

Duncombe News

What a wonderful week in which to have been the acting Headmistress! There has been so much to reflect upon and celebrate, that I am not really sure where to begin... Our assembly, on Monday morning, referred to the Anti-Bullying Awareness week and we discussed how words can actually do more damage than some people realise. Our piece of paper was crumpled at every unkind comment, then gradually smoothed out with kind words. Unfortunately, creases were still very evident on the paper and the children could see how unkind words leave their mark.

The week then headed into sport as, on Tuesday afternoon, Duncombe hosted our first 5-a-side football tournament of the season. The other schools competing for the trophy were St Joseph's in the Park, St Edmund's Prep and Milton Keynes Prep. Our boys were extremely excited and played really well; after a succession of wins, they found themselves in the final against St Joseph's – and that is where our winning streak ran out... We went 2-0 up at the start of the game, then St Joseph's equalised. At full-time it was 3-3. Our hearts were in our mouths as we watched our boys playing their socks off – but it was not to be Duncombe's night and the final score was 5-3 to St Joseph's. Well done to all those who played, to Mr Sopher, Miss Varney and Mr Granville who helped coach the team, Mr Price and Mrs Price who helped out with the tea and to all those parents who came along to watch. Onwards and upwards!

Anne Nelson, from NACE, came in to meet with Miss Watson and Mr Le Tissier with a view to overseeing the evidence that we have collated as we move nearer to becoming a NACE accredited school – something that is clearly within our reach. There was another first in Treetops when they hosted their Art Exhibition on Thursday night, where parents had an opportunity to view the incredible pieces that their children had created. We really do have some talented young pupils and it is wonderful to see them so enthusiastic about artists like Van Gogh, Matisse and Monet. The evening was a huge success – thank you to everyone who attended and to all the wonderful staff who supported the children.

Thursday afternoon was given over to our annual Christmas Decorations – glitter, paint, lolly-sticks and tissue paper were among the many resources that, with a little magic, have been transformed into stunning pieces to adorn your tree this year! The week ended with an assembly hosted by Jane Reeves, our Chef Manager, who launched the fantastic 'Great Duncombe Bake Off'. This is an exciting opportunity to discover if we have any budding 'Marys' or 'Pauls' in our midst. To whet our appetites, the House Captains assisted three of our (blind-folded) teachers in decorating a sponge. After much throwing of sprinkles, spreading of jam and piping of cream, our guest judges Mary Berry (aka Mrs Durham) and Paul Hollywood (Mr Foley) deemed the winning House to be Knebworth. Please look out for further information in the newsletter on how our pupils can enter this challenging competition. I am continually astounded and impressed by all that your children create and achieve.

Next week, we are looking forward to hearing all of Mr Phelan's news and I am looking forward to having my Year 6s back. Have a restful weekend. *Miss Sands.*

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



Diary Dates

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

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

Year 4 Parent to Lunch. 12:40 – 4G, 12:45 – 4B, 12.50 – 4M

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 Hages. 5pm start.

Looking Forward

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

Monday 5th December - Years 1-6 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

Well done to Theo R (Nursery Birch) who reached his class goal this week.



Nursery Learn About Christmas in Germany

Thank you very much to Mrs Stopps who came to talk to Nursery Maple and Nursery Birch this week about what Christmas is like for children in Germany. The boys and girls learned the German words for snow, Father Christmas and Christmas tree and were treated to a performance of traditional German folk songs. The children were then given some yummy German biscuits to try and got to look at a lovely gingerbread house.



Toddler Group

Please be aware that the last Toddler Group takes place this week on Monday 28th November. We are looking forward to ending our sessions with a Christmas Party. We look forward to seeing you there.

Amazing Wreaths

We are very excited that our art work is on show in All Saints Church, Hertford this weekend. All classes in Treetops and Years 1 and 2 have decorated wreaths for the Wreath Festival. Please see a selection of them below. Our Year 3 choir sang carols in church this afternoon with Mrs Sutton, Mrs Turner and Mrs Sopher.

