



Duncombe News

2nd March 2018



Well despite the challenging weather this week, Duncombe staff and families have carried on regardless. I'm delighted that is the case with so many lovely experiences for our children this week such as the Victorian Day for Year 4, Book Week activities galore, The Eureka Experience at Princess Helena College and today's dressing up experience for the entire school. So I say 'Well done Duncombe!'

Do please look out for reports and images of the events this week and for Book Week in the coming days. The doors of each classroom have been made into book covers, events including buddy reading, book quizzes and dressing as a character from our favourite books have all impacted on a tremendous learning experience for our pupils. Well done to Mrs Micele-Jones and the teaching staff for all of their hard work.

This morning 3FH treated us all to an assembly based on the theme of 'Books'. Taking their inspiration from the week's focus they dazzled in their costumes, sang, danced and provided a thoroughly entertaining and fact filled assembly. There was great projection, good comic timing and clearly a great deal of work that had gone into the assembly by all involved. So well done to all 3FH, Mrs Ferguson (who wrote the script), Mrs Hodson and Miss Burton for an excellent assembly.

Next week we have our Nursery to Year 3, and Year 4 Parents' Evenings, Science day for all pupils on Wednesday, Crucial Crew for Year 6 and the Treetops and Lower School Mothers' Day assemblies on Friday to cap it all off! So lots to look forward to.

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our recent ISI Compliance Inspection Report. It is quite a short read (which is a very good thing) and demonstrates that across the 8 areas of compliance Duncombe is fully compliant and has no recommendations. The Educational Quality reports from 2014 are still current and will be replaced when we next have an inspection in around 3 years. Do have a read through. I want to say a very big congratulations to the staff and pupils for a wonderful outcome and for all their hard work and dedication.

Do have a warm and safe weekend. *Mr Phelan*

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



Diary Dates

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.

Lower School Mothers' Day Assembly. 9.30am to 10.15am in New Hall.

Swimming for Year 5.

Looking Forward

Monday 12th March - Reception to Stotfold Water Mill.

Tuesday 13th March - Year 5 Parents' Evening. 4.30pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Wednesday 14th March - Years 3 & 4 to Hertford Library.

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.

Monday 19th March - 4G Assembly. Parents Welcome.

Tuesday 20th March - Non Uniform day for winning House.

Wednesday 21st March - Year 3 to Natural History Museum in Tring.

Year 5 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Thursday 22nd March - Year 5 to Hertford Theatre to see Gangster Granny.

Friday 23rd March - End of Term.

Treetops and Years 1-3 - finish time 2.45pm,

Years 4-6 - finish time 3.00pm.

There will be no After School clubs but after school care will be available until 6.30pm. Please let us know if your child requires care.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 7th March - U11 Netball v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

U10 Rugby v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3pm start.

Monday 12th March - U10 Rugby v Manor Lodge (away). 2.30pm start.

Monday 19th March - U9 Rugby v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

Tuesday 20th March - U11 Rugby v Heath Mount (away). Time TBC.

Staff News

We would like to inform you that Mrs Burgess one of our Peripatetic Piano teachers, has made the decision to take up other career opportunities.

She will be finishing at the end of the spring term with Thursday 22nd March being her last teaching day.

We are very grateful for the impact that Mrs Burgess has had on the children here at school. Her pupils have all benefited immensely from her dedication and inspirational teaching. We are also grateful for the work she took on in helping us to secure our lovely baby grand piano. She will be greatly missed.

We will be presenting Mrs Burgess with some flowers on behalf of the school.

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs Jo Davis will be increasing her time with us. *Jo Sutton, Music Team Leader*

6LT and 6S trip to Princess Helena College's Eureka workshop

On Wednesday, 28th of February, 6S and 6LT travelled to Princess Helena College for the Eureka workshop. The journey took about 1 hour as it was snowing heavily and there were strong gusts of wind.

But when we got there we were ready to get going.

First we put on our white lab coats and made our way to another one of the school's science rooms. We looked closely at electricity. Then they tested us on the circuit symbols, since we revisited them the day before we were on top of our game. Then we did an experiment using a plasma ball and fluorescent light. Jake McPherson was asked to put his finger on the plasma ball, when he did so a blue line connected to his finger. The blue line was actually electrons. Then Jake held the fluorescent light close to the plasma ball. Because the electrons form a field of electricity around the ball the fluorescent light lit up. The experiment was very cool. Later we made our own circuits in pairs or threes, that was also very fun. Another experiment that we did was about static electricity. First, you spin the wheel on the Van de Graff generator, when you do that fast enough you see a spark of electrons and you hear a crack. It's a bit like thunder and lightning.

