

Duncombe News

Welcome back from what I hope was a lovely half term break. Whilst very windswept for the last few days, the weather hasn't dampened the hard work of the pupils who have returned with a pleasing level of focus. It has been a purposeful week with trips, matches, demonstrations and presentations of learning culminating in a class assembly from 5S. Well done to all involved. A great royal romp through all things Tudor musical, with scripts written by the pupils, interactive musical performances shared, videos created giving a most illuminating insight into the world of Year 5 learning. A great effort and one which the whole school greatly enjoyed. Well done Mrs Sutton and the 5S team!

We have been very proud of the efforts and achievements of our Year 6 pupils. I will be celebrating the outcomes of the recent Independent Schools' Examinations in more detail in my letter to parents over the Easter holiday once all are confirmed. In the meantime I am delighted with the way all pupils in Year 6 have been working both prior to and since half term. A real thirst for learning and endeavour, a focus to continue on, to do more, make progress and work harder. Just the ticket!

I have asked Mr Thomas to contact parents about a planning application for a covered astro which has recently been submitted on behalf of the school. I shared with you in the last academic year that we have been working on further developing the astro area which started with the replacing of the surface. With a successful planning application and a good trailing wind, we hope to be able to be enjoying the very modern structure which will give greater access to the astro area going forwards. Please do take the time to have a look at the planning and the architect's image. I'm sure you will agree that, if successful, this will be a welcome addition to the development of our site. In addition, please do have a look through the significant works schedule completed over the half term. A very sincere thank you to Mr Thomas and our site team of Gary and Stephen who worked exceptionally hard co-ordinating the vast number of teams during the week. A good job; well done.

The author visit of Tamsyn Murray was greatly enjoyed by our Year 3 to 6 pupils. A great deal of enthusiasm was on display and the Q and A sessions were most encouraging. Please do take a look at Miss Micele's write up further on.

Next week sees us all celebrating National Book Week. A wonderful occasion with further author visits, dressing up and all things celebrating the joy of the written word. Can't wait! Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

Well done to 5S for a brilliant assembly today!



Diary Dates

Monday 27th February - Year 4 Victorian Day. Old Hall.

Year 6 to Crucial Crew. 9.45am at Morgans School.

Tuesday 28th February - Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming.

Upper School Bake Off. 2pm in New Hall.

Wednesday 1st March - Nursery to Year 2 Author Visit.

Thursday 2nd March - Open House Coffee Morning 8.30am in Treetops. Miss Ord, Mrs Frost, Mrs Watson, Miss Angus, Mrs Galaska, Mrs Howes, Mr Sopher and Mrs Ferguson will be in attendance.

Reception to Mill Green.

Lower School Bake Off. 2pm in New Hall.

Friday 3rd March - Dress as your favourite children's book character for World Book Week.

Book Quiz for Years 5 & 6.

Book Fair after school in 4G

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 1st March - U10 Rugby v Milton Keynes at Hertford Rugby Club. 2.45pm start.

Thursday 2nd March - U8 Tag Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Tuesday 7th March - U8 & U9 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). Start time TBC.

Friday 10th March - Year 4 Rugby Tournament.

Looking Forward

Monday 6th March - Year 6 to The Houses of Parliament and the Imperial War Museum.

Tuesday 7th March - Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming
Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Year 4 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Wednesday 8th March - Year 3 to The Natural History Museum in Tring.

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

Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 6.30pm.

Friday 10th March - 1D Assembly. Parents welcome.

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



Congratulations

Well done to Maddie C (6LT) for gaining a distinction in her Grade 1 guitar exam.



Year 4 Visit The Natural History Museum

On Wednesday Year 4 visited the Natural History Museum in London for a science trip. They were all extremely excited (and so was I!) and couldn't wait to get there to start exploring. They visited the fossils and had a fascinating talk with one of the scientists about a turtle shell. They were spellbound as he talked. The children were delighted to see Mary Anning's Ichthyosaur and were completely silenced when they saw the size of the Giant Sloth!

