



# Duncombe News

We are in the season of Advent and, as a school, are greatly looking forward to a good number of events as we build towards the end of our term and the start of Christmas. Tonight is the annual Ice Skating event at Van Hage's and I am sure, as always, it will be another enjoyable evening. The fun doesn't stop there! Oh no, we have our PA Christmas Fair on Sunday. I am aware that such a great deal of work has gone into the preparations with Alison Hargreaves and the team really leading the way and galvanising a great deal of support from the school community. I am sure this will be a most enjoyable event and on behalf of us all I do want to say thank you in advance to the PA and all who are helping this weekend.

As you will be aware I attended the Cognita Heads' conference last week. A good number of key note speakers shared their wealth of experience on issues such as character education, impact research, outside learning and people growth. Perhaps the most significant element for me was the speech from Sir Clive Woodward. Not least because at the start of the day he decided to introduce himself to and sit with me! Picture the scene, Mr Phelan trying to resist the urge to ask for an autograph or selfie whilst the Head Coach of the England 2003 Rugby World Cup winners is engaging in conversation about the recent ban imposed on a key squad member of the current team! But resist I did and on leaving my company un-harassed, Sir Clive delivered a keynote speech on the building of effective teams and the notion of *teamship*. The process of 100% buy in; where all commit to a set of principles and rules without exception. A significant challenge for a team of 15; a much bigger one for organisations such as businesses, schools and societies. You'll be delighted to know I have made copious notes and over a period of time will look to pull a variety of items and initiatives into our strategic planning for the future.

Next week is exceptionally busy with our Carol Service at Haileybury on Tuesday and the Nursery (Thursday) and Reception (Friday) Christmas performances. These are always such lovely events with a great deal of hard work going in to them by pupils and staff. I look forward to seeing you there.

Well done to our music performers who delighted their audience with their playing this morning. Mrs Sutton and Mrs Turner were extremely pleased with the hard work and commitment shown.

Do have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

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



## Diary Dates

**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 to 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.

## Looking Forward

**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.**

## Year 5 & 6 Choir sing at Hanbury Manor

On Monday, Year 5 and 6 Choir went to sing at the Mercury and Observer Community Awards Ceremony at Hanbury Manor. It was great fun and we sang many songs. The soloists sang beautifully and everyone listened intently. Alastair Readman sang a beautiful version of Silent Night in German and English. Max Maples sang a verse in our choir song which he sang with confidence. At the end we were all giggling and smiling. We had a wonderful time and many thanks to Mrs Sutton and Mrs Turner for their wonderful accompaniment, and to Miss Sands and Mrs Webb for their great support.

*By our roving reporter Charlotte Phelan.*



## Music Assembly

What a wonderful music assembly we had this morning where we flew through various countries. We could have been in the Royal Albert Hall with Land of Hope and Glory at one stage. What a musical feat and all the children played beautifully.

Our concert began with Rosie and Charlie both on piano, lovely confident playing and both children showed no trace of nerves at all. For first time performers they both were brilliant. Thomas then followed, playing the piano with his piece learnt by memory. Wow! Our two violinists, Elizabeth who played and kept in time with her backing track, and Maya who showed great controlled bow action during her long slow notes. Connie wowed us with her viola playing, a first for Duncombe and what a lovely rich sound, well done Connie. Lucy Munro controlled her nerves and played with lovely dynamics and Elliot followed with his own composition played on his guitar. At the age of 9 this was truly impressive, well done!

Following Elliot, Harriet sang Lavender's Blue with a beautiful clear tone, and then Henry played his piece 'Stars War' with great confidence and accomplishment. Aler then played an exam piece and he has managed to create a beautiful tone on his cornet. We wish him well in his exam. Thomas had us all almost waving in time to his rendition of 'Land of Hope and Glory', what a mellow tone he is able to get from his instrument.

Matilda then played a duet, a first performance for her, so very well done. Ellie played her Christmas songs 'Jingle Bells', and 'We wish you a merry Christmas'. Well done Ellie you played with a beautiful sound. Georgiana continued the Christmas theme and played 'We Three Kings' with lovely slurring of notes. Koray in his playing whisked us off to Russia with the most amazing dynamics. Well done Koray.

Nick finished our concert with a flourish. Nick has consistently shown us what an accomplished musician he has become and it is always a delight to hear him perform for us.

Thank you to all the teachers who work so hard for our children, thank you to the parents who support the children in their practice and thank you to the children for being such fantastic performers. It was a lovely concert.

*Mrs Turner.*



## Wreath Festival

On Friday 25th November, Year 3 choir walked to All Saints Church. They sang Christmas carols at the Wreath Festival. "My favourite song was Midnight" reported Tilly, who was part of the Year 3 choir. "I loved singing at All Saints Church" reported Scarlett. Our mums and dads watched and some members of the public. We got a big clap that made us smile. The day was filled with joy and when we sang at the church everyone smiled.

