

Friday 11th February 2016



Duncombe News

We reach the end of the first half term and I'm delighted with the progress made to date. This is shared in the reports being sent home for Nursery to Year 5 pupils today. As ever, I'd encourage you to talk to your children about their successes and the 'next-steps' that teachers have highlighted. Research shows that discussions directly with children around what is needed next in learning has an extremely positive effect so do take the time to have that chat.

Our Internet Safety day and talk to parents was extremely worthwhile and I know that those who attended the evening found it to be most helpful. I was very pleased to receive this feedback from Mrs Brady who attended the evening:

"I thought the session was interesting and informative. It was extremely helpful to get some tips on how to talk about internet safety with our children in a way that was age-appropriate, and when we did have that discussion with them the next day, we were hugely encouraged to find out how much they had learned about safe internet behaviour from the school already."

For those who were not able to attend, Mr Douglas recorded the talk and in the very near future it is planned that a highlights video will be available on our website. In the meantime please do have a look at a site I have shared with you several times before www.thinkuknow.co.uk This is a most informative place to go with specific advice for parents of children of all ages.

Speaking of websites we have a new website at the same address www.duncombe-school.co.uk It has a more contemporary look and hopefully is easier to navigate. The log in details for the Parent Portal will be Parentmailed to you. If you have any thoughts please do pass them directly to Mrs Emma Morgan our interim Marketing Manager, who I know will value feedback. (emma.morgan@duncombe-school.co.uk).

To mark the commencement of Lent I had a go at making a pancake in assembly this week. Unfortunately the outcome was not what I expected, but I think I managed to create an alternative building material! We spoke about the tradition of giving something up and suggestions from the floor included giving up sweets and using the money saved for charity, or giving up computer games time to tidy bedrooms without being asked! I look forward to hearing how things progress. Have a wonderful half-term. *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

Friday 12th February - Half Term begins.

Saturday 13th February - Ski Trip Returns.

Monday 22nd February - Second half of Spring Term starts.

Tuesday 23rd February - Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming lessons at Hartham.

Year 5 Come Dine with Us.

Wednesday 24th February - No Chess Club.

Friday 26th February - 6F Assembly. Parents welcome.
Year 2 to Roald Dahl Museum.

Looking Forward

Monday 29th February - Upper School Assembly at Holy Trinity Church (children only).

Year 4 Victorian Day in Old Hall.

Tuesday 1st March - Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming lessons at Hartham.

Year 5 to 'Into the Woods' Musical at Tring Park School.

Thursday 3rd March - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

Friday 4th March - Nursery and Reception Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.00am to 9.20am in New Hall.

Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall.

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 23rd February - U11A Rugby v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 3pm start.

Wednesday 24th February - U11A&B Rugby v Sherrardswood (away). 2.30pm start.

U11A Netball v Sherrardswood (away). 2.30pm start.

Thursday 25th February - U9 A&B Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

Monday 1st March - U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 3.45pm start.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Cariana L (Nursery Birch) who reached her class goal last week. Well done Cariana.



Congratulations to Arthur B (Nursery Birch) who reached his class goal last week. Well done Arthur.



Kindergarten

Well done to Ben D (KG) who achieved his next step of counting independently to 10. Well done Ben!



Well done to Lila W (KG) who achieved her next step which was to recognise her name. Well done Lila!



World Book Day Competition

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day there will be a competition to make a model of the children's favourite character from a book using a Dolly Peg. The peg can be dressed or just painted as in the example shown in the photograph. Your child may want to get a head start during the holidays so teachers have introduced the competition in class and given out Dolly Pegs to those wanting to take part. The closing date for the competition is Wednesday 2nd March. There will be lots of time after the half-term holiday to prepare a character and plenty of blank pegs available if your child has not brought one home today.



Staff Updates

Mrs Foy

Mrs Foy has decided that now is the time to plan for retirement and so will be stepping down from teaching at Duncombe at the end of the academic year. We will obviously take the time nearer the end of the school year to say a proper goodbye.

We have started to advertise for a new Head of English and will keep you updated on future appointments.

