

Friday 9th September 2016

# Duncombe News

Welcome back! What a wonderful week we have had. Congratulations to our pupils, staff and our parents for such a positive and energetic start to our new academic year. A particularly warm welcome to the many new families who join us this year. As I said at the Meet the Teacher evenings, do get involved and get stuck in!

Our pupils are settling well to the new routines and timetables and I expect that they will each be very tired over the weekend, so do plan some good opportunities for rest. The Year 5 pupils are heading off to PGL on Monday for what promises to be a very exciting and excellent experience for all. We wish them all, and the Year 5 team going, a wonderful trip. We are looking forward to hearing about how they faced the variety of challenges that are awaiting them.

On Speech Day I spoke about the development of the Forest School learning experience and how this is going to be developed through KS1 and 2 over time. We know, as a school that has used Forest School learning with our youngest pupils for a quite a while, that there are a number of significant educational benefits that come from this type of learning. As a school we have invested over the past 12 months in a significant development of the Dell area and are now able to begin the process of increased learning opportunities for our older pupils. Imagine my delight at the beginning of the holidays when I read an article concerning a recent University study which has concluded that Outdoor learning 'boosts children's learning' when formally adopted. The news article can be found here. The full report, should you wish to read it, can be found via the link underneath. All very exciting!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-36795912>

[https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/uploads/production/document/path/6/6811/Student\\_outcomes\\_and\\_natural\\_schooling\\_pathways\\_to\\_impact\\_2016.pdf](https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/uploads/production/document/path/6/6811/Student_outcomes_and_natural_schooling_pathways_to_impact_2016.pdf)

The focus in assembly next week will be around keeping safe. We will look at safety when outside along with stranger danger, people we can turn to for help and how to stay safe when using the internet. Can I ask that you remind your child at the end of the school day not to run into the car park area and please supervise them. The larger wooden gate in the center will be closed by one of the site team to help with this. In addition I have reminded pupils that football is not to be played at the end of the day. This has been a consistent message for some time and your support here is greatly appreciated.

It was lovely to see so many of you at the first coffee morning yesterday. A real buzz in the room and great to catch up on the holiday antics. On Monday at 7pm in New Hall we have a Senior Schools Evening where representatives from Haileybury, St Edmund's College and Bishop's Stortford College will be presenting for 15 minutes each about life at their schools, hosting stands for individual questions and enquiries after. This is open to families of children in Years 4, 5 and 6. If you could let the

School Office know of your intention to attend that would greatly help with logistics. With 50 plus families already signed up it will be, I'm sure, an excellent and informative evening. Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

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



### Diary Dates

**Monday 12th September** - Year 5 to PGL  
Toddler Group . 10am start.

Senior School Presentation Evening. 7pm start in New Hall.

**Thursday 15th September** - Year 6 to Paradise Wildlife Park.

Year 3 Parent to Lunch. 3B at 12.20pm and 3CF at 12.35pm.

### Sports Fixtures

**Saturday 17th September** - Year 6 Football Tournament at St Edmund's College.

**Tuesday 20th September** - U11A&B Football v Bishop's Stortford College (away). 3.45pm start.

**Wednesday 21st September** - U11A&B Hockey v Kingshott School (away). Time TBC.

**Friday 23rd September** - U9A&B Football and Netball v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

### Looking Forward

**Thursday 22nd September** - Year 4 to Hertford Theatre to see Jacqueline Wilson.

**Friday 23rd September** - Year 3 to Hertford Theatre to see James Mayhew.

**Monday 26th September** - Dress up day to celebrate Roald Dahl's 100 birthday. See newsletter for further details.

**Wednesday 28th September** - Year 1 to Audley End.

**Thursday 29th September** - Year 2 Trip to Affinity Water Education Centre.

MacMillan Coffee Morning 8.30am in Old Hall. Miss Ord, Mrs Frost, Mrs Watson, Miss Angus, Mrs Galaska, Mrs Howes, Mr Sopher and Mrs Bonanni will be in attendance.

**Friday 30th September** - 6LT Assembly. Parents welcome.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Sadie C (5S) who will be appearing in this year's Hertford Theatre Pantomime. Well done Sadie and we look forward to seeing you perform.



Congratulations to Louie C (6LT) who achieved distinction in his Grade 4 trumpet exam. Well done Louie!

## Roald Dahl Day

On the 26th September Duncombe will be celebrating Roald Dahl's 100th birthday. We plan to have a fun packed day filled with *gloriumptious* activities to stimulate our learning and inspire our writing.

To enter into the spirit of celebrating the work of the much loved children's author, we are inviting both staff and pupils to dress as their favourite Roald Dahl character. Some simple ideas can be found on the following website:

<http://www.roalddahl.com/charity/fundraising-and-events/dahlicious-dress-up-day/dressing-up-tips>

As well as sporting some fancy dress, the children will be expanding their learning through reading, analysing and perhaps even performing some of Dahl's beloved stories.

We are looking forward to a *phizz-whizzing* day!

Miss Micele  
Head of English

## Toddler Group

Our friendly Toddler Group sessions will commence in Treetops on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10am, ending with story time at 11.15am. There will be a themed activity every week and parents with children between the ages of 1 and 3 are welcome to come along.

## Christmas Holiday Club

We would like to inform you that our Christmas Holiday Club will be running from Monday 19th December to Friday 23rd December inclusive.

## Annual Parental Consent & Indemnity Form for Educational Day Visits 2016/2017

Could we please remind you to sign and return the above form to the School Office as soon as possible. We need a form for each child please. Children cannot take part in off site visits if we do not have a signed permission form. Thank you.

## Music News

If your child wishes to stop learning an instrument at the end of this term, we must receive written notice handed in to the School Office no later than Friday 23rd September.

## Lost

Named blazer belonging to Scarlett Coulson.

A child has also lost a blue heart necklace. If you find it please could you return it to the School Office.

## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 12th September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Traditional Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Pork Sausage Meat Plait with Gravy	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Chilli Con Carne with Tortilla Chips and Sour Cream	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Roast Chicken with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Freshly made Salmon Fishcakes with Lemon and Tartare Sauce
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Roasted Vegetable Lasagna with Garlic Bread	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Courgette and Mushroom Frittata	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Mixed Cheese and Red Tart	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Roasted Vegetable Wraps	<b>Vegetarian Option</b>
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Creamy Tomato sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Baked Beans cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Cheese Sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Coleslaw
<b>Vegetables</b> New Potatoes Steamed Broccoli	<b>Vegetables</b> Creamy Mash Potato Steamed Carrots with Peas	<b>Vegetables</b> Rissole Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Side Salad	<b>Vegetables</b> Roast Potatoes Honey Roast Carrots Steamed Green Beans	<b>Vegetables</b> Oven Baked Jacket wedges Baked beans Garden Peas
<b>Dessert</b> Apple and Blackberry Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Fresh Fruit Iced Marble Sponge Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Oaty Cherry Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Meringues with Cream and Strawberry Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Banoffee Pie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt
Daily Salad Bar With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily				