



Duncombe News

A fabulously busy and engaging week here at Duncombe! Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed a scientific studies morning exploring Light and Dark with Set Point. The pupils were fully engaged, taking part in experiments and adding to their already growing knowledge of the world around them as discovered and understood by scientific enquiry. But it did not stop there, oh no! On Wednesday Year 3 were transported back to the Roman era with a day dedicated to Roman Britain. Soldiers marched, battle cries were heard and the more mundane cooking and heating of the house were discovered too! Year 6 ventured to a Buddhist Monastery meeting with practicing Buddhists and exploring the beliefs and actions associated with the faith. Three wonderful experiences for our pupils that have taken their learning to the next level.

Class 2LA delivered their class assembly on Friday. Whilst I was absent joining the Year 6 on their travels, I was delighted to be told that the pupils shared their learning experiences from this term with growing confidence and significant comic timing. Topics such as the Great Fire of London and the Forest School experience made for a very enjoyable assembly for all. Well done 2LA, I know Miss Ashcroft and Mrs Pannett are very proud of you!

I read a very interesting article from the Childrens' Poet Laureate, Chris Riddell this week. He is urging school leaders and ministers to halt and reverse the demise of school libraries. I have put the link to the article below. As I read this I was struck with the wonderful gem that is our Library here at Duncombe. Stocked with over 5,600 books and visited by every pupil at least once a week who, to date, have borrowed over 700 titles! Our school library not only sits at the heart of the building but is at the heart of our children's learning experience. Our Year 6 Library Prefects (shown below) spoke with Miss Sands this week about the role and their enjoyment of it.

"I like sorting out the books because it's kind of like a treasure hunt; you need to find all of the books, the right places to put books and then you get to scan books and sort them." Alastair R (6S)

"I enjoy scanning the books for the children; I've never done anything like this before as it's a new experience, but I'm loving this opportunity." Xavier F (6S)

"When the younger children come in, we can help them find books and recommend authors that they might enjoy. As a new pupil to Duncombe I'm pleased to be a Library Prefect and help everyone else." Ashley B (6LT)

"It's great to be surrounded by all the books and to be doing my bit to encourage the children to read." Zoe D (6S)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37976082>



I will be attending the Cognita Global Heads' Conference all next week. In my absence Miss Sands will lead as Head and Mrs Hodson will take Miss Sands classes for the week. Miss Sands will deal with the day to day running of the school including leading assemblies, observing lessons and handing out the Headmaster's Awards. I am looking forward to being able to share some of the outcomes of the conference in the coming weeks, not least the work we are doing towards securing further funding for projects across the school.

Do have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

Thursday 24th November - Art Exhibition in Treetops. 7pm to 8pm.

Friday 25th November—Year 5 Choir to sing at the Wreath Festival at All Saints Church. 2.30pm start. (Parents welcome.)

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 22nd November - U11 5-a-side Hertford & District Prep Football Tournament (home). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 23rd November - U11 A&B Football and Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 29th November - Shaking Up Shakespeare for Years 3 to 6.

Wednesday 30th November - Year 6 to the Natural History Museum.

Thursday 1st December - Last Speech and Drama lesson

Friday 2nd December - Music Assembly for invited performers. (Parents welcome). 8.50am start.

Ice Skating at Van Hags. 5pm start.

Sunday 4th December - Christmas Fair. 1pm to 3pm.

Monday 5th December - Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury.

Tuesday 6th December - Carol Service Years 1-6 at Haileybury Chapel. 5pm start.

Wednesday 7th December - Last ballet lesson.

Thursday 8th December - Nursery Christmas Play. 9.20am in New Hall.

Friday 9th December - Reception Christmas Play. 9.20am in New Hall.

Monday 12th December - EKG, KG and N trip to Springtime Nursery.

Tuesday 13th December - EKG and KG Sing-Along in Treetops. Parents, Grandparents and family all welcome. 9am start (refreshments available from 8.30am in Treetops). Year 4 Choir to The Dell in Hertford.

Wednesday 14th December - Reception to Year 6 visit to Pantomime at Hertford Theatre. Treetops Disco.

Thursday 15th December - This is the last day of term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 finish at 2.45 pm,

Years 4 - 6 finish at 3.00pm.

