

Friday 9th Dec 2016

## Duncombe News

This is the last newsletter for this year so  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
to you all!



We have come to the end of a very festive week here at Duncombe. The Haileybury Chapel Carol Service was a magical evening where the pupils and staff really pulled out all the stops, treating us to some wonderful singing, reading and reciting of poems. As I said on the evening, several pupils had to step in at the last minute due to the dreaded lurgy and performed with their peers to an excellent standard. Great 'can do' spirit on show which this Headmaster loves to see. Thank you for the many lovely emails that have been sent to our staff this week. Like you, we too were delighted with the whole experience.

Our Nursery and Reception plays were also delightful. Seeing the progress each year group has made is always wonderful. There were plenty of smiling families, swaying back and forth and songs shared with great enthusiasm. What is very clear is the foundation laid so very well by the Treetops team is really being built on as pupils move through the school. Congratulations to the Treetops staff and children for two excellent productions and congratulations to the Lower School and Upper School staff and pupils who really did us proud!

Thanks also to Alison Hargreaves and the entire PA team and supporters who really made Sunday's Christmas Fair such a great experience for everyone. As I have often said, this is a major effort and I have congratulated Alison and the team for a job so very well done.

I recently read a very interesting article about the national outcomes for Early Years pupils and have put the link below. What is striking is how well prepared pupils here at Duncombe are as they enter their Reception year. That firm foundation laid here by the Treetops staff really is paying dividends with our EYFSP scores again rated right at the top and well in excess of the national outcomes.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-38104242>

Next week sees the Autumn Term come to a close so there will be no newsletter. I will of course write over the holiday period. In the meantime, we have the EKG and KG sing-a-long, pantomime for Reception to Year 6 (oh yes we have!), Nursery Christmas party and the delights of the whole school Christmas lunch to look forward to!

If I do not get the chance to see you personally, do have a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to all 2017 has to bring. *Mr Phelan*

**Well done to Archie D (5V) who received a Headmaster's Award this week.**



### Diary Dates

**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). Non uniform day for Knebworth. 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.

### Looking Forward

**The Spring Term commences on Thursday 5th January 2017.**

### Winning House

Congratulations to Knebworth who won the most House points this term and can come to school in non uniform on Tuesday 13th December.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Fisher who has recently passed her Level 5 Management and Advanced Practise for Childcare. Well done Mrs Fisher for continuing your life long learning journey!

### Nursery Class Goal

Well done to Fred P (NM) who achieved his class goal this week.



## Nursery and Reception Christmas Shows

Wow! We could not be more proud of our budding thespians. Nursery and Reception told the story of Christmas this week. They performed firstly to the whole school and then to their parents and grandparents and they didn't show any nerves at all. They sang beautifully, remembered their lines and most importantly really enjoyed themselves. It was a pleasure to be a part of the Nursery show and wonderful to watch Reception and see the progress they have made. A fantastic end to the week. Thank you to all those involved and well done to all of the children. *Mrs Copeman.*

### The Nativity by Nursery



### Born in a Barn by Reception



### Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

Please be aware that the Duncombe Christmas Postal Service will close on Tuesday 13th December.

### The Great Duncombe Bake Off

May we remind you to get your Great Duncombe Bake Off entries in by Thursday 15th December please. This competition is open to children in Lower and Upper School.

## Pantomime - Wednesday 14th December

Reception to Year 6 pupils are looking forward to going to the pantomime on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December to see Little Red Riding Hood. We would like to make you aware that the children will be back at school for dismissal at 4.15pm that day due to the finish time of the pantomime. As the whole school (Reception to Year 6) will be returning at the same time parking may be difficult on site so we would recommend you park considerably in the local area.

Due to the later return time, we will not be running any after school clubs, however after school care will still be available. Unless we hear otherwise we will assume all children booked in to clubs will require after school care as normal.

## Christmas Fair

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the 2016 Christmas Fair. I am sure you will agree, Alison Hargreaves and her team put on a fantastic event for us which we are pleased to report raised over £2,500. Well done as well to all the raffle prize winners, as notified via Parentmail earlier this week, to Miss Brown, who selected the correct name of Storm from the choices for Name the Husky, and to Thomas Hipkin for correctly guessing the number of sweets in the jar. We would also like to thank all the many parents and staff who helped set-up, run stalls and tidy up afterwards. None of this would be possible without everyone's involvement.

*Duncombe Parents' Association*

## 2017-2018 Term Dates



### ACADEMIC YEAR DATES 2017-2018

Autumn	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September to Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December Staff Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September. Half Term: Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October
Spring	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January to Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March Staff Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Half Term: Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February
Summer	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April to Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July Staff Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> July – Term ends for EKY, KG & N Half Term: Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> June May Day Holiday: Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May [Speech Day: Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> July]

## Lost

Named coat belonging to Matilda Ewart.

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



## Weekly Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Freshly made Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Traditional Pork Lattice Served with Gravy		<b>Christmas Lunch</b>	
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Roasted Vegetable Lasagne	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Halloumi and Vegetable Bake	<b>Pantomime</b> Hot Dogs or Vegetarian Hot Dogs	Traditional Roast Turkey Pigs in Blankets Gravy Or Roasted Root, Cranberry and Feta Filo Crackers	
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Tomato Sauce	Cookie Crisps Fresh Fruit	Roast Potatoes Roast Parsnips Brussel Sprouts Honey Carrots	
<b>Vegetables</b> Steamed New Potatoes Broccoli	<b>Vegetables</b> Savoury Potatoes Steamed Garden Peas with Carrots		Festive Christmas Cupcakes Or Fresh Fruit	
<b>Dessert</b> Apple and Blackberry Crumble Served with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Warm Syrup Sponge with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt			
<b>Daily Salad Bar</b> With a Selection of Home cooked Meats & freshly Prepared Salads Fresh fruit salad available daily				