



Duncombe News

17th November 2017



A fabulously busy and engaging week here at Duncombe! Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed a scientific studies morning exploring Light and Dark with Set Point. The pupils were fully engaged, taking part in experiments and adding to their already growing knowledge of the world around them as discovered and understood by scientific enquiry. But it did not stop there, oh no! On Wednesday our Treetops and Lower School pupils had the opportunity to meet with and learn about birds of prey. Year 6 last Friday had ventured to a Buddhist Monastery meeting with practicing Buddhists and exploring the beliefs and actions associated with the faith. Three wonderful experiences for our pupils that have enabled their learning to be taken to the next level.

Class 2A delivered their class assembly on Friday. The focus on Florence Nightingale explored the impact, determination and legacy of her life's work. I was delighted with how the pupils shared their learning experiences from this term with great confidence and significant comic timing which made for a very enjoyable assembly for all. Well done 2A. I know Miss Angus and Mrs Pannett are very proud of you!

I have visited some wonderful lessons this week, observing Maths in Year 1 where the children were put through their paces as they prepared to take their work on addition and subtraction further. I was delighted with the pace and co-operation of the pupils as they moved through a number of challenging tasks. In true Year 1 style Mrs Turner instructed me to pick up a card and participate in the maths joining game and I was pleased to have reached the right answer!

I also spent time with Year 5 in an English lesson. With a focus on DADWAVERS (*Description, Action, Dialogue, Where, Adverb, Verbs, Estimation of time, Rhetorical Questions, Simile and Metaphor, Exclamation and Onomatopoeia*) and how this approach to creative writing can really lift written work to a higher level of outcome. Mrs Micele-Jones challenged the pupils to really explore the text with a number of stimuli including images of a deserted island and the sound of the lapping oceans whilst the pupils planned for their creative writing piece based on the work of Michael Morpurgo. Brilliant!

Next week the Romans will be visiting with Year 3 exploring what it was like to be a Roman soldier and Year 3-6 will be engaging with the Great Bard himself in the Shaking up Shakespeare workshops at the end of the week! With numerous fixtures and the 1A assembly on Friday, there's certainly a lot to look forward to.

I will be attending the Cognita Global Heads' Conference all next week. In my absence Miss Sands will lead as Head. Miss Sands will deal with the day to day running of the school including leading assemblies, observing lessons and handing out the Head's Awards. I am looking forward to being able to share some of the outcomes of the conference in the coming weeks.

Do have a wonderful weekend . *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st November - Year 4 to Holy Trinity Church for Doll Baptism. 2pm.

Wednesday 22nd November - Phil the Bag Year 3 Roman Day.

Friday 24th November - 1A Assembly. Parents welcome. PM: Shaking up Shakespeare for Years 3 to 6.

Sports Fixtures

Monday 20th November- U11 Netball v St Francis (away). 3pm start.

Wednesday 22nd November - U11 Football v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

U11 Hockey v Kingshott (away). Time TBC.

Tuesday 28th November - U7 Football v St Edmund's Prep (home). 4pm start.

Wednesday 29th November - U11 Football v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.

Thursday 7th December - U9 Football v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

Looking Forward

Monday 27th November - Last Toddler Group this term.

Thursday 30th November - Dress up Day for Knebworth Charity.

Friday 1st December - Music Assembly. 8.50am in Old Hall.

Sunday 3rd December - Christmas Fair from midday to 3pm.

Monday 4th December - Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury. 2.30pm EKG & KG Singalong. Parents welcome.

Tuesday 5th December - Carol Service Years 1-6 at Haileybury Chapel. 5pm start.

Thursday 7th December - Nursery Christmas Play. 9.20am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

Last Speech and Drama lesson this term.

Friday 8th December - Reception Christmas Play. 9.20am in New Hall. Parents welcome.

Tuesday 12th December - EKG, KG and N Trip to Springtime Nursery.

Wednesday 13th December - Reception to Year 6 visit to Pantomime at Hertford Theatre.

Treetops Disco.

Thursday 14th 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 4th January 2018.

Congratulations

In July Georgiana F (5T) successfully auditioned to dance in the pantomime Rapunzel at Hertford Theatre this Christmas. She will be one of eight dancers in the show, and has an extra little part dancing as Little Rapunzel too! She will perform with Team A in 16 shows over the festive season. December 13th is not one of her scheduled dates, so she will still be part of Duncombe's audience when the whole school visit that afternoon, joining in with the audience participation. Oh yes she will!



Thank You!

Please see the thank you below from the Hertford Foodbank following our Harvest Festival donations.



Open House Coffee Mornings

We have been reviewing our Open House Coffee Mornings and have noticed that the popularity of these events has dropped off.

