



Duncombe News

8th September 2017



Welcome back! It has been so very lovely catching up with so many of you over the past couple of days. The pupils have returned in fine fettle and I have been regaled with some very exciting stories about travel and holiday experiences. A very warm welcome to our many new families. Please do get involved, say hello to fellow parents and I know that you will have a most wonderful Duncombe journey.

Staff have been putting the pupils through their paces, so I expect the children might be a little tired this weekend. Having visited classes this week, it is certainly clear that the 'can do' spirit and approach I spoke about at Speech Day is being lived out. The Year 5 Buddy Lunch with Reception pupils was a joyous occasion which all pupils get so very much from. I know that once Year 5 return from PGL they will be most excited to get playing and chatting! (Have a great time next week in Devon Year 5 and staff team)!

In assembly I have been covering the topic of *keeping safe*. I have spoken about what to do if worried or scared at school as well as how to keep ourselves safe when outside school. Next week we will focus on online safety (e-safety).

Mr Thomas has written about the site developments over the holiday period with a more detailed update regarding the Astro Court Cover. It is all very exciting and as a reminder he has included the plans and image. Do have a good look at it.

Yesterday we enjoyed the Meet the Teacher Evening for Upper School, tonight Lower School and Reception will have their meeting at 7.00pm in New Hall. If you are unable to attend or missed yesterday's session - don't panic as we will send out the materials covered including Mr Le Tissier's introduction to the Duncombe Diploma.

Pupils will be bringing home next week the 'Attain' magazine. This is a publication for IAPS schools, of which we are members, with some interesting and sometimes challenging articles about issues impacting Prep Schools up and down the land.

Just a reminder about using our one way system in the morning and afternoon. A diagram is in the newsletter with a little more detail. It really helps when we use this approach so thank you in advance for your continued support here.

Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

Diary Dates

Monday 11th September –Year 5 to PGL Toddler Group. 10am start.

Wednesday 13th September - Open House Coffee 8.30am in Old Hall. Miss Gaffney, Mrs Copeman, Miss Watson, Mrs Ferguson, Miss Angus, Ms Norton, Senore Torres, Mrs Sutton, Mrs Micele Jones and Mr Le Tissier will be in attendance.

Thursday 14th September - Speech and Drama lessons resume.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 20th September - U11 Netball v Stormont (away). 2.30pm start.

Thursday 21st September - U11 Football v Bishop's Stortford College (away). 3.45pm start.

Saturday 23rd September - Football Tournament at Forest School. 8.30am start.

Wednesday 27th September - U11 Football Tournament at Haileybury.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 19th September - Year 6 to Duxford.

Thursday 21st September - Year 1 to Audley End. Year 3 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Friday 22nd September - 6LT Class Assembly. Parents welcome.

Wednesday 27th September - Macmillan Coffee Morning at 8.30am in Old Hall.

PA AGM in Old Hall at 7.30pm.

Thursday 28th September - Year 2 to Affinity Water.

Year 6 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Friday 29th September - 5V Class Assembly. Parents welcome.

Friday 29th September - Years 2 & 3 to see The Tiger Who Came to Tea at Hertford Theatre. (There will be no swimming for Years 2 & 3 on this day.)

Triumph for Hatfield Charity

The Hatfield Charity Team would like to thank everyone who contributed last term to their charity, Bliss. With your help they raised a fantastic £909.67!



Staff News

We are delighted to announce that Miss Micele got married in August and is now known as Mrs Micele-Jones.

We would like to inform you that Mrs Wiscarson will now be known as Ms Everson.

Autumn Pocket calendars

You should have received the Autumn pocket calendar this week. If you do not have one, and would like one, please contact the School Office.

Super cute!

Kindergarten have their first PE lesson!

The children were so excited to go out for their first PE lesson. They listened well and loved jumping over the hurdles. Mr Sopher and Mr Price are looking forward to next week's lesson!



School Crossing Patrol

Please be aware that there will be no School Crossing Patrol on Wednesday 20th September.

Holiday Club lost Property

There is a lot of non uniform lost property left over from the Summer Holiday Club. If you think you might have lost something please come to the School Office. Please do this before Friday 15th September, after this date we will be donating the clothes to charity.

Toddler Group

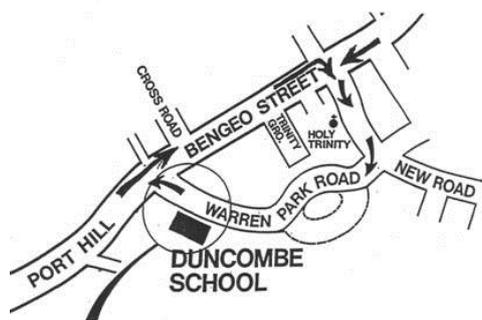
Our friendly Toddler Group sessions will commence in Treetops on Monday 11th September from 10am, ending with story time at 11.15am. There will be a themed activity every week and parents with children between the ages of 1 and 3 are welcome to come along.

