



Duncombe News

24th November 2017



With the nights drawing in and the blustery, cold skies, there is a real feeling that we are knocking on December's door. It is hard to believe that I was writing a newsletter to you this time last year, having recently arrived at Duncombe – how the time has flown by!

The children have all been incredibly excited as we are now able to play sports on our amazing outdoor, all-weather astro-turf pitch. We will have a proper opening ceremony soon, but it is wonderful to see everyone running around in such an awesome space.

It has been another busy and bustling week in school with our Year 4 children engaging in a doll baptism as part of their Religious Education curriculum Reception and Year 1 pupils played energetic tennis supported by the Legends Tennis coach and on Wednesday, we were visited by our very own Roman, who enthralled the children with tales of gory gladiators and spectacular centurions!

We were thrilled that our talented Harmony Choir were invited to perform at Cognita's Head Teachers Conference on Thursday evening – I am sure that Mrs Sutton led the children with her inimitable passion and gusto. While starting to create our Christmas decorations, the rest of the school have also been busy practicing their singing as we head towards our Carol Service, which is held at Haileybury each year.

The week ended with an impressive assembly on Light from 1A; creative, colourful, informative, artistic and teamwork were the five words that sprang to my mind as I watched these delightful children, not long out of Treetops. They performed with such confidence and joy – it was truly lovely and our thanks go to Miss Ashcroft, Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Watson for their enduring encouragement.

Finally, Years 3-6 were treated to an incredible performance from the wonderful Anthony Glenn this afternoon who entertained us with the festive story of young Oliver Twist.

Next week we see the arrival of our three Christmas trees which will be adorned and ready for the Christmas Fair on 3rd December. Knebworth's Charity Dress-up Day is on Thursday 30th November, so please do encourage your children to dress in the colours of any of our incredible service men and women. The Harmony Choir are in demand as they have also been invited to sing at the switching on of lights ceremony at Hanbury Manor and the week will end with another performance from many of our talented young musicians at the Friday Music Assembly.

Wrap up warmly and have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Sands

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



Diary Dates

Monday 27th November - Last Toddler Group

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.

Sports Fixtures

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 4th December - Years 1 to 6 Carol Service Rehearsal at Haileybury.

2.30pm EKG 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.

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

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

Wednesday 13th December - Reception to Year 6 to the 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.

Good Luck!

Good luck to Elliot F (6S) and Edward F (4MJ) who are performing in Peter Pan this week at the Hawthorne Theatre in Welwyn Garden City. They both have really enjoyed the rehearsal experience and are very excited about performing in this RARE Production. Break a leg boys!



Musical Treat

On Tuesday we were thrilled to welcome back trumpeter and past pupil Louie Carvacho who won a Music Scholarship to Haileybury last year. He performed a lovely piece by Mozart and the jazz number 'Satin Doll'. His teachers, Mr O'Brien and Mr Shields, gave us a wonderful introduction to the world of brass, demonstrating both the tuba and trombone. Some of the children were even given the opportunity to have a go at playing different brass instruments.

Our thanks to Louie and the Haileybury staff for a truly memorable morning.

Mrs Sutton.

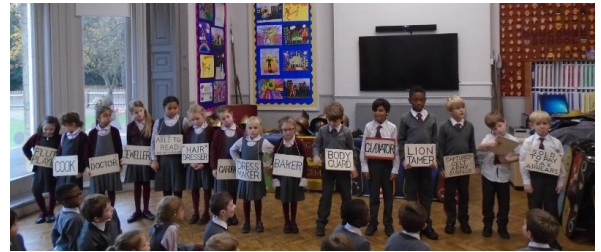


Well done to 1A for a brilliant assembly today!



Roman Invasion for Year 3!

On Wednesday Year 3 enjoyed a fascinating talk on the Romans from Mr Eagle. The experience was highlighted by a variety of props and costumes that brought this important part of our history to life. The children took part in lots of role play opportunities including war between Roman legions, slavery, gladiator battles and everyday life. We found out about how they used an abacus, what they used as mirrors, and how heavy their armour was. Everyone got involved and there was so much to find out about! We will be writing reports on it next week. *Mrs Hodson.*



Harmony Choir Performance

Last night the Harmony Choir were privileged to perform at the Cognita Heads' Conference dinner at Ashridge Estate. They performed on the grand staircase, which was the inspiration for the moving staircase at Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. Over a hundred Cognita head teachers from all around the world were present. The choir were amazing and sang three songs, all involving part-singing and harmony. They received a thunderous round of applause at the end of the performance.

