

Friday 26th February 2016



Duncombe News

We have returned from the half term break with a real spring in our step and I have been delighted with the positive approach from all of our pupils. I had the great pleasure of watching Year 3 engage in a lesson on persuasive writing. I was delighted with the high expectations set by the teacher and the willingness of the children to be challenged and work towards their next steps. I was visited by the Head of Bishop's Stortford College this week and wanted to share his feedback with you all. He was extremely impressed with the level of achievement he saw in class, spending time with Reception, Year 3 and Year 5 particularly. In speaking with Reception staff he spoke about the advanced work the pupils were producing and when visiting main school to discuss the Upper School set up shared that he now had a full understanding of why Duncombe pupils always arrive so very well prepared. I fully agreed as you may imagine, but it is always nice to get such positive feedback.

Our Year 6 Independent School Examination outcomes are now fully in and I am once again delighted with the results. With 12 Scholarships and Awards offered, every child who sat gained a place at an Independent School. There are some wonderful highlights such as 18 offers to Haileybury and all pupils sitting for Queenswood, Bishop's Stortford College, St Edmund's College, St Columba's College, Abbots Hill, St Margaret's in Surrey, Princess Helena College, St Francis College, Sherradswood and Berkhamsted Girls were offered places. Additionally 5 offers collectively for St Albans School and St Albans High School. I'm sure, like me, you will be delighted with these outcomes and I will go into more detail about the Scholarships and Awards in my Easter letter to parents. A very significant well done to all of the pupils, staff and parents for a great job.

Our Year 2 pupils visited the Roald Dahl Museum today and I am looking forward to hearing about the learning and enjoyment of the trip. 6F wowed us all with an assembly around the theme of Second World War Evacuees and how we can tell an engaging, exciting and compelling story in our writing (see photograph below). With props, period dress, regional accents and some good old fashioned war time tunes, it is fair to say that this was a great success and I watched feeling very proud of what our staff and pupils achieve together. Well done Mrs Foy and the 6F pupils.

With the Year 4 Victorian Day, Mother's Day assemblies, World Book Week and the U9 Rugby Festival as some of the highlights for next week, I'm sure we are in for another exciting and enjoyable series of activities.

Have a lovely weekend. *Mr Phelan.*



Diary Dates

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.

Wednesday 2nd March - World Book Week Cake Sale (see more details in the newsletter).

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.

Book sale after school in 4R.

Looking Forward

Monday 7th March - Year 6 to Houses Parliament.

2JA Assembly. Parents welcome.

Year 4 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Tuesday 8th March - Year 2, 3 & 4 Swimming resumes.

Year 1 Glass Workshop in Hertford.

Upper School Masterchef.

Year 4 Parents' Evening, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Wednesday 9th March - Year 1 Glass Workshop in Hertford.

9.30am Nursery and Reception Author visit.

Thursday 10th March - Open House Coffee Morning in Old Hall. Mrs Hough, Mrs Durham, Miss Burton, Mrs Foy, Miss Varney, Ms Rea, Mrs Pannett, Miss Theobald, Mrs Marrison and Miss Flowers will be in attendance.

Lower School Masterchef.

Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening, 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Friday 11th March - 3B Assembly. Parents welcome.

Monday 14th March - 'Wrong Trousers Day' for Hatfield's Charity.

Tuesday 15th March - Upper School Swimming Gala at Hartham. 9.00am start. (No swimming for Years 2 and 3.)

1.00pm Year 5 to GSK.

Thursday 17th March - Cognita Festival of Sports.

Friday 18th March - Breakfast Music Assembly (including Year 2 Recorders). 8.50am in Old Hall.

PA Quiz Night.

Sports Fixtures

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

Friday 4th March - U9 Rugby Tournament at Hertford Rugby Club. 2.00pm start.

Tuesday 8th March - U11A&B Netball v Ralph Sadleir (away). 3.45pm start.

