



Duncombe News

8th December 2017



What a fabulously busy week we have had! The Nursery and Reception Christmas Plays were as ever a delight to watch. Our young performers coped with challenging lines, actions and collective performing and were rightly treated to a very significant round of applause and praise. The Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten Sing-a-long were equally as well received. As ever, the Treetops staff worked extremely hard and ensured that pupils and parents had a wonderful experience. This great foundation of public performance was further evidenced by our Christmas Carol service on Tuesday. The Lower School and Upper School pupils sang, recited and read exceptionally well moving seamlessly from one element to the next which enabled all present to really be lifted into the Christmas spirit. I took great pleasure in congratulating the staff and children on a job very well done.

I also had great pleasure in informing our staff that Duncombe is now the 409th school in the country to have achieved the NACE Challenge Award! To put this in context there were at the last official count, 24,372 schools nationally. This places us in a select group of just 1.6% of schools. As you can see this is a significant achievement and recognises the full experience of all our pupils across the curriculum both inside and outside of the classroom. The assessment day was very rigorous involving lesson observations, scrutiny of work, meetings with pupils, families, governors and staff and was the culmination of an 18 month process. Miss Watson, Mr Le Tissier and at the start of the process Mrs Micele-Jones have guided us all through the assessment and are to be very much congratulated along with the entire staff body. Do look out for the new logo.

The Christmas Fair was a great success and I have written to Emma Colletti and the team to say a very sincere well done from us all. The children and visiting families had a very enjoyable time and the final carol section before the raffle was charming. Once again, thanks to all involved and as ever to the PA Team who continue to steer the ship so excellently. For those attending the ice skating this evening have a wonderful time. I'll look forward to seeing the pirouettes! Next week we have EKG, KG and Nursery visiting Springtime Nursery to meet Father Christmas, Reception to Year 6 and going down to Hertford Theatre for the panto- oh yes we are! Our week finishes with our wonderful Christmas lunch on the final day Thursday 14th.

This is the last newsletter of this term and as ever I will write to you more fully over the Christmas holidays.

Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

This is the last newsletter for this year so Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!



Diary Dates

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 - 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. Please let the School Office know if you need care.

The Spring Term commences on Thursday 4th January 2018.

Looking Forward

Thursday 4th January - Spring Term commences.

Friday 5th January - Swimming for Years 2 & 3 resumes.

Monday 8th January - Toddler Group resumes.

Thursday 11th January - Speech and Drama resumes.

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



Congratulations

Congratulations to all the children in Early Kindergarten for being amazing in our Sing-a-long on Monday. All the Early Kindergarten teachers are very proud of you!

Staff News

Mrs Sandra Colman will be leaving us at the end of this term to move closer to her family. Mrs Colman has been at Duncombe for 3 years and has set up and hugely successful Forest School experience here which the children love. We wish Mrs Colman good luck in the future.

Mrs Helen Lee will be joining us from January to continue to run Forest School. Mrs Lee has been teaching for many years and has been running Forest School activities since 2012. Mrs Lee is very well known to the pupils and families at Duncombe and we look forward to welcoming her to the Duncombe Team.

Pantomime - Wednesday 13th December

Reception to Year 6 pupils are looking forward to going to the pantomime on Wednesday 13th December to see Rapunzel. We would like to make you aware that the children will be back at school between 4.15pm to 4.30pm for a late dismissal due to the finish time of the pantomime. As the whole school (Reception to Year 6) will be returning at the same time parking may be difficult on site so we would ask you park considerably in the local area.

Due to the later return time, we **will not be running any after school clubs**, however after school care will still be available. Unless we hear otherwise we will assume all children booked in to clubs will require after school care as normal.

Duncombe Christmas Postal Service

Please be aware that the Duncombe Christmas Postal Service will close on Tuesday 12th December.



Owl Information Sharing

Nursery and Year 3 children have been having a 'hoot' sharing their learning with each other this week. Year 3 has been researching owl facts all week and writing their very own non-fiction books, including subheadings, a contents page and index. They really embraced the opportunity of having such a well behaved and willing audience for their books, in the form of children from Nursery Maple and Nursery Birch! In return, Nursery wowed them with their fantastic clay owls and knowledge about the five species of owls found in Britain. A wonderful time sharing learning was had by all.



Winning House

Starting this term, we are raising the profile of our House system. Therefore we would like our winning House this term which is Hatfield, to wear their House colours to school on Tuesday 12th December. They do not have to be completely dressed in red, but should wear enough to identify them as true members of the Hatfield community. Thank you. *Miss Sands*.

Raffle Prizes

Congratulations to all the winners of our raffle. There are still one or two unclaimed prizes which can be collected from the school office, including our main one - the iPad mini. If you are the lucky holder of ticket 3480 please take it along to the office to collect your prize by Wednesday 13th December.

The PA Christmas Fair Team

Lost

Named coat belonging to Maddi Beard.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 11th December



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

MONDAY

Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Beef Bolognaise with
Spaghetti

Vegetarian Option
Quorn and Vegetable
Bolognaise
With Spaghetti

Jacket Potato Bar
Tuna Mayonnaise
Cheese

Vegetables
Rissolle Potatoes
Steamed Green Beans

Dessert
Apple Charlotte Served
with Custard
Fresh Fruit

TUESDAY

Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
Chicken and Broccoli Filo Pie

Vegetarian Option
Roasted Vegetable and
Halloumi Bake

Pasta Bar
Tomato Sauce
Cheese

Vegetables
Steamed New Potatoes
Steamed Medley Of
Vegetables

Dessert
Fresh Fruit Jelly with Cream
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt

WEDNESDAY

Soup of the Day
Served with Fresh
Homemade Bread

Dish of the Day
PANTO LUNCH

Hot Dogs
Quorn Sausage Hot Dogs
Fresh Fruit
Chocolate Chip Cookie

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free **Week 2**
equivalent dishes will be offered

THURSDAY

Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch

COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Week commencing: 11th December 2017

