



Duncombe News

18th May 2018



A fabulously busy week here at Duncombe that has seen our Year 6 pupils complete their examinations and are now ready to embark on their journey to Normandy. We of course wish them and the staff *Bon Voyage!* This is just one of a whole smorgasbord of activities and opportunities that pupils have been involved with this week. On Wednesday the Fire Brigade visited Treetops. They learnt about the many ways this vital service helps people around us. It goes without saying that the level of excitement in the build up to their arrival was very enjoyable to observe. Do look out for the report from Treetops.

Also on Wednesday all Lower School children, with the assistance of Year 4, had a day dedicated to Latin and learning about Classical Rome. Activities included Latin songs with actions, Roman Numerals, key phrases and culminated in an archaeological dig in the Dell! Miss Cartwright led the entire day supported by the staff and can be rightly proud of the wonderfully enriching experience the pupils had. If ever there was an example of *Carpe Diem* this was it!

Year 4 enjoyed a River Trip from Ware to Hertford, building on the Geography studies of the local area. As ever, they represented the school exceptionally well receiving some very lovely comment from members of the public along the way. This can often be taken for granted, because simply we expect it, but it should be noted, so well done to them all.

The week concluded with another wonderful Music assembly. Pupils really do rise to the occasion and it was no different this week. Mrs Sutton and Mrs Turner continue to encourage the wonderful development of our musical experiences and are ably assisted by the Peripatetic staff. Well done to all of our performers.

I have greatly enjoyed observing English and Science lessons in Lower School this week. It is a wonderful privilege to join the lessons, observe the pupils in action and discuss with staff the progress and next steps for the children. I was delighted with the standard set, the expectations and the engaging working atmosphere where children know they can offer ideas and make progress. Next week I shall be looking at some Upper School Science, which I am greatly looking forward to.

Our IAPS competition successes continues apace with Maddi B of Year 6 winning the U11 Foils Fencing National Championships hosted at Millfield School, Somerset over the last weekend. On the back of the Clay Pigeon success the week before with Football and Netball earlier in the term, we certainly have a great deal to shout about. Well done Maddi, an excellent outcome and very well deserved.

The May Fair was another wonderful occasion. The weather was kind and the stalls and events were wonderful to observe with the added embellishment of the pupils' bunting! A very well attended event, which was brilliantly supported by our families. I do want to say a very sincere thank you to all who led stalls, assisted with setting up and putting away. In addition it is critical that we say thank you to the PA committee who, led by Caroline Gruselle, ensured that we

had another wonderful event as a school community to all thoroughly enjoy. I would make the plea again for parents to step forward to enable a new committee to be formed in September. Without it such events will not be able to go on which I am sure you will agree will be a great loss for us all.

Next week is extremely busy with Year 1 Parents to lunch, Year 4 York meeting and Come Dine with Us, matches and the Year 2 sleepover!

Have a wonderful weekend. *Mr Phelan*

Diary Dates

Monday 21st May - Year 6 to Normandy.

Tuesday 22nd May - Year 1 Parent to Lunch. 1A at 12.20pm and 1T at 12.30pm.

Year 4 Come Dine with Us and York Meeting.

Thursday 24th May -Year 2 Sleepover

Friday 25th May - Half Term - School Closed.

Looking Forward

Monday 4th June - Second Half of Summer Term starts.

Year 6 Cycling Proficiency Week.

Tuesday 5th June - Year 1 to Woburn Safari Park.

Reception Parent to Lunch. Times TBC.

Wednesday 6th June - Year 5 to RAF Museum.

Thursday 7th June - Open Morning for Prospective Parents.

Friday 8th June - Sports Day (Reception to Year 6) at Wodson Park.

Monday 11th June - 5T Class Assembly (Parents Welcome).

Lamda Exams for Year 4.

Wednesday 13th June - Year 4 to York.

Thursday 14th June - Lamda Exams for Year 5

Friday 15th June - 6T Assembly (Parents Welcome).

Lamda Exams for Year 3.

EKG to Reception Dads to Play, 8.30am in Treetops.

Sports Fixtures

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

Congratulations to Maddi B (6S) who won gold at the Fencing IAPS Championships in the U11 Girls Foil. Maddi won all her preliminary matches 5:0 and in the elimination rounds she won two matches 10:0, the semi final 10:1 and won the final 10:3.

Maddi and her family would like to thank the school and Bryant Blades for their continued support. Well done Maddi!