Wednesday 9th March - U10 & U11 Rugby v Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Boris D (4CH) who has been invited to take part in a Hertfordshire County Tennis Tournament on 5th March 2016, which is designed to select the next team to represent Hertfordshire in the Regional Tournament on 17th April. Boris is one of 16 players invited from the whole county and after the tournament 6 players will be selected for the team and 2 for reserves. Well done and good luck Boris!



Congratulations to Mia K (Nursery Maple) for reaching her class goal this week. Well done Mia!



Knebworth Charity Success!

The Knebworth Charity captains were delighted to present a cheque for £778.38 to Mrs Jamieson who is a Trustee of Blind Dog Rescue UK, which is the charity Knebworth supported last term. Thank you to everyone who helped them raise this amazing amount which will go towards rehoming 6 dogs!



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



Staff News

Mrs Cheal

Mrs Cheal has decided that now is the time, after 23 years at Duncombe, to step down from teaching 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.

Hatfield Charity Update

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has taken part in our Fantastic Fleeces Competition, they were vibrant and very creative. Make sure you take a peek at our board in the corridor between New Hall and Old Hall to see if you can spot your design! We will be announcing our winners in assembly very soon!

A quick reminder too about our Wrong Trousers Day which will be held on Monday 14th March, it's £1 to wear the 'wrong trousers' to school!

Thank you for supporting Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity so far this term! *The Hatfield Charity Team*

Nursery & Reception Parents Evenings

Tuesday 8th March

On Tuesday 8th March the Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening will take place in Treetops in the relevant Nursery and Reception classrooms.

Thursday 10th March

On Thursday 10th March the Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening will take place in Main School in the following classrooms:

Nursery Birch = 6F

Nursery Maple = Library

Reception Apple = 4M

Reception Oak = 4CH

Treetops Learn How to Look After Their Teeth!

In the latest of exciting professions to visit Treetops, we were fortunate to have two ladies from Hudsons Dental Practice in Hertford. Caroline and Michelle give informative presentations to EKG, KG and Nursery about the importance of looking after our teeth, how to brush them and how dentists are there to help them. We also learnt some interesting facts about animals and how many teeth they have. Did you know that a shark has 20,000 teeth and yet a daddy long legs has none!



February Half Term Works

Although it was only a short holiday period to carry out works around the site, I am pleased to inform you that the following works have been undertaken:

- "Whiterock" UPVC hygiene cladding installed in kitchen preparation areas.
- "Whiterock" UPVC hygiene cladding installed in New Hall on service counter wall.
- Replacement of traditional kitchen cupboards with stainless steel ones in the main kitchen.
- Replacement of damaged section of chain link fence on Port Hill.
- Repair to ceiling in 6F.
- Installation of 5 resources cupboards in Treetops ground floor classroom.
- Replacement glazing in Old Hall Door to the terrace.
- Temporary repairs to pot holes in staff car park.
- Removal of broken and obsolete equipment from site.
- Repainting of projection wall in Old Hall.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

An Exciting Science Opportunity

Duncombe's Science Department has been given the exciting opportunity to follow the progress and track the British Antarctic Survey Expedition. The Scientists will be heading off for an icy month at sea later this week to map and explore sea floor habitats around the South Orkney Islands, located 375 miles north of the Antarctic Peninsula. This is an area of high biodiversity but little is known about the animals living deep down on the seafloor. The team of 25 scientists will live aboard the BAS research ship, *James Clark Ross*. The scientists will be using remote cameras and sampling gear to find out more about where different species live, possibly even discover new animals that have never been seen before. I am hugely excited about this expedition and shall be talking to the children about it all this week. A big thank you to Mrs Longbottom for offering this opportunity to us. *Mrs Marrison*



More Science News!

The Cambridge Science Festival starts on 7th March until 20th March. There are hundreds of free events on everything from Astronomy to Zoology. The Festival welcomes adults and families to explore science with researchers across Cambridge. There will be talks, hands-on activities, performances, exhibitions and films - something for everyone! For a full listing of events and timings go to www.sciencefestival.cam.ac.uk. *Mrs Marrison*

State School Open Days

Following on from our Future School's evening, please find below dates for some of our local state school open days should you wish to put them in your diaries.