All the children were very anxious to see the dinosaurs and loved the T.Rex. They were intent on reading all the facts for each and every dinosaur and exhibit on display. We took the escalator through the centre of the earth and walked through the earthquake and volcano zone. The children sat and watched a film about plate tectonics before we moved on to the moving earthquake room which gave them some idea of the phases of an earthquake. Our final trip was to see the Blue Whale which brought gasps of wonder and amused other visitors to the museum with the children's reactions.

The children all made me feel very proud, they were completely engaged and behaved perfectly all day. A trip to remember! *Mrs Marrion.*



Events for World Book day **World Book Day Competition**

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day there will be a competition to make a sock puppet. The sock puppet can be any book character; the children can decide. It can be made of any type of sock, old or new. Details can be sewn, drawn or glued on. The closing date for the competition is Wednesday 1st March. On Friday 3rd March, Elaine Penrose will be visiting the school to judge the competition and prizes will be presented in assembly the following week.



Tuesday 28th February **Swap your Books**

If you have any children's books that are no longer age appropriate, then please feel free to donate your books for our book swap on Tuesday 28th February. Please bring them to the Old Hall and leave them on the tables provided. Children will be given the opportunity to swap books throughout the day.

Wednesday 1st March **Alice Hemming**

Local author, Alice Hemming, will be visiting Duncombe on 1st March. She will start the day with an assembly for children from Nursery to Year 2. Each year group will have a reading or writing workshop based on Alice's books. There will also be an opportunity to purchase a copy of a signed book.

Thursday 2nd March

Each child will receive a World Book Day token in their book bags.

Friday 3rd March **Bring your Favourite Book to School**

Along with dressing as a book character, we would love the children to bring their favourite book in to discuss it with each other. Throughout the day, there will be a few opportunities to participate in some buddy reading too. It would be lovely for the children to share their beloved reads during this time. Please ensure books are named clearly.

Book Fair

After school on Friday 3rd March, a wide range of books will be available for sale and the children will be able to use their £1 tokens towards the cost of a book. The sale will be held in 4G.



Treetops Have a Splashing Time!



Science day in Treetops was a very wet affair this year. The children moved around the building to explore and investigate water. Did you know you can make a bubble big enough for a child to stand inside? Well the Treetops children did! They loved making cube shaped bubbles too! The children had a fantastic time drawing with frozen paint, melting ice cubes with salt, learning about sea creatures, exploring why things float and sink, using water to magnify, and creating rainbows using skittles and hot water. We certainly have some budding scientists in Treetops. They asked fantastic what, how and why questions and were able to make predictions, use scientific terminology and explore using all of their senses. Well done to all of our little Einsteins! *Mrs Copeman.*



Sing, Sing, Sing....

On Monday a group of singers from Years 3 to 6 were lucky enough to participate in the singing workshop held at Princess Helena College (PHC). The children worked very hard to learn a range of songs culminating in a concert to parents at the end of the day. Lots of Duncombe parents attended and joined in whole-heartedly with the audience participation numbers! Thanks to the staff at PHC for organising such a lovely day for the children. *Mrs Sutton.*



Years 3 to 6 Meet the Author!

Thursday morning began with an exciting author visit from local author Tamsyn Murray. Children from Years 3 to 6 listened carefully as she explained her inspiration for the Tanglewood Animal park series. Her talk included fascinating facts, practical demonstration and intriguing artefacts. It kept us all truly engaged and bursting to ask some interesting questions. A roaring success!

Miss Micele.



Move over Jamie – we've got new chefs on the horizon!

On Tuesday of this week, our current Year 5 pupils really shone when they invited their parents in, and hosted Come Dine with Us.