Congratulations Jake C (6S) and Archie C (6T) on winning the U11 Emerald League Mid Herts Rural Minors League Cup Final on Saturday, it was a physical game against Hertford with the final result 2:0 to Ware Youth Reds.

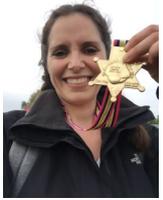


Congratulations to Jaxon C (5T), Sebastian M (5T), Monty M (4G), Alex M-L (5S) and Dominic K (5T) who played in the U10 Cup Final game for their team Hertford FC. The team were runners up but fought hard and played some great football. Alex and Dominic were also awarded Man of the Match. Well done to them and all the team.



Well Done Mrs Takawira!

Well done to Mrs Takawira who completed the Moon Walk last Saturday night and raised over £700 for Breast Cancer Research. A fantastic achievement—well done Mrs T!



Year 4 Enjoy a Train and River Boat Cruise

On Monday 14th May, in preparation for our trip to York, Year 4 took a brief train ride to Ware and a cruise down the river Lea to Hertford. While aboard the boat, we listened to lots of information about the local area. A fun and relaxing day was had by all.

Here are just a few of the children's highlights:

Erin 4MJ "We found out how the locks work on a canal, the sluice is opened once the gates are shut to allow the water to flow and raise us up."

James P 4G "We found out all about the maltings, where they made a popular drink for adults called porter."

William 4MJ "We discussed the spelling rules for Ware, ware, where and wear. I particularly enjoyed saying where? each time Mel (our guide) said Ware."

Thomas 4MJ " I enjoyed learning about the meaning of Hertford. 'Hart' (which has now been changed to Hert) is an old word for a stag and 'ford' means a crossing point in the shallowest part of the water."

Monty 4G "I enjoyed shouting 'Ahoy There', when the skipper sounded the horn on our journey."

Isla 4MJ "We saw many gazebos in Ware, they are wooden buildings over hanging the river which were used as a place to relax after a busy day."

Ollie B 4MJ "I enjoyed learning about the flood plains and their importance for the town."

Mrs Galaska and Mrs Micele-Jones



Year 3 Bushcraft Fun

Year 3 had a wonderful time camping in the forest last week. Here's how some the children summed up the experience:

"Bushcraft is one of the best camps ever! The teachers there were called Chris, Lauren, Laura and Reuben. We had so much delicious food, which we cooked and even had to wash up (which was Polly's least favourite part). We cooked burgers on open fires, which we had made ourselves. We also had a pasta bake, rice krispy goo (yum!) and hot dogs."

"On the first day, we learned how to build shelters so that we knew how to survive in the wild. Some of our shelters survived through the night and stayed up the next day too! We went on a Wilderness Walk in the evening before going to bed. We made ourselves sleepy by singing campfire songs and then tried very hard to get to sleep, which was difficult as we were all so excited."

"On the second day, we learned about traps that we created in our tribes in the woodland and managed to bag ourselves a few teachers! We also learned about camouflage and how to put on war paint. I think we gave our parents a bit of a surprise when we arrived back at Duncombe with camouflage paint on!"

By our Year 3 Roving Reporters, Polly, Joe and Sofia.



Latin Challenge Day

Wednesday witnessed Latin Challenge Day in Lower School. We began by learning about Minimus Mouse and his real-life family who lived in Vindolanda in Roman Britain. We were given a little help to learn more about their life and language by Year 5 Latin club pupils who treated us to a play in traditional costume. They then taught us some Latin songs, accompanied on the baby Grand Piano by Mrs Turner. Latin animal names were our next topic and we learned all about how the Romans used masculine and feminine endings for their nouns. A few puppets made an appearance to help illustrate the grammar. For our Maths focus we thought about how Roman Numerals are still very much in evidence now - on clocks, film credits and the National Curriculum, to name a few! We used a Roman Numerals song to help us learn all about them and then played three different Roman Numeral games in our year groups. In their classes, pupils followed the Roman Numeral treasure hunt around the school and converted the Roman Numerals into numbers. Back in their classrooms, pupils cracked the number code to find the Latin word 'Salve!' meaning 'Hello'.

After a well-earned break time, each year group had the opportunity to play some challenging traditional Roman games as part of our learning about Roman entertainment. The traditional game of jacks was a real hit and required concentration, sharp reflexes and a good dose of team work. We also tackled Nine Men's Morris: a game requiring strategy, patience and quick-wittedness.

