



Duncombe News



27th April 2018

What a phenomenally exciting and busy week we have had! We all followed, with baited breath, the progress of our U11 ISFA National Football finalists on Tuesday. Seeing the scores roll through on the official website and getting updates from the sports staff was almost unbearable. Reaching the Quarter Finals and, despite losing out in the last few moments, they went on to secure the 5th spot which was an amazing achievement. To put this in context, 400 Prep Schools entered back in September 2017 and Duncombe is now ranked 5th in the country! Hats off to the boys, Mr Sopher and Mr Granville plus all the extra support from staff and families. With the U11 girls ranked in the top 10 IAPS Schools last month in netball, we really have so much to celebrate in our sport. Brilliant!

Hatfield invited their Charity, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance to receive the £1,066.10 raised last term and to share something about the work of the Air Ambulance and crew. Their representative was delighted with the varying activities and shared that the amount raised was exceptional. Well done to all involved for supporting this.

As part of the Stop Bengeo Quarry appeal, pupils from the Bengeo area were invited to enter a poetry competition. I am delighted to share that Esme S in Year 6 was the overall winner and her entry is currently displayed in Hertfordshire County Hall. Well done Esme. The judges commented that the work was of exceptional quality.

Year 2 greatly enjoyed their trip to the Roald Dahl Museum where they focused on their writing skills and learnt a great deal about the man himself and the inspiration for his wonderful characters. Once again, pupils took full advantage of the learning opportunities and staff were delighted with their conduct and efforts.

Pupils portrayed Duncombe exceptionally well for our Open Morning. The best advert for any school is always the children and the way in which they interact with new families. Many parents commented on how well behaved and approachable the children all were, displaying a real sense of purpose in and outside of the classroom. There is a great deal to feel proud about here at Duncombe and to get such feedback consistently, and from a number of different sources, really is a great testament to our pupils, staff and families.

I have been interviewing for posts to commence from September and have pulled everything together in a document that accompanies this newsletter. Please do look through this.

Next week sees the return of the Duncombe Bake-Off, several matches and 3C's assembly. We shall also be hosting the Woburn Charity Coffee Morning in Old Hall. The Woburn team shared in assembly their charity Children's Integrated Playschemes (CHIPS) and the exciting events planned. It will be lovely to see you on Thursday morning for a coffee, some cake and a chat.

Have a lovely weekend. . *Mr Phelan.*

Diary Dates

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.

Looking Forward

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.

Monday 14th May - Exam Week.

Year 4 River Trip to Ware.

Friday 18th May - Music Assembly (Parents welcome). 8.50am in Old Hall.

Sports Fixtures

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.

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



Congratulations to our U11 ISFA National Football Finalists



Hatfield Charity Update

We are extremely pleased to announce last term the Hatfield charity raised £1,066.10 for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance.

Mr John Horton, a volunteer at Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, visited us during our Monday assembly and gave us a fascinating insight into the history of the charity and how our money will fund at least 4 rescue flights.

We would like to say a gigantic thank you to everyone who has taken part in last term's events and helped to raise such a fabulous amount of money. We couldn't have done it without you. *The Hatfield Charity Team*

Shaking up Shakespeare-The Tempest

On our first Friday back after Easter, Upper School were delighted to be visited by Anthony Glenn. He performed the Shakespeare comedy, *The Tempest*, with the support of many of our own talented actors and actresses. The magical tale captivated the children with plenty of interesting characters and an intriguing plot. The immersive experience led to even the audience being given the very important role of the storm including the thunder and lightning. As per usual, Anthony did not disappoint with a sizeable dose of hilarity, perfect delivery and quick improvisation. What a fantastic end to the week!



Woburn Charity

This term Woburn will be fundraising for CHIPS (Children's Integrated Playschemes) which is a local charity that offers play and social opportunities for children with additional needs aged 3 to 19. Here are the exciting events planned for this term.

Bake Sale

Our first event is a bake sale on Thursday 3rd May. We would be most grateful if the children in Years 1 to 6 could bring in six cakes or biscuits, nut free (including ground almonds and almond essence) to the Old Hall. The tasty treats will be delivered to classrooms at first break with the remainder of the cakes being sold in 4G after school. Please could the children also bring in £1 to donate to the charity.

Dream Playground

We are also setting children in Years 1-6 the challenge of designing their very own dream playground. The designs can be adventurous and outrageous or realistic and detailed. We are looking for some fun and original entries for this competition. Design sheets have been distributed to each class this afternoon. There will be a winner and runner up chosen from the Lower School and Upper School entries. Please ensure a £1 coin is securely attached to the design and handed to a member of the Woburn Charity Team by Wednesday 23rd May.

