



Duncombe News

19th October 2017



It was lovely to see so many of you at our Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evenings this week. I know the 'next steps' were shared and I am sure you have had the chance to speak to the children about what they need to do next as well as sharing the praise and encouragement. The Treetops sharing afternoon was a hubbub of excitement with very proud children showcasing their work from the past few weeks.

I have been delighted with the first half of this term and I know there will be plenty of further challenge next half term. There have been excellent sporting achievements, musical performances to delight all who attended and continued evidence of pupils working hard and making meaningful progress. It is essential that Year 6 continue to focus on their Maths, English, VR and Non-VR preparations over the break and their teachers have set a variety of tasks to keep this moving forward.

The Astro cover is coming on at apace and we are growing more and more excited about the prospect of its completion and subsequent use by our pupils. Mr Thomas has an extensive site programme planned for the half term break including further decoration of areas of main school, new flooring and skirting in New Hall along with some lighting projects and plenty of other jobs. He will update you when we return.

The whole school's writing focus this week was built around the celebration of 20 years of the Harry Potter series. This has seen all sorts of magical events and experiences inside and outside the class. Do look out for the write ups and ask the children about the Quidditch experience and owl pellet dissections!

It is exactly a year since Duncombe Bear made his intrepid journey into space and this week in assembly we received his report from the trip to the wilds of Borneo with Mrs Tramontano. Rosie and Grace interviewed the dynamic duo about their experiences which included meeting orang-utans in a nature reserve, visiting the local bear wildlife and perhaps most significantly of all, planting a tree on behalf of Duncombe School as part of a sustainable project to counter deforestation. Thank you to the girls, Mrs Tramontano and of course DB, for sharing this wonderful experience. Excerpts from the interview can be found in the newsletter.

Next term we have plenty to look forward to including; Year 4 and Year 5 Parents' Evenings, PA Fireworks night, Carol Service at Haileybury Chapel and Christmas performances alongside parent to lunch, ice skating at Van Hages, a trip to the pantomime and our PA Christmas Fair, plus much more besides. Plenty of reasons to take advantage of a good rest over the half term and come back ready to get fully involved!

Have a wonderful half term *Mr Phelan*.

Well done to this week's Pupils who received a Headmaster's Award.



Diary Dates

Friday 20th October - Half Term begins.

Monday 30th October - PHC Singing Workshop for Years 5 and 6 Choir.

Tuesday 31st October - Year 4 to Paradise Wildlife Park.

Thursday 2nd November - Year 4 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 3rd November - PA Firework Event. 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start.

Sports Fixtures

Tuesday 31st October - U11 Football v Sherrardswood (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 1st November - U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (away). Time TBC.

Thursday 2nd November - U9 Football v St Edmund's Prep at Hartham. Time TBC.

U8/U9 Netball v St Edmund's Prep (away). Time TBC.

Tuesday 7th November - U7 Seven-a-side Football at Duncombe.

Wednesday 8th November - U11 Football v St Joseph's in the Park at Hartham.

Thursday 9th November - U8 Football v St Edmund's (away). 3pm start.

Looking Forward

Monday 6th November - Upper School to Holy Trinity Church for assembly (children only).

Wednesday 8th November - Knebworth Charity Event.

No After School Club Chess Club.

Thursday 9th November - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am start.

Year 5 Parents' Evening in New Hall from 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Friday 10th November - 1T Assembly. Parents welcome.

Year 6 to Amaravati Monastery.

Tuesday 14th November - Year 1 Light and Dark Workshop at Duncombe.

Wednesday 15th November - Moving to Kindergarten Parents' Evening. 6.30pm for a 7pm start in New Hall.

Thursday 16th November - Open House Coffee in Old Hall. Mrs Takawira, Miss Lewis, Mrs Hills, Mr Foley, Miss Coughlan, Mrs Sopher and Mrs Turner.

Friday 17th November - 2A Assembly. Parents welcome.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Harry H, William B and George S from 2A who played for Hertford RFC in the East Herts Under 7s Tag Rugby Festival at Old Albanians on Sunday. It was their first ever tournament and they were unbeaten in all of their games!



Staff News

We would like to inform you that Mrs Vinall will be going on maternity leave and her last day will be Tuesday 31st October.

We are delighted to say that Mrs Lee-anne Brand will be covering for Mrs Vinall in Nursery Maple on a Monday and Tuesday from 6th November.

Mrs Brand is well known to the children as she has been part of the After School Club team for the last 3 years.

Mrs Copeman

Latin Club

Year 4 pupils

Latin Club begins for Year 4 pupils on Tuesday 31st October, and every Tuesday thereafter, at 1.00pm in 3C's classroom on the New Wing. Children who attend will need to have an early lunch. Year 4 pupils have already heard from me this week about our core text, Minimus Mouse, and how we will be learning all about his family's adventures, discovering facts about Roman life and learning Latin along the way. Any children wishing to attend are invited to join the first two taster sessions to try it out. Children just need to turn up at the first session and do not need to inform me in advance.

Year 5 pupils

Latin Club also runs for Year 5 pupils every Tuesday morning and will begin on Tuesday 31st October at 8.20am in the Art Room. Those interested in joining the club just need to attend the first session. I'm very much looking forward to welcoming pupils back from last year and would welcome any new joiners from Year 5 who would like to attend even if they have not previously attended last year.

Carpe Diem!

