

Friday 10th Mar 2017

## Duncombe News

It is always lovely to get nice feedback and this week has been no exception. Listening to and talking with many parents at our Parents' Evenings has been most enjoyable and it is always so encouraging to hear comments about how the children are progressing, growing in confidence and taking on new challenges. The positive feedback about our teachers and staff is always so welcome and there has been plenty of that this week too. I took the opportunity to write to all staff yesterday evening after what had been an exceptionally long and event packed week. I have decided to share it with you because I believe it reflects how so many of you feel each day.

*Dear All,*

*I just wanted to take a few moments to say thank you for your efforts this week. An exceptionally busy one with Parents' Evenings and Open Day along with all the usual demands of a school week.*

*The School looked amazing today. Our pupils did us proud; the tour feedback about the children was extremely positive and several visiting parents commented on the engaging way staff interacted and answered questions. The Music performed was right up there with some of the best I have heard our pupils play.*

*Parents' Evening have gone well and I am very pleased with the feedback I have had.*

*I never cease to be impressed by the collegiate way all staff pull together and continue to deliver consistently excellent experiences for our pupils and families.*

*Maybe I should articulate it more but I can't express how proud I am of you all day in and day out. As both the Head and as a parent, working with you and seeing the outcomes daily for all of our children is a real privilege.*

*Thank you- (I hope this isn't too saccharine in tone)*

*All best wishes*

*Jeremy*

1D with Mrs Durham and Mrs Frost took us to rural Norfolk with a tale about perseverance and a promise being kept. We were treated to an excellent assembly with Swaffham at its heart and as you would expect the pupils performed exceptionally well. The growing confidence, use of visual art, learning lines, singing songs and being part of team gave the entire school a great start to the day. Well done to the pupils and the 1D team!

There have been trips and events galore this week, so do please look out for the reports and pics. Have a wonderful weekend.

*Mr Phelan*

### 1D Assembly



### Diary Dates

**Tuesday 14th March** - Year 1 to Glass Workshop in Hertford.

**Wednesday 15th March** - Year 5 to GSK.

**Thursday 16th March** - Year 1 to Glass Workshop in Hertford.

Year 5 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

**Friday 17th March** - Music Assembly with Year 2 Recorders. 8.50am in Old Hall.

PA Quiz Night. 7pm for 7.30pm start.

### Sports Fixtures

**Tuesday 14th March** - U10 & U11 Rugby v Loyola School (away). 2.45pm start.

**Thursday 16th March** - U9 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). 2pm start.

**Friday 17th March** - U9 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

U11 Hockey v Felsted (away). Time TBC.

### Looking Forward

**Tuesday 21st March** - Non Uniform Day for the winning house.

Upper School Swimming Gala at Hartham. 9.00am start. (No swimming for Years 2 and 3).

**Thursday 23rd March** - Knebworth Dress Up Day.

**Friday 24th March** - Nursery and Reception Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.00am to 9.20am in New Hall.

Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall.

End of Term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 - finish time 2.45 pm,

Years 4-6 - finish time 3.00pm.

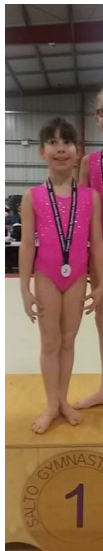
There will be no After School clubs but after school care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

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



## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Torri H (4B) who competed last weekend with her partner Lucy at Grade One in the Women's Pairs at the Eastern Counties Acrobatic Gymnastics Regional Prelims in Luton. They were placed first out of 5 clubs (7 pairs) and Torri will now represent her club, HGC, at the national finals in June this year. Well done Torri and good luck in the nationals!



Congratulations to Jaxon C (4G) who won his first gold medal in the badminton doubles at a National Tournament last weekend. Well done Jaxon!

Congratulations to Immy R (NB) who reached her class goal this week. Well done Immy!



## **5 Star Food Hygiene Rating**

I am delighted to be able to share with you the news that, following a visit from East Herts Council on 28th February 2017, Duncombe School has been awarded a 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating Mrs Reeves and the Thomas Franks team.

*Ian Thomas, Business Manager*

## **Year 6 Visit the Houses of Parliament**

On Wednesday, the Year 6 pupils set off at the crack of dawn on their trip to London. This started at the Houses of Parliament; we were shown around by very knowledgeable guides who pointed out the dents to the wood made by Winston Churchill's signet ring during heated debates, the statues and paintings of an array of monarchs and MPs and even the stairs which Queen Elizabeth II ascends each year before opening Parliament. We were told that this year was the first year she has taken the lift, but for a lady of her age, we quite understood! Before departing, our local MP Mark Prisk graciously met with us and explained his day to day working life. He answered questions on Brexit, the Bengeo Quarry and whether we should allow President Trump to visit!