*By our roving reporter Bella T-B (3CF)*

## Paradise Wildlife Park Competition

Back in September, Year 6 wrote some exciting animal adventure stories after visiting Paradise Wildlife Park. The stories were entered into a competition which was judged by a large panel including local author, Tamsyn Murray.

Both Mrs Galaska and Miss Micele were extremely impressed with the high standard of writing. However only three finalists could be chosen from Duncombe and the panel selected Zoe D, Xavier F and Jake W to go through to the final judging stages.

Along with parents and a few staff members, the children attended a presentation evening and received a book and a certificate for reaching the final. Unfortunately we did not win any overall prizes, but the children are all star writers in our eyes and we are very proud of their achievements. Well done to Zoe, Xavier and Jake!



## Year 6 Visit The Natural History Museum

Year 6 had a fantastic visit to the Natural History Museum in London. They took part in an Evolution workshop and were incredibly confident with their knowledge. The Scientist taking the workshop commented to both myself and Mr Le Tissier how amazed he was at the children's advanced Science thinking and their ability to apply their knowledge in a different context. He also said that he had never had such an engaged and polite group of children. I felt incredibly proud of all of them.

The pupils also visited the Earthquake and Volcano section reaching the area by an escalator through the Earth! They all stood on the Earthquake simulator and watched an enlightening and devastating film about the effects of an earthquake and the following Tsunami. It really made them all think.

We then went through Human Biology and the optical illusions section which confused and amazed everyone. A big thanks to Mr Le Tissier and Mrs Coughlan for their help and support throughout the day.

A very successful and engaging trip for all.  
*Mrs Marrion - Head of Science*



## Shaking Up Shakespeare - The Nutcracker

Anthony Glenn once again entertained Years 3 to 6 in the enchanting tale of the Nutcracker. The one man show proved to be a resounding success, as budding Duncombe performers assisted him in retelling the story. A cracking start to the festive season! Here are some comments from the children:

“Anthony Glenn is fantastic! He makes the audience laugh and made the performance fun.” *Joshua K (4M)*

“Two words...purely comical!” *Xavier F (6S)*

“The story of The Nutcracker was inspiring. It was exciting because Anthony Glenn always gets us involved and it is never boring.” *Lucy M (5T)*



## 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.

## The Great Duncombe Bake Off

May we remind you to get your Great Duncombe Bake Off entries in by Thursday 15th March please. This competition is open to children in Lower and Upper School

## Christmas Fair

With everything now in place for Sunday, we have one last request for donations of nut free cakes, cookies and mince pies for the cake stall, to be brought in on the day. We would also like to say a really big thank you to all the many volunteers and Duncombe staff who have helped with the preparations and those who have signed up to help on the day. The Christmas Fair Team have been working hard to make sure this event is a fun afternoon for everyone and we hope that you will be able to join us.

*The PA Team*

## 2JA Assembly - Change of Date

We would like to inform you that the 2JA assembly will now take place on Friday 20th January and NOT Friday 13th January. May we remind you that a crèche will be available.

## Absence from School

Can we please remind you that if your child is unwell and not going to be in school, you need to inform us as early as possible on the day. We do need to have contact each day your child is off. Thank you. *The School Office Team.*

## Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

Duncombe School Christmas Postal Service is open for business for the children now. The Post Box is in the Old Hall and emptied at least once a day. There is also a box in the entrance to Treetops. Please make sure you put the full name (and class if you know it) of the child on the envelope



## 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.**

## Lost Property

We have a lot of non-uniform lost property. Please can you check the lost property bin before Monday 5th December. After this date all unclaimed non uniform will be given to charity.

## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 5th December

Warren restaurant		Weekly Menu				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Pork Sausages with Onion Gravy	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Sweet and Sour Chicken with Prawn Crackers	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Beef Chilli Tacos with Sour Cream and Salsa	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Roast Chicken with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Freshly made Salmon Fishcakes with Tartare Sauce		
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Quorn Bolognese with spaghetti	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Vegetable Stir Fry with Quorn	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Roasted Vegetable Wraps	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Sweet Pepper and Mushroom Frittata	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Mac n Cheese		
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Tomato Sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Baked Beans Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Coleslaw Cheese		
<b>Vegetables</b> Creamy Mash Steamed Broccoli and Carrots	<b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Rice Steamed Peas and Sweetcorn	<b>Vegetables</b> Rissole Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	<b>Vegetables</b> Roast Potatoes Honey Roasted Carrots Cauliflower and Broccoli Gratin	<b>Vegetables</b> Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans		
<b>Dessert</b> Creamy Rice Pudding with Jam Sauce or Choc Chips Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Sultana Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Choc Chip Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Strawberry Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Victoria Sandwich Fresh Fruit Yoghurt		
 <p>Daily Salad Bar With a Selection of Home cooked Meats &amp; freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily</p> 						