



# Duncombe News

23rd February 2018



What a full week we have all had since returning after the half-term break. The children have all come back with smiles and lots of energy. Our PSHE theme this half-term is Healthy Me, so if your children are asking to ditch the car a little more frequently, that is the reason!

Year 1 created some beautiful pieces of art through attending their glass workshop earlier in the week – it is always amazing to see how creative our children are. Also showing their creative side in the kitchen this week were Year 5, who invited their parents to *Come Dine with Us*. Having attended all similar events in which Upper School participate, it is so inspiring to see how the children develop their skills as they move up through the years. Year 5 produced a delicious meal, served it and cleared away, all with a smile on their faces. The comments back from parents was really positive and it seems everyone enjoyed the event. Thank you again to Mrs Reeves, her team and the staff who supported this popular event.

The children have been busily preparing for Book Week, which commences on Monday. All the classroom and form room doors have been decorated with wonderful art depicting various well-loved books. These range from classics such as *The Wind in the Willows* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, to some recent blockbusters including *Gangsta Granny* and the *Harry Potter* books. We are all getting excited about our character dress-up day next Friday!

The week ended with the wonderful Year 6S assembly based on the Winter Olympics, past and present. It included some familiar but not necessarily successful participants, sending the message that it is also the taking part that counts. The children had all put a huge amount of effort into a tight amount of time and I was incredibly proud of each of them. We are now all wondering if Great Britain can break our record and achieve a fifth medal in these Games?

It looks like the weather is turning cold again, so we will brace ourselves next week against those bitter winds which certainly blow the cobwebs away! I wish you all a very relaxing weekend. *Miss Sands*

## Diary Dates

- Monday 26th February** - Book Week.  
Year 4 Victorian Workshop.  
**Wednesday 28th February** - 6S and 6LT Eureka Workshop at Princess Helena College.  
Years 3 and 4 to Hertford Library.  
**Thursday 1st March** - World Book Day.  
Open House Coffee Morning for Hatfield Charity. 8.30am in Old Hall and bake sale.  
**Friday 2nd March** - 3FH Class Assembly. Parents Welcome. 8.50am in New Hall.  
World Book Dress up Day.

## Looking Forward

- Tuesday 6th March** - Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 6.30pm to 8.30pm.  
Year 4 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.  
**Wednesday 7th March** - Science Day for Reception to Year 6 at Duncombe.  
Year 6 to Crucial Crew. 12.45pm at Morgans School.  
**Thursday 8th March** - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.  
Nursery to Year 3 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 6.30pm.  
**Friday 9th March** - Nursery and Reception Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.00am to 9.20am in New Hall. Parents welcome.  
Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall. Parents welcome.  
Swimming for Year 5.  
**Monday 12th March** - Reception to Stotfold Water Mill.  
**Tuesday 13th March** - Year 5 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.  
**Thursday 15th March** - Year 6 to Whipsnade Zoo.  
**Friday 16th March** - Music Assembly. 8.50am in Old Hall.  
Upper School Swimming Gala at Hartham Pool for a 1.30pm start.

## Sports Fixtures

- Monday 26th February** - U11 Netball v St Francis (away). 4pm start.  
**Wednesday 28th February** - U10 Rugby v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.  
**Friday 2nd March** - U9 Rugby v St Joseph's in the Park (away). Time TBC.  
**Wednesday 7th March** - U11 Netball v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.  
**Monday 12th March** - U10 Rugby v Manor Lodge (away). 2.30pm start.

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



### Science News:

This week, as part of their study of food groups and health, Year 6 have been using a blue substance called **dichlorophenolindophenol** (DCPIP for short) which acts as an indicator. It changes from blue to red with acids but loses its colour in the presence of certain chemicals, one of which is Vitamin C. They have been investigating different fruit juices to determine the presence of Vitamin C. They all worked really well in their groups and produced a written investigation from method to conclusion. I was very impressed with how they all worked together and discussed their results.

*Mrs Marrion - Head of Science*



### Year 1 Trip to the Glass Workshop

On Tuesday and Wednesday morning Year 1 walked into Hertford to Nico Brown's Glass Workshop.

When we got there we had to sit down and write our names on a piece of paper. We all had to put on a pair of safety goggles to protect our eyes.

Then Laura who was the lady in charge showed us how to make some different designs out of lots of different sorts and colours of glass. We made patterns and pictures out of glass which is going to become a glass coaster. We all had a great time making our coasters. When we had finished they had to go into the kiln for 19 hours.

We are looking forward to bringing them home.

#### **Year 1 said:**

"It was amazing." "The glass had to stay in the kiln for 19 hours!"

"It was fantastic." "We saw a BIG kiln!"

"It was very exciting!"



### Hatfield Charity Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Hatfield so far. As you know we are raising funds for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance this term.

On **Friday 16th March**, we are excited to invite Duncombe children from Year 3 to 6 to our action packed movie night. We will be showing **The Incredibles** at 6.30pm.

Tickets are just £5 for entry, which includes an ice-cream, popcorn and a drink. To purchase tickets for your child, please return the permission slip on the movie night letter sent by Parentmail this week. Tickets will be sent home via book bags. Alternatively, tickets will be on-sale in the Old Hall from 8.15am until 8.30am from Monday morning.

We hope as many children as possible are able to attend to support such a worthwhile charity.