Afterwards, we carried on to the Imperial War Museum where we were able to see some of the vehicles, planes, clothing and other memorabilia from WWII which is our History focus this term. Although we were not there for very long, it gave everyone a chance to see what it might have been like living during 1939-45 in Britain.



**Here are Year 3 enjoying their visit to the Natural History Museum in Tring.**





*Fingerprints, fingerprints everywhere.  
You wipe them, scrub them and wash them away,  
but I want to make something for you,  
so you can have them always.*

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Manic Ceramics in Hertford will be joining our toddler group to help your little one make a special Mothers' Day gift.

All toddlers will make a complimentary gift and if you would like to make a few extra bits for other special people, products and prices will be available on the day.

Spaces are limited so please contact Mrs Evans on 01992 414100 if you would like to come along.



**Duncombe School**  
An Independent Preparatory  
School and Nursery

### **Instrumental Tuition**

Demand is very high for instrumental tuition and all places are now full. We are currently offering lessons in: violin, clarinet, brass, drums, voice, flute, guitar and piano. We hold waiting lists for all instruments and if you wish your child to begin lessons please ensure you contact Rebecca Selwood in the School Office to add your child's name to the appropriate waiting list. Your child will then be allocated a place as one becomes available in their chosen instrument. Lessons are available from Year 3, however you can add your child to the waiting list as soon as they start school.

### **Instrumentalists**

If your child has instrumental or voice lessons outside school, please let us know! It would be wonderful to hear some of our talented musicians perform in an 'Outside Learners' concert! Please email Mrs Sutton with your child's name, class, instrument and most recent grade exam (if relevant).

### **Knebworth Charity**

The final exciting event to raise money for this term's charity is a dress up day.

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March you can dress up as either your favourite animal or all in blue. This event is open to Treetops, Lower School and Upper School and is £1 to take part.

We hope to raise lots of money for Blue Cross for Pets. Thank you. *The Knebworth Charity Team.*

### **St Patricks Day themed Quiz Night - Friday 17th March**

We have had a great response to the quiz night and there are only a few tables left so hurry and gather your teams. Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm prompt start in the New Hall. Dinner is included and there is a Cash Bar. Tickets priced at just £15.00 per person. Tables of 8 to 10 people. If you do not have enough people to make up a full table don't miss out, please still submit a form and we will try our best to accommodate you. Please can all forms be returned by **Friday 10th March.**

Many thanks for your support  
*The PA Team*

### **Jokes for Red Nose Day**

Don't forget to let us know your funniest joke in aid of Red Nose Day. Simply write it down, including your name, form and a 50p donation to be in with a chance of winning a prize for making us laugh the most! Post your entries into one of the PA Boxes situated in Old Hall and Treetops. All proceeds are in aid of Red Nose Day. *The PA Team*

### **Bake Off Equipment**

We have quite a few bits of cookery equipment left over from the Upper and Lower School bake off competitions. If you think you have left something please come to the School Office to collect it.

### **Lost**

Named coat belonging to Emily Storm.  
Named PE jacket and coat belonging to Grace West.  
Named shoe belonging to James Green.  
Unnamed Go-Ape glove belonging to James Green.



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## Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 13th March



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

## THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Dish of the Day</b> Sausage Meat Plait	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Barbecue Chicken	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Traditional Beef Lasagne With Garlic Bread	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Roast Gammon with Gravy Cranberry Sauce	<b>Dish of the Day</b> Oven Baked Cod Fingers with Lemon and Tartare Sauce
<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Quorn Vegetarian Chilli with Rice	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Vegetable and Cheese Wraps	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Roasted Vegetable Lasagne	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Spanish Tortilla with Rocket and Red Pepper Pesto drizzle	<b>Vegetarian Option</b> Sweet and Sour Vegetables with Noodles
<b>Jacket Potato Bar</b> Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	<b>Pasta Bar</b> Tomato Sauce Cheese	<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 Steamed Green Beans	<b>Vegetables</b> Creamy Mash Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	<b>Vegetables</b> Rissolle Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Sauté Courgettes with Peppers	<b>Vegetables</b> Roast Potatoes Steamed Carrots and Broccoli Leek Mornay	<b>Vegetables</b> Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
<b>Dessert</b> Apple and Blackberry Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Syrup Sponge with Custard Served with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Cookies and Milkshake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Meringues with Cream and Chocolate Sauce Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	<b>Dessert</b> Bakewell Tart Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

