Drayton Community Infant School

Weekly Newsletter

19/10/2026

Dear Families,

Last Friday we had the pleasure of welcoming Alice McDonald our local MP for Norwich North to school. Alice toured the school and spent a few minutes in every class. Alice then joined Mrs. Boyce and the Value Voles for a discussion. Alice told the children all about where she works and Frederick said, 'I know the Houses of Parliament because we are learning about Guy Fawkes!' Well done, Fred. Alice showed the children pictures of London and asked them about keeping laws. The children were amazing and told her all about our school values and our new Acorn Code. They also demonstrated that having rules in school is the same as the country having rules and laws to keep us all safe.

Mrs. Boyce asked Alice if she could help us with a problem. Sometimes 'The Child of the Day' picks someone to have lunch with and then changes their mind. This can sometimes be upsetting. After some discussion and some ideas from everyone we thought a good idea is to choose the person at register time, and the grown-ups keep a note.

The children gave some lovely reasons for the children they choose to join them at lunch.

'I pick someone who is sad' 'I pick someone who maybe doesn't have someone to sit with'
'I pick someone who hasn't been picked'
'In our class you can only be picked 3 times'

It really was a terrific morning, and Alice was heard saying as she left 'well that was lovely'
We were very proud of the children



Please see important information below regarding change to our attendance and absence reporting procedures.

We hope you have a lovely week and a fantastic half term. Please be reminded that our last day is Thursday, finishing at the usual time of 3.00pm. We look forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 2nd November.

Sarah Hutt and Lou Boyce and the DCIS Team

Parent Forum

The first Parent Forum will take place on Tuesday 3rd November at 2pm in school. Please sign in at the main office.

Parents wishing to add anything to the agenda please email the office this time and going forward you will know who the Forum members are. Mrs Boyce will collate all the topics and Chair the meeting. If you are interested in joining, please let the office know.

Attendance

8.20am	**Gates Open**
8.30am	**Classroom doors open**
8.40am	**Gates Closed** **Classroom doors close**
3pm	**End of the school day.**

Attendance last week	Attendance this term (up to 16.10.26)
97.02%	95.98%

Our aim is to maintain attendance above 96%. Thank you for your continued support.

New procedures – How to Report Absence and Leave of Absence Requests

Absence Reporting

With immediate effect, absences can no longer be reported using the school voicemail system.

We ask that all absences are reported through Weduc wherever possible.

If you are unable to access Weduc, you may report your child's absence by emailing the school office or by telephoning the school and speaking directly with a member of the office team.

Please be aware that absence notifications can only be accepted from a parent/carer or other authorised contact whose details are recorded on the child's file. If an email or telephone call is received from someone who is not listed as an authorised contact, we will need to contact the child's parent(s)/carer(s) to verify the absence before it can be recorded.

Our IT team are currently removing the voicemail option from the school's telephone system. As a result, absence messages left on voicemail will not be monitored and may result in your child's absence not being recorded.

Leave of Absence Request Form

Leave of Absence requests can now only be made using a Leave of Absence Request Form.

Paper copies of the form are available from the school office. If you are unable to collect a form in person, you may contact the office and request that a copy is sent home in your child's book bag. Alternatively, the form can be downloaded from the school website, printed and completed at home (Attendance - Leave of Absence Request Form)

Completed forms can be returned to the school office or handed directly to a member of staff on the gate at the start of the school day.

Please note that requests made by email, telephone or conversation cannot be accepted and must be submitted using the official Leave of Absence Request Form.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain accurate attendance records and ensure the safety and welfare of all pupils.

First Class Pictures

Our lovely Reception classes featuring in last week's Evening News.



Talk for Writing event in Year 1

Year 1 parents and carers:

Please come along on Thursday 22nd at 2.45pm to read your child's story. We have been learning all about 'Handa's Surprise' and the children are excited to be authors of their own description stories.

Harvest Appeal

We are collecting tinned goods and store cupboard food items for the food bank for Harvest. Please have a look in your cupboards for anything you might be willing to share with those less fortunate or pick up an extra item on your next trip to the supermarket. Make sure the use by or best before date is at least 3 months.



