



9th November 2018

I have greatly enjoyed visiting lessons this week and observing and talking to our pupils about their progress and understanding. Year 3 Science pupils worked very effectively using the correct technical terms concerned with forces and magnets. I was most impressed with the level of challenge and the willingness to fully embrace all that was being asked of them. This too was very evident in Year 4 Maths sessions where pupils worked on the challenges of fractions. Very evident qualities were pace, rigour, a willingness to take risks in their learning and the joy of progress as concepts move to real understanding and application. Just wonderful to see.

The English department have launched a stupendous vocabulary initiative which Miss Cartwright and the staff will be encouraging all of our children to be fully involved in. Do please get involved and enjoy the illuminating and joyful world of language and vocabulary building.

Our 3G Class assembly focused on time travel to the Prehistoric and Iron Age. Pupils, parents and staff greatly enjoyed the wonderful display of learning, song (We will Rock you about Prehistoric Life was exceptional!) dance and even Warriors Have Talent as Year 3 took us through the many facets of Celtic life. Pupils were confident, spoke clearly and were able to evidence a true joy of learning. A lovely assembly- well done Miss Gaffney and Mrs Frost and all of 3G. We were able to say goodbye to Mrs Reeves who is moving on as Catering Manager this week. In assembly we celebrated her many achievements and were delighted to be awarded the Bronze Food for Life Award from the Soil Association. We wish Mrs Reeves every success for the future after 8 years here at Duncombe. We were also delighted to welcome Mr Michael Goulston as our new Catering Manager. Michael has had quite a week, not only has he started here at Duncombe but he has been involved in a very exciting event which we will be able to share with you next week. As a former winner of School Chef of the Year we are certainly looking forward to all the wonderful work he and his team have in store for us all.

Miss Sands and our Heads of School represented Duncombe at the Hertford Castle Poppy Installation this week. This was the culmination of The Society of Hertford Crafters and Hertford Councils commemoration of the centenary of the end of WWI. The installation is still in situ until 12th November and I would certainly recommend a visit to see it if you can. I know a number of our pupils will be involved in parades for scouts, cubs, brownies and guides over the weekend. On Monday pupils will have an assembly focusing on Remembrance.

A final word of thanks to the PA team and all who supported the laser evening at the end of last half term. I, like so many people, expressed what a truly wonderful event it was. The display was mesmerising and I'm sure a few of the parents adopted an Ibiza vibe with music playing and the lights dancing.

There is a lot to look forward to next week including the Light and Dark Workshop for Year 1 and the 2A assembly.

Do have a restful weekend. Mr Phelan.

Diary Dates

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 - 2A Assembly. Parents welcome. Phil the Bag collection.

Hatfield Charity Film Night.

Looking Forward

Wednesday 21st November - Dress Up Day for Treetops.

Thursday 22nd November - Parent Information Evening on 'How Technology can Enhance Learning'. 7pm to 8.30pm in New Hall.

Friday 23rd November - 1A Assembly. Parents Welcome.

Monday 26th November - Shaking up Shakespeare for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Tuesday 27th November - Flu Vaccinations for Reception to Year 5.

Friday 30th November - Music Assembly for invited performers in Old Hall. 8.50am start.

Sunday 2nd December - PA Christmas Fair. Midday to 3pm.

Sports Fixtures

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

Tuesday 13th November - Year 3 & 4 Netball v St Francis School (away). 3.30pm start.

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

U11 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time 2.30pm.

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

Wednesday 28th November - U11 Rugby Tournament at Haileybury.

Thursday 29th November - U9 Netball v Westbrook Hay (away). Time 3pm.

Thursday 6th December - U9 Football v Heath Mount (away). 2.30pm start.

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



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



Vocabulary Initiative

This week marks the beginning of an exciting school-wide vocabulary initiative. Our aim is to further equip all pupils from Early Kindergarten to Year 6 with age-appropriate, yet ambitious, vocabulary to engender a love of learning new vocabulary, promote reading comprehension, improve writing skills as well as encourage greater articulateness.

Pupils in Treetops will participate in learning new words via the award-winning 'Mrs Wordsmith' programme. Each week, every class will be exposed to challenging vocabulary based on a common theme. A 'Mrs Wordsmith' owl toy and certificate will be awarded each week to a pupil who uses the new word brilliantly.

Years 1 to 4 will be given the opportunity to learn ambitious language through participation in the 'Vocabulary Ninja' scheme. Pupils will have the opportunity to complete a 'vocabulary laboratory' sheet to write a definition to new, adventurous words and carry out some synonym and antonym investigations. 'Vocabulary Ninja' is also available as a free app for those children who would like to be exposed to even more vocabulary at home.