The original purpose of the Open House Coffee Morning was for parents to meet each other and have an opportunity to chat informally with teachers. However we have grown the number of opportunities to do this over the year, such as Parent to Lunch, Meet the Teacher, Class Assembly, Parents' Evenings, and Music Concerts with teachers also available at pick up after school.

With this in mind, going forward we will holding one coffee morning a term which will tie in with each House Charity event and we will continue to review this.

Carol Service - Tuesday 5th December

We are looking forward to our Carol Service at Haileybury on Tuesday 5th 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. We ask that you do not arrive before this time as your child/children will have a long time to wait before the start of the service.

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 5th December, please let the School Office know.

Please arrange childcare for siblings below Reception age and babies.

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.

We will be sending more information out next week.

Thank you.

Well done to 2A for an excellent assembly this morning!



E-Safety

The internet helps to enhance our curriculum and can make up a substantial part of most young people's lives. As a result of this, it is essential that we incorporate e-safety throughout our curriculum, which helps the children to use the internet safely.

With this in mind, it is also crucial that as teachers and parents we stay current with the advances in our children's on-line world so that we can help, support and protect them. Mr Phelan's letter regarding Safeguarding, refers to this in greater detail and also highlights some excellent e-safety resources. Furthermore, with 'Safer Internet Day' approaching in February, we will be hosting an E-safety evening for parents and carers in the new year.

Mr Le Tissier

Speech & Drama

The last Speech and Drama lessons take place on Thursday, 7th December. Mrs Coley has said that children are welcome to bring in reindeer antlers, Christmas hats etc for the last lesson.

Christmas Card Orders

If you have not done so already, could you please bring your Christmas Card orders in by Monday 20th November. This will ensure you get your cards back in good time before Christmas.

Borrowed PE Kit

Please can I remind all parents that if their child borrows a towel for swimming that it is washed and returned to school as soon as possible please.

Thank you.

Miss Varney

Phil the Bag

On Wednesday 22nd November the ladies from the School Uniform Shop are arranging a Phil the Bag collection. The PA will receive a payment based on the weight of clothing items donated, so please look out for any garments you no longer want, pop them in a black bin bag and bring them in on the morning of 22nd November. Please place your bags outside the Music Room for collection. Please do not bring bags in before the 22nd as there is nowhere to store them. This is a great opportunity for a clear out while helping to reach our fundraising goal!

Many thanks.

The PA Team

Year 1 Light and Dark Workshop

On Tuesday, Year 1 welcomed Set point to our school for a Light and Dark workshop.

The children were involved in numerous science experiments learning about light and dark.

All the children were able to make a kaleidoscope, investigate periscopes, find a button in a dark tent, discover the effect of light up toys in the dark. They were able to create shadow puppets and using a mirror and a static torch, bounce light off different areas of the room.

The children were all very well behaved. The fun and enjoyment they all had, has really enhanced their scientific learning.



Owls Visit Treetops & Lower School

Our Treetops and Lower School children had some very exciting visitors on Wednesday morning. The children were visited by 'Nite Owls' and were mesmerised watching the fantastic owl display.

The children marvelled at the six different types of owls that took flight in the New Hall, from Tango the smallest 'Little Owl' to Oscar the 'Arthonis Eagle Owl'. They learnt some fascinating facts about these owls such as: A baby owl is called an Owlet, they have the softest feathers for silent flight and three dimensional hearing to aid pinpointing their prey!

All the children were thoroughly excited to have their individual photograph taken with Whisper the Barn owl and some of the children had the wonderful experience of flying these majestic birds!



Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets

Please look out for the Christmas Fair raffle tickets which are being sent home in book bags today.

Lost

Named woolley hat belonging to Charlotte Wackett.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 20th November



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

MONDAY	TUESDAY
Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread
Dish of the Day Beef Bolognaise with Spaghetti	Dish of the Day Pork Sausage Casserole
Vegetarian Option Quorn Mince Bolognaise With Spaghetti	Vegetarian Option Brie and Caramelized Onion Tart
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce Cheese
Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Rice Steamed Sweetcorn
Dessert Chocolate Puddle Pudding with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Creamy Rice Pudding with Strawberry Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

WEDNESDAY
Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread
Dish of the Day Chicken and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake
Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Wraps
Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese
Vegetables Steamed Rice Sauté Courgettes Mixed Salad
Dessert Oaty Cherry Cookie Chocolate Milkshake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free
equivalent dishes will be offered

Week 2

THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread
Dish of the Day Roast Beef with Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding	Dish of the Day Fresh Homemade Pizza
Vegetarian Option Quorn Sausage Toad in the Hole	Pepperoni Barbecue Chicken Margarita
Pasta Bar Cheese Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese
Vegetables Rustic Roast Potatoes Roasted Beetroot Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Raspberry Ripple Mousse Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Mixed Berry Cheesecake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

THIS WEEK'S MENU

COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Week commencing: 20th November 2017

