



Duncombe News

12th January 2018



It has been an extremely energetic, enjoyable and successful week. On the back of our excellent NACE accreditation just before the holidays I am delighted to be able to share that Duncombe have been awarded 'Millie's Mark', a Quality Mark for nurseries. Mr Thomas, our Business Manager has worked extremely closely with Mrs Copeman and the Treetops team who can be very proud of their achievements to gain this very prestigious award which recognises the excellent care for our pupils. Do please read more about the award in the newsletter. I know you will join me in congratulating them all for this excellent outcome.

Speaking of excellent outcomes, Mrs Micele-Jones had pleasure in announcing our Lower and Upper School writing competition winners. Please see excerpts from the winners in this newsletter. I'm sure you will agree this was an excellent example of the opportunity to really demonstrate and explore the wonderful English language we have.

In addition I was delighted to award Kea in Year 5 a Headmaster's award for her Winter inspired poem.

A Tale of the Wintery Forest

It's winter here,
I'm standing all alone,
Cold and disheveled,
Hearing only the sounds of a distant moan.

There's nothing to do here,
Everything to dread,
Oh how I wish I was a bear,
So I could hibernate deep below the forest bed.

Standing tall,
Observing the pale, wintry sky,
Before I turn away,
I see the stunning robins gracefully fly by.

As night draws closer,
I long for my canopy,
And you may start to question, what am I?
But now you may know,

I am a tree.

By Kea Wyles

Again I'm sure you will agree that she has captured the sheer joy that manipulation of language can create. Well done and what a lovely example of what our children keep achieving.

Next week we look forward to sporting fixtures getting under way. I have been delighted with the use and enthusiasm shown for the new covered sports area which is really coming in to its own at this time of year.

Have a wonderful weekend *Mr Phelan*

Diary Dates

Thursday 18th January - Supercamps representatives available for parents to meet from 8.30am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6pm.

Looking Forward

Tuesday 23rd January - Upper School First Round of Duncombe Bake Off in New Hall. 2pm start.

Thursday 25th January - Lower School Bake Off Masterclass. 2pm in New Hall.

Future Schools Evening for Year 4 & 5 Parents. 7pm start in Old Hall.

Friday 26th January - 2G Assembly. Parents Welcome.

Tuesday 30th January - Author Visit for Years 1 to 3. 1.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 2nd February - Music Assembly. Parents Welcome.

Tuesday 6th February - Year 4 to Sikh Temple eSafety Evening for Parents. 7pm in New Hall.

Thursday 8th February - Sharing Afternoon for Treetops. School finishes at normal time and all after school clubs will be running.

Friday 9th February - Half Term begins.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 17th January - U11 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). 2.45pm start.

U11 Tag Rugby v Sherrardswood (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 31st January - U11 Netball v Stormont (away). Time TBC.

U11 Rugby v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.

Friday 2nd February - U9 Tag Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Saturday 3rd February - U11 Girls Football v St Edmund's Prep (away).

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



Congratulations

Congratulation to Grace W (5V) who took part in the Champions of 2018 Ballroom & Latin Nationals competition last weekend at Blackpool. Here is an article from Grace:

"On Thursday I left to go the 'Champions of 2018' – Ballroom & Latin Nationals in Blackpool. This was my first ever National competition and on Friday I danced with my teacher. I made the Semi-Finals in Ballroom and Round 2 in Latin. On Saturday I was dancing with my new partner Angelica. We got to the Semi-Finals in Ballroom and the second round in Latin again! I had a brilliant time and hope I can do it again next year."

Here is a photo of Grace in action. Well done Grace!



Congratulations to Jaxon C (5T) who won gold in the U11 Badminton doubles and silver in singles last weekend. Well done Jaxon!



Year 4 & 5 Future Schools Information Evening Thursday 25th January

On Thursday 25th January we are holding a Year 4 & 5 Future Schools Information Evening. The intention is to help you understand the process of selecting the right senior school for your child, how senior schools select pupils and also what Duncombe does to prepare pupils for entry to these schools. This will be an informative evening that will be of great benefit to all Year 4 and 5 parents. The evening will start promptly at 7pm and we hope to see you there.

Christmas Writing Competition

After reading a variety of phenomenal writing, the winners of the 'Coming Home' writing competition were announced at the end of the last term. The children wrote to an extremely high standard that selecting just two winners proved to be extremely difficult. A huge well done to all the children for a fantastic effort! The worthy winners were awarded their prizes during a wonderful celebration assembly. Sofia Smith (3C) and Olivia Hick (6T) were our overall winners. Here are two small excerpts of their thrilling stories based on a robin's journey to return home to his loved ones for Christmas.

Above the skies, soaring through the breezing air, into the clouds. "Where am I?" he said. He was falling, tumbling, crashing into the sea. "Fly, fly my wings!" Then Miles saw a boat. "That's where I can stay," but a dashing, crashing wave swooped him up. "Wet feathers, empty heart."