A few minutes after, we talked about sources of renewable energy, because coal is running out and it's affecting the air. Some of the sources we talked about were solar, wind and water power. Then some examples of these were shown. Solar-powered crickets, plane and boat.

After that we left because it started to snow quite heavily again, and Princess Helena College gave us chocolate chip cookies, courtesy of their chef. We all had a wonderful time there recapping about electricity and renewable sources of energy. *By our roving reporter Annabel Ovonlen.*

3FH Assembly



Hatfield Charity Movie Night

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Hatfield charity 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.*



Book Week Bonanza

With a flurry of snow and a sprinkle of books, we have had a spectacular week. It all kicked off with each class decorating their door, ready for the exciting week ahead. Ingenious designs ranged from *The Lorax* to *Gangsta Granny*. Every corridor has been brightened and the children have been inspired by each other's efforts.



Throughout the week, the children have participated in some lovely buddy reading from Nursery to Year 6. We saw some excellent examples of leadership from our older children and superb reading from our younger ones. The hunt for *Wally* caused much excitement as the younger children had to count how many were around the school, whilst Years 3 to Year 6 were given the task to unscramble the hidden author. Staff also got involved by snapping their personal bookshelves and the children were challenged to use their inference and deduction skills to guess who it belonged to. This proved quite a conundrum for a lot of our pupils. All competition winners will be announced in an assembly next week. A huge well done to all the classes for such great participation and enthusiasm.

Tuesday saw the book swap take place. Children were given the opportunity to swap their books with a new title. Thank you so much to everyone who donated books. It was greatly appreciated and thanks to your support, we had a huge number of smiling children, excited to tuck into their new books!

On Thursday, scrumptious book themed cakes and biscuits filled the hall as we celebrated our week further whilst raising money for the Hatfield Charity. During the afternoon, Year 5 and 6 took part in a book themed quiz; using their knowledge of children's literature, authors and even spells to compete against other teams. The afternoon ended in a nail biting decider between two teams with the *Treasure Island* group being victorious!

As the week drew to a close, the snow did not deter Duncombe from dressing as book characters and sharing our favourite reads. The children and staff looked simply stupendous in their glorious outfits. A huge thank you to all parents, staff and children for a tremendous week. We really appreciate how much effort everyone has put in with costumes, cakes and camaraderie especially considering the weather!



Swimming

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

- Friday 9th March - Year 5
- Friday 16th March – Swimming Gala
- Friday 24th March - No swimming for Years 2 & 3

This means that Years 2 & 3 will not be swimming on the 9th March, 16th March and 24th March.

Miss Varney, Head of PE & Games.

Nursery and Reception Parents' Evening

Thursday 8th March 2017

We would like to inform you that Nursery and Reception teachers will meet with parents in Main School classrooms on Thursday 8th March. The classrooms will be clearly labelled and will be as shown below:

- Nursery Maple - Library (up the main stairs to the left)
- Nursery Birch - 6T (up the main stairs to the left)
- Rec Apple - 5T (top of the main stairs)
- Rec Oak - 6LT (up the main stairs to the right)

Please note that on Tuesday 6th March Nursery and Reception Teachers will meet with parents in their own classroom in Treetops.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 5th March 2018.



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

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

Week 1

Monday	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday
Seasonal of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G
Dish of The Day Beef and Vegetable Lasagne G,D with Garlic Bread	Dish Of the Day Sausage meat Plait Served with Gravy G	Dish of the Day Chicken Sweet and Sour with Steamed Brown Rice	Dish of the Day Roast Chicken with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	Dish of The Day Oven Baked Cod Fingers with Lemon and Tartare Sauce G,F
Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Lasagne with Garlic Bread G,D	Vegetarian Option Quorn Sausages with Gravy G	Vegetarian Option Quorn Steak Burger with Side Salad G	Vegetarian Option Spanish Omelette D	Vegetarian Option Cauliflower Nuggets with Sweet Chilli Dip G
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise F,D	Pasta Bar G Tomato and Basil	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans	Pasta Bar G 3 Cheese Sauce G,D	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw D
Sides Rissole Potatoes Steamed Green Beans	Sides Steamed New Potatoes Steamed Peas and Carrots	Sides Jacket Wedges Steamed Sweetcorn Sauté Courgettes	Vegetables Rustic Roast Cauliflower Cheese G,D Medley of Steamed Vegetables	Vegetables Oven Chips Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Mixed Yoghurt with Granola Fruit or Yoghurt	Dessert Warm Syrup Sponge with Custard G,D Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit	Dessert Sultana and Vanilla Cookie G Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Dessert Fruit Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Beetroot Cake D Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt

THIS WEEK'S MENU

COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Week commencing: 1st January, 22nd January
12th February, 5th March
26th March 2018