Boogie Bounce Yr1 and Yr2

There are still a few spaces available in Boogie Bounce. The club will run every Tuesday from 3rd November to 8th December, from 3.00pm to 3.45pm, for a total of six sessions. The cost is £12.00, payable via Pupil Asset.

Please follow the link below to sign up. Parents will be notified by Wednesday 21st October if their child has been allocated a place.

Sign Up Form

Fun Sports Club

Don't forget to sign up to Fun Sports Club for next half term. Running from Thursday 5th November 3.00-4.00pm. Full details and on our school website, follow the link below:

https://www.draytoninfantschool.co.uk/clubs/

School Photos

Your School Photograph is Ready!

Vancols Photographers are pleased to confirm that the School Photographs are ready to view using the QR code on your proof card.

If you have already scanned the QR code on the Proof and registered you will receive an auto email notification.

If you have not done it yet, don't panic, you can still view by scanning the QR code on your Proof and following the instructions.

If you have not received your Proof or it has been lost you can call Vancols Parent Line on 01206 273711 however if you do not have an existing account with Van Cols you will need to contact the school directly for the website photo code.

Regards
Vancols Photographers

New School Caterers

We are very excited to announce that Nourish have been awarded our school catering contract, they are very much looking forward to feeding our pupils. New menus to follow shortly.

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to the Nourish family!

We are delighted to introduce Nourish Contract Catering as your new school catering provider. We know a good lunch makes a big difference to a child's day, and we look forward to making lunchtime a happy, welcoming, and tasty experience.

Since 2003, Nourish Contract Catering has been bringing freshly prepared food to school communities. Our approach is shaped by four pillars that sit at the heart of the Nourish family:

Food First – Preparing fresh, nutritious meals that children enjoy, with menus that balance familiar favourites and new flavours, meet the School Food Standards and use seasonal ingredients wherever possible.

Customer – Getting to know your school community and listening to children, parents and staff. Your feedback helps us develop a service that works for you.

Family Led – Putting people and relationships at the heart of our approach, supporting our catering teams and working closely with your school so children see friendly faces who care about their lunchtime experience.

Responsible – Taking care in how we source, prepare and serve our food, supporting individual dietary needs and finding ways to reduce waste and care for the environment.

There will be plenty to look forward to, from colourful menus and themed lunches to food activities that encourage children to explore new tastes. Our mascots, Chef Nourish and Gardener Nourish, may also make an appearance!

We understand that starting a new meal service can bring questions, particularly if your child has an allergy or special dietary requirement. Please let the school know before your child begins taking meals so we can work together to discuss their needs and agree suitable arrangements.

Menus and further details will be shared before we begin. We look forward to meeting your children, hearing their ideas and helping them build a positive relationship with food.

Warm wishes,

The Nourish Team
Nourish Contract Catering Limited

Lego Education Tokens Here



Help us win £1,000 of LEGO® Education resources!

We're taking part in the LEGO® Education Token Collect Competition and need your help!

From 26th September to 5th November, tokens will be printed in your local newspaper. The more tokens our school collects, the greater our chance of winning fantastic LEGO® Education resources worth up to £1,000. Tokens will be printed in Eastern Daily Press and Norwich Evening News.

Thank you for supporting our school and helping us bring more LEGO® Education resources into the classroom!

