

# Duncombe News

I'm not a fan of the Game of Thrones series, but I understand there is a famous line spoken "Winter is coming"! It certainly decided to make an appearance towards the end of this week and, as I write, snow is falling at quite a pace. It seems that as a nation we find the challenge of snow quite a significant one and, as luck would have it our theme this week has very much been about tackling challenges with an approach of perseverance and grit (no pun intended). In assembly I spoke about a 14 year old American pupil who has become one of the world's leading climbers. In an interview for an American news company the interviewer exclaimed when faced with a climbing wall "I can't see a way up. It's impossible"! The young lady's reply was most inspiring "I can see lots of ways, you just mustn't give up". A rallying call to us all and certainly one that, young or old, we can apply to numerous situations.

For our pupils I asked them to identify a mountain that they sometimes feel can't be climbed. Maybe a particular set of times tables or a spelling rule. I asked them to make a self-promise, to have the same approach of never giving up, not being put off when it doesn't work and showing the grit, determination and perseverance that are often needed. Why not ask your son or daughter what they identified and see how things are progressing?

I observed a lovely Year 4 English lesson this week where the pupils were being challenged to tackle the impact of alternative conjunctions. The engagement and enthusiasm was infectious but what really struck me was the connections in learning that were being evidenced. The strands of different lessons over a period of time weaving together to create something really quite excellent. The result is writing that is constructed with greater depth and really shows what the pupils are capable of. A great experience for me to observe and really very encouraging.

Do have a lovely weekend. *Mr Phelan*

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



### Diary Dates

**Wednesday 18th January** - Parents invited to observe their child's ballet lesson. Please see the newsletter for more details.

**Friday 20th January** - 2JA Assembly (parents welcome).

### Sports Fixtures

**Wednesday 18th January** - U11 Tag Rugby and Hockey v The Walden School (away). 2.30pm start.

**Friday 20th January** - U9 Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

**Tuesday 24th January** - U10 & U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 3pm start.

**Wednesday 25th January** - U11 Rugby v Milton Keynes Prep School at Hertford Rugby Club. 2.45pm start.

**Tuesday 7th February** - U10 & U11 Netball v Ralph Sadleir (away). 3.45pm start.

**Wednesday 8th February** - U10 & U11 Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

U10 & U11 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

**Thursday 9th February** - U8 Hockey v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

### Looking Forward

**Thursday 26th January** - Year 4 & 5 Future Schools Evening. 7pm start.

**Friday 27th January** - 4B Assembly (parents welcome).

**Friday 3rd February** - Music Assembly with Year 3 Recorders. Old Hall at 8.50am.

**Monday 6th February** - Knebworth House Charity Bake Sale.

**Thursday 9th February** - School finishes at normal time and all After School Clubs will be running.

**Friday 10th February** - Half Term begins.

### Dress Up Day Dates

We would like to give you as much notice as possible for two dress up dates after half term, they are:

**Friday 3rd March** - Dress as your favourite book character for World Book Week.

**Thursday 23rd March** - Dress as an animal or in blue for Knebworth Charity, Blue Cross for Pets.

More details will follow closer to the time.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Farah B (NM) who reached her class goal.



### **Woburn Charity**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Woburn Charity last term. With your help we have raised a fantastic £797.14 for The Art Room. Thank you. *The Woburn Charity Team.*

### **Knebworth Charity**

This term Knebworth will be raising money for Blue Cross for Pets. This charity provides support for pet owners who cannot afford private veterinary treatment, helps to find homes for unwanted animals, and educates the public in the responsibilities of animal ownership.

The charity team informed the children in assembly today about these events coming up:

### **Monday 6th February**

We would like to invite all children to bake some animal themed cakes for sale on Monday 6th February. Please bring in your nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence) cake donations on the day. Each child may bring in 50p or £1 to buy a cake at break time.

### **Design An Imaginary Animal**

We invite you to design an imaginary animal. Your animal can be made up of several animals and can be as crazy as you like. Entry forms will be given out soon and it is £1 to enter.