The menu was delicious; beef or vegetable lasagne, accompanied by a crisp, green salad and crunchy garlic bread, all followed by a sumptuous banoffee pudding, of bananas, toffee and whipped cream. The children spent their time cutting, whipping, grating, stirring (tasting!) and decorating. However, while the food itself was applauded by all our guests, it was also hugely impressive to see the teamwork before-hand that went into ensuring the tables were laid correctly, the glasses and cutlery polished and the flowers creatively arranged. It was a wonderful occasion and a true reflection of what our superb pupils are capable of. *Miss Sands.*



February Half Term Works

We had a very busy programme of works for the February half term holiday and continue to invest in improvements to the school. Some works are more obvious than other so a list of the works undertaken is shown below:

- Installation of Air Conditioning in 6LT & 6S.
- Refurbishment of Corridors from Old Hall to New Hall including new suspended ceiling, LED lighting, new flooring, 4 new doors, cladding to cleaning cupboard, new dado rail, 4 new noticeboards and full redecoration.
- Refurbishment of ground floor Music Practice Room.
- Domestic style kitchen installed to Treetops ground floor room for use by Breakfast & After School Club and for curriculum based activities. Includes new units, sink, fan oven, induction hob, fridge and freezer.
- Glass display shelves added to alcove in entrance foyer.
- Additional noticeboard in Old Hall.
- Replacement noticeboard in Foyer.
- New flooring to corridor at rear of Headmaster's Office.
- LED lighting in corridor at rear of Headmaster's Office.
- Refurbishment of Gas Cabinet at the back of the Kitchen.
- Upgrade to Internal Side of Dry Store Door.
- Extension of Existing Metal Fence by Pedestrian Path.
- Completion of works to create Business Manager's office to the first floor.
- Completion of New Medical Rest Room.
- Servicing of Fire Alarm System.
- Installation of lighting to first floor switch/server room.
- Enhancement of WiFi provision across the site to eliminate black spots.
- Repairs to Roof Above Staff Work Room including removal of tree from Chimney.
- Acid clean of brickwork to Treetops first floor facade.
- Removal of Redundant and Obsolete Furniture and Equipment.
- Removal of outdated wall murals in Treetops.
- 2 new teacher desks for 2LA.
- New storage unit for 3F.
- 20 high quality folding music stands and storage trolley.
- New storage racking in machinery shed.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Breakfast Club

Following feedback from parents, and as our Breakfast Club provision continues to be so popular, I am delighted to be able to tell you that from the Summer Term 2017 Treetops will have its own Breakfast Club based in the first ground floor room on the left as you enter Treetops.

This new provision will be for children in Early Kindergarten through to Reception and will be led by Miss Catlin. In Main School, Mrs Hills will continue to lead the Breakfast Club in New Hall for children in Years 1 to 6.

Forms for Breakfast Club, ASC and Holiday Club will be available by the end of next week.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

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.

Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening Thursday 9th March 2017

We would like to inform you that Nursery and Reception teachers will meet with parents in Main School classrooms on Thursday 9th March. The classrooms will be clearly labelled and will be as shown below:

Nursery Maple - Library (up the main stairs to the left)

Nursery Birch - 5S (up the main stairs to the left)

Rec Apple - 5T (top of the main stairs)

Rec Oak - 6LT (up the main stairs to the right)

Please note that on Tuesday 7th March Nursery and Reception Teachers will meet with parents in their own classroom in Treetops.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 27th February



THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish of the Day Chicken and Broccoli Filo Pie	Dish of the Day Slow cooked Pork with Apple	Dish of the Day Chili Beef Tacos with Sour Cream and Salsa	Dish of the Day Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce and gravy	Dish of the Day Pizza Friday
Vegetarian Option Pasta Primavera	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Strudel	Vegetarian Option Cheese and Spring Onion Quesadilla	Vegetarian Option Cheese and Chive Tart	Pepperoni Margherita Roasted Vegetable
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw Cheese
Vegetables New Potatoes Steamed Green Beans and Sweetcorn	Vegetables Risotto Potatoes Steamed Broccoli	Vegetables Steamed Rice Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Green Beans Roasted Honey Carrots	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Apple and Pear Crumble Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Marble Sponge with Chocolate Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Chip Cookie Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Orange Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Strawberry Cheesecake Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

