

Duncombe News

You might have noticed by now that I quite like to keep up to date with the latest trends, research and reports around Education. So no surprises that a recent report about the gender pay gap identified as early as childhood caught my attention! The report released on Tuesday referenced significant research around how much pocket money boys and girls receive nationally. Quite amazingly there is a difference of around £2.20 in favour of boys! I found this fascinating not least because our approach here at Duncombe is one of encouraging both boys and girls to be fully involved in their entire learning experience. So armed with this recent research I looked very carefully at pupil responses in the lessons I observed this week and was delighted (but not surprised) to see that both boys and girls were equally involved; asking and answering questions, taking the lead with practical examples and equally challenged to look for more or add greater detail, proof read etc. It led me to conclude that, should a survey of pocket money be taken at Duncombe, I am confident that girls would be getting a fair deal along with the boys; because that is certainly at the heart of all we do here. The link to the article is here.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38730591>

4B treated us to a truly wonderful assembly focused on life at school in France. This truly was *superbe!* The rendition of *Alouette* with running subtitles was a revelation and had us all spell bound. I was delighted with the continued growth in confidence on display and know that Miss Barton was extremely proud of the form and their efforts. Once again our pupils were able to rise to the challenge and never cease to delight us with their efforts, outcomes and progress.

One final comment. On touring a family this week the father shared the following at the end, "It's been wonderful and awful"! (Picture Mr Phelan's face - where is this going)? "Wonderful because this is exactly where our child should be. Awful because I want to be a little child again and join too." Lovely!

Next week sees a Music Assembly on Friday including Year 3 recorders alongside a host of fixtures, Battle of the Brains at Princess Helena College and an Orchestral Master Class at Haileybury.

Please do have a wonderful and restful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1st February - Year 4 to Sikh Temple.

Friday 3rd February - Music Assembly for invited performers, including Year 3 Recorders. Old Hall at 8.50am.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 1st February - U11 Netball v Kingshott School (away) 2.30pm 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.

Tuesday 21st February - U11 Rugby v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 22nd February - U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). 3pm start.

Friday 24th February - U9 Rugby v Milton Keynes Prep School at Hertford Rugby Club. 2.45pm start.

Looking Forward

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.

Monday 20th February - Second half of Spring Term starts.

Tuesday 21st February - Year 5 Come Dine with Us.

Wednesday 22nd February - Year 4 to Natural History Museum.

Year 6 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Thursday 23rd February - Author Visit for Years 3 to 6. Morning only in Old Hall.

Friday 24 February - 5S Assembly (parents welcome).

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



Congratulations

Congratulations to Lila W (NB) who reached her class goal this week. Well done Lila.



Congratulations to Samuel H (NM) who reached his class goal this week. Well done Samuel.



Music Lessons

If you are a parent of a child who has music lessons at school, can you please remind them to turn up for their lesson on time. Our music teachers can on occasion, spend a lot of time trying to locate children, which wastes valuable lesson time. Thank you.

Swimming

In preparation for the Upper School Swimming Gala on 21st March, Years 5 & 6 will be joining Year 4 at Hartham for swimming lessons on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28th February – 4, 5 & 6
- Tuesday 7th March – 4, 5 & 6
- Tuesday 14th March – back to normal for 2, 3 & 4
- Tuesday 21st March – Swimming Gala

This means that Years 2 & 3 will not be swimming on the 28th February, 7th March and 21st March.

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.

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.

Years 4 & 5 Future Schools Information Booklet

The Future Schools Information booklet from last night's event can now be found on our Parent Portal under 'Notices'.

Marketing

There was great excitement at Duncombe earlier this week when we held a photography shoot for our new marketing material. We're looking forward to sharing the outcome with you very soon.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 30th January



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish of the Day Beef Bolognese with Spaghetti	Chinese New Year Theme	Dish of the Day Lamb Kofta with Tatziki and Pitta	Dish of the Day Roast Chicken with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	Dish of the Day Freshly made Salmon Fishcakes with Tar tare Sauce
Vegetarian Option Quorn Bolognese with Spaghetti		Vegetarian Option Mixed Cheese Slice	Vegetarian Option Butternut Risotto	Vegetarian Option Mac n Cheese
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayo/maise Cheese		Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw Cheese
Vegetables Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Green Mixed Vegetables		Vegetables Steamed Rice Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Honey Roasted Carrots Cauliflower and Broccoli Gratin	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Chocolate Chip Sponge with Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt		Dessert Jammy Shortbread Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Strawberry Mousse Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Iced Bakewell Tart Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

THIS WEEK'S MENU