### **Dress Up Day**

On Thursday 23rd March we are inviting children to come in dressed either as their favourite animal or in blue. This is open to Treetops, Lower School and Upper School. It is £1 to take part.

Thank you.

*The Knebworth Charity Team.*

### **Future Schools Information Evening Thursday 26th January**

On Thursday 26th 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.

### **Ballet Observation - Wednesday 18th January**

If your child does ballet, there will be an opportunity to observe their lesson on Wednesday 18th January. If you are able to attend please arrive a few minutes before the scheduled class time outside New Hall. Thank you.

*Mrs McMeechan.*

### **Exciting Choir News!**

From this term, there is an exciting new addition to the choir opportunities at Duncombe: The Harmony Choir.

The Harmony Choir is an advanced choir group, open to children from Years 3 to 6, which will provide the children with an opportunity to sing some challenging pieces of work in multiple parts.

Membership of the Harmony Choir will be by audition and children must be a member of either the Junior Choir (Years 3 & 4) or the Senior Choir (Years 5 & 6) in order to be considered. Children may join either of these choirs at any time and a willingness to sing is the only requirement!

For their audition, each child will be asked to prepare a short piece of their own choosing to sing by themselves. These do not need to be long: one verse and a chorus are sufficient.

The successful children will be required to attend Harmony Choir rehearsals in addition to either the Junior or Senior Choir rehearsal.

If your child would like to audition, all they need to do is give me their name and the name of the piece they are going to sing. We are going to audition the children in year groups beginning with Year 6 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Year 5 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, Year 4 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February and finally Year 3 on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We anticipate the new choir to be up and running straight after half term.

Interest from the children has already been high, and Mrs Turner and myself are very excited to listen to the auditions. *Mrs Sutton, Music Team Leader.*

### **Photos of Year 4 Scientists**

Here are Year 4 young scientists enjoying their first chemistry lesson. They were really careful with their observations and recorded their findings as all scientists should! Excitement and enthusiasm was evident and they all worked incredibly hard. Melting chocolate was clearly a favourite!! *Mrs Marrion.*



## Fixture Changes

Please be aware of the following fixture changes:

- 1st February - U10 Rugby v Milton Keynes Prep School will now take place on **Wednesday 1st March**.
- 1st March - U10 & U11 Rugby v Loyola School will now take place on **Tuesday 14th March**.

## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Once again the time has come for us to start collecting the Sainsbury Active Kids Vouchers. Just like last year we will be running a competition for each class. The class collecting the most vouchers will win a small prize. Please give any vouchers you collect to your child's class teacher. The vouchers will run from the 25th January to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Thank you in advance. *Miss Varney, Head of Games*

## Uniform Shop Money Owing

There are still a lot of outstanding payments for second hand uniform. If you think you owe money please can you check the board inside the Uniform Shop or speak to one of the Uniform Shop team. Thank you.

## Lost

Two named pairs of PE shorts and a blue PE top belonging to Jake McPherson.

Named tracksuit top belonging to Elliott Constance.

Two named pairs of hockey socks belonging to Cece Edwards.

## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 16th December



Homemade Soup and Freshly Baked Bread available Daily

## THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Pork Sausage with Onion Gravy	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Mild Chicken Curry with Poppadum's	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Freshly made Beef Burgers on a ½ Bap with Side Salad	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Roast Pork with Apple Sauce and gravy	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Friday Pizza Bar
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Quorn Toad in the Hole	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Vegetable Korma with poppadum's	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Potato and Cheese Layered Bake	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Spanish Omelette	Pepperoni Ham and Mushroom Margarita
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Tomato Sauce	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Baked Beans Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Coleslaw Cheese
<b>Vegetables</b> Creamy Mash Potatoes Broccoli	<b>Vegetables</b> Steamed Rice Steamed Garden Peas With Sweetcorn	<b>Vegetables</b> Rissolle Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	<b>Vegetables</b> Roast Potatoes Green Beans and Carrots Cauliflower Cheese	<b>Vegetables</b> Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
<b>Dessert</b> Warm Apple Charlotte with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Jam Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Ginger Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Vanilla Ice Cream with Warm Chocolate Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Banoffee Pie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

