



Friday 8th January 2016

Duncombe News

Happy New Year and welcome back! A very warm welcome to all of our new families. Please do introduce yourselves and get involved, it is always the best way when making a new start.

I have greatly enjoyed talking to the pupils this week, going into each class and seeing lots of hard work and endeavour. The theme I chose to speak to pupils about as we start this term has been that of expectations. As I have shared many times before, I am a firm believer in setting one's sights high and being prepared to be challenged. A video I recently had the opportunity of watching fully encapsulates this. I have shared it with all staff during our Inset Training and with all pupils in assembly. I'd encourage you to have a look too, as it demonstrates very visually how positive, constructive and well thought out comments, allied to a pupil's willingness to be directed, can have a very significant impact on pupil progress. In fact I would suggest that as adults too, we can take a great deal away from this approach.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqh1MRWZjms>

There have been a number of works carried out during the holiday which Mr Thomas has highlighted in the newsletter later on. One which many of you may have noticed is a 'Duncombe Celebrating Success' board in the Reception Area. This is a logical follow on from the NACE and Headmaster's Awards initiative that Miss Micele is leading and takes the opportunity to celebrate the different achievements of our pupils. The idea is for this to be updated on a regular basis with images, examples of work and ideas generated by our pupils. The photography is being relocated and will still be on view for all.

Year 6 continue to work hard in preparation for examinations and I would ask that all parents reply as swiftly as possible to the recent Parentmail from Mrs Webb to assist with managing absence.

Next week Year 3 venture to Verulamium in modern day St Alban's for what I know will be a most engaging trip concerning life as a Roman in Britain. Matches kick off and Miss Varney will be launching a playtime games initiative with all pupils, building on previous successful work that has gone before.

An early reminder to all Yr 4 & 5 Parents that we will be holding our **Future Schools information Evening- on Wednesday 27th January at 7.00pm** where we will be joined by Mr Joe Davies, Master at Haileybury College. This will be a wonderful opportunity to understand the preparation process and to hear from one of our most popularly chosen schools. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr Phelan.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th Jan - Swimming starts for Years 2, 3 and 4.

Thursday 14th Jan - Year 3 trip to Verulamium.

Year 6 Parent to Lunch. Arrival times 12:50 for 6F and 12:55 for 6LT.

Open House Coffee in Treetops Mrs Copeman, Miss Watson, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Griffith, Miss Ashcroft, Ms Norton, Señora Couzens, Mrs Welch, Miss Micele and Mr Le Tissier will be in attendance.

Looking Forward

Friday 22nd Jan - 2LA Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start.

Monday 25th Jan - 5V Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start.

Wednesday 27th Jan - Year 4 to Sikh Temple (am only). Future Schools Evening in Old Hall. 7pm start.

Friday 29th Jan - 1D Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start.

Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

Sports Fixtures

Monday 11th Jan - U9 Netball and Tag Rugby v Friends' School (away).

Thursday 12th Jan - U11 Climbing Wall at Haileybury.

Wednesday 13th Jan - U11A&B Netball v Stormont (away).

Tuesday 19th Jan - U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). 3.00pm start.

U11 Climbing Wall at Haileybury.

Wednesday 20th Jan - U11A, U10A & U10B Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

U11A&B Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

Monday 25th Jan - U9 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). Time TBC.

Wednesday 27th Jan - U11A&B Hockey v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

Thursday 28th Jan - U8A, B & C Tag Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Confirmed 2016/2017 Term Dates

The Term Dates for 2016/2017 are now confirmed and on our website.

Chess Club

Please be aware that there is no Chess Club on Wednesday 20th January. If you do require after school care please let the School Office know.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lottie Beard who passed her Grade 4 clarinet exam.

Congratulations to Amelia Gruselle and Abby Stevenson who passed their Grade 1 Piano Exam with Merit.

Congratulations to Evie R (Nursery Birch) who reached her class goal. Well done Evie.



Christmas Holiday Works

Although we only had a limited amount of time to carry out works over the Christmas Holiday period I am pleased to confirm the following did take place:

- Installation of new notice board in 3D
- Upgrade to heating in changing rooms
- Relocation of light switch in 5T to classroom door
- Reconfiguration of door into 4M
- Replacement of 3 door guards with hold back magnets in Main School ground floor corridor.
- Replacement of glass in conservatory door with fire retardant glass.
- Statutory fire alarm testing
- Preparation of the installation of new noticeboard in Main School Foyer to display "Duncombe Celebrating Success"
- Installation of Holiday Club information frames in Treetops Foyer
- Relocation of teaching desk in 2JA
- Exterior windows cleaning
- Replacement of roller blind mechanisms on doors with chain system.
- Replacement of 2 door closers in New Hall and at the bottom of New Wing staircase with heavy duty ones.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Future Schools Information Evening

Wednesday 27th January

On Wednesday 27th January we are holding a Future Schools Information Evening. The intention is to help you understand the process of selecting the right senior school for your child, how senior schools select pupils and also what Duncombe does to prepare pupils for entry to these schools. This will be an informative evening that will be of great benefit to all Year 4 and 5 parents. The evening will start promptly at 7pm and we hope to see you there.

Toddler Group

Following our Christmas party at the end of last term, our friendly toddler group will resume on Monday 11th January between 10am and 11.20am. Different activities take place every week, ending with story time. We look forward to welcoming you. *Lucy Evans, Registrar*

Music

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, 15th January 2016.

Curriculum Leaflets

Will be available on our website next week.

Spring Term Pocket Calendar

The Spring Term Pocket Calendars will be sent home in book bags early next week.

Tracksuit Bottoms for Lower School

Now the cold weather is here can we remind you to send Lower School children in with tracksuit bottoms please.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 11th January

Warren restaurant		Weekly Menu				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
	Dish of the Day Savoury Pork Lattice with Gravy	Dish of the Day Chicken Curry with Poppadum's and Mango Chutney	Dish of the Day Freshly made Beef Burgers on a K. Bag with Side Salad	Dish of the Day Roast Chicken with Gravy And Cranberry Sauce	Dish of the Day Oven Baked Lemon and Herb Haddock	
	Vegetarian Option Spring Onion and Cheese Quesadilla with Tomato and Cucumber Salsa	Vegetarian Option Mild Vegetable and Potato Curry with Poppadum's	Vegetarian Option Pasta Primavera	Vegetarian Option Cheese and Red Tart	Vegetarian Option Macaroni Cheese	
	Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Creamy Tomato sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans cheese	Pasta Bar Cheese Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw	
	Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Rice Spinach Sag aloo Steamed Sweetcorn, Beans and Peas	Vegetables Rissole Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Steamed Carrots Broccoli	Vegetables Oven Baked Jacket wedges Baked beans Garden Peas	
	Dessert Apple and Blackberry Crumble With Cream Fresh Fruit	Dessert Syrup Sponge with Vanilla Custard	Dessert Chocolate topped Flapjack Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Meringues with strawberry Sauce and Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Dairy Cream Sponge Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	
Daily Salad Bar With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily						