



Duncombe News

2nd February 2018



We began this week with a focus on the numerous opportunities there are here at Duncombe in a typical school week. A variety of staff showcased events in Maths, English, Art, Sports and Music to name but a few. It was striking just how much is covered in a single week, let alone a term or year. It was also very clear that these opportunities are thoroughly enjoyed and participated in by the pupils. Several spoke with confidence about their experiences at the Orchestral Master Class hosted at Haileybury College. Many pupils were able to share about sporting experiences including matches for the school and their houses. We celebrated the numerous art work and Design and Technology that is showcased around the school. It really is very encouraging and pleasing to see the whole child development that occurs week in and week out here at Duncombe.

I observed a Year 6 maths lesson this week with a key focus on independent and collaborative working. I was delighted with the endeavour and willingness to persevere with some challenging tasks and the collaborative nature of problem solving and shared methods that can be employed. I came away feeling very proud of the pupils and indeed the staff teams who have nurtured, challenged and developed these skills and attitudes.

The Chris Higgins author visit was a most enjoyable and informative event for our Lower School pupils. Do look out for the report in this newsletter. We received lovely feedback from Chris' agent stating that the questions asked by our pupils were the most insightful and mature that she had experienced at any school she had visited. Praise indeed!

I will be reading through the reports for Nursery to Year 5 over the coming days which will be sent home on Thursday as we break for half term. This is always a pleasing task and I would encourage you to share this with your son or daughter and look at the next steps to focus upon.

Next week sees National Safer Internet Day and here at Duncombe we shall be focusing on aspects of e-safety with our pupils as part of our on-going programme. In addition we shall be hosting an E-safety evening for parents on Tuesday 6th Feb at 7pm. Do look out for further details in the newsletter. I would encourage you all to attend this parent only event. This is a critical issue that develops rapidly along with technical innovations and it is essential that we have up to date understanding of how best to get the best out of the digital world, whilst safeguarding our children. This link is a useful starting point for finding out more.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/2018/sid2018-education-packs/education-pack-parents-and-carers>

Before we break for half term we have numerous matches, Year 4 visiting a Sikh temple and our Treetops sharing afternoon on Thursday. Do have a lovely weekend.

Mr Phelan

Diary Dates

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.

Looking Forward

Monday 19th February - Second Half of Spring Term resumes.

Tuesday 20th February - Year 1 Glass Workshop
Year 5 Come Dine with Us. Start time 5pm in New Hall.

Wednesday 21st February - Year 1 Glass Workshop

Friday 23rd February - 6S Class Assembly. Parents welcome.

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.

World Book Dress up Day.

Sports Fixtures

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

Wednesday 7th February - U11 Netball Match v Edge Grove (away). 2.30pm start.

U11 Rugby v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.

Thursday 8th February - U9 Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Wednesday 21st February - U11 Hockey v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Thursday 22nd February - U8 Netball v Edge Grove (away). Time TBC.

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Elliot F who went swimming at the Olympic pool this week. Elliot swam in 18 races and came first in 10 and second in 8. Here is Elliot proudly holding the silver medal he was awarded. Well done Elliot!

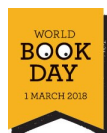


Year 5 Come Dine with Us

Tuesday 20th February

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 Parents to the Come Dine with Us event on Tuesday 20th February. This event will start at **5pm** in New Hall.

If you have not already replied and would like to attend, please let the School Office know by Monday 5th February.



World Book Week Events

Bake Sale



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

Thank you in advance for your help and support.

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 Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

This event is open to all year groups from EKG to Year 6.

We look forward to seeing the children in character!

Mrs Micele-Jones



REMINDER: Esafety Evening - Tuesday 6th February

We would like to remind you that our eSafety evening is taking place next Tuesday 6th February in New Hall from 7pm.

We would strongly urge you to attend this event as the information included is relevant to all parents. As the landscape of e-Safety moves so fast the evening will still be relevant if you attended the 2016 talk. Please could you let the School Office know if you are going to attend.

Thank you. *Mr Le Tissier.*

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



Staff News

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Ferguson is expecting her second baby in July. Mrs Hodson will be teaching 3FH full time up until the end of Summer Term from the time Mrs Ferguson goes on maternity leave.

We will be wishing Mrs Ferguson well towards the end of the Summer Term.

Hatfield Charity Update

A huge thank you to everyone who has taken part in our competition to design a new pattern for the air ambulance. Please keep bringing these in next week. Our deadline is Thursday.

We are very excited to announce we will be hosting a movie night on **Friday 16th March**, we will be showing **'The Incredibles'**. Tickets will be on sale after half term, which include a drink, popcorn, ice-cream and a donation to the charity.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Hatfield Charity Team.