Annual Parental Consent & Indemnity Form for Educational Day Visits 2017/2018

Could we please remind you to sign and return the above form to the School Office as soon as possible. We need a form for each child please. Children cannot take part in any off site visits if we do not have a signed permission form. Thank you.

Unofficial One Way system

Please can we remind you, to ease congestion at drop off and pick up, that you use our unofficial one way system. Please see the diagram below:



Meet the Teacher Presentations

We would like to inform you that the Upper School Meet the Teacher presentations can be found in the Parent Portal of our website. The Lower School Meet the Teacher presentations will be available in the same area on the website from Monday next week.

Summer Holiday Works

Over the summer we have been busy carrying out a number of improvement works to the site in addition to the normal statutory checks that are carried out so I thought I would share with you what we have been doing:

Summer Holiday Works

- Commencement of Works to create Tensile Roof for Astro Court (Completion due by End of October 2017)
- Connection of Fibre Optic Broadband
- New Classroom Chairs for 1T & 1A
- Replacement Classroom Desks and Chairs for 3FH
- Repair to Path to Music Studio
- Redecoration of 5S
- Replacement Noticeboards for New Hall
- Redecoration of Walls in New Hall
- Exterior Redecoration of PE Changing Pavilion
- Replacement of 4 Radiators in New Hall
- Full Refurbishment of all toilets in Treetops
- General Grounds Maintenance
- Commissioning of New Laptop Trolley and 20 Brand New Laptops in Library
- Replacement of Laptops in 6S with 20 Brand New Laptops
- Repair and Redistribution of Laptops in 4G and 3C
- Replacement of Decking Outside New Hall

Ian Thomas, Business Manager.

Update on Tensile Fabric Roof to Astro Court

I am delighted to say that work commenced during the first week of the holiday to install a Tensile Fabric Roof over our existing Astro Court.

Our contractors have completed all the ground works ready for the installation of the frame. The frame is being manufactured in France and is due for delivery in the last week of September. The contractors plan to arrange delivery to site over a weekend so as not to impact on traffic movements around the school. Once the frame has been delivered the contractors will return to site to complete the installation of the frame and roof before finally completing the brand new rebound fence.

All works should be completed by the end of October so I anticipate the area being operational for the second half of this term.

Shown below is a visual impression of what the final roof will look like. As you will see it will have side panels that come down to within approximately 2.5m from the ground which will provide protection from driving wind and rain.
Ian Thomas, Business Manager.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 11th September



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

MONDAY
Soup of the Day
Served With Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Chicken Cacciatore with
Spaghetti

Vegetarian Option
Quorn Mince Bolognaise

Jacket Potato Bar
Tuna Mayonnaise
Cheese

Vegetables
Steamed New Potatoes
Steamed Green Beans
Homemade Garlic Bread

Dessert
Warm Pear Sponge
with Cream
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

TUESDAY
Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Hearty Beef Chilli with
Nachos, Sour cream and
Salsa

Vegetarian Option
Quorn Chilli with Nachos,
Sour cream and Salsa

Jacket Potato Bar
Baked Beans
Cheese

Vegetables
Mixed Salad
Steamed Sweetcorn
Steamed Brown Rice

Dessert
Fudgy Sweet Potato Brownie
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

WEDNESDAY
Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Roast Chicken with Gravy

Vegetarian Option
Stuffed Butternut with Feta
and Roasted Tomatoes

Pasta Bar
3 Cheese Sauce
Cheese

Vegetables
Rustic Roast Potatoes
Steamed Medley of
Vegetables

Dessert
Cherry Shortbread
Strawberry Milkshake
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free
equivalent dishes will be offered

THIS WEEK'S MENU

THURSDAY
Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Gammon and Sweetcorn
Pasta Bake with Salad

Vegetarian Option
Roast Tomato and Pepper
Sauce with Penne Pasta

Jacket Potato Bar
Tuna Mayonnaise
Cheese

Vegetables
Steamed Sweetcorn
Mixed Salad

Dessert
Marble Sponge
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

FRIDAY
Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Freshly made Breaded
Goujons of Fish with Lemon
and Tartare

Vegetarian Option
Roasted Vegetable Wraps
with Cheese

Jacket Potato Bar
Baked Beans
Cheese

Vegetables
Jacket Wedges
Steamed Garden Peas
Baked Beans

Dessert
Raspberry Ripple Mousse
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