Please note that no after school clubs will take place but after school care will be available.

The Spring Term commences on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Erin G (3B) and Amelia C (3B) who performed on Sunday in both the matinee and evening shows of Mayhem Theatre Arts "Celebrations" show. The show took place at The Spotlight Theatre in Hoddesdon and they were joint winners of The Junior Street Dance Award 2016. Well done girls!



Well done to Laiba C (NM) who has reached her class goal.



Well done to Jamie S (NB) who has reached his class goal.



2LA Assembly

Well done to 2LA for a great assembly this morning!



Here are this week's Pupils who received a Headmaster's Award. Well done to them!



Carol Service - Tuesday 6th December

We are looking forward to our Carol Service at Haileybury on Tuesday 6th December for Years 1-6. Here is more information about this event:

Treetops' day will end as normal at 3.30pm. If parents are going to the Carol Service at Haileybury, please see your form teacher to arrange an early pick up. **Please note that school will finish for Lower School at 2.45pm and Upper School at 3pm.** This allows everyone the opportunity to freshen up and have tea in good time before our **Carol Service in Haileybury Chapel which starts at 5pm.** Please do not arrive before 4.30pm. This allows us time to prepare the Chapel. Please remember to secure your car at Haileybury and take anything of value into the service with you. The service will last for an hour. **After School Clubs** - Treetops After School Activities will continue as normal. **There will be no Clubs for non-Treetops pupils.** If you are unable to collect your child by 3pm on Tuesday 6th December, please let the School Office know.

Please arrange childcare for siblings below Reception age and babies.

Any Reception child who has an older sibling is allowed to attend the Christmas Carol Service. They must be in their school uniform and will be seated with their class teacher in the pews towards the front of the church. If you are intending to bring your Reception child with you, please let the School Office know so that we can make sure we have enough room for them all.

We will be sending more information out next week. Thank you.

Dress Up Day Fun

Thank you to all those who dressed in pink, purple, green and blue on Thursday to raise money for Woburn's charity, The Art Room.



Vehicle Access Safety Improvements

We are continually looking at ways to improve safety across the site. Following two incidences of near misses at the school entrance where cars have been leaving the site at excessive speeds, we will be installing speed humps across the main entrance to the school and across the entrance to the Parents' Car Park.

These speed humps will not only slow traffic down, but will also provide a visible reminder about speed. They will be the heavy duty PVC type that are black and yellow which also have built in cats eyes for additional visibility in the dark. They are designed to slow traffic to 5 mph.

The speed humps have been ordered and once they arrive on site I shall arrange for them to be fitted by a contractor at the earliest opportunity.

As you will fully appreciate, the safety of you and your children is paramount. I would ask for your cooperation and assistance in ensuring that if entering and exiting the site in your car, you do so safely, at an appropriate speed and being mindful of pedestrians and other road users at all times.

Thank you.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

James Storey motivates Upper School

Last Wednesday Upper School were lucky enough to have an assembly led by James Storey. James spoke about how attitude can affect you on and off the sports field. James has had many years to reflect on his own attitude having played professional Rugby from the tender age of 17. James explained that when he first started it really was a challenge to work in such a demanding and high pressured environment. James spoke engagingly and with good humour to the pupils about the challenges that are presented as an elite sportsman and made comparisons to similar challenges that one might find within a school environment, such as in the playground or on a sports fixture.

After discussing in depth about our own individual attitudes, James began to discuss how your individual attitude can positively or negatively affect your peers or a sports team. James used the example of a Wolfpack to explain how attitude can develop cohesion, *"in a pack of wolves the individual wolf is weak, however, several wolves who work together can achieve great success and can take down any animal."* To be one wolf in a wolf pack James said he teaches children to remember the word 'TREDS' which stands for: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportmanship.

