

# **Duncombe News**

25th Oct 2018

I have been delighted with the first half of this term and I know there will be plenty of further challenge next half term. Our new ICT equipment and software have really made a positive impact in teaching and learning, with both staff and pupils fully embracing the exciting opportunities this is opening up. In addition there have been pleasing sporting achievements, musical performances to delight all who attended and continued evidence of pupils working hard and making meaningful progress. Our information events such as Meet the Heads alongside Harvest Festival and the exciting PA Laser Show this evening are all testament to the vibrant and inclusive community we have here at Duncombe. As we head into half term it is essential that Year 6 continue to focus on their Maths, English, VR and Non-VR preparations over the break. Their teachers have set a variety of tasks to keep this moving forward.

The Treetops sharing afternoon has been a delightful event. It is so very encouraging to see our youngest pupils take great pride in their learning and showcasing to their families what they have achieved to date. These moments build confidence and really do help our children to appreciate the importance of dialogue around their own learning. Do encourage your children to speak about their learning across this term. We have been asking the children for feedback on their learning experience over the past two weeks I was extremely pleased with the positive response where pupils feel supported and challenged in an environment where they know that they are making progress and have the security to take risks in their work and answers.

Next term we have plenty to look forward to including; Year 4 and 5 Parents' Evenings, form assemblies, numerous trips and matches, Carol Service at Haileybury Chapel and Christmas performances alongside Parent to lunch, a trip to the pantomime (oh yes we have!) and our PA Christmas Fair; plus much more besides. Plenty of reasons to take advantage of a good rest over the half term and come back ready to get fully involved!

Have a wonderful half term. Mr Phelan.

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



### **Diary Dates**

**Friday 26th October** - Half Term begins. School closed. **Tuesday 6th November** - Year 6 to the Natural History Museum.

Year 3 Parent to Lunch. 3K at 12.45pm and 3G at 12.50pm. **Thursday 8th November** - Year 4 Parents' Evening in New Hall. 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

**Friday 9th November** - Year 6 to Amaravati Buddhist Monastery.

#### **Looking Forward**

**Tuesday 13th November** - Light and Dark Workshop for Year 1 at Duncombe.

**Thursday 15th November** - Open Morning for Prospective Parents. 9.45am start.

Year 5 Parents' Evening in New Hall from 4.30pm to 8.30pm.

Friday 16th November - Phil the Bag collection.

Hatfield Charity Film Night.

**Wednesday 21st November** - Dress Up Day for Treetops. **Friday 23rd November** - 1A Assembly. Parents Welcome.

### **Sports Fixtures**

**Tuesday 6th November** - U7 Football v St Edmund's Prep (home). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 7th November** - U10 Netball v Sherrardswood (away). Time TBC.

**Thursday 8th November** - U8 Football and Netball v St Edmund's Prep (away). 3pm start.

**Monday 12th November** - U11 Football v Manor Lodge (away). 2.30pm start.

**Friday 16th November** - U9 Football v St Joseph's in the Park (Hartham). Time TBC.

U9 Netball v St Joseph's in the Park (home). Time TBC.

**Wednesday 21st November** - U11 Football v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.

U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time TBC.

**Thursday 22nd November** - U9 Football Manor Lodge (away). Time TBC.

# Well done to this week's Lower School Stars of the Week



## **Music Assembly**

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October the first Music Assembly of the new school year took place. Thomas H opened the recital, with a stunningly advanced performance of Meditation from Thais by Massenet, full of subtle phrasing and powerful dynamic changes. Lois P was next, with the charming piano piece Eve's Fairy Fingers which was played very gracefully. Also on piano was Erin G with Train Ride a fun little number showing off some lovely finger-work. James R then played Minuet in C, again on piano, with very good rhythmic awareness and control of some tricky chords. Some of our Upper School singers performed next: first, Ava S with the delicate Golden Slumbers, a gently lilting number which showed off Ava's higher register beautifully. Alex M-L followed, with Quem Pastores which was, very impressively, sung completely in Latin! For the flutes, Bella S performed Mockingbird Song, a very pretty traditional melody which she played confidently. Also on flute was Torri H, who played Close Every Door by Andrew Lloyd Webber – a hauntingly beautiful piece. Two more of our pianists came next, Ines B and Xavier M-L, both playing the very popular Egyptian Level from the new Grade 1 syllabus. Great performances from them both. Next, playing the cornet, was Kavian S-L with March Steps, which really showed off the rounded sound of the instrument. Our next brass performer was Xavier M-L, who played Cucumber Dance, a fun, jazzy number with some tricky rhythmic passages which he handled brilliantly and with great style. Another two vocal performers were next: Reece H and Ellis H. Reece sang Land of the Silver Birch a familiar melody which he sang really lovely phrasing. A very emotional performance. Ellis followed, with Where is Love? from the musical 'Oliver'. His young voice was perfectly suited to this gorgeous tune and everyone had glistening eyes by the end! Next were our guitars. Josh K showed off his talents first, with Station to Station a technical piece played brilliantly. James R was next, with the ever-popular James Bond theme which had the whole audience humming along. Toby F then performed the theme from Mozart's Magic Flute which he played with impressively fast fingers! Closing the show was Alex M-L with Prelude by Finzi. This was a masterclass in technical playing with Alex showcasing a skill way beyond his years. He was

rewarded with a thunderous round of applause. Congratulations to all of our young performers for an amazing concert. Our thanks to all of our instrumental tutors for their support and encouragement, to all of our supportive families and to Mrs Turner for her superb

accompanying.

Mrs Sutton



### **Hatfield Charity Events**

The RP Fighting Blindness competition has arrived! This week your child will bring home a sheet where they can choose one of two activities to complete. They can either design a gadget for a person who has lost their sight and which would help them in their everyday life. It would be useful to describe how it would be used. Alternatively, they can create a collage/picture using a variety of materials and textures. Try to make it as interesting for a blind person to feel as possible. Entry for the competition is £1.00 and entries should be handed in to form and class teachers by 16th November. This is open to pupils from Year 1 to Year 6; there will be prizes for Lower School and Upper School.

On Friday November 16th we are holding a Film Night so please put the date in your diaries. The film will be announced after half term.

Thank you for your support.

The Hatfield Charity Team.

### **Hatfield Charity News**

Lower School welcomed Mr Geoff Madge to their assembly on Wednesday. He explained to the children how blindness affects him and with the help of his son, Nathaniel in Year 6, demonstrated how he uses gadgets and equipment to help him in his every day life. He highlighted the importance of research into the various causes of blindness and was very pleased that this term's chosen charity is Retinitis Pigmentosis. We are delighted that he has offered to be a judge for the upcoming competition!

The Hatfield Charity Team.

#### **Music Stand**

We have a music stand available. If you would like it please contact the School Office.

#### Lost

Named coat belonging to Monty Douglas.

# Here is the next recipe card 7 for the Thomas Franks competition.



#### Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 5th November 2018