- Richard Hale - 12th and 13th October (tbc)
- Hockerill Anglo European - 17th September
- Dame Alice Owen - Thursday 21st July
- Simon Balle - 24th September (8.30 - 12.30)
- Presdales - 17th Oct (7.00 - 9.30) and Tues 18th Oct (4.30 - 7.00).



Treetops

Events for World Book Week 2016

Bring your favourite book to school (Wednesday 2nd March)

Please can your child bring their favourite book to school to share with their friends and to review.

Bake Sale (Wednesday 2nd March)

We are asking the children to bring in 6 cakes or biscuits with a book theme, (their teachers' will give them ideas). The goods will be sold at first break with the proceeds going to Hatfield's charity (Wallace & Gromit's Children's Charity). The children may bring £1 to spend at this sale.

Mums to Play Book Themed Celebration EKG and KG ONLY (Thursday 3rd March)

Mums and relatives are invited in to share activities themed around the story 'Guess How Much I Love You?'

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. The closing date for the competition is Wednesday 2nd March. Pegs are available in school. On Friday 4th March Elaine Penrose will be visiting the school to judge the model competition and prizes will be presented in assembly on Monday 7th March.



Friday 4th March

After school on Friday 4th March a wide range of books will be available for sale and the children will be able to use their £1 tokens towards the cost of a book. The sale will be held in classroom 4R.



Main School

Events for World Book Week 2016

Extreme Reading

In preparation for World Book day on 3rd March and as part of our week long celebration of books we are asking that your child brings in a photograph of themselves reading in an unusual place. Let your imagination run wild but please be safe. Send all photographs to form teachers and be prepared for your offerings to be displayed around the school.

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On Friday 4th March

Elaine Penrose will be visiting the school to judge the model competition and prizes will be presented in assembly on Monday 7th March. In the afternoon she will be hosting a book based quiz for Years 5 & 6. A wide range of books will be available for sale after school and the children will be able to use their £1 tokens towards the cost of a book. The book sale will take place in classroom 4R.

WIN A GARDEN!

We have registered to enter the WIN A GARDEN competition being run by Van Hage, the Mercury and Herts Observer this month. Please do collect the tokens and hand them into the school office – please ask neighbours, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, colleagues etc to collect on our behalf.

Every 10 tokens we collect will equal an entry into a draw to win £7,000 to spend on sprucing up our garden to be enjoyed by the children.

All tokens need to be in by 25th March 2016 and keep those ‘green fingers’ crossed!

Emma Morgan
Marketing Manager, Interim



Treetops Sessions

Please could you return your session forms for the Summer Term at the beginning of next week, or confirm them by email to lucy.evans@duncombe-school.co.uk. Children in Kindergarten need to attend for 5 sessions and Nursery for 8 sessions next term in preparation for September. Thank you.
Lucy Evans

Lost

Named trousers belonging to Louie Carvacho.
Named tracksuit bottoms for Archie Dyer.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 29th February



Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dish of the Day Gammon Ham and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake	Dish of the Day Cottage Pie	World Book Day Lunch Dish of the Day Chicken Tacos From the Dragon that eats Tacos	Dish of the Day Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and gravy	Dish of the Day Freshly made Salmon Fishcakes
Vegetarian Option Mixed Cheese and Red Onion Tart	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Goulash with Rice	Vegetarian Option The Magic Pasta Pot From Strega Nona	Vegetarian Option Spanish Omelette	Vegetarian Option Chinese Vegetable Noodles
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 Green beans	Vegetables Creamy Mash Peas and Sweetcorn Sauté Courgettes with Red Peppers	Vegetables Rissolle Potatoes Sweetcorn	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Cauliflower Cheese Carrots and Broccoli	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Jam Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Cherry Oaty Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Bogrotton style Chocolate Cake (From Matilda) Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Strawberry Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Meringues with Cream and Strawberry Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

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