After finishing some thought provoking Q&A with the pupils, James went on to tell everyone about something he has learnt over his career in rugby, James stated, *"There are two people in this world: 'red loopers' and 'blue loopers'. Red loopers are people that argue and never agree with anyone. These people always think they are right and never wrong. They get frustrated and angry when things do not go their way. They frequently blame others for things out of their control. I have played and known some red loopers on and off the rugby pitch. Those people, in the end, find it hard to succeed and they go around and around, again and again, in a negative red loop. Blue loopers on the other hand are people who give compliments and praise to others. They congratulate others, even when it is at their own expense. Blue loopers are helpful to others. They go around and around, again and again, in a positive blue loop. The red loop characters produce a negative environment, the blue loop characters produce a positive environment. It is easy to be a red looper and I think everyone can be a red looper sometimes, but it takes patience, commitment and self-reflection to become a true blue looper."*



Wreath Festival Reminder

Duncombe are delighted to have been invited to take part in the Wreath Festival at All Saints Church in Hertford. The festival takes place on Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November.

All Treetops classes plus Years 1 & 2 are preparing a wreath per class. Every child will contribute to their class wreath.

The Year 3 choir will be walking down to All Saints on the afternoon of Friday 25th and will be singing a selection of traditional Christmas carols. Parents are invited to come and watch their child sing and collect them directly from All Saints after the event. Any child not collected from the Church will of course be brought back to school.



Early Years Art Exhibition Reminder

We will be holding our Early Years Art Exhibition on Thursday 24th November from 7pm to 8pm. This is an event for parents when you will have the opportunity to browse and purchase the framed mini-master pieces your little ones have been creating. The cost of each print is £10 and payment can be made by cash or cheque. We will also take orders for duplicate prints as well. If you are able to come along and have not let the School Office know already, please reply to office@duncombe-school.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there.
Mrs Fisher.

End of Autumn Term Date

We would like to remind you that we break up for Christmas on **Thursday 15th December**. As this is the end of Autumn term school will finish early as follows:

- Treetops and Years 1-3 finish at 2.45pm
- Years 4 - 6 finish at 3.00pm.

Please note that no after school clubs will take place but after school care will be available.

The Spring Term commences on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club has been extremely popular this term and is now full on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Therefore unfortunately we are only able to accommodate ad hoc bookings for either a Monday or Friday for the remainder of this term.

Your understanding is much appreciated.
Ian Thomas, Business Manager

After School Clubs this Term

As this is such a long term some of our clubs that are just 10 week courses are about to finish.

Please note that the following clubs will finish on the dates below:

Gym Club = 21st Nov
Golf = 25th Nov

As usual we will be offering care as an alternative to the clubs for the remainder of the term and request that you please let the School Office know if you require care.

Thank you
Mrs Price

Phil the Bag - Reminder

A Phil the Bag collection will be taking place next Wednesday, 23rd November. Please bring your donations of clothing in a black bin bag on Wednesday morning and place them outside the Music Room. Please do not bring bags in before 23rd as there is no where to store them. A really big thank you, on behalf of the PA and the Uniform Shop Team, to everyone who is able to make a donation.

Many thanks.
The PA Team

Ice Skating at Van Hage

Friday 2nd December

The booking forms for Ice Skating at Van Hage have been sent via parentmail. Ticket requests are coming in thick and fast so if you haven't already booked your places then please do so. There are spare booking forms in the main school office.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all those who purchased a poppy from the School Office, we raised £42.29.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop Team request that if you owe any money to them, that you pay this by Friday 25th November please.

Lost

Named coat belonging to Freddie Masters.
Named cap belonging to James Radcliffe.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 21st November



Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day	Dish of the Day	Dish of the Day	Dish of the Day	Dish of the Day
Pasta Bar	Chicken, Ham and Broccoli Filo Pie	Tasty Lamb Kofta with Pitta Bread and Tzatziki	Roast Beef with Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding	Pizza Day
Bolognese Sauce Carbonara Tomato and Basil Spaghetti or Twists Freshly made Garlic Bread	Vegetarian Option Autumn Vegetable Stew with Dumplings	Vegetarian Option Creamy Cheesy Potato and Layer Bake	Vegetarian Option Pea and Parmesan Risotto	Pepperoni Pizza Margherita Pizza
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Vegetarian Option Sweet Pepper and 3 Cheese Frittata
Vegetables Sides of the Day	Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Steamed Rice Steamed Sweetcorn Sauté Courgettes	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Green Beans and Carrots Roasted Beetroot	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw
Dessert Apple and Pear Sponge with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Chip Shortbread Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Orange Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
				Dessert Strawberry Cheesecake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt
<p>Daily Salad Bar With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily</p>				