Miss Cartwright

Knebworth Charity Events

SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity

We are very excited to inform you that this term's charity is SSAFA, The Armed Forces Charity. This charity is the UK's oldest national tri-service military charity and exists to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst the Armed Forces, veterans and their families in order to support their independence and dignity. Here are the fundraising events coming up which the children have been informed of in assemblies this week:

Design a Medal Competition

After half term the children will have an opportunity to 'design a medal'. Entry for this competition is £1 and forms will be available after half term. This is open to children in Lower and Upper School

Create a Coin Poppy

On Wednesday 8th of November we invite all children to bring in £1 to fill a giant poppy, which will take pride of place in the school grounds. This is open to children in Treetops, Lower School and Upper School.

Dress Up Day - Thursday 30th November

On Thursday 30th November we invite children to dress in any shade of blue and/or any shade of green to represent our armed forces. Please do not dress in camouflage. Please bring in £1 to take part in this. This is open to children in Treetops, Lower School and Upper School.

The Knebworth Charity Team

**Writer
of the
Term
Award**

This year we are introducing a new award for writing. At the end of each term, teachers will nominate a writer of the term. One member of each class from Nursery all the way up to Year 6 will receive an award for their continued effort to improve their writing. It will celebrate children that have shown real determination to succeed as writers, through demonstrating their creativity and imagination consistently throughout the term. Each winner will receive a prize and also have the opportunity to present their superb work in assembly.

Mrs Micele-Jones

Duncombe Bear treks to Borneo

Duncombe Bear (DB) and Mrs Tramontano took some time out of their busy schedules to discuss their recent summer adventure to Borneo. Rosie and Grace had the pleasure of interviewing the intrepid explorers. We were desperate to find out all about DB's latest escapade.

Grace: Where exactly is Borneo?

Mrs T: Well we did not know where Borneo was until we planned our trip there! Borneo is in South East Asia. It is quite a big island. I did not realise quite how big it was until we arrived there. It is an island which is two and a half hours from Malaysia. There is also a difference in climate, which is quite surprising.

Rosie: How did DB cope with the climate?

Mrs T: He found it very hot and humid especially with his fur but the rain was very refreshing. He enjoyed venturing out in the rain as it helped keep him cool!

Grace: What did you do whilst you were in Borneo?

Mrs T: Well we visited the orang-utan centre. We learnt quite a lot there. Many orang-utans in Borneo are kept in sanctuaries because of the deforestation of the jungle. The trees are being cut down to make palm oil, which is found in many products. Some of the orang-utans are left as babies as their mothers die when the trees are cut down. They cannot always look after themselves as orang-utans are up to six years old and dependent on their mums feeding them.

Rosie: What did DB enjoy most on his trip to Borneo?

He particularly enjoyed visiting the orang-utans because he felt quite close to them. When we went on a riverboat safari in another area where we were staying, we saw some in their natural environment. We saw a flash of orange swinging through the tops of the tree. That is where they live and sleep, unless it is raining of course! Also he really enjoyed seeing another bear in the enclosure. I think his most enjoyable experience was seeing the sun bear.

Rosie: Did DB try anything new?

Mrs T: Whilst we were in Borneo, we did something wonderful. Duncombe Bear and I, planted a tree! For every tree that is cut down a local charity wants to replace it. We had to paint a plaque. And wrote 'Duncombe School, Great Britain, 17'. So if you every go to this place in Borneo, you will see the tree that we planted for Duncombe School. Amazing!

A huge thank you to Mrs Tramontano and DB for answering our questions.

What will DB's next adventure be?



Harry Potter Week

Harry Potter fever has swept across the school in preparation for the PA's Harry Potter party. J.K. Rowling's popular books have inspired a wide variety of genres; the children have penned poetry, recounts, setting and character descriptions as well as fact files all within the theme of wizardry.

Not only has the 20th year celebration of the well-loved series stimulated learning in English lessons, the children have also taken part in some exciting cross-curricular activities. The whole school truly got involved from learning about the film's soundtrack in Music to spellbinding Spanish using adverbials of time. Every year group took part in the celebration. Year 3 sculpted enchanting dragon eyes and wrote detailed instructions on how to make them. The PE department adapted the game of Quidditch for Upper School whilst Mrs Marrion and Mrs Coughlan concocted potions with Year 4. What a magical week it has been!

Mrs Micele-Jones



Fireworks Night on Friday 3rd November

There are still tickets available for the PA Fireworks Night on Friday 3rd. Tickets still available for this event so if you would like to come along please get your form in by Tuesday 31st October.

Duncombe Sport

Please see the first Duncombe Sport of this academic year, which is attached to this newsletter.

Chess Club

Please note there is no After School Chess Club on Wednesday 8th November.

Lost

Named skort belonging to Ellie Sugarman

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 30th October



THIS WEEK'S MENU

Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free equivalent dishes will be offered

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread
Dish of the Day Beef Bolognese with Spaghetti	Dish of the Day Chicken and Broccoli Filo Pie	Dish of the Day Hearty Beef Chilli with Nachos, Sour cream and Salsa	Dish of the Day Roast Pork with Gravy and Apple Sauce	Dish of the Day Traditional Fisherman's Pie topped with mashed Potato
Vegetarian Option Quorn Mince Bolognese With Spaghetti	Vegetarian Option Autumn Vegetable Stew with Herb Dumplings	Vegetarian Option Cheese and Spring Onion Quesadilla with Sour cream and Salsa	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable and Halloumi Bake	Vegetarian Option Macaroni Cheese
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese
Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Green Beans Homemade Garlic Bread	Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Peas and Carrots	Vegetables Steamed Rice Steamed Sweetcorn	Vegetables Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Fruit Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Vanilla Shortbread Chocolate Milkshake Fresh Fruit	Dessert Orange Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Banoffee Pie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

CCGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Week commencing: 11th September, 2nd October, 30th October, 13th November, 4th December 2017