Our thanks to Mrs Turner for her incredible accompaniment and to Mrs Colman, Mrs Pannett and Miss Ashcroft for their assistance with the smooth running of the evening.

Mrs Sutton.



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.

Please see the letter sent out yesterday for full details. Thank you.

Speech & Drama

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

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Poppy Appeal, with your help we raised £46.72.

Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

The Duncombe School Christmas Postal Service will be open for business for the children from Friday 1st December. The Post Box will be placed in the Old Hall and emptied at least once a day. There is also a box in the entrance to Treetops. Please make sure you put the full name and class of the child on the envelope.



Watching Week for Ballet

Just a reminder that parents are welcome to watch their child in their last ballet lesson on Wednesday 29th November. This is purely a chance for you to see what the girls are doing in ballet in a normal lesson and is not a show. We look forward to seeing you.

Knebworth Dress Up Day Thursday 30th November

Just a reminder that the Knebworth dress up day is next 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. The dress up day is open to children in Treetops, Lower School and Upper School.

All proceeds go to SSAFA.
The Knebworth Charity Team

Urgently Needed

With only a week to go to the Christmas Fair, we really urgently need donations of wrapped sweets for the Sweet Hoopla, bottles (of any kind) for the Bottle Tombola and toys/soft toys in good condition for the Toy Tombola. These are always extremely popular stalls, but as it stands we are at risk of not being able to run them, so if you are able to, please leave any donations at the office.

Additionally, we still require volunteers for both sessions (12.00 - 1.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.00pm) on the Mulled Wine & Beer and the Hot Drinks stalls. If you are able to spare an hour and half on the day, to help on either of these, we would be really grateful. The sign-up sheets can be found on the PA Board in Old Hall.

With many thanks.
The Christmas Fair Team

**After School Club Information
for the remainder of this term**

May we remind you that **tennis, horse riding, cookery and fencing** have now finished for the term.

Gymnastics will finish on Monday 27th November.

Ballet will finish on Wednesday 29th November.

The last **cheerleading** class on the 7th December will be a show for parents to watch - please arrive at 4.40pm if you are able to join us.

As previously mentioned there will be **no clubs** on the 5th December due to the Carol Service or on the 13th December due to the late arrival back at school after the pantomime.

Mrs Price.

Ice Skating

Please get your ice skating booking form in quickly as places are going fast. Thank you. *Mrs Price*

Lost

Named grey jumper belonging to James Radcliffe.

Named pink lamy fountain pen belonging to Arya Patel.

Named tracksuit top and socks belonging to Maya Bywater.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 27th November



Homemade Soup and Freshly Baked Bread available Daily

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free equivalent dishes will be offered

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Week 3

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 Pork Sausages with Onion Gravy	Dish of the Day Mild Chicken Curry with Poppadam's and Chutney	Dish of the Day Chilli Beef Tacos with Sour Cream and Salsa	Dish of the Day Roast Pork with Gravy and Apple Sauce	Dish Of The Day Oven Baked Fish Goujons with Lemon and Tar tare Sauce
Vegetarian Option Autumn Vegetable and Bean stew with Herby Dumplings	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Korma with Poppadam's and Chutney	Vegetarian Option Sweet Potato and Bean Patties	Vegetarian Option 3 Cheese Jalousie	Vegetarian Option Cheesy Sweet Potato ,Leek Layered Potato Bake
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw
Vegetables Creamy Mash Potato Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Brown and White Rice Sweetcorn and Peas Sagaloo	Vegetables Rissolo Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Rustic Roast Leek Mornay Steamed Broccoli	Vegetables Oven Wedges Baked Beans Sweet corn
Dessert Pear and Apple Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit	Dessert Ginger Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Chip Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Fruit Jelly Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Iced Banana Cake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