Open Evenings



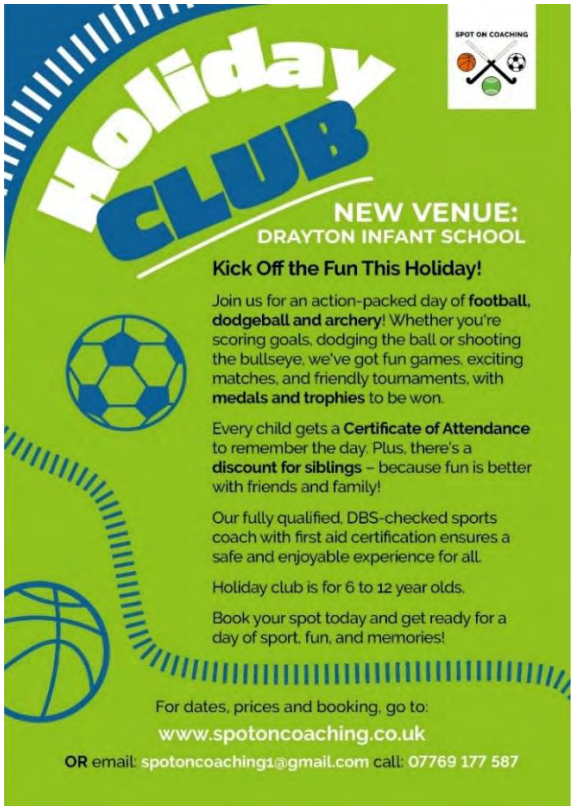
Events/Clubs





[Tennis Camp Booking Link]


MAKE YOUR OWN
PUMPKIN HOUSE
Miniscule, magnificent, mysterious, miraculous,
what is your Pumpkin House going to be?
Our Make your own Pumpkin House Workshop is a rich, gloriously creative session to work with natural materials and have something truly wonderful to grace your front door.
Your group will choose a pumpkin to decorate/carve/design and bring to life. All materials are provided.
This ticket is for 1 Pumpkin Station - for up to 2 adults and 3 children.
BOOK NOW
Tuesday 27th October
Wednesday 28th October
Thursday 29th October
Slots at 10am, 11.15am, 1pm and 2.15pm
Book at the Sandringham Ticket Office or www.sandringhamestate.co.uk/whats-on/events


SPOT ON COACHING
Holiday CLUB
NEW VENUE:
DRAYTON INFANT SCHOOL
Kick Off the Fun This Holiday!
Join us for an action-packed day of football, dodgeball and archery! Whether you're scoring goals, dodging the ball or shooting the bullseye, we've got fun games, exciting matches, and friendly tournaments, with medals and trophies to be won.
Every child gets a Certificate of Attendance to remember the day. Plus, there's a discount for siblings – because fun is better with friends and family!
Our fully qualified, DBS-checked sports coach with first aid certification ensures a safe and enjoyable experience for all.
Holiday club is for 6 to 12 year olds.
Book your spot today and get ready for a day of sport, fun, and memories!
For dates, prices and booking, go to:
www.spotoncoaching.co.uk
OR email: spotoncoaching1@gmail.com call: 07769 177 587


Norwich Making Space presents...
Skeletons, Spaghetti & Spray Art
A spooky & silly Parent & Child creative workshop for ages 4+, mixing art with a little science!
Saturday 31st October
9:45-11:00
11:45-13:00
13:45-15:00
Marlpit Community Centre
Hellesdon Road
Norwich NR6 5EG
£12 per adult/child pair
NORWICH MAKING SPACE
For more information and booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/norwich-making-space
or check our socials: @norwichmakingspace

