## Assemblies

Monday assemblies are always linked to our values, focussing on a different one each week. We think about what they mean, what they may look and sound like and why it's important to keep them. On a Friday we come together to celebrate children who have demonstrated our value of focus.

Singing is a weekly favourite where Mrs Boyce teaches the children a range of songs which includes some favourites from singing club.

Assemblies for the remainder of the week are focussed on our PHE themes and key topics such as keeping safe in a range of situations, religious celebrations and important people from the past and present.





# PE AT DRAYTON

By Mrs Dearden  
PE Lead

In EYFS, the children have been lucky to have Annie Mooney, a PE expert, come in to take their very first PE lesson which centres around the 6 cogs linked to developing each child, based on the holistic approach: Personal, Social, Cognitive, Creative, Physical and Health and Fitness. Alongside this, the children start to develop their Fundamental Movement Skills of agility, balance and co-ordination.

In Year 1 the children have been applying their Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS) and developing their personal and social cogs, to team games, e.g. Football and Dodgeball and in Year 2 they have been developing their FMS and Cogs in Ultimate Frisbee, Tag Rugby and Bollywood Dancing. They proudly performed their class dance to other classes in the school.

The WNDSSP (West Norfolk and Dereham Schools Sports Partnership) came in to school in November to lead a PE Dodgeball Festival for Year 1 and a Tag Rugby Festival for year 2. In both festivals the children practiced skills that they had been taught during their PE sessions and they learnt some new skills.

A huge part of the children's journey at Drayton Infants centres around health and well-being and the personal development of each child. We have been very fortunate to have a fantastic lady called Ellise to come in every half-term to take a session in each class.

The first session in September focused on how we need to **CONNECT** with others. She taught them the importance of looking at each other and listening to each other. In November, Ellise focused on **LEARNING** new skills and she taught the children some sign language, which they still love to do each day.

We are looking forward to another visit from Annie (EYFS) and Ellise (whole school) in January and another PE Festival later on in the term for KS1.



# RE AT DRAYTON

By Ms Malone-Johnstone  
RE Lead

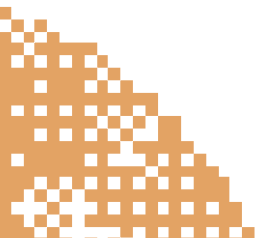


We are so very proud of all of the children at Drayton for their amazing winter performances. The singing, acting and costumes were outstanding.

Reverend Marc came to visit us on two occasions during the autumn term for harvest and for Christmas. He explained why these events are so important to Christians and how people celebrate by coming together.

Well done and thank you to everyone who donated to the local foodbank as part of our harvest appeal. At Drayton we try to treat others with kindness and help when we can.

The Year 1 children enjoyed their trip to St. Margaret's Church for a special Christingle Service. They then made their own Christingle in class to bring home.



# PROGRESS IN PHONICS

By Miss Higgins  
Reading Lead

Our first year of streaming phonics across the year groups has been a great success. The children have settled well into this new routine and have been fantastic at ensuring they know which group they are in to utilise the whole learning time. Our most recent phonics data is showing that streaming is having a positive impact on meeting children's needs and making sure gaps are filled and retained.

We have had the pleasure of working with Wensum Hub last half term, who joined us for a phonics learning walk and to do an audit of Little Wandle resources. They were delighted with our phonics teaching and commented on the consistency and positive learning behaviours seen across EYFS and KS1.

We have also been working closely with our partnership school Nightingale, sharing best practise to ensure every child is receiving high quality teaching.

We are thrilled that the Friends kindly donated some money towards new Little Wandle books. We were able to purchase more Phase 5 Little Wandle books and a selection of books for our free readers. We have some exciting new stories for the children to bring home including fiction and non-fiction texts!



# INTRODUCING TALK FOR WRITING

By Mrs Hipperson  
Writing Lead



Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing was developed by Pie Corbett who is an English educational trainer, writer, author and poet.

It is a whole school approach which develops our children as readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

Talk for Writing enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes. The approach moves 'from dependence towards independence' through using shared and guided teaching and eventually children writing independently and creatively.

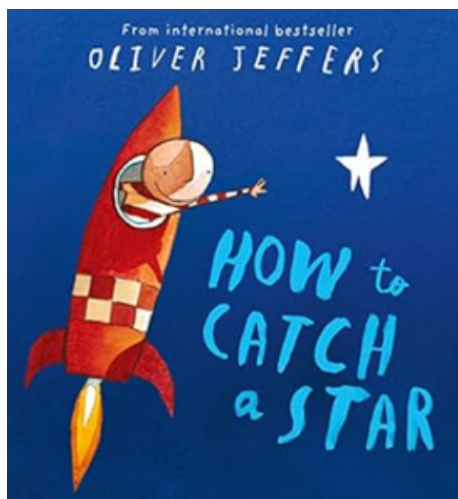
Talk for Writing is a multi-sensory and interactive way to learn, allowing children of all abilities to write a range of story and text types using various methods.

We want our children to leave Drayton as thoughtful and independent readers and writers.

Talk for Writing has been successful in raising attainment and improving progress of children's writing. You can find out more about this here:

<https://www.talk4writing.com/about/does-talk-for-writing-work/>

In the short time we have been using Talk for Writing we have already seen an increase in vocabulary, excitement for learning and fantastic ideas and creativity for writing.



# THE BIG QUESTION



We learn about the world

Everyone is kind and held each other

I love the library

We learn how to read

We have clubs and extra stuff to do like band

## What makes Drayton Infant School a good school?

We learn so much!

We do loads of sports

My teachers care about me and look after me

We learn about the world and how we can look after it

I'm learning how to play the guitar

We go out to places like the church and the woods