Maternity Cover for Mrs Takawira

As you know we said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Takawira today as she goes on maternity leave. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Juliette Hodson will be joining the Duncombe team to pick up many of Mrs Takawira's classes. Mrs Hodson is an experienced teacher (and School Governor at Heath Mount) and joins us from Dame Bradbury's Preparatory School in Essex. Mr Le Tissier is taking the reins of the Maths department and will be taking Mrs Takawira's Year 6 Maths group through to the end of the summer. Mrs Hodson will pick up Mr Le Tissier's Year 4 English class for the same period of time.

Mrs Hodson will be starting on March 7th and so Mrs Bridget Jamieson will be teaching classes for the first two weeks after half term. We are delighted to have Mrs Jamieson back for these two weeks and I know she is very much looking forward to working with the children.

5T Form Teacher

Mr Sopher will be joining the Year 5 Tutor team and will be working with 5T until the end of the Summer Term. As ever Mr Douglas heads up the Upper School tutorial team.

Swimming

In preparation for the Upper School Swimming Gala on 15th March, Years 5 & 6 will be joining Year 4 at Hartham for swimming lessons on the following dates:

Tuesday 23rd February – 4, 5 & 6

Tuesday 1st March – 4, 5 & 6

Tuesday 8th March – back to normal for 2, 3 & 4

Tuesday 15th March – Swimming Gala

This means that Years 2 & 3 will not be swimming on the 23rd February, 1st March and 15th March.

After School Chess Club

Please note that there will be no chess club on Wednesday 24th February. If you require after school care please contact the School Office.

Wrap Around Care Booking Process

In response to feedback from parents we have been reviewing the booking process for Breakfast Club, After School Club & Care and Holiday Club with a view to making the process easier for our parents.

For the Summer Term we will be trialling a new procedure. As you will be aware Breakfast Club and Holiday Club Booking Forms can be completed and returned as soon as you have received them but for After School Club & Care in the past, these Booking Forms would only be accepted after a set date.

For the trial we will now also be accepting After School Club & Care Booking Forms once you have completed them. It will be our aim to accommodate all requests wherever possible and, in the rare event a club is oversubscribed, we will look at the timetable to see if extra sessions can be accommodated.

One of the reasons a date for accepting forms was set was to give parents the opportunity to talk with other parents so that friends had the option of attending clubs together if they so wished. I would ask that if your child wishes to attend a club with their friend, that you continue to talk with that parent so that you book the appropriate clubs and reduce the need to change your booking. I must stress this is only a trial.

In addition to this change we will also be emailing out the Booking Forms in "Word" format so that you are able to complete it electronically, save it to your computer and then either print it off and hand it into the School Office or email it back to us as an attachment using the email address which will be shown in the letter. If you are returning the form electronically you will be required to type your name into the Parent's Signature box to confirm you accept the terms and conditions on the booking form.

We hope that this trial will make the process easier for you. We aim to send out information and booking forms on Friday 26th February 2016.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Lost

Named hat belonging to Georgiana Fowler.
One named glove belonging to Toby Fowler

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 22nd February



Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day Spaghetti Bolognese Served with Garlic Bread	Dish of the Day Pork Sausages with Onion Gravy	Dish of the Day Chicken, Ham and Broccoli Filo Pie	Dish of the Day Roast Gammon with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	Dish of the Day Herb crusted Cod with Lemon and Tartare Sauce
Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable and Goats Cheese Puff Slice	Vegetarian Option Quorn Cottage Pie	Vegetarian Option Mushroom Stroganoff	Vegetarian Option Cherry Tomato and Vegetable Frittata	Vegetarian Option Macaroni Cheese
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw Cheese
Vegetables Rissole Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Creamy Mash Potato Steamed Carrots with Peas	Vegetables New Potatoes Sauté Courgettes Steamed Sweetcorn	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Steamed Savoy with Carrots Leek Mornay	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Apple and Pear Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Ginger Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Vanilla Ice cream with warm Chocolate Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Bakewell Tart Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

Daily Salad Bar
With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads
Fresh fruit salad available daily