Duncombe has made a donation towards the collection for the Herts Air Ambulance charity. During the weekend there will also be various stalls, refreshments and children's craft activities taking place at the festival. The opening times are: Friday until 5pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm and Sunday midday to 3pm. *Mrs Durham.*



Treetops Art Exhibition

Our budding artists worked so hard to create master pieces influenced by Pollock, Matisse, Warhol, Monet and Van Gogh. Thank you to all those who attended and made it a really special evening. The children's work looked incredible displayed in both Treetops and the Old Hall. If you were unable to attend the event, your child's work can be purchased in Treetops until Wednesday 30th Nov. A huge thank you to Mrs Fisher for running the event. All money raised will be used to purchase educational toys for the children in Treetops. *Mrs Copeman*



The Great Duncombe Bake Off

Today in assembly Mrs Reeves our Chef Manager, launched The Great Duncombe Bake Off. This will replace our Masterchef competition. This competition is open to Lower School and Upper School and attached to this newsletter more information and an entry form. The closing date for entries is the last day of term, Thursday 15th December.



Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who has already donated items and signed up to help out at the Christmas Fair. We are nearly ready, but do still need your donations of wrapped sweets and bottles, which can be left in the school office, and several more volunteers for a small number of time slots which are not yet covered for our stalls. If you can spare an hour or two on the day, please sign up - the form can be found on the PA notice board in Old Hall. We also need donations of nut free cakes, cookies and mince pies for the refreshment stall, to be brought in on the day. We hope you can join us for what promises to be an enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you from the PA Team

Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

The Duncombe School Christmas Postal Service will be open for business for the children from Tuesday, 1st December. The Post Box will be placed 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.



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.

However, 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.

Speech & Drama

The last Speech and Drama lessons take place this Thursday, 1st December. Mrs Coley has said that children are welcome to bring in reindeer antlers, Christmas hats etc for the last lesson.

Wrap Around Care Forms

We have now emailed all parents the Breakfast Club, After School Club and Christmas Holiday Club forms. Please ensure you return these as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Unofficial One Way System

May we remind you to please use the voluntary one way system when driving to the School during drop off and collection times, entering Warren Park Road from New Road to aid the flow of traffic. Thank you.

Cancelled Sports Fixtures

Due to unforeseen circumstances the following fixtures have been cancelled:

Tuesday 29th November - U9A&B Football v St Joseph's in the Park.

Wednesday 30th November - U11 Football v The Walden School and Netball v St Christopher School

Sickness Bug

Please may we remind you that children should remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

We will continue to remind children of the importance of good hygiene; particularly hand washing.

Gum Shields for Boys in Years 3, 4, 5 & 6.

All boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 require a gumshield for every Games lesson from Monday 5th December when contact Rugby will be taught. Boys in Years 4, 5 and 6 cannot participate in contact Rugby without a gumshield for safety reasons. Boys in Year 3 will be taught Tag Rugby; gum shields are not required to play Tag Rugby but are optional if you would prefer your child to wear one.

Gum Shields

Year 3 - Optional, not compulsory.

Year 4, 5 & 6 - Compulsory.

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

Two named fleeces belonging to Sebastian McCullagh

Two named cardigans belonging to Louisa Safo.

Named winter hat belonging to Bella Smith.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 28th November



Weekly Menu

Week 2 Autumn Menu
 Commencing 27th November
 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day Beef Bolognese Pasta Ragù	Dish of the Day Mild Chicken Curry with Poppadam's	Dish of the Day Freshly made Chicken Burgers on a ½ Bap with Side Salad	Dish of the Day Roast Pork with Apple Sauce and gravy	Dish of the Day Oven Baked Fish Fingers
Vegetarian Option Cheese and Chive Tart	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Korma with poppadum's	Vegetarian Option Quorn Sausage Hot Dog	Vegetarian Option Roasted Root and Cheese Strudel	Vegetarian Option Cheese and Spring Onion Quesadilla with Salsa and Sour Cream
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw Cheese
Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Broccoli	Vegetables Savoury Potatoes Steamed Garden Peas with Carrots	Vegetables Rissole Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Green Beans and Carrots Cheesy Courgettes	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Warm Apple and Winter Berry Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Ginger Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Marble Shortbread Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Vanilla Ice Cream with Toffee Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Choc Flapjack Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

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