Children in Year 5 and 6 will participate in the 'Verbivore' programme (a verbivore means someone who has an enjoyment of words and wordplay) and each week will be introduced to five inspiring words linked to a theme through a variety of interactive activities. These words will be sent home as 'Fridge Words' – words to be put up on a fridge or noticeboard board at home for pupils to familiarise themselves with. Their teachers will be looking out for children who use them in speaking and writing activities!

To launch our initiative, pupils in Years 1 to 6 have been given the opportunity to participate in our 'Rocket Your Vocabulary' competition to find definitions for Duncombe teachers' favourite words. They will additionally have the opportunity to share their own favourite word. The deadline for competition entries, which should be handed to your child's class teacher, is Friday 30th November. Entry forms have gone home today. The prize-giving for entry winners will take place in a forthcoming assembly.

Miss Cartwright

Introducing Mrs Wordsmith

Treetops have welcomed a very exciting visitor this week called Mrs Wordsmith!

Mrs Wordsmith provides a weekly challenge to all the children by listening to fun stories and activities to enhance learning and provide opportunities to increase their descriptive word vocabulary. All classes in treetops will have their own 'word of the week' these will be displayed on Mrs Wordsmith's table in the octagon and can also be found on display in your child's class. Each week, children will have an opportunity to learn and use new vocabulary; special awards will be given to children who have taken Mrs Wordsmith's weekly challenge of learning and using new vocabulary!

Mrs L Baxter



Hatfield Charity Events

Tickets are now on sale for the Hatfield Charity Movie Night on Friday 16th November. You can buy your tickets from Monday 12th November in the Old Hall between 8.30am and 8.45am each morning. This event is for Duncombe pupils in **Years 3 to 6**. Alternatively, please return the reply slip sent out via Parentmail to the School Office and tickets will be sent home by Thursday 15th November.



Please remember to get your entries in for our competition to either design a gadget for a person who has lost their sight, and which would help them in their everyday life, or create a collage/picture using a variety of materials and textures. 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.

Thank you for your support.

The Hatfield Charity Team.

Remembrance Service

On Wednesday, our Heads of School, Millie, Henry and Dominic, were invited by the Mayor to attend a Garden of Remembrance Service at the Castle Gates. This act of Remembrance is for the servicemen and women who have fallen in wars past and present and our children planted a small cross to mark this occasion. Afterwards, we joined the Mayor and Councillors for refreshments at the castle and were able to admire the incredible sea of poppies on display, to which our children at Duncombe have all contributed. *Miss Sands.*

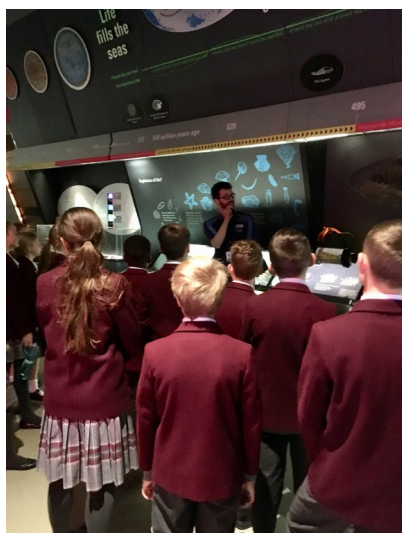


Epilepsy Assembly

In our Upper School Assembly this week we were privileged to hear from Maya Davies (6TA), who spoke confidently and informatively about her epilepsy. Maya shared a video where she gave detailed information on her condition and then answered questions from the children. Everyone found it very interesting and we really appreciated her doing it. Thank you Maya.

Year 6 Trip to Natural History Museum

Year 6 visited the Natural History Museum in London on Tuesday as part of their Science work on Evolution. They took part in some fantastic workshops and enjoyed exploring the Museum. The day was filled with dinosaurs, earthquakes, volcanoes and fossils, thoroughly enjoyed by all! *Mrs Marrison.*



Duncombe Parent Information Evening

We would like to invite you to a Duncombe Parent Information Evening on 'How technology can enhance learning'. This event will take place on Thursday 22nd November, 2018 in New Hall from 7:00pm – 8:30pm.

Please come along and find out how your children's learning is enriched through technology.

October Half Term Works

We have continued our mission to develop and improve the school. We had a very busy half term week with various works taking place across the site, this has included:

- Installation of outdoor gym equipment (6 items providing space for 15 users)
- Replacement of artificial grass surface including levelling the Surface

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

Outdoor Gym Area

I am delighted to inform you that our new outdoor gym area is now complete. This area will be used during playtime and for curriculum based activities.

