



Duncombe News



20th April 2018

Welcome back to you all! Indeed, very warm greetings to all our new families who have joined us this term. You are very welcome and I do encourage you to say hello to fellow parents and to come along to the many different planned events for this extremely busy Summer Term. The sun has decided to make an appearance despite being quite absent over the holidays and certainly the children have been taking advantage of playing outside and catching up.

For staff inset we focused particularly on pupil progress discussions looking at the next steps. I would certainly encourage you to pick up the conversation with your children with the aim of supporting a clear focus for this term in the classroom.

I have been looking at the further development of ICT provision going forward and am pleased to share that we have secured a further 20 iPads, in addition to the two existing banks, and three Laptop bank trollies. We have also secured two 3D printers and a green screen with associated software to enhance the design and technology experience for pupils. Following planned training, these will be in use across the curriculum. In fact from 2013 to 2018 we have gone from 20 PCs located in one room plus 10 individual PCs around the site for pupils, to a combined 130 Laptops and ipads along with 12 individual PCs for pupil use. Allied with the updated WIFI across the entire site, including outside areas, we have a school that is equipped not just for now but for the future learning needs for our children. This will continue to be a focus for development in the coming months and I will of course keep you up to date with progress.

Our assembly on Friday looked at caring for our environment and the property around us. We took advantage of the good weather and congregated outside. I also took the opportunity to remind pupils that at school pick up in the afternoon football is not permitted. I have explained why, following a very nasty injury sustained by a young pupil some time ago and they have assured me that this will be observed. Please do ensure that your son or daughter follows this carefully and also does not enter the car park area until they are with you.

Our U11 Football Team are off to Burton-upon-Trent on Monday ready for the ISFA National Prep Schools Finals. We wish them every success and I know they will be excellent ambassadors for Duncombe and do us proud.

Do have a wonderful weekend and be sure to check through the pocket calendar sent home in book bags today, as there are a great number of events planned over the coming eleven weeks. *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

Tuesday 24th April - Year 2 to Roald Dahl Museum.

Wednesday 25th April - Class and Sports Team Photographs.

Thursday 26th April - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

Looking Forward

Monday 30th April - Year 3 Bushcraft Q&A Session at 9am in 3C.

Tuesday 1st May - Upper School Bake Off.

Wednesday 2nd May - 6T to Eureka Workshop at Princess Helena College.

Thursday 3rd May - Woburn Charity Open House Coffee Morning. 8.50am in Old Hall.
Lower School Bake Off.

Friday 4th May - 3C Class Assembly. Parents welcome.
Nursery and Reception to Hertford Theatre to see Tiddler and other Fun Tales.

Mon 7th May - Bank Holiday - school closed.

Thur 10th May - Year 3 depart for Bushcraft.
Year 2 Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Fri 11th May - 4MJ Assembly (Parents Welcome). 8.50am start in New Hall.
Year 3 return from Bushcraft.

Sunday 13th May - May Fair. Midday to 3pm.

Sports Fixtures

Wednesday 25th April - U11 Cricket v St Joseph's in the Park (away). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 2nd May - U11 Cricket v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

U11 Rounders v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Friday 4th May - U11 Girls and Boys Tennis v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3.45pm start.

Wednesday 9th May - U10 Girls Cricket v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.

Friday 11th May - U11 Tennis v Queenswood (away). Time TBC.

Wednesday 16th May - U11 Cricket v Sherrardswood (away). 2.30pm start.

Wednesday 23rd May - U10 Cricket v Westbrook Hay (away). 2.30pm start.

Good Luck to our U11 Footballers!



Congratulations

Congratulations to Maddi B (6S) who won a gold medal at the Under 11 Girls London Foil Fencing Competition in the holidays and came third in the Eastern Regional Championships in January. Well done Maddi!



Congratulations to Jaxon C (5T) who played at the English National Badminton Championships at the weekend and reached the semi finals of the singles getting a bronze medal. Jaxon narrowly lost in the finals of the doubles and so got the silver medal. What a fantastic achievement, well done Jaxon.



Thinking of Others

Congratulations to Matilda C (5S), Grace W (5V) and Rosie A (5T) who all gave up chocolate for the month of March and raised over £600 for The British Heart Foundation! Well done girls!



REMINDER: Class and Sports Team Photos

Class and Sports Team Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 25th April. All children must wear their summer uniform and blazers please. If your child does not attend Treetops on a Wednesday and you would like them to participate, please speak to the class leader.

Photographer in School - Friday 27th April

We have a photographer scheduled to come into school next Friday 27th April to take some pictures of the school and children for our prospectus and website. Please could you ensure that children come into school wearing the correct uniform with the correct sports kit and with hair smart and tidy.

Uniform

May we remind you that either Summer or Winter uniform can be worn up until half term. Please remember that short white socks can only be worn with the girls Summer uniform. Please see our website for the full uniform list.

After School Club Sign Out

Could we remind all parents to ensure they sign their children out of After School Club every time they pick up. As you know this is a safeguarding requirement. Thank you.

Year 3 Bushcraft Q&A Session

On Monday 30th April, Year 3 parents are invited to attend a Q&A session with Year 3 staff at 9am in 3C's classroom about our forthcoming residential trip to Bushcraft. For those unable to attend, information will be sent out afterwards.