Active Wear Dress Up

CHIPS believes that simple play is vital in any child's development. Play is not only fun but it is a key component of healthy living by enabling good physical, emotional, mental and social development. To celebrate this, we are inviting Years 1 to 6 to participate in dressing in their own active wear on Friday 22nd June. Whether it's a football strip, cricket whites or a tutu, we would love to see how you keep active. Please bring in £1 to participate.

May Fair

Amongst the numerous other events, we will also be running a stall at the May Fair so please come along and take part in some of the very exciting competitions.

Coming soon... A rock, paper, scissors tournament! Please keep your eyes peeled, after half term, for further information.

*Thank you in advance for your help and support.
The Woburn Charity Team*

Year 5 Visit Rye Meads

Last Thursday Year 5 went on a wonderful trip to the RSPB Nature Reserve at Rye Meads. We were very lucky with some glorious weather and enjoyed travelling without our coats and jumpers! When we arrived the reserve teachers split us into two groups and during the course of the day we all had a go at pond dipping, bird watching and learning about all different kinds of habitats, food chains and creatures. It was fascinating to hear about all the different bird calls. We learnt how to use binoculars in the hides and we identified different types of birds around the water. It was so lovely to be outside in the middle of a natural environment. The Staff at the Centre were very complimentary about our Year 5 children and said how impressed they were with their knowledge and how engaged they were throughout the whole day. Thanks to Ms Norton, Mr Foley, Mrs Coughlan and Miss Sands for their help and support.

Mrs Marrion - Head of Science



Year 2 Have Fun at The Roald Dahl Museum

The children in Year 2 had a phiz-whizzing time at the Roald Dahl Gallery on Tuesday. We explored James' Giant Peach, the foxes tunnel and Matilda's library amongst other activities. As a group we designed and created a new blanket for poor Charlie Bucket's grandparents.

The children behaved impeccably as always and there was no need to send anyone to the chokey!

*Miss Gaffney and
Miss Angus*



Nursery Trophies

Well done to Charlie D (NM) and Jagger C (NB) who were awarded the trophies this week in Nursery.



Nursery Elmer Parade

The children have been reading Elmer stories and on Wednesday they had great fun going on an Elmer's day parade in The Dell. In mathematics they have been learning about patterns and created their own pattern tabards for the parade. They also had a muddy time making an Elmer world using natural resources from The Dell.

The Nursery Team



Writer of the term

Despite the snow and rain, the Spring Term blossomed with opportunities for the children to write creatively. The teachers across the school, found it extremely difficult to select their 'Writer of the Term'. On Thursday 19th April, last term's worthy winners were announced in Treetops and on Monday, Main School were given their awards. Every winner was presented with a specially selected book prize and a certificate to celebrate their achievements. Well done to you all!

Treetops

Louis S (EKG)
Jennifer M (KG)
Oliver K (Nursery Birch)
Charlie D (Nursery Maple)
Tyler S (Reception Oak)
William W (Reception Apple)



Main School

Lucy S (1A)	Isla M (4MJ)
Isla C (1T)	Ava S (5S)
Monty C (2A)	Georgiana F (5T)
Harry R (2G)	Nathaniel M (5V)
Jamie W (3C)	Jake B(6LT)
Isabella B (3FH)	Charlotte P (6S)
Tilly E (4G)	Eric Y(6T)



Imaginary Worlds Competition

During Book Week, Years 1-6 were given the opportunity to write creatively, describing their very own 'Imaginary World'. The children were given the freedom to use their own ideas to write a setting description. Overall we were very impressed with the high standard of work produced. The settings described included winter landscapes, mystical lands and wonderful faraway worlds amongst a vast array of other original ideas. This made the decision to select just one winner extremely challenging. However, after much deliberation, Cooper B (3FH) was chosen as the Lower School winner and Lucy H (6T) was selected as the Upper School winner. Below are excerpts of their brilliantly written setting descriptions. Well done to both the children!

Cooper's Imaginary World

It all started when I ventured into the garden in my new house. I saw a hole in the massive fence. First I decided to investigate. I managed to fit through the gap and entered a dazzling forest. I discovered a wardrobe. An extremely dusty wardrobe so I sprinted over to it. Suddenly a beam of light shone through! I stepped inside. Was it bigger inside than it looked? The door was encrusted with gold, diamonds and emeralds and the sides were exactly the same but it was pitch black. Accidentally, I stepped through. I didn't know it was a portal...