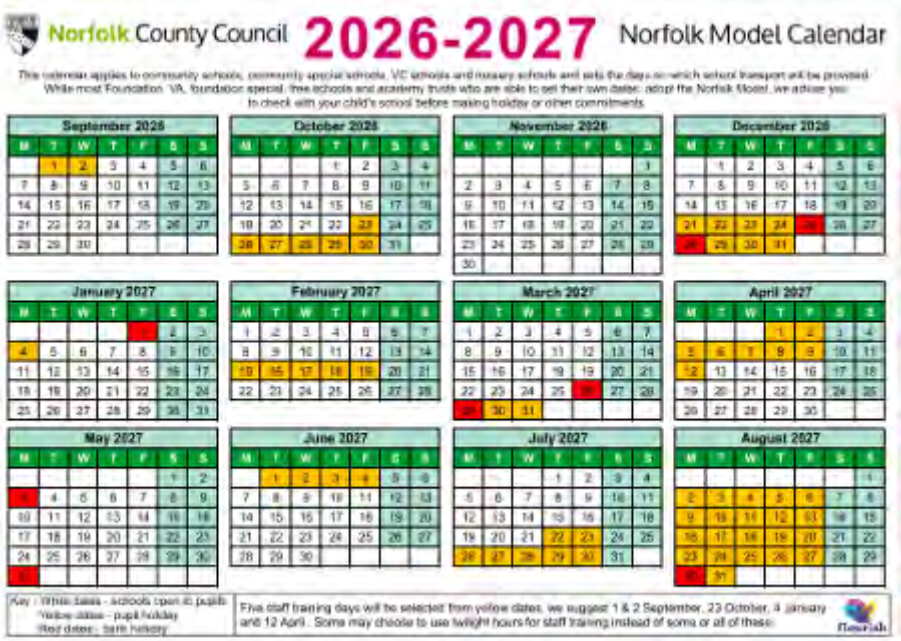

NORWICH MAKING SPACE
Autumn Art Club
£20 per session
Full day £35
Spooky & seasonal creative workshops for kids aged 7-11!
@ Marlpit Community Centre
Hellesdon Road, Norwich NR6 5EG
Thursday 29th October
9:30-11:45
Layered Landscapes
Clay / 3D
12:45-15:00
Forest Floor Fibre Art
Textiles
Friday 30th October
9:30-11:45
Spooky Screenprinting
Printmaking
12:45-15:00
House of Mirrors
Art + Science
For more information and booking, visit ticketsource.co.uk/norwich-making-space
or check our socials: @norwichmakingspace

Dates for the diary

Reception – Yellow	Year 1 – Blue	Year 2 – Green	Whole school –NO COLOUR	KS1(Y1&Y2) - Grey

October		
22nd Oct		T4W parent event – to read your child's story
22nd Oct		Last Day of Term – Autumn 1
November		
2nd Nov		First Day of Term – Autumn 2
2nd Nov		Reception National Child Measurement Programme
3rd Nov	2.00pm	Parent Forum
10th Nov	9.00am	Reception **Mole** class parents/carer to watch their child's phonics lesson
10th Nov	2.15pm	Reception **Hedgehog** class parents/carers to watch their child's phonics lesson times
12th Nov	9.00am	Year 1 parents/carers to watch their child's phonics lesson at 9.00am
13th Nov		Children in Need – wear something spotty or brightly coloured
16th Nov	Monday	Children wear Odd socks (with normal uniform) to launch antibullying week.
24th & 26th Nov		Parents Evening – details to follow
December		
7th Dec	am	Santa Visit
8th Dec	am	Santa Visit
8th Dec	2.00-3.00pm	Yr R Nativity to parents
9th Dec	9.15-10.15am	Yr R Nativity to parents
11th Dec	9.15am	Rocksteady Concert – performance to parents of Rocksteady children.
16th Dec	am	Santa Visit
16th Dec	2.00-3.00pm	Squirrel Class Xmas Crafts
17th Dec	2.00-3.00pm	Rabbit Class Xmas Crafts
18th Dec	10.00-11.00am	Yr 2 Carol Concert
18th Dec	2.00-3.00pm	Yr 2 Carol Concert

Term dates


Norfolk County Council
2026-2027
Norfolk Model Calendar
This calendar applies to community schools, community special schools, VC schools and nursery schools and sets the days on which school transport will be provided. While most Foundation, VA, foundation special, free schools and academy trusts who are able to set their own dates, adopt the Norfolk Model, we advise you to check with your child's school before making holiday or other commitments.
September 2026
October 2026
November 2026
December 2026
January 2027
February 2027
March 2027
April 2027
May 2027
June 2027
July 2027
August 2027
Key : White dates - schools open to pupils
Yellow dates - pupil holiday
Red dates - bank holiday
Five staff training days will be selected from yellow dates, we suggest 1 & 2 September, 23 October, 4 January and 12 April . Some may choose to use twilight hours for staff training instead of some or all of these.
Flourish