URGENT HELP NEEDED

Costume Helpers

As you know we have a great many events throughout the year which require the children to dress up such as Year 4 Victorian Day, Year 5 Kentwell Trip, Year 6 Play etc. The costume store is managed by parent volunteers and as our current team of volunteers are leaving this year, we are looking for 2 or 3 parents to take this on. If you are interested in finding out more please speak to the School Office by Friday 4th May.

May Fair Sponsorship from Steven Oates Estate Agents

There is still time to sign up for a Steven Oates advertising board in support of this year's May Fair, which will be held on Sunday 13th May. Steven Oates have once again kindly offered to sponsor our Fair by donating £10 for each board on display. Can you help by agreeing to have one of the boards at your address for a period of approximately three weeks - two to three weeks before the Fair and one week after? Please forward your name to Helen McAllister - helen.mcallister5@btinternet.com and many thanks to those who have already agreed to having one.

The PA Team

Easter Holiday Works

The three weeks of the Easter holiday period gave us the opportunity to carry out various improvement works, repairs and statutory checks across the site. For your information these are details below:

- Full redecoration to Treetops ground & first floor octagons including staircase
- Replacement LED lighting in 6S
- Replacement LED lighting in Science Room (6LT)
- Replacement LED lighting to corridor outside 3FH & 6LT
- Replacement light above Main Entrance door
- LED lighting upgrade to three flood lights across the front of school
- Additional Power Sockets to Administration & Finance Office
- Tuning of grand piano in Old Hall & upright piano in Music Studio
- Removal of redundant trunking and power sockets & making good to ceilings in 6S and Science Room (6LT)
- Installation of 5 bespoke noticeboards in Treetops ground and first floor octagons
- Installation of 2 bespoke noticeboards outside the SEN Area
- Installation of vision panel to Door between Old Hall and corridor
- Rehanging of 4 shade sails
- Repair to damaged curb stone outside Treetops
- Repair to drinking fountain outside New Hall
- Reconfiguration of coat hooks in boys changing rooms
- Replacement of Honours Boards in corridor outside 3FH
- Replacement of 9 degrading UPVC window glazing units
- Interior and exterior cleaning of windows across the site
- Removal of redundant & obsolete equipment from across the site
- Installation of outside clock to the rear of the main building overlooking the playground
- Full interior and exterior clean of both minibuses
- General making good to marked and damaged paint in communal areas of Main School
- Statutory annual fire extinguisher safety check
- Statutory water hygiene testing

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Duncombe Joins Coffee Giants with New Eco Cup

A recent report by the Environmental Audit Committee revealed that seven million coffee cups are thrown away across the country every day.

One of the Committee's recommendations to Government was that businesses should take responsibility for coffee cup recycling. Disposable cups cannot be recycled by normal systems because they are made from cardboard with a tightly bonded polyethylene liner which is difficult to remove. In fact the UK has just three facilities that can split the paper and plastic components. These facilities recycle less than 0.25% of the 5 billion cups disposed of each year.

The remainder of these cups end up either in landfill sites or polluting our oceans.

Many of you will have seen the disturbing episode of Blue Planet 2: How plastic is slowly killing our sea creatures, fish and birds. The people filming the series said there was rarely a time when they were filming that they didn't come across plastic in the sea.

Whilst the cups we currently use for breakfast club support the Green Earth Appeal, it is our intention to phase out the disposable cups and to encourage parents to either purchase a Duncombe cup or to bring in their own reusable cup. We will be offering for sale Duncombe School reusable coffee cups at the very competitive price of £10.00. The cups are dishwasher and microwavable and you will be able to use them in your favourite coffee house chain too.

We will also have Duncombe cups available to buy for £10 for parents who do not use the breakfast club.

Any profit raised from the sale of the cups will fund extra items for school.

You can purchase your Duncombe mug from either the School Office or from the Uniform Shop. The cost of the cups will be added to your end of term invoice.

We have limited stock available so be sure to get one while you can! *Karen Morrell, Bursar.*



Lost

Two named cardigans belonging to Florence Bateman.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 23rd April 2018.



Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily

THIS WEEK'S MENU

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free **Week 2**
equivalent dishes will be offered

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread	Seasonal Soup of the Day Served with Fresh Homemade Bread
Dish of the Day Traditional Beef Lasagne Served with Homemade Garlic Bread	Dish of the Day Spanish Pork Sausage Casserole	Dish of the Day Freshly made Greek Lamb Kofta with Pitta and Tatziki	Dish of the Day Roasted Thigh of Chicken with Gravy and	Dish of the Day Freshly made salmon Goujons with Lemon and Tartare Sauce
Vegetarian Option Quorn and Mushroom Lasagna	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable and Halloumi Bake	Vegetarian Option Falafel Burgers with Pitta and Tatziki	Vegetarian Option Cherry Tomato and Mushroom Frittata	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Pasta Bar 3 Cheese Sauce Cheese	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
Vegetables Steamed Green Beans Homemade Garlic Bread	Vegetables Steamed Sweetcorn Steamed Carrots	Vegetables Rustic Roast Potatoes Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Roast Potatoes Steamed Medley of Vegetables	Vegetables Jacket Wedges Steamed Garden Peas Baked Beans
Dessert Yoghurt Sundae topped with Fruit Coulis or Homemade Granola Fresh Fruit	Dessert Sticky Banoffee Sponge Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Berry Biscuit Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Raspberry Ripple Mousse Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Fudgy Chocolate Brownies Fresh Fruit Yoghurt

COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Week commencing: 23rd April,

