



Duncombe News



9th March 2018

Duncombe School U11 Girls Netball team are the IAPS Regional Champions! This is an amazing achievement and we took the opportunity on Thursday to celebrate as a whole school with an impromptu assembly where we heard about the unbeaten run which took Duncombe all the way to winning. As I write the team are playing in the National IAPS Finals today and we will of course let you know how they get on. I'm sure you will join me in congratulating the girls, Miss Varney and Mrs Price and wish them all the best for today.

It is always lovely to get positive feedback and this week as you can see above has been no exception. Listening to and talking with many parents at our Parents' Evenings has been most enjoyable and it is so encouraging to hear comments about how the children are progressing, growing in confidence and taking on new challenges. The positive feedback about our teachers and staff is always so welcome and there has been plenty of that this week too. A number of visiting parents for our Open Morning commented on the hard work and dedication of the teaching team they encountered. They also commented that the pupils they met were well-mannered, articulate and confident young people. I could not agree more!

Our Science Day went with a real bang! The passion and excitement that children show when exploring the natural world is always a joy and I know that our resident Green Team are due to announce some further initiatives for all to be involved in, so watch this space!

Pupils have been fully involved in the Mathematics World Maths challenge with Mr Foley's maths class ranked in the national top 50 classes as of last night! Do look out for the report from Mrs Takawira.

It has certainly been good to have milder weather this week and it proved to be a wonderful introduction for our Mothers' Day Assemblies by Nursery and Reception and Lower School which were, as ever, delightful events. A renewed programme with some excellent technical additions made for a most enjoyable celebration of motherhood. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved, there were certainly lots of lovely memories made.

I do want to raise a concern I have about politeness and courtesy towards all staff. There have been a small number of times in the past few months where the tone of emails or direct conversations have not been appropriate. There will inevitably be times where a concern or query is made and the staff here at Duncombe are extremely accommodating of this. It is essential that such queries or conversations are conducted in a courteous manner. I appreciate that this is a very rare occurrence; but it has been growing and simply put I am making it clear that no staff are to be spoken to or emailed in a rude or discourteous manner. I am very confident that you will wholeheartedly agree with me and I thank you in advance for your continued support.

Next week see Reception embark on their studies of Stotfold Watermill, our Year 5 Parents' Evening, several matches and

Year 6 to Whipsnade Zoo as part of their Science curriculum. Throw in a Year 4 Parent to Lunch, Music Assembly and the Upper School Swimming Gala and we certainly have a great deal to look forward to. *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

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. Year 4 Parent to Lunch. 4G at 12.55pm and 4MJ at 1pm.

Friday 16th March - Music Assembly, 8.50am in Old Hall. Upper School Swimming Gala at Hartham Pool for a 1.30pm start.

Looking Forward

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. 5S arrive at 12.50pm, 5V arrive at 12.55pm and 5T arrive at 1pm please.

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

Friday 23rd March - No swimming for Years 2 & 3. 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

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.

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



Congratulations



Affinity Gymnastics
Invitational
4th March 2018

Congratulations to Jessica M (6LT) who won a silver medal at the weekend at the Affinity Gymnastics Invitational. Well done Jessica!

Congratulations to Grace W (5V) who competed in The Essex Super League Ballroom Event last week. Grace won 5 bronze medals, 2 for ballroom and 3 for Latin. Well done Grace!



Nursery Achievements

This week Henry H from Nursery Birch and Jack W from Nursery Maple took home the coveted class trophies as they both smashed their individual goals.

Well done to you both, we are very proud of you!



Upper School Swimming Gala

We are looking forward to our Upper School Swimming Gala on Friday 16th March. Please see letter sent via Parentmail for full details.

May we ask that Upper School children come in to school in their PE kit and bring all relevant swimming kit with them. For any children taking part in the Music Assembly could they come in their school uniform and bring their PE and swimming kit with them. Thank you. *Miss Varney.*

World Maths Day Event

On Wednesday and Thursday this week, the children took part in a World Maths day event run by Mathletics. The children practised their arithmetic skills against other children in the world. A special congratulations to Thomas Hipkin for coming 47th in the world for his age group on Thursday and Mr Foley's Year 6 Maths group for coming 47th in the country. Look out for an update on the Maths celebration board for internal class results. *Mrs Takawira.*

Hatfield Charity Movie Night

Just a reminder that on **Friday 16th March** Hatfield Charity are hosting a Movie Night for children in Years 3 to 6. We will be showing **The Incredibles** at 6.30pm.

Tickets are just £5 for entry, which includes an ice-cream, popcorn and a drink. Please purchase your tickets through the School Office by Wednesday 14th March.

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

Clarinet Spaces:

We currently have limited spaces available for clarinet and saxophone lessons for the Summer Term. Tuition is available for children currently in Year 3 and above, although children currently in Year 2 may be considered on a case by case basis.

Should you wish to take up a place, please contact Mrs Sutton (jo.sutton@duncombe-school.co.uk) or Mrs Selwood (rebecca.selwood@duncombe-school.co.uk) with your child's full name and current form.

Mrs Sutton, Music Team Leader.