Haileybury Orchestral Day

On Friday 26th January, a group of our Upper School instrumentalists joined 120 other young children from primary schools all across Hertfordshire for the Orchestral Day at Haileybury College. The day began with the children being separated into their orchestral groups (strings, woodwind, brass, percussion) then heading off to different areas of the college for sectional rehearsals. After a fish and chip lunch, they were led in a Pilates session to refresh them ready to bring the orchestra together for the afternoon rehearsals. The day culminated with a concert for the families of the all the children involved. The children played Dvorak's Symphony Number 9 (largo), Hedwig's Theme from Harry Potter (strings only) and Finlandia by Sibelius. Thomas and Alex also participated in a separate Big Band number, which was toe-tappingly brilliant! Everyone who came to watch commented on how amazing the quality of the playing was. The children worked exceptionally hard and were understandably exhausted by the end of the day. Our congratulations to Thomas H, Alex M, Millie K, Maya B, Leah B, Zoe S, Maddi B, Torri H, Sophia G, Olivia H, Megan C, Georgiana F and Emily H for their amazing achievement on this memorable day.

Mrs Sutton.



Swimming

In preparation for the Upper School Swimming Gala on Friday 16th March, Years 5 & 6 will be going swimming at Hartham on the following dates:

Friday 23rd February – Year 6

Friday 2nd March - Years 2 & 3 as normal

Friday 9th March - Year 5

Friday 16th March – Swimming Gala

This means that Years 2 & 3 will not be swimming on the 23rd February, 9th March and 16th March.

Music Assembly

This morning we were treated to a wonderful music assembly in the Old Hall. Our pianists opened the show, James S beginning with a smooth and melodic performance of 'Castle by the Sea'. James R performed next, playing confidently 'J'ai Du Bone Tabac', a traditional French tune. Rosie A then performed 'The Enchanted Garden' with some lovely lilting melodies and great use of dynamics. Erin played 'Moscow March' next, showing great control. Thomas H took us on a trip to the Far East with 'Persian Holiday', which had some great dynamic contrasts. Our youngest performer, Xavier M, ended the piano section, playing 'Train Ride' with confidence and technique well-above his years. Our violinist, Maddi B, played next treating us to a smooth journey 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow', a very confident performance. Our singers then performed. Millie K started with 'Wiegenlied' a beautiful lullaby, which she sang very well. 'Dark Island' sung by Harriet C was next, with beautiful clarity on the high notes. Reece H took us 'Home on the Range' and had us all donning our imaginary cowboy hats! Esme S then sang the traditional Yiddish, 'Dona, Dona' – a very emotive performance which had the audience entranced. Rosie's performance of 'Sweet Nightingale' ended the vocal performances, a very accomplished performance showing great vocal control. Our guitarists ended the concert, Josh performing the familiar 'James Bond' theme which had the audience tapping along. Freddie M then performed 'Mona Lisa' with confidence and great rhythm. Our final performer was Jonathan D, with 'Aquarelle no 3', a great final performance to a really lovely concert. Our thanks to all the instrumentalists for their great performance, to our instrumental teachers for their support and encouragement, to Mrs Turner for her wonderful accompanying and to all the parents and family members who attended this morning. *Mrs Sutton.*





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.

We look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.

Mrs Micele-Jones

Author Visit Chris Higgins

Chris Higgins, author of *My Funny Family* series visited Duncombe on Tuesday. She engaged the Lower School children by reading excerpts of her new book *Trouble at School* and described her inspiration for her books. As a previous school teacher, her stories were captivating and read with plenty of enthusiasm. We were extremely impressed with how well the children listened and asked very mature and interesting questions. The visit was completed with a book signing. A lovely afternoon was had by all!

Mrs Micele-Jones.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 5th February



Homemade Soup and Freshly Baked Bread available Daily

G- Gluten D-Dairy F-Fish S-Soya

Week 3

THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Chinese New Year Theme Menu	
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	Chicken Sweet and Sour	1/2 Term
Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Strudel D	Vegetarian Option Vegetable Korma with Poppadum's and Chutney D	Vegetarian Option Sweet Potato and Bean Patties	Oriental Vegetable Noodles	
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise F,D Cheese D	Pasta Bar G Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans	Egg Fried Rice Noodles	
Vegetables Creamy Mash Potato Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Steamed Brown and White Rice Sweetcorn and Peas Sagalloo	Vegetables Rissele Potatoes Steamed Sweetcorn Mixed Salad	Spring Rolls Prawn Crackers	1/2 Term
Dessert Pear and Apple Crumble with Cream D, G Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Jam Sponge with Custard G,D, Fresh Fruit	Dessert Chocolate Chip Cookie G Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Fortune Cookie Pineapple and Lychees	
			Ginger Biscuit	