Lucy's Imaginary World

Chilly air gusted in through the open window, nipping at the young girl's bare arms and feet. She stepped forwards as if to close it when something caught her eye. Turning, she studied the wardrobe that had intrigued her; it was made of dark, oak wood, looked ancient and had a simple pattern carved into it. As if in a trance, she walked towards the old wardrobe. The wood was cool and dark against her moon-bleached palms; sweaty despite the frozen, winter night. Slowly, carefully the girl opened the doors with a creak and strolled into the wardrobe.

Inside hung thousands of gowns, scarves and coats, each of a different material. Her fingers sought out soft, velvet furs and cashmere. All of them caressing her finger tips. As she ambled through the thick fabrics, she filled her lungs with the musty, comforting scent that lingered and let out a sigh of contentment. Satisfied, she closed her eyes and meandered on. A rush of steam hit the youthful girl and she opened her eyes. She appeared to be in a cave. Natural sunken tubs filled with deliciously hot water were scattered across the cave. Inserted into the smooth rock floor, each of them seemed to be connected to one another through tiny rivers; linking them all together like a pearl necklace. The caves were encompassed in darkness; not the sort that would leave you stranded in a nightmare but a lovely soothing darkness, like a lullaby or peaceful dream, lulling and calming. A restful darkness.

Eco News!

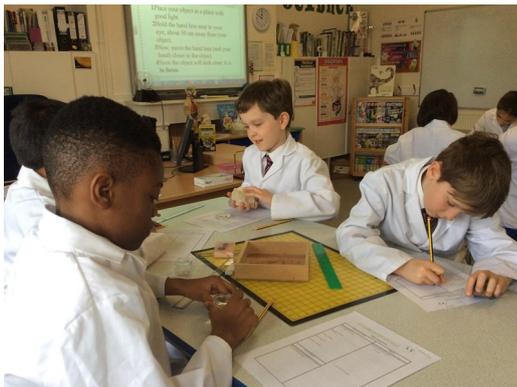
What a fantastic surprise I had when we counted the batteries in our recycling bin! A brilliant 1,047 batteries have been collected so far and saved from landfill. As a school that really supports all the Eco initiatives, we are absolutely delighted and send a big thanks to everyone who brought in batteries. We are going to continue to collect for recycling so please do continue to bring your batteries in.

Mrs Marrion Head of Science

Science Dept. news!

Class 3FH were very excited on Thursday as they were having their very first Science lesson in the Science room. They really looked the part with their white lab coats on and were full of enthusiasm and interesting questions. They did some fantastic work focusing on observation skills and produced some very impressive reports. I shall look forward to some more marvellous science work next week. Well done Year 3 young Scientists, a great start!

Mrs Marrion - Head of Science



May Fair Volunteers and Donations

Volunteer sign up sheets for this year's May Fair have been posted on the PA notice board in Old Hall. Thank you to everyone who has already put their name down to help out on the day. However, we do still need more people to come forward if we are to run all the stalls we have planned. If you can spare an hour and a half on the day we would be really grateful for your support - if you are not able to get into school to sign up you can always let us know by mail at ParentsAssociation@duncombe-school.co.uk.

Thank you as well to all those who have already given items for the stalls. We have a good number of toys and books now but need more bottles and wrapped sweets. Your donations would be much appreciated.

With thanks
The PA Team

Lost

Two named jumpers belonging to Rupert Douglas.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 30th April 2018.



Homemade Soup and Freshly Baked Bread Available Daily

Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free equivalent dishes will be offered

THIS WEEK'S MENU

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish of the Day Jerk Chicken Thigh with Salsa	Dish of the Day Sweet and Sour Pork with Egg Noodles	Dish of the Day Chicken Arrabiatta with Penne Pasta, Parmesan and Garlic Bread	Dish of the Day Roast Gammon with Gravy and Cranberry Sauce	Dish Of The Day Pizza Day Pepperoni Cajun Chicken Margarita
Vegetarian Option Mozzarella, Basil and Cherry Tomato Quesadillas	Vegetarian Option Kimchi with Stir Fry Vegetables and Noodles	Vegetarian Option Macaroni Cheese	Vegetarian Option Falafal with Pitta and Side Salad	Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw Cheese
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Fresh Tomato Basil Sauce	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Vegetables Oven Wedges Baked Beans Garden Peas
Vegetables Ratatouille Steamed Green Beans	Vegetables Stir fried Pak Choi and Kale Steamed Sweetcorn and Garden Peas	Vegetables Leafy Mixed Salad Garlic Bread	Vegetables Rustic Roast Leek Mornay Spring Greens	Dessert Victoria Sandwich Cake Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt
Dessert Apple and Plum Crumble with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Chocolate Sponge with Chocolate Flavoured Custard Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Ginger Cookie with Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Strawberry Jelly with Cream Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	