By Sofia Smith

The waves crashed thunderously against the rocks beneath me, sending white foam soaring up before it fell back into the raging sea. I am tired now. My wings heavy. My body begging for rest. Think of her. Think of her waiting for me. So tired. Too tired...I fall. Spinning down towards the treacherous sea. Bracing myself for impact....SPLASH!

By Olivia Hick

Nursery Forest School

Nursery had a squirrel fun-filled experience in the Dell this week.

The children were excited to don their special forest school all-in-ones and we had lots of fun. First we played a squirrel-themed hide and seek by seeking out different numbered squirrels amongst the trees.

We then put their artistic talents to good use by creating stunning masterpieces using brushes and forks to paint to represent the squirrel's big bushy tails.

Finally the children learnt about working effectively in teams using natural materials to build cosy squirrel homes before going back to the classroom for a well-earned snack.





We've achieved Millie's Mark at Treetops

I am delighted to be able to share with you the wonderful news we received this morning that we have successfully been awarded 'Millie's Mark', a Quality Mark for Nurseries where employees working directly with children are trained in paediatric first aid. This has been awarded by National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) in association with Department for Education and Millie's Trust.

Many of you will be aware that over the past 6 months we have been working hard to achieve this award, which acts as an indicator that we go above and beyond the minimum requirements to keep children safe and minimise risks and accidents. We are delighted that our efforts have been rewarded and that we have achieved this very special award.

Although we are now an official Millie's Mark awarded Nursery our hard work of continuously developing our quality care and education will not stop. It is crucial that we maintain the criteria over its three years lifespan before re-assessment.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. *Ian Thomas, Business Manager.*

Supercamps

As mentioned previously Supercamps representatives will be available to meet parents on Thursday 18th January from 8.30am to 9.30am in Old Hall, and again from 4pm to 6pm in Classroom 4MJ. Please do come along if you are interested in finding out more.

Uniform Shop Money Owing

There are still a lot of outstanding payments for second hand uniform. If you think you owe money please can you check the board inside the Uniform Shop or speak to one of the Uniform Shop team. Thank you.

Attain Magazine

Please find the latest IAPS Magazine attached with this newsletter.

Fixture Change

Please be aware that the U11 Tag Rugby on 23rd January has had to be cancelled. We will let you know of the revised date as soon as we have it. *Mr Sopher.*

Knebworth Charity

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Knebworth Charity last term. With your help we have raised a fantastic £1,093.20 for SSAFA. Thank you. *The Knebworth Charity Team.*

Hatfield Charity News

We are very excited to announce we will be raising money this term for **Essex and Herts Air Ambulance**. They provide a life-saving service to the people of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. Last month they attended 205 incidents, which is incredible.

Currently, we are in full flow of organising several exciting events. So keep a close eye on the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Starting next week, there will be a design competition which is only £1 to take part. More details to follow.

Thank you in advance for all of your support.
The Hatfield Charity Team.

Playground Behaviour at Pick Up

May we remind you to please supervise your child/children once they have been dismissed to you. This is to ensure the safety for all especially in the vicinity of the car park.

Late Arrival

We would like to remind you that if your child arrives after 8.50am please can you come to the School Office and sign them in.

Thank you.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 15th January

Homemade Soup and Freshly Baked Bread available Daily		G- Gluten D-Dairy F-Fish S-Soy		Week 3
MONDAY Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	TUESDAY Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	WEDNESDAY Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	THURSDAY Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	FRIDAY Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G
Dish of the Day Pork Sausages with Onion Gravy G	Dish of the Day Mild Chicken Curry with Poppadum's and Chutney D	Dish of the Day Chilli Beef Tacos with Sour Cream and Salsa D	Dish of the Day Roast Gammon with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	Dish of the Day Oven Baked Fish Goujons G,F with Lemon and Tarragon Sauce
Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Strudel D	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Korma with Poppadum's and Chutney D	Vegetarian Option Sweet Potato and Bean Patties	Vegetarian Option 3 Cheese Jalousie G	Vegetarian Option Macaroni Cheese G,D
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayo/sauce F,D Cheese D	Pasta Bar G Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans	Pasta Bar G 3 Cheese Sauce G,D Cheese D	Jacket Potato Bar Colislaw D
Vegetables Creamy Mash Potato Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Brown and White Rice Sweetcorn and Peas Saghaloo	Vegetables Rissole Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Vegetables Rustic Roast Leek Mornay D Steamed Broccoli	Vegetables Oven Wedges Baked Beans Sweet corn
Dessert Pear and Apple Crumble with Cream G,G Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Ginger Sponge with Custard G,D, Fresh Fruit	Dessert Chocolate Chip Cookie G Yoghurt	Dessert Fruit Jolly Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Iced Banana Cake G,D Fresh Fruit Yoghurt