Thank you in advance, *The Hatfield Charity Team.*



### Year 5 Come Dine with Us

On Tuesday, Year 5 dusted off their aprons and took part in the 'Come Dine With Me Event'. After plenty of hard work the parents were treated to a delicious menu: garlic baguette to start, lasagne (or veggie lasagne) with a freshly tossed salad for main and a delicious Scottish 'Cranachan' dessert, made with fresh cream, raspberries and oats. The children worked exceptionally hard preparing and serving the food to their families and the evening was a great success. Our thanks to the catering team for making this event possible. *Mrs Sutton.*



## Well done to 6S for giving a 'Gold Medal' Assembly today!



## Duncombe Garden Project

One of the areas for development over half term was the Duncombe Garden which the PA have very generously funded.

For those of you that haven't seen the transformation there are some photographs below.

This transformed facility is going to be a wonderful addition to the school's learning environment and it is only with the very generous support of the PA that this has been possible.

I know Miss Angus and Mrs Marrion have lots of fantastic ideas about how the area can be used. I shall be arranging some signage to commemorate the PA's support with this project.

*Ian Thomas, Business Manager*



## February Half Term Works

February half term gave us another brief opportunity to continue our development and improvement of the site.

Although we only had just over a week, thanks to the hard work of our contractors and with the support of Mr Bedingfield and Mr Beeson, we have been able to achieve the following works:

- Installation of New Access Controls to Exterior Doors at the bottom of New Wing Staircase and by 5S classroom (to be activated)
- Installation of New Dado Rail in corridor between Science Room and 3FH
- Redecoration of corridor between Science Room and 3FH
- Redecoration of Staircase and Landing to SEN Rooms
- Part redecoration of New Wing Corridor
- Part redecoration of stairwell to Site Manager's Office
- Redecoration of doors in Headmaster's Office
- Wallpaper added to the 2 walls on the Treetops staircase to match existing feature wall
- Safety check of lightning conductors on Main Building and Music Studio
- Full commercial deep clean of main kitchen
- Installation of telephone in ground floor Music Practice Room
- Upgrade to exit buttons on access controls at top of New Wing staircase and main staircase
- Complete refurbishment of the Duncombe garden including the installation of 7 raised beds generously funded by Duncombe School Parents' Association

*Ian Thomas, Business Manager.*

## May Fair Raffle Prize Donations

Planning is under way for the May Fair on Sunday 13th May. This year we would like to run a children's raffle alongside one for adults and we would love to hear from any parents able to donate a prize for either of these (or with contacts who may be willing to). When the PA have run a children's raffle in the past, we have been fortunate to be able to offer prizes such as craft kits, sports equipment, activity vouchers, for example a week's football camp, and family event tickets such as a day out at Knebworth house.

If you are able to help, please get in touch via the PA email address, [parentsassociation@duncombe-school.co.uk](mailto:parentsassociation@duncombe-school.co.uk), the PA Postbox situated on the PA notice board in Old Hall or with one of the Committee in person. Any help would be much appreciated.

The PA Team



## Duncombe School Book Week



As well as the following detailed events, Duncombe School Book Week will be packed with plenty of activities to engage the children. We hope to inspire our pupils to pick up a book and share their favourite stories.

### Bring Your Own Book

We would love the children to bring their favourite book into school to discuss it with each other. Throughout the week, there will be opportunities for all children from Nursery to Year 6 to participate in a Buddy Reading session. It would be lovely for the children to share their beloved reads during this time. Please ensure books are clearly named.

### Dolly Peg Character Competition

As part of our celebrations for World Book Day, there will be a competition to make a model of the children's favourite book character using a dolly peg. The peg can be dressed or just painted as in the examples shown below. The closing date for the competition is Wednesday 28th February. Elaine Penrose will be visiting the school on Thursday 1st March and judging the entries for Treetops, Lower School and Upper School. There will be lots of time after the half-term holiday to prepare a character and plenty of blank pegs are available from the school office. Please remember to clearly label the dolly peg with your child's name and form.



## Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

### Book Swap

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 27th February. Please bring them to the Old Hall and leave them in the relevant area on the tables provided. Children will be given the opportunity to swap books throughout the day.



## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February

### Year 3 and 4 Library Visit

The children will be venturing into Hertford to visit the local library and will continue their learning in connection with their current English topics. They will be furthering their knowledge of the genres in a fun and practical way with the professional instruction of the librarians.

## Thursday 1st March

### Bake Sale

As part of book week, we are holding a cake sale with a twist. We would be most grateful, if the children could bring in 6 cakes or biscuits nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence), with a book theme. The tasty treats will be delivered to classrooms at first break with the proceeds going to Hatfield's charity (Herts and Essex Air Ambulance). Please could the children also bring in £1 to donate. Cakes will be sold after school outside the Old Hall.

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

### Book Quiz

Elaine Penrose will be visiting the school to judge the Dolly Peg Competition. In the afternoon, she will be hosting a book-based quiz for Years 5 and 6.

### Book Fair

A wide range of books will be available for sale after school and the children will be able to use their £1 tokens towards the cost of a book. The sale will be held in 4G.

### World Book Day

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

## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

### World Book Day Fancy Dress

To enter into the spirit of celebrating World Book Day, we are inviting both staff and pupils to dress as a book character on Friday 2nd March. The outfit can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish! Some ideas can be found on the following website:

<http://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up/>

Please could children bring in £1 on the day, as a donation to the Hatfield charity Herts and Essex Air Ambulance.