Professor Brainstorm Visits Duncombe

On Wednesday, the 7th of March 2018, Professor Brainstorm came to our school to show some very cool science experiments. First, he showed us how to make an electrical circuit using our bodies and Zogg. Bella C and Zoe S were called up to help with the experiment. They both held one of the ears, nothing happened. Then they joined hands to complete the circuit, when that happened Zogg made a low buzzing sound because his battery was quite low. Following that he did another experiment. This involved three cups, exactly the same. He asked for a volunteer, he chose Esme S. Her job was to watch where the cup full of water went at all times, she was very good at this. But we didn't know that Professor Brainstorm had put in a powder called sodium polyacrylate, that soaks up water. Because it's so good at doing this it is even used in nappies! After that he asked if we thought it was possible to use a banana to hammer a nail. So people said it was possible, others said 'maybe' or 'no'. So Jake had a go at using the banana, it did not work and in fact he caused a hole in the banana. So Professor Brainstorm had an idea, he said we should soak the banana in liquid nitrogen. Many predicted that the banana would freeze and go hard so that you could use it as a hammer. They were right, that's exactly what it did. Did you know that the temperature of liquid nitrogen is -196 degrees Celsius. WOW! That's very cold.

After that experiment he asked for two volunteers. A lot of people put their hands up. In the end he chose Emily S and Ellie S. He gave them each a flower, they all felt the flowers and said that they were very soft and flexible. But all that changed when the flowers were put into a bowl full of liquid nitrogen. When they got them out they were very brittle and fragile, as well as rigid. When the girls tried to bend them all the petals came off and fell to the floor. What a mess!

The penultimate experiment involved a balloon and liquid nitrogen. So the balloon put inside a bowl of liquid nitrogen. As this happened the balloon slowly deflated. Then when you take it out it comes back to its natural state, it is reversible. The last experiment that he was with an empty Pringle box and liquid nitrogen. Because of the pressure of the liquid nitrogen when it turns into a gas again, the lid popped right off every time we did this experiment. This was very cool and made me jump the first time we did it. Overall I think it was a very fun experience. *Annabel O, Year 6*



Early Finish Time on Friday 23rd March 2017

As always on the last day of term, we will be finishing early as follows:

Lower School will finish at 2.45pm.

Upper School will finish at 3pm.

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.

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 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 16th March and 23rd March.

Miss Varney, Head of PE & Games.

Easter Rugby Camp 2018



For girls and boys of all abilities, ages 6-14, come along and have some Easter fun, try out some rugby with your friends.

Where & When:

Hertford Rugby Club

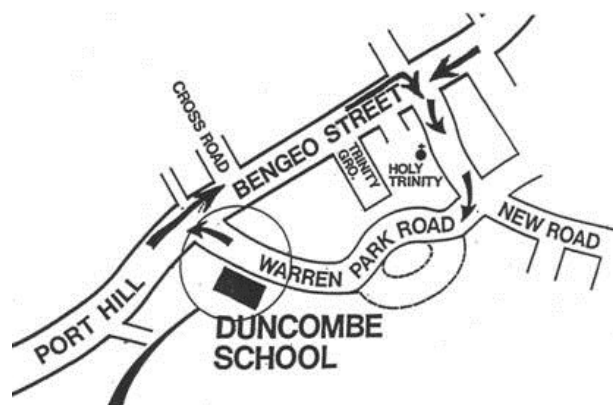
April 10th - 12th

To REGISTER please go to www.juniorsharksrugby.com
 Email: juniorsharksrugby@yahoo.com
 Twitter: @juniorsharksrug
 Tel: James 07767201030

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Unofficial One Way System

There have been a number of calls to the School from local residents about parking on Warren Park Road in the past two weeks. Please do park considerately with regards to residential driveways. Our voluntary one-way system certainly aids the flow of traffic so please do follow this.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 12th March 2018.



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

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

Week 2

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	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread G
Dish of the Day Beef Bolognese with Spaghetti G	Dish of the Day Chicken and Vegetable Puff Pie G,D	Dish of the Day Gammon Ham and Sweetcorn Pasta Bake G, D	Dish of the Day Roast Beef with Gravy and Yorkshire Pudding D	Dish of the Day Homemade Salmon F,G Fishcakes with Lemon and Tartare Sauce
Vegetarian Option Quorn Mince Bolognese With Spaghetti G,S	Vegetarian Option Winter Vegetable and Bean Stew with Herby Dumplings G	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable Wraps G	Vegetarian Option Sweet Pepper and Mushroom Frittata D	Vegetarian Option Pasta Primavera G
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise D,F Cheese	Pasta Bar G Tomato Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar G Cheese Sauce G Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese
Vegetables Spaghetti G Steamed Green Beans New Steamed Potatoes	Vegetables Steamed Carrots and Broccoli	Vegetables Sauté Courgettes Carrots	Vegetables Rustic Roast Potatoes Roasted Beetroot D Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Apple and Blackberry Crumble G,D with Cream Fresh Fruit	Dessert Jam Sponge with Vanilla Custard G,D Fresh Fruit	Dessert Oaty Cherry Cookie G Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Orange Fruit Jelly D,G Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Mixed Berry Cheesecake G,D Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