The equipment is designed for children in Years 1 to 6, the only exception to this is the leg press which, due to the height of the children, is more suitable to children in Year 3 and above. Each year group will receive an introductory lesson on how to use the equipment.

This project was jointly funded by the Parents' Association and we are extremely grateful for their support.

Ian Thomas, Business Manager

After School Clubs

Please note that the following clubs finish on the dates listed below:

Fencing - Thursday 15th November
Horse Riding - Monday 19th November
Tennis - Tuesday 20th November
Cookery - Tuesday 20th November

If you still require care until the end of term please let the School Office know.

ASC Football

Just a reminder please to send your child in to school with shin pads if they attend after school club football. If your child does not have access to shin pads on the day they are due to attend their football club they will not be allowed to participate.

PA Christmas Fair

The PA are delighted to inform you that this year's Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 2nd December from midday to 3pm.

Also at the Christmas Fair, and back by popular demand, the PA are preparing festive Christmas Wreaths. Laden with cinnamon sticks, fruit and seasonal decorations. The wreaths will be available to collect at the Christmas Fair. Wreaths cost £25 and can be ordered by texting the word WREATH and your name to 07792665840



Here is the next recipe card 8 for the Thomas Franks competition.

TAKE IT MAKE IT COMPETITION

STRAWBERRY AND BANANA SMOOTHIE

- 400g Strawberries
- 4 Ripe Bananas
- 250g Greek Yogurt
- 1 pint Full Fat Milk

METHOD

1. Put all ingredients either in a liquidiser OR use a hand blender to purée all ingredients together.
2. Pour into a nice cold glass and decorate as you wish.

CARD 8 OF 9

Phil the Bag

On Friday 16th November we have arranged a Phil the Bag collection. The PA will receive a payment based on the weight of clothing items donated, so please look out for any garments you no longer want, pop them in a black bin bag and bring them in **on the morning of 16th November**. Please place your bags outside the Music Room for collection. Please do not bring bags in before the 16th as there is nowhere to store them. This is a great opportunity for a clear out while helping to reach our fundraising goal!

Many thanks. *The PA Team*

Lost

Named black and royal blue Tribe football boots size 2, belonging to Daniel Stopps.

Named coat belonging to Jamie Richardson.

Named school shoes, tracksuit top, gum shield and cardigan belonging to Sophie Linfoot.

Named PE shorts belonging to Luca Mariutto.

Named coat belonging to Reuben Beatty-Barry.

Warren Restaurant Menu for the week commencing 12th November 2018

<p><i>Monday</i></p> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty Entrée Flaked salmon in tomato sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Flexitarian Roast tomato with cannellini beans and basil sauce with 50/50 pasta</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Tuna Mayonnaise</p> <p>On the side Roast peppers with kale and sweetcorn</p> <p>Tasty puds Peach and strawberry topped yoghurt</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Lamb Rogan josh with onion salad, mango chutney and raita</p> <p>Flexitarian Cheese layered potato bake</p> <p>Pasta Bar 50/50 Pasta with Tomato and Herb Sauce</p> <p>On the side Basmati rice Poppadum's Spinach Sagaloo</p> <p>Tasty puds Fudgy chocolate brownie bites (reduced sugar recipe)</p>	<p><i>Thursday</i></p> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Sticky BBQ ribs with homemade corn bread</p> <p>Flexitarian Lentil and vegetable polenta slice</p> <p>Pasta Bar 50/50 Pasta with Three Cheese Sauce</p> <p>On the side Corn on the cob Spring greens Coleslaw</p> <p>Tasty puds Mandarins in jelly</p>	<p>Week Commencing 12th November Salad Bar available everyday, chunks of fresh fruit and natural yoghurt</p> <p>FRIDAY</p> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Grilled chicken fillet burgers with gherkins and relish</p> <p>Flexitarian Squash and chick pea burger with gherkins and relish</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Coleslaw</p> <p>On the side Oven chips Garden peas Baked squash and kale Baked beans</p> <p>Tasty puds Raspberry ripple ice cream</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i></p> <p>The Soup Kettle Seasonal soup with 50/50 homemade bread</p> <p>Tasty entrée Roast chicken legs with homemade gravy</p>	<p>Flexitarian Stuffed sweet potato with borlotti beans and plum tomatoes</p> <p>Jacket Potato Bar Baked Beans</p>	<p>On the side Rustic roast potatoes Baked parsnip and carrots</p> <p>Tasty puds Homemade berry and swirl smoothie</p>	