Something both mysterious and serendipitous happened in the Dell during lunchtime. A Roman artefact was unearthed! A 'Duncombe Dig' site was speedily assembled and who were better placed to excavate it and identify further treasures than Lower School pupils? Letters requesting assistance from some budding young archaeologists were quickly dispatched and fortunately Years 1, 2 and 3 were all happy to oblige. After learning some key facts about how archaeological sites work and which tools are required, pupils carefully unearthed Roman artefacts using brushes, spades and sieves. Objects were then identified and Latin names were found. Finds included mosaic pieces, parts of pottery vases, coins, knucklebones (used in traditional games) and even a strigil. Romans used this to wipe their bodies clean. Yuck!

We ended the day's activities with some reading in a story circle, learning facts about Roman culture and history from some non-fiction books. Those hard-working children certainly deserved the opportunity to relax and take stock of their learning. *Miss Cartwright*



Music Concert

This morning we were treated a wonderful recital of music in our Music Assembly.

Elliot F-F opened the show with a confident and emotional of 'Riptide' on guitar and vocals. Sophia G performed next, treating us to a lovely performance of 'The Flower of Quern' on the violin with a smooth and assured melody line. Jess McA was our first pianist, playing 'Driving Force', which was full of energy and rhythm. Lucy M, also on piano, played the elegant 'Saturday Stroll' with great control. Next were some of our vocalists. Harriet C. performed the bouncy song 'Poco Poppa Pizza' beautifully. 'Skye Boat Song' by Emily S was next. A beautiful, lyrical performance. The clarinet followed and Millie K treated us to a gorgeous rendition of 'Georgie', which was originally written as a lullaby. Millie captured the calm, gentle mood extremely well. A complete change of pace then woke us all up as James M performed the James Bond theme on his guitar showing a super awareness of the rhythms. Some of our young composers then premiered their latest work. Toby and Georgian F on clarinet and guitar with 'Runaway Fairy', a mysterious and atmospheric piece that they wrote over the Easter holidays. They even wrote the score for it themselves! Jaxson B then performed 'When the Saints Go Marching In' on the piano showing very good control over the jumpy rhythms.

Music Concert cont/...

The viola was next with Connie Nichola performing 'Shepherd's Hey' with some lovely long bowed notes showing her control of the instrument. Maya B then played 'Allegro' by Vivaldi on the violin with great accuracy and confidence. She was followed by Leah B whose violin performance of 'America' had the whole audience tapping their toes in time! Maya D then sang for us with an enchanting rendition of 'Catch a Falling Star', which was met with great applause. An old classic from Millie K was next: 'Nellie, the Elephant'. Everyone in the audience was mouthing along with the words as Millie sang! We ended our concert with two musical brothers who both learn piano outside school: Xavier ML performed 'Swingin' Beat' - and he really did swing those melodies, a very confident performance! Alex ML performed 'Tarantell' by SM Maykapur. An extremely accomplished performance, which was a truly amazing end to a lovely recital. Our thanks to all the instrumental teachers who prepared the pupils for the concert, to the family members who came along to support and of course, to Mrs Turner for her superb accompanying.



Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 21st May 2018

THIS WEEK'S MENU				
Homemade Soup and Fresh Baked Bread available Daily			Where possible Gluten and Dairy Free equivalent dishes will be offered	Week 2
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Dish of the Day Traditional Beef Lasagne Served with Homemade Garlic Bread G,D	Dish of the Day Spanish Pork Sausage Casserole	Dish of the Day Freshly made Greek Lamb Kofta with Pitta and Tzatziki D	Mexican Theme Day	
Vegetarian Option Quorn and Mushroom Lasagna G,D	Vegetarian Option Roasted Vegetable and Halloumi Bake D	Vegetarian Option Falafel Burgers with Pitta and Tzatziki		
Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise Cheese	Pasta Bar Tomato Sauce Cheese	Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans Cheese	Mexican Theme Day	
Vegetables Steamed Green Beans Homemade Garlic Bread	Vegetables Sauté Courgettes with Poppers Rissole Potatoes	Vegetables Steamed Rice Sweetcorn Mixed Salad		
Dessert Yoghurt Sundae topped with Fruit Coulis or Homemade Granola Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Sticky Banoffee Sponge Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	Dessert Berry Biscuit Fresh Fruit Yoghurt	HALF TERM	

Music Tuition

We currently have limited spaces available for violin lessons in September. Pupils currently in year 2 or above are able to take up these spaces. Please let Mrs Sutton or Mrs Selwood know as soon as possible if your child would like to learn the violin.

Leaving the Car Park

Could we please remind you to drop off and pick up your children as quickly as possible to ease congestion in the